

*Why collaboration among companies and with knowledge institutions is crucial in their innovation strategy & in their transition to a more sustainable strategy?*

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*Hasselt - March 19, 2024*



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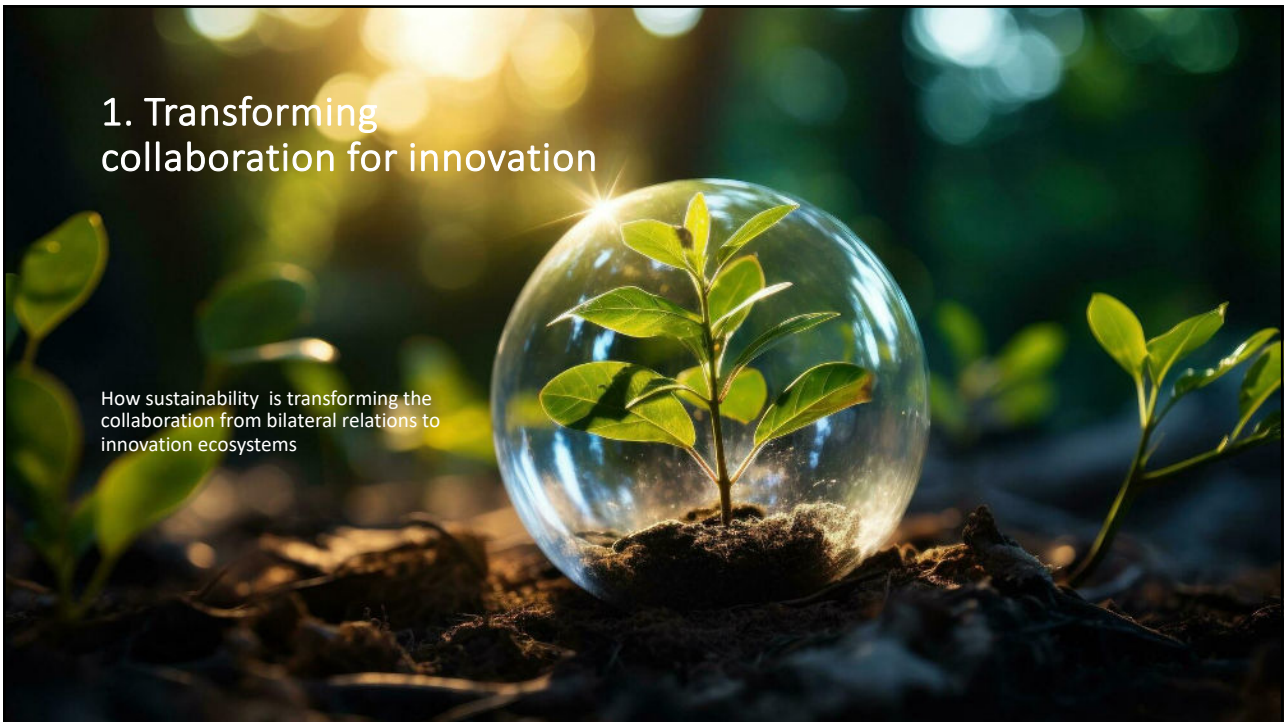
*“Some of the most important future innovations will not come from new technologies but from new forms of collaboration”*



