

A degrowth-oriented circular society for packaging and food system transformation

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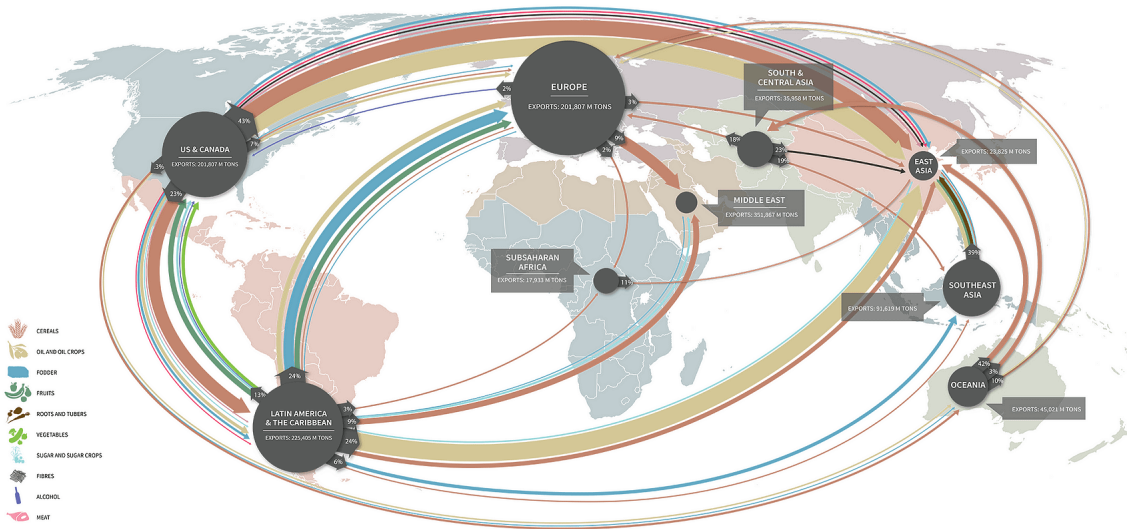
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The main drivers of the plastics problem

1. Globalisation and long food chains.
2. Urbanisation and the rise of supermarkets,
3. Constraints on households' time and hyper-processed foods

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- Constraints on households' time and hyper-processed foods



The degrowth-oriented circular society approach to solving the food packaging problem

1. Re-localisation and decentralisation of food systems
2. Freeing people from overwork
3. Transforming current cultural, education and communication practices which are oriented to increase production, competition and consumerism

The degrowth-oriented circular society approach to solving the food packaging problem

Re-localisation and decentralisation of food systems:

- ▶ local food networks and a transition to greener and healthier diets, with less meat and more seasonal fruits and vegetables
- ▶ Local networks of community-supported agriculture, farmer markets, urban agriculture allotments, agroecological family farms, community composting initiatives, cooperative shops, and community kitchens could thus supply healthy, fresh and affordable food for all
- ▶ reduce the food miles travelled by produce but also require no marketing, processing and packaging



The degrowth-oriented circular society approach to solving the food packaging problem

Freeing people from overwork

- ▶ work-sharing mechanisms,
- ▶ job guarantees,
- ▶ universal basic services,
- ▶ shorter and more flexible work weeks,
- ▶ increased parental leave and holidays
- ▶ ensuring rights to part-time work and sabbatical leave



The degrowth-oriented circular society approach to solving the food packaging problem

Transforming current cultural, education and communication practices which are currently oriented to increase production, competition and consumerism

- ▶ Banning or highly restricting advertisements (esp. for hyper-processed and overpackaged foods),
- ▶ Creating and supporting alternative community-owned media sources,
- ▶ Creating ecological education programs for communities and schools:
 - ▶ Encouraging community ethics,
 - ▶ teaching food growing and cooking skills,
 - ▶ Promoting slower, healthier and more convivial ways of life



Thank you!



For more information see:

- Calisto Friant, M., Lakerveld, D., Vermeulen, W. J., & Salomone, R. 2022. Transition to a sustainable circular plastics economy in the netherlands: Discourse and policy analysis. *Sustainability*, 14(1), 190. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su14010190>
- If the UN wants to slash plastic waste, it must tackle soaring plastic production - and why we use so much of it: <https://theconversation.com/if-the-un-wants-to-slash-plastic-waste-it-must-tackle-soaring-plastic-production-and-why-we-use-so-much-of-it-179107>
- Chakori, S., Aziz, A.A., Smith, C. and Dargusch, P., 2021. Untangling the underlying drivers of the use of single-use food packaging. *Ecological Economics*, 185, p.107063. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2021.107063>
- Chakori, S., Russell, R., Smith, C., Hudson, N.J. and Aziz, A.A., 2022. Taking a whole-of-system approach to food packaging reduction. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, p.130632. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2022.130632>