

# Doing research for development – whose knowledges, whose valorisation?

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# Overview

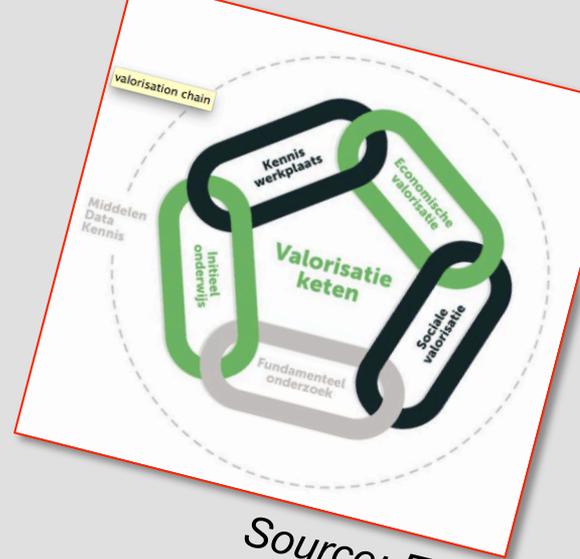
1. (Research) business as usual – add valorisation & stir?
2. Knowledge co-production with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)
3. Towards research that embodies progressive change



# Add valorisation & stir?

- *what?* since 2013, NWO asks how research could contribute to society & economy
- *how?* 'market for valorisation' meeting of knowledge-seekers & -suppliers implies purchasing power matters
- *for whom?* NWO spends  $\pm$  €100 million p.a. as public-private partnerships with business partners

# (Research) business as usual is problematic



Source: ECV

- Valorisation as **appendix**, rather than integral part of conceptualisation → reduces likelihood of societal relevance
- **Market approach** to valorisation
  - reinforces commodification of knowledge & makes development research inaccessible to those who have most to gain from it
  - reproduces devaluation of other knowledges
- **Business partnerships** → risk of co-optation & silencing of root causes of poverty & social injustice

*Erasmus*

# Knowledge co-production with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)



## AHOLD USA JOINS MOVEMENT TO HELP IMPROVE THE LIVES OF FARMWORKERS

**First major U.S. grocer** to join the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Fair Food Program  
**Increases** the number of U.S. grocery stores carrying Fair Food tomatoes by 75%  
**Important next step** in Ahold USA's commitment to responsible retailing

Source: Ahold (2015)

A stylized, handwritten-style logo for Erasmus, consisting of a single, continuous, flowing line that forms the letters 'Erasmus'.

# Knowledge co-production with the CIW

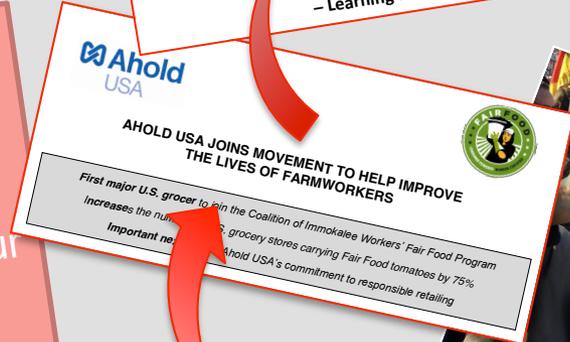
## Learning from CIW

Coalitions with consumers address precarious farmworkers' vulnerability to threat of dismissal in case of strike (Asbed, CIW 2015)



CIRI Forum on  
"Work-driven Innovation in the Globalized Economy  
- Learning from Encounters"

Learning from Clean Clothes Campaign  
if non-governmental labour regulation is  
"to create conditions under which  
decent work can be strengthened, the  
involvement and strength of local labour  
organisations is required"  
(Siegmann et al. 2014: 21)



# Building blocks of an alternative epistemology of valorisation

Confidently commit to

- **progressive values** - most development research value-based - poverty & inequality as social bads → explicit social justice orientation increases validity (Jackson 2006)
- **respect for multiple knowledges** – descending from academic ivory tower & taking perspectives of multiple, marginalised subjects → promotes epistemic & social justice (Harding 1992, de Sousa Santos 2014)

# Searching for ways of doing 'civic innovation research'

- *what?* valorisation through research that embodies progressive change
- *with whom?* ... through wide-spread knowledge co-production with civic actors
- *how?* ... dialogic & participatory methods in research, teaching & management, e.g. DRS cycle, Forum, course on participatory methods, rotating management team etc.

Image: Kees Biekart



Thank you !