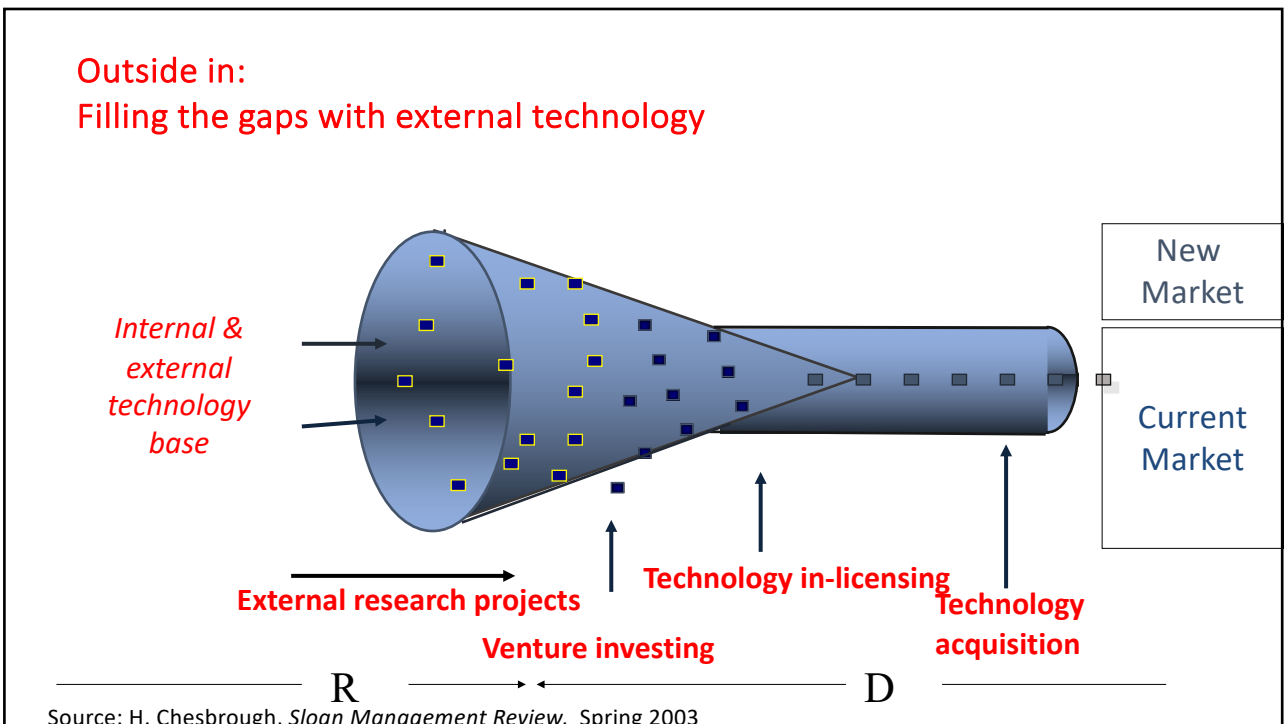
*Thomas Malone, MIT, 2015*

*... this is even more significant in the context of digitalization and firms' transition towards a more sustainable economy*

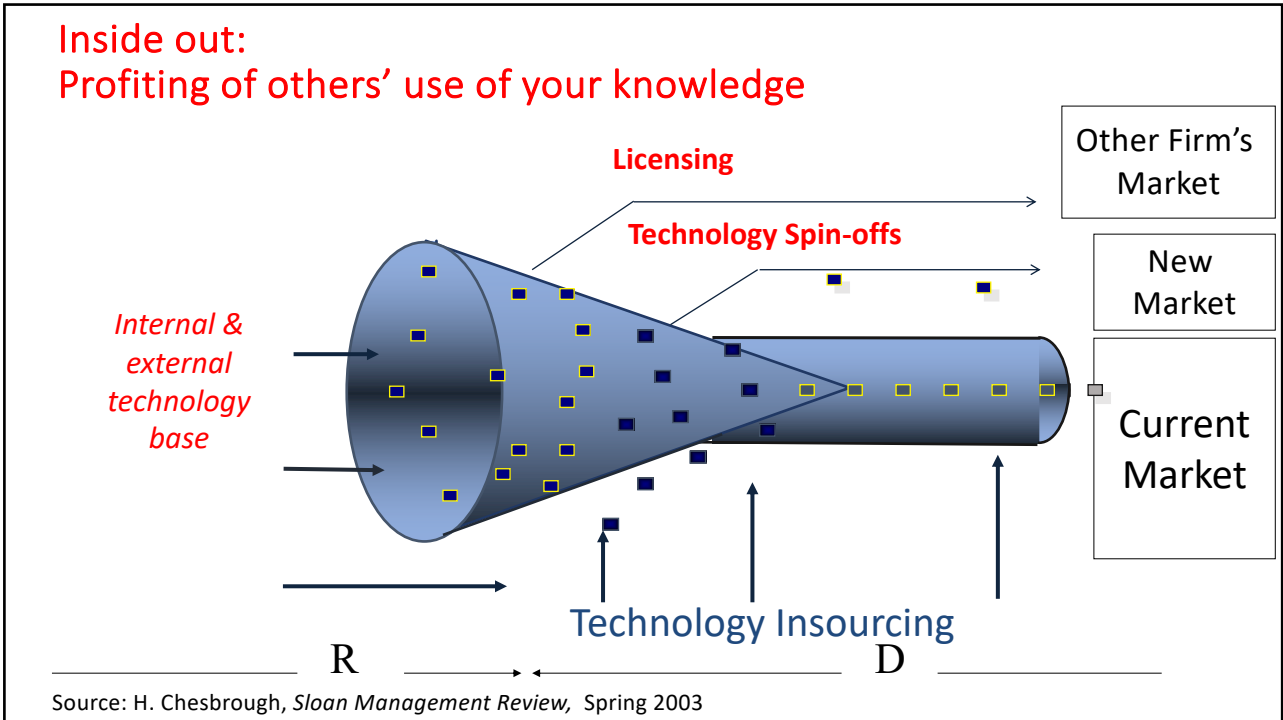
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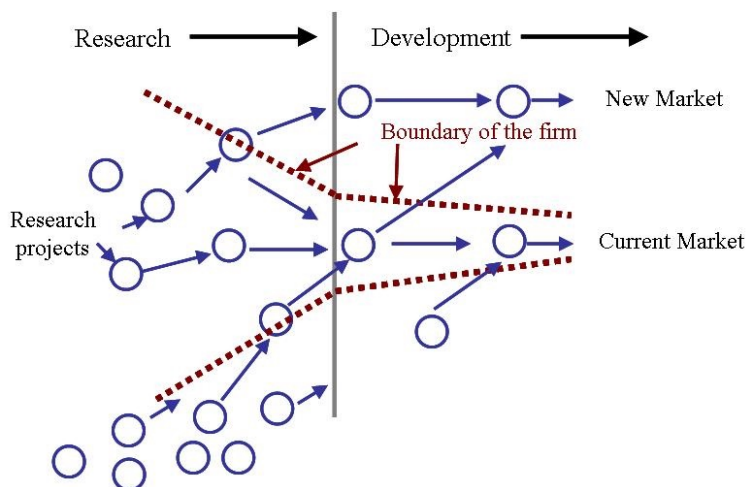


