How to help farmers to welcome biodiversity?

Dr. Ir. Judith Westerink (Wageningen Environmental Research)
Moderation: Prof. Dr. Catrin Westphal

Dr. Ir. Judith Westerink works at Wageningen Environmental Research as a social scientist. She is motivated by people and their landscapes. For the past 15 year, she has studied from various angles what farmers need to adopt a biodiversity-friendly way of farming. Judith has a special interest in collaboration in agri-environmental management and in understanding farmer behavior for effective governance. In her dissertation she highlighted how social boundaries (such as between farmers and public officials) can hinder collaboration, but also how boundary arrangements (such as boundary concepts and processes of social learning) can bridge those boundaries and foster collaboration. Some spoilers from her presentation: citizens can help farmers to welcome biodiversity, and other farmers can do that too. Support from the government is essential, and collaboration is key.