

Time for Change!

About 100 Young Feed Professionals from Belgium and The Netherlands came together during the VICTAM/VIV 2022 in the Jaarbeurs Utrecht to discuss the future of the animal feed sector. Under the chairmanship of Merel Postma, the audience discussed, among others, how sustainability can contribute to the 'License to produce' in the feed and petfood sector and opportunities to make production processes and raw materials more CO₂ neutral. The Young Feed Professionals Congress is an annual event organized jointly by Feed Design Lab, Nevedi, Belgian Feed Association and Stichting BSD.

Dryers and coolers 100% sustainable

Production processes are only a small part in the total carbon footprint. "However, this cannot be an excuse not to make them more sustainable", says Sander Geelen, CEO from Geelen Counterflow, whose office building was awarded the title of "Most Sustainable Office in The World". Make the difference! The world won't sit and watch how loss of biodiversity and global warming will harm ecosystems, food systems and the society in general. With every climate or biodiversity-related disaster, drastic measures are expected from the government/organizations. Fossil fuels will gradually disappear. Therefore, one should find a business model that is no longer dependent on these energy sources.

License to Produce

"The License to Produce for the Dutch and Belgian feed sector will no longer be guaranteed in the future if we keep producing the way we are today", says Michiel Peters, Manager Corporate Affairs at De Heus Animal Nutrition. With a world population that will rise to almost 10 billion people in 2050, the sector should become even more sustainable. As a result the demand for animal proteins will rise by 70%. "We will need to produce more food with a lower carbon footprint using less land. This means that the animal feed sector too can't just sit and wait." This will only be possible if we take into account the global supply chain, including CO₂-neutral feed production and logistics, deforestation and conversion-free raw materials, further stimulating the use of co-products and novel ingredients. All the while aligning with stakeholder expectations.

The message of the speakers was clear: fossil fuels will eventually disappear, there is no time nor space left for excuses. Young Feed Professionals: now it's time for change!

Note for the editors

The Young Feed Professionals Congress is an initiative from [Nevedi](#), [BFA](#) and [FDL](#). The Congress is organized by Nevedi, BFA, FDL, [Young Feed Professionals](#) and students from [Stichting Bevordering Studie Diervoeding \(BSD\)](#).

Please contact Jeanette Speksnijder for further information via speksnijder@agribusiness-service.nl.