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- KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, the North Sea Group and Spring Associates joined forces and founded **SkyNRG** in Nov 2009.
- Goal: to help create and accelerate development of a market for sustainable aviation fuel (safe, sustainable and affordable) & avoid large price swings in petro-based kerosene
- Creating a viable market for sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) can only be achieved *by combining expertise and experience in the fields of air transport, product knowledge, R & D, regulation and effective sustainability criteria*
- *SkyNRG is the orchestrator in the ecosystem*

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### Carlsberg's paper green bottle – 100% bio based

"We kicked off the project to develop a sustainable paper bottle in 2015 together with innovation experts **ecoXpac** and post-doctoral researchers from the Danish Technical University (DTU), supported by Innovation Fund Denmark. Soon thereafter packaging company **BillerudKorsnäs** joined the efforts, ultimately resulting in **Paboco®**, the Paper Bottle Company – a joint venture between **BillerudKorsnäs** and bottle manufacturing specialist **Alpla**.

We are now joined by more partners: **The Coca-Cola Company**, **The Absolut Company** and **L'Oréal** in a paper bottle community – launched by Paboco®. The community unites leading global companies and experts with the vision of advancing sustainable packaging, offering high-quality products while reducing their environmental impact."

<https://www.carlsberg.com/en/green-fibre-bottle/>

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# Broadening open innovation

## • Past

- The firm applies OI through NDP / NBD (New Product Development / New Business Development) initiatives
- The firm is an innovating company ( high-tech industries)
- OI is implemented through one-on-one relationships (inside out and outside in)

## • Today

- All value drivers can serve as motivation to pursue OI
- Being an innovator is not required, any company has the potential to initiate collaborative efforts
- OI involves creating a network of partners within an ecosystem
- New roles emerges as an ecosystem orchestrator, instigator and implementor
- Co-innovator risk & technology adoption risk are factors to consider (Adner, 2012)
- There is competition between ecosystems, but also competition within ecosystems
- Role of regulators / governments can be significant
- Instigators seek beneficiaries who can take effectively take ownership of the innovation (core competence)

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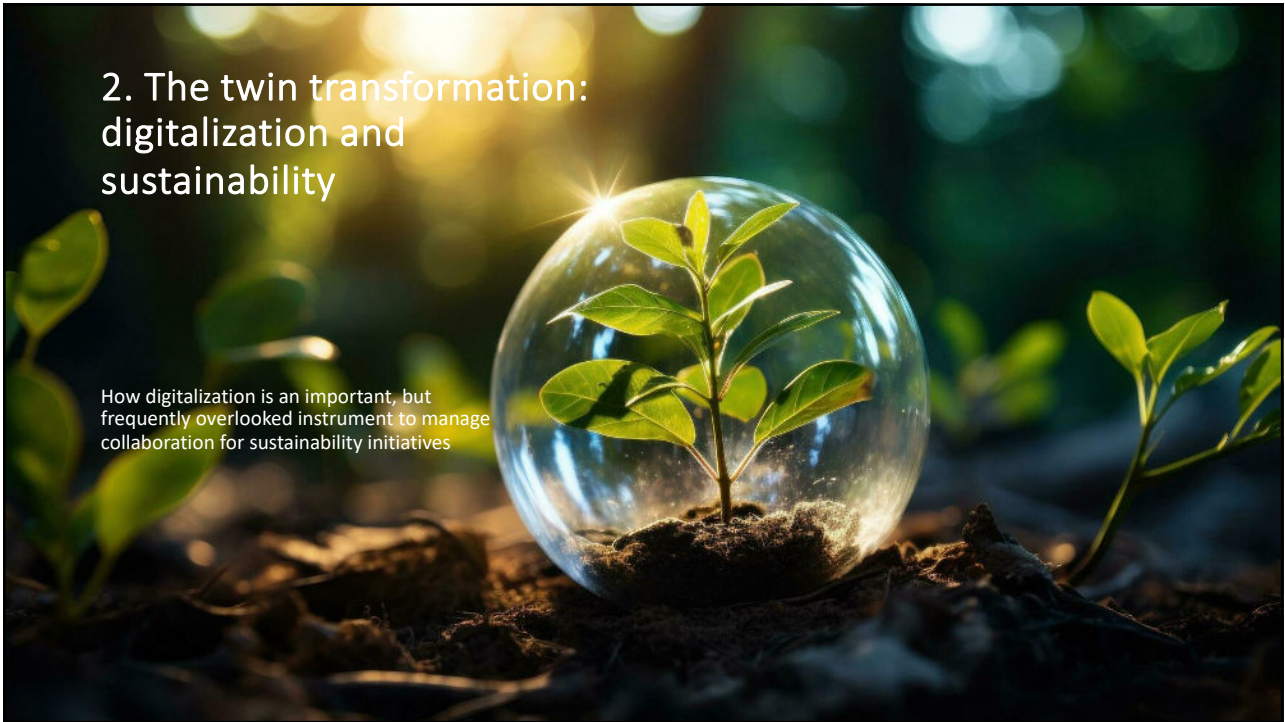
## Takeaways

