

Follow-up of the previously evening – **Agroecology: make it work!**

Wednesday, 20th of March, Forum Building

To continue the discussion of the previously evening we used a participatory Methodology called **Global Café**. The minutes of the process are presented below. This method can be applied in many different situations with different kind of groups.

The participants are divided in 4 groups. Each group had to discuss the following questions: How to move on? How to strength what's already happening? What other new projects and ideas can we start?

In this stage some ideas were discussed and put in paper as you can see below:

Group 1

- Importance of making agroecological approaches visible to consumers.
- Local Markets, short food chain; Documentary, visit open farmers.
- Set Agroecology parcels around nature conservation sites. (Experimentation)
- Look for connections to farmers that wish to take niche of nature conservation since there is less money available for this.
- Natuurboer uit de Buurt (natuurboeren.nl)
- Many more initiatives to be approached. (Environmental Cooperatives)
- Connect and provide research based on an agroecological perspective according to farmers needs and questions.
- This ideas can be/are being incorporated to the Farm Experience project.

Group 2

- Making initiatives visible through social media and connect it to real life.
- Experimental station for different farming practices (conventional vs. Agroecological)
- open to public
- Farmer agroecology seminar with student (preparation Farm Experience?)
- Connect Urban initiatives with Rural (consumers to farmers and vice-versa)
- Consumers, farmers, scientists -> together for better policy.

Group 3

- Connect people. Platform in the NL? World? Include farmers! → what to do with it?
- Database → no rules: but principles
- Choose how Agroeco you want to be.
- Workshops between different disciplines of Agroecology
- Economical Analyses → Show to conventional farmers that agroecology can be profitable (Fryslan initiative)
- Possible research track: Economic incentive for lowering input costs.
- More practical examples: contemporary problems and Agroecology solutions.

Group 4

- Common # on twitter + social media
- Exchangeable lessons between different disciplines.
- Forum at WUR
- Agroecology as an Umbrella (Organic, biodynamic, etc)
- Big seminar with all the groups → Connect it to the Farmer Experience and EAT project. Involve farmers organisations.
- Put a name on this movement
- Don't exclude conventional farmers. They need help!
- Have more research on organic, biodynamic, etc.

In the last round the participants had 15 more minutes to write down in a piece of paper two main action-ideas that came out of the discussion. Each group presented the two ideas and the facilitator put them on the board. After every presentation the facilitator asked if any other group had the same idea. If yes the facilitator already put the ideas close to each other in the board.

The main ideas that came out of the groups were:

- Personal Agroecological choices.
- Workshops/Database for exchange the diversity of Agroecology practices.
- Hub for Agroecology
- Put a label on it. Define it.
- Open door day in Wageningen + Area around to show what agroecology is here.
- Do research in re-integration of farming in Nature conservation
- Interdisciplinary Farmer Experience
- Create platform to connect small initiatives in existence.

Great! A lot of ideas! But we are few, so we used the 'Dotmocracy' to choose the most important actions to discuss further. Every person received 12 dots to distribute in the actions according to their importance for the person. (ex.: you can put all your dots in one action, or divide them in two or more actions). See the dots distribution and comments below.

Results of 'Dotmocracy':

- **Create platform to connect small initiatives in existence.** (58 dots)
- **Interdisciplinary Farmer Experience.** (52 dots)
- Do research in re-integration of farming in Nature conservation (28 dots)
- Put a label on it. Define it. (23 dots)
- Open door day in Wageningen + Area around to show what agroecology is here. (21 dots) **Connect to the EAT project.**
- Workshops/Database for exchange the diversity of Agroecology practices. (16 dots) **Incorporate to the Farm Experience**
- Personal Agroecological choices. (11 dots) **Everybody can do it by yourself!**
- Hub for Agroecology (9 dots)

After that, we talked about the ideas and chose the main two that received more dots to discuss What, when, who, how?

Create platform to connect			
What?	When	Whom?	How?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent related organisations • Facilitate connections • Diverse organisations with similar ideas • Share info • ALIANCE 	Start now	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in this room • Organisations involved in Farm Experience • Volunteers (Fanny van Hal) • WEP&Boerengroep (ACT) • Tom Boydn (Wiki) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT • Use #agroecology • Make wikipedia

Interdisciplinary Farmer Experience			
What?	When?	Whom?	How?
Students work on farms to learn	Summer