

B. Make Waste Flows Visible

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Compost Sensor <https://www.instructables.com/id/Compost-Sensor/>

Philippe Fonseca asks: “What if waste was seen alternatively as an indicator of the health of the city-organism? Instead of disappearing automatically through vacuum pipes and managed by robots, it could then be made visible, understood and acted upon. Citizens should be aware of how matter circulates locally after they dispose of it. Most cities and towns in the world are missing the opportunity to put those materials to good use”.

If waste flows were made visible, three questions arise: What needs to be measured? How is this to be done - using AI? Or IoT? and, how are the resulting data to be shared?

These questions are a good filter for analysing the potential of AgriTech. As an investment class, AgTech is booming. Last year, investors ploughed \$19bn into robotics, automation, blockchain, biotechnology, software, IOT, connectivity & food safety systems. The only problem? It's not necessary for this stuff to feed one single person for a market bubble to grow.

What's needed are tools that support actors engaging in agrobiodiversity: compost data analytics, soil health, biodiversity. Solutions need to be bottom-up and participatory.

Innovation should involve user conversations, workshops, hackathons, and online platforms for sharing open data.

Reading

Fonseca: Waste, Value and Reuse

<https://opendott.org/posts/waste-value-and-reuse/>

The paradox of productivity: agricultural productivity promotes food system inefficiency

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/global-sustainability/article/paradox-of-productivity-agricultural-productivity-promotes-food-system-inefficiency/4D5924AF2AD829EC1719F52B73529CE4/core-reader>

Cooking With Food Waste: Sustainable Food Lab in Sweden

<https://www.facebook.com/vartsweden/>

Three Hacks For Reducing Food Loss (Intello Labs)

<https://www.intellolabs.com/3-hacks-for-reducing-food-loss/>

High value products from organic waste

<https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/our-work/activities/food/stories/high-value-products-from-food-by-products>

Tasks

Brief yourself on this opportunity.

Identify 5 keywords that suggest the potential for an action.

Starting with those 5 keywords, create a mind-map that points towards a possible intervention