- Major sustainability initiatives require complex innovation ecosystems, necessitating a holistic approach.
- Avoid solely focusing on technology as the solution; consider strategic imperatives of firms (e.g. sustainability) and the broader dynamics of the ecosystem.
- Do not only focus on the role of knowledge institutions; they are not the sole drivers of innovation for companies
- Explore the entire ecosystem, studying its dynamics, as exemplified by SkyNRG; get acquainted with platform and ecosystem management
- Pay attention to non-technical bottlenecks and market risks that usually tend to impede progress.

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## 2. The twin transformation: digitalization and sustainability

How digitalization is an important, but frequently overlooked instrument to manage collaboration for sustainability initiatives



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**CONSUMER**  
Each package is stamped with a QR code that consumers can scan to see their coffee's journey.

**CONTRIBUTOR**  
Through a mobile app consumers can feel closer to coffee farmers and their surrounding region.

**FARMER**  
Coffee cherries are harvested and data such as counterparty ID and bean variety are uploaded to the blockchain.

**PROCESSOR**  
Coffee cherries are then pulped, washed, sorted and their protective hulls are removed, leaving a raw green bean.

**SHIPPER**  
The processed beans are loaded into shipping containers and sent across the ocean to various markets.

**ROASTER**  
Beans are roasted and different varieties and grades are sometimes blended to optimize flavor and cost.

### How Bext360 is bringing Transparency and Sustainability to the Coffee Industry?

**Mission of Bext360**  
Bext360 aims to guarantee quality and bring transparency and sustainability to supply chains for global companies and consumers.

**Difficulty in Tracing Origins**  
Global supply chains and multiple stakeholders make it challenging to trace the exact origin of products.  
Corruption and power of middlemen  
Inaccurate quality guarantee and origin tracing by NGOs

Photos provided by Pexels

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## Bext360's Solution for Sustainability



<https://youtu.be/HYmIBRHLcjo>

### Blockchain

Quantum improvement in traceability  
Bean to coffee transparency  
New business models possible  
Direct payment for farmer

### Machine vision

100% objective info  
Each bean has been analyzed  
Guarantee top quality beans – top quality roasters (not with Fairtrade)

### AI

AI analyses color and brightness to detect bean and mineral quality  
From this analysis a Cupping score is determined  
With recent modifications, it can now also sort and separate the beans.

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## Examples in digital healthcare

- Telemonitoring (e.g. hypertension among pregnant women) – convenience, less casualties
- Radiology: Optimizing MRI schedules; reducing x-ray use; medical image analysis
- Outpatient management: convenience, reducing costs and improving long-term “health-care”
- MoveUp: digital app for revalidation after hip /knee surgery

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## Takeaways

- Sustainability is not necessarily related to new product technology, but in general universities and governments still think this way (dominant paradigm)
- Digitalization is evolving at light speed and is a major driver of economic and social sustainability:
  - Reducing hospital visits
  - Reducing costs - affordable healthcare
  - Democratizing healthcare – less skilled people can do the same job
  - Early and improved disease detection
  - Shift from sick care to healthcare
- Shift from new technological research to implementing applications via ecosystem orchestration
  - Digital solutions won't be adopted if one of the key players lose

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## 2. A conflict model for sustainability is killing collaborative innovation

