

# *Global Conference on Sustainability in Agriculture & Food Systems*

*Dr Koen Deconinck,*

*Policy Analyst, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD*

Abstract of the intervention:

## **Measuring and Communicating Environmental Impacts in Food Systems**

Food supply chains are about to experience a seismic shift. In the coming decades, firms will increasingly need to report detailed, quantitative information on environmental impacts as a de facto, or even de jure, requirement for access in many markets. This will include product-level as well as firm-level information, and will also cover impacts of other actors in the firm's supply chain. In turn, this information is likely to serve as the basis for new public and private initiatives, such as environmental impact labelling on food products, green public procurement, or carbon pricing. In the best-case scenario, the result will be better information and incentives for farmers, other supply chain actors, and consumers to shift towards more sustainable production and consumption patterns. But there are important pitfalls. For example, if countries and companies adopt different methodologies and reporting requirements, the result will be a fragmented landscape, creating high transaction costs and confusion. There is a rationale for coordination by governments to avoid such an outcome, and to ensure that initiatives are science-based and credible.