

Women in Logistics workshop – 26 June 2015 - led by Chris Stanley

“Supply chain risks coming over the horizon, are you ready?”

Our group was a good mix of logistics, retail and other professionals. Chris Stanley introduced himself and Anthesis and the background to their specialism in Sustainable Supply Chains consultancy. We gained an overview of the context for risk management: Climate Change, water stress, biodiversity loss and socio economic trends, particularly urbanisation. If everyone on the planet had a typical European lifestyle, we would need three planets!

Risks – World Economic Forum report on this is a good resource. There are examples of success stories from addressing risk, for example North Star Alliance story of creating clinics for lorry drivers in Africa as this group was a key vector for AIDS transmission which later extended to clinics serving the road side communities using old containers to set up the clinic – The blue box clinics.

Anthesis is developing a new tool for risk screening so the group tested some of the concepts – we split in two and each considered risk in the food supply chain. The two groups identified ten risks each – very similar and many interrelated when we compare. We then considered how to identify the priorities by thinking about financial impact on business, disruption to the supply chain and general social, economic and environment impact.

Everyone found this exercise difficult and we agreed different companies may rank differently. Chris wrapped up explaining the intention is to develop the tool in specific subsectors on industry and to identify ownership of actions.