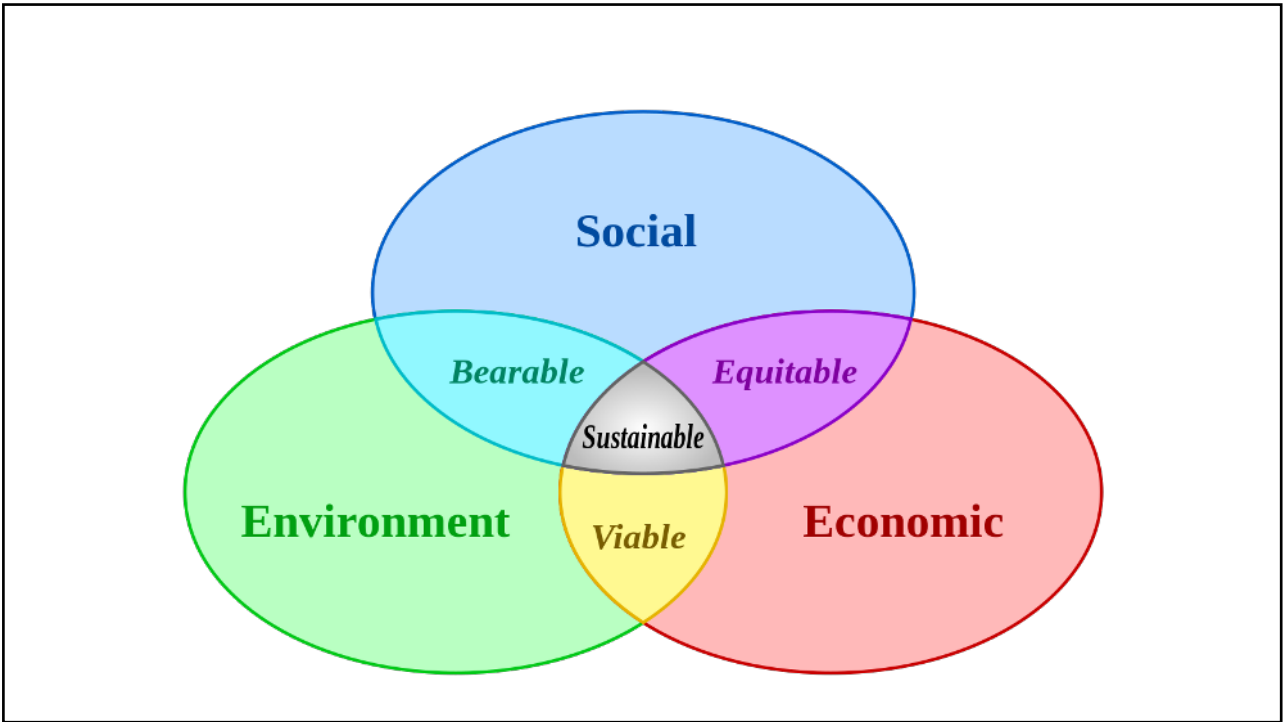
At present, the integration of sustainability within society often adheres to a conflict-driven model, resulting in superfluous societal costs and hindering the timely achievement of sustainability objectives.

Furthermore, the current state of innovation policy appears compartmentalized, lacking integration within a comprehensive, long-term sustainability framework.

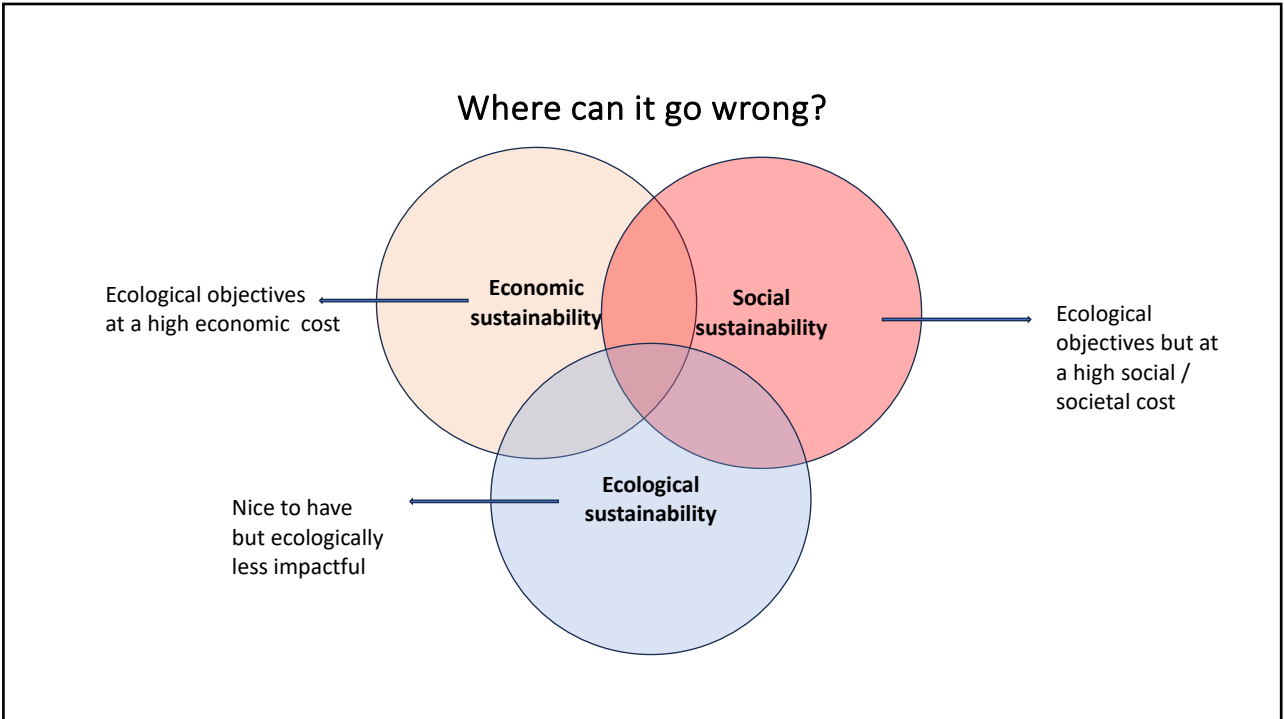
What are the implications for collaborative innovation and innovation policy?



