Sustainability in the Norwegian Food System

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Foto: Siri Svendgård-Stokke, NIBIO
Goals for the Norwegian Food- and Agricultural policy

• Food security and food safety
• Agriculture in all parts of the country
• Increased wealth creation
• Sustainable agriculture, including lower greenhouse gas emissions
4 principles - climate policy for Norwegian agriculture

1. Priority: Reduce emissions per produced unit, CO2 capture, adapt to climate change
2. Emissions from biological processes cannot be equated with emissions from fossils. Biological processes should not be taxed.
3. Measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture should be based on best knowledge and quality assured methodology
4. Not introduce measures leading to carbon leakage
Planetary or local boundaries?

• Global challenges should be understood both in **global and local context**

• Transforming agriculture towards sustainability is a question of optimal **local adaptation**

• Policy, measures and solutions must be **site specific**

• Transforming ag.food systems should build on knowledge about natural conditions, business and production structure, governance and institutional capacity, socioeconomic and cultural preconditions (significant variation in and between Nordic countries)
Sustainable Norwegian agriculture - Shortlist of specific strengths

• Food system with good governance systems
• Strong agricultural knowledge and information system
• High level of technology, innovation and productivity
• Good animal and plant health, low use of antibiotics, medicines and pesticides
• Rich access to land, water, grassland and outfields
• Good status of soil functions, low soil degradation
• Biodiversity is preserved, targeted measures and regulations
• Small scale farms and distributed regional structure
• Exposed, but resilient in relation to climate change
The big Norwegian picture - 6 priorities

1. Greater emphasis on transformation of agriculture that take advantage of our specific benefits
2. Improve agronomy for increased land productivity
3. Protect land and soil for food and biomass production
4. Better understanding of the consequences for food supply of incidents outside Norway's borders
5. Prioritize risk analyzes and risk-reducing measures, including physical risk, transitional risk and long-term food security risk
6. Food and agriculture policy better integrated with climate, environmental and land resource policy