

START - a science-driven academic research community

Centre for Sustainable Agrifood Systems - START - is a science-driven academic research community joined by researchers from the united Danish Universities on a multi-interdisciplinary level with an international scope.

START focuses on integrative, inclusive and interdisciplinary strategic research and explores the pathways to a systemic green transition of the agrifood systems. START aims to meet the sustainable development goals for 2050 and to secure food and biomass security as well as human health within the planetary boundaries. START strives to make a positive impact on human health on a healthy planet using science.

START is providing the scientific basis for future innovation pathways

Strategic research and innovation are closely connected, but also complementary as they have a different scope. Innovation is driven by implementation of newly developed knowledge and insights for concrete deliverables, measures and solutions on the middle term.

Strategic research, as represented by START, is exploring the potentials for the next stages transition delivering solutions with long term perspective for implementation.

The more implementation driven innovation cooperation (like AgriFoodTure) is being led by societal actors (like business and citizens) supported by science, while the exploration driven strategic research cooperation START is led by academics, only, yet inspired by business and society. START is providing the scientific basis for future innovation pathways.

The well-respected International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA) introduced in this respect "The World In 2050 Framework" to differentiate these pathways. Innovation being medium-term implementation of existing knowledge, insight and technologies and strategic research within systemic transition being exploration of the succeeding pathways for systemic transition towards the ultimate objective of The World in 2050, within the planetary boundaries.

The START research community has an integrative approach inviting researchers from all disciplines from natural, technical and digital sciences to social and humanities sciences to work together in an integrative and inclusive collaboration in the exploration on various options for systemic transformation.

By focusing on integrative and inclusive strategic research, working interdisciplinary and by the sharing of research infrastructures, START is shaping the future for the more applied innovation driven research partnerships like AgriFoodTure, also beyond 2030. Through cooperative basic research START will strengthen the entire value chain from strategic research (exploration) to development and innovation (implementation, exploitation).