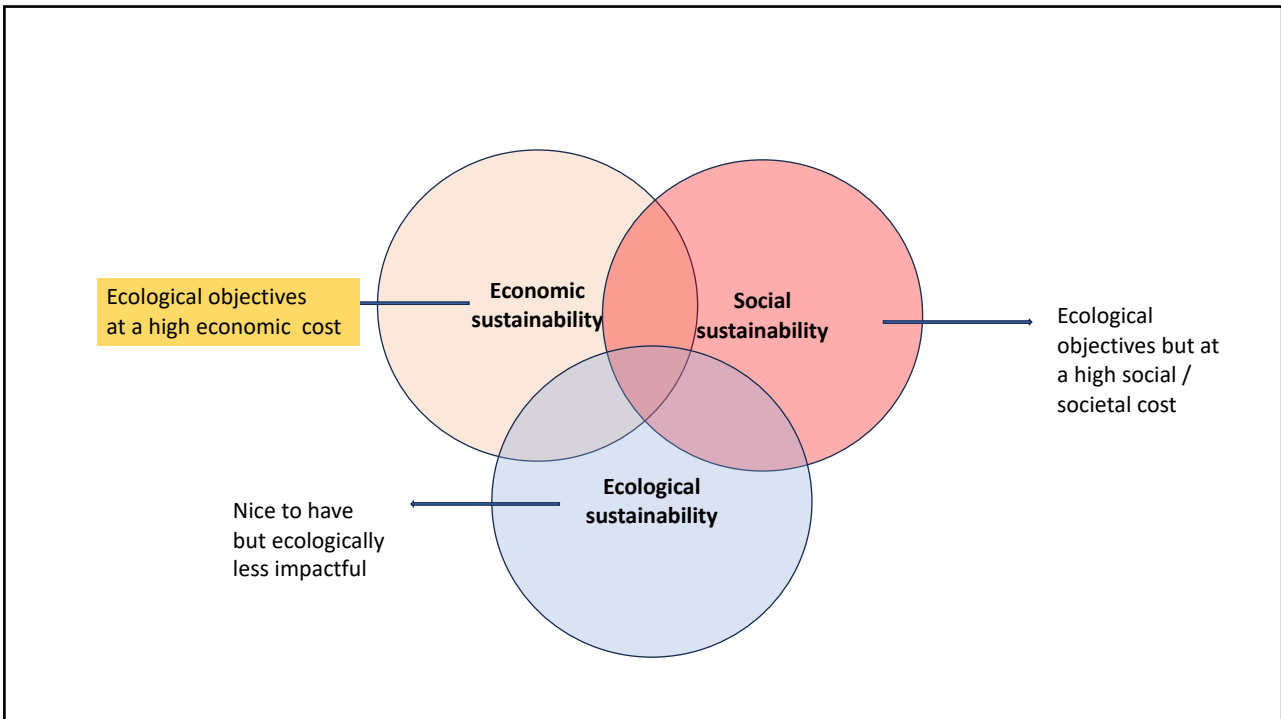
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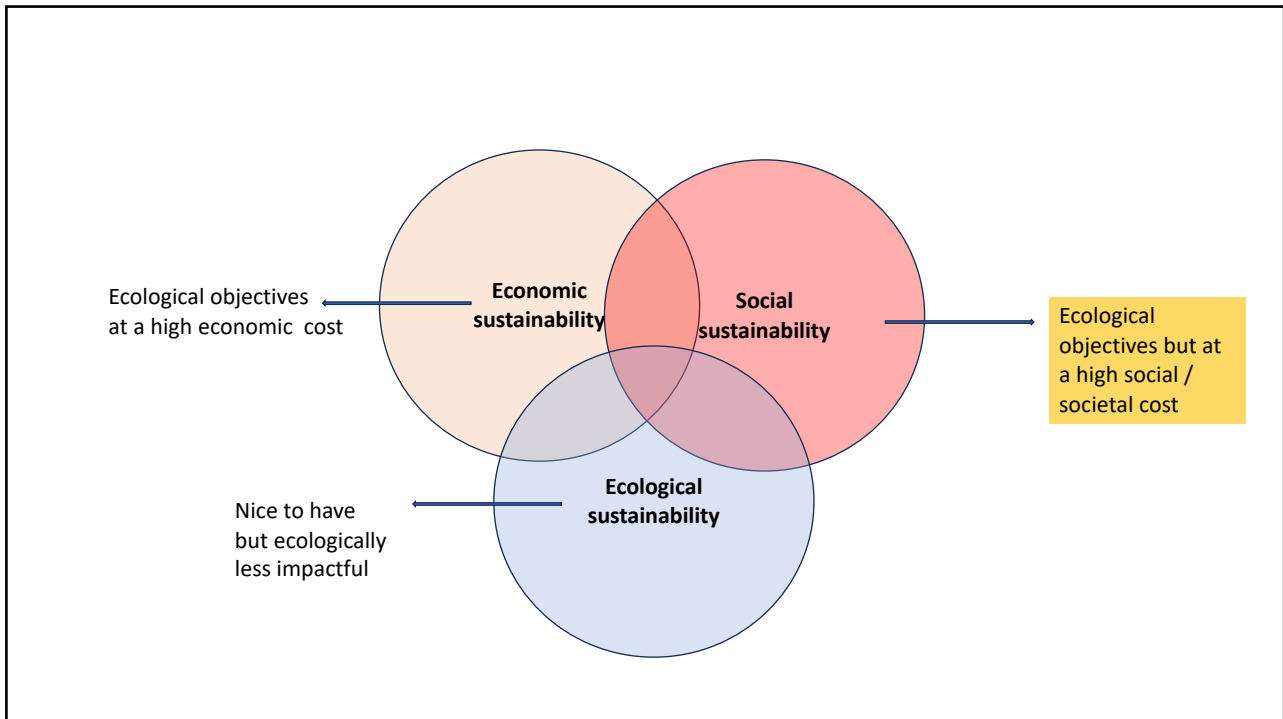


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## Conflict model

- Continuous investments in large-scale farming without adequate consideration for environmental impact
- Sudden changes in legislation without taking into account the economic viability of agriculture and the agri-industry (one of our top clusters)
- Risk of economic destruction
- Allocate sufficient time for collaboration on technical and business model innovations
- Explore alternative farming ecosystem models, such as "korte keten"
- Draw comparisons with the manufacturing industry, which makes long-term investments in reducing ecological impact.

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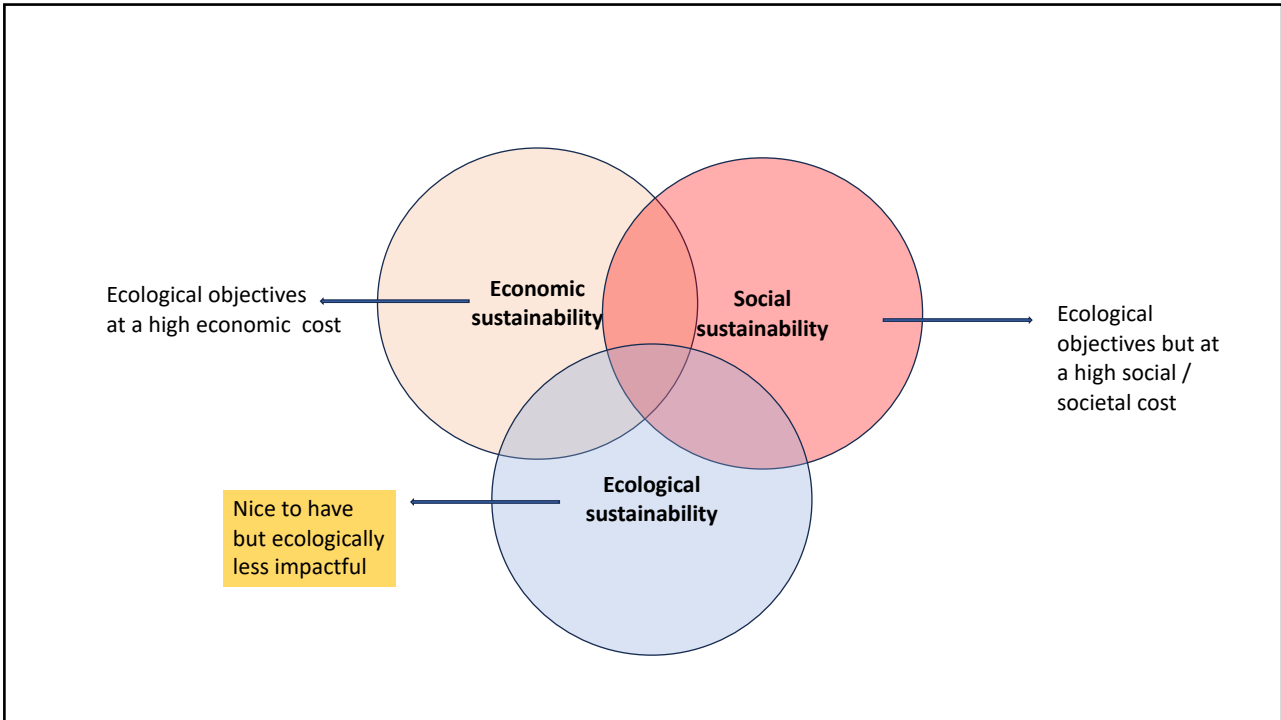
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## The social cost of sustainability

- Driving up prices for goods and services to reach sustainability objectives
  - Energy
  - Housing
  - Car exhausts
  - Food, etc...
- Subsidies... Matthew effect
- Are sustainability measures making products/ services more accessible too more?
- Government: We need a policy and subsidies for sustainable innovations with "democratizing" innovations

A circular illustration of a sustainable community on a globe. It features various elements: houses, wind turbines, solar panels, a river with a bridge, a park with trees and a playground, a car, a bicycle, and a boat. The scene is set against a dark background with a yellow sun and white clouds.

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### BLØDT PLASTIKAFFALD

Plastikposer og forløbsald

Indsamling af blødt plast (polyethylen) til genbrug

Omdannelse til Polyethen granulat

Granulaten smeltes og blandes med PCM mikrokapler

Ekstruderes til folie, som igen formes som til fyld i en specialiseret proces

Bløde luftige sovethylon fiber, der kan temperaturregulere

### HÅRDT PLASTIKAFFALD

Plastflasker

Indsamling af hårdt plast (polyester) til genbrug

Omdannelse til Polyester granulat

Granulaten smeltes og ekstruderes til fibre, som behandles med silikone olie

De tynde tråde klippes op og vaskes til et fyld

Bløde luftige polyester fiber af genbrugt plast

Med ren fiberfyld ← **Blandes til et revolutionerende genanvendeligt fyld** → Fiberfyld blandet med dun

Soveposer  
Mode tøj

Produktion af danske kvalitets dyner og puder

**TEMPRAKON REBORN**

Efter endt brug kan dynens materialer genanvendes

## Sustainable innovations should be impactful!

- Quilts of Denmark
- Temprakon quilts : use PCM to keep temperature equal under the quilt, securing a better sleep (teaching case).
- Temprakon Reborn: Use of soft and hard plastic fibers to glue the PCM nanoparticles
- Large scale collaboration with research institutes
- Innovation subsidies from Danish government
- Technically fascinating, impact virtually nil

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## Sustainable innovations should be impactful!

- **Vegan bags and shoes**
  - Made from plant waste (apple, mushroom, pineapple, coconut, bamboo, etc..)
  - Fashionable ... but what is the sustainability impact
  - Are we using less natural leather (shifts in leather use) and petrol-based leather products?
  - Do we use them in a “more durable” way?
  - BM change: bag renting, 2<sup>nd</sup> hand markets?



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## Sustainable innovations should be impactful!

- A realistic example is Ray & Jules
- In 2015 = idea (cleantech sister company CEE) to use continuous roaster powered by renewable energy at low temperature (vs. batch roaster at high temperature)
- In 2017 = roast to the level of specialty coffee.
- BM = finance by direct sales of specialty coffee
- Last 3 years = CEE expanded roasting capabilities and partnerships to include cocoa and malt. Big roaster companies (Beyers coffee) & global food players want to scale the technology
- Potential to reduce 100 million CO2 yearly – licensing? And become a world leader in sustainable roasting technology

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## Takeaways

- **Economic, social, and ecological sustainability should be integrated and prioritized together.**
- **Current innovation policy and funding primarily focus on new technologies, neglecting consideration of overall sustainability policies.**
- **It is essential to examine the sustainability impact of new technologies.**
  - Scaling these technologies must be thoroughly evaluated.
  - Identifying the pathways to achieve their impact is crucial.
- **The social sustainability repercussions of these technologies need to be assessed**
- **Adopting a conflicting approach is counter-productive.**
  - Time is needed to develop and implement technological and business model innovations.
  - Have the audacity to create new industry frameworks that encompass all three dimensions of sustainability, such as adopting short supply chains (korte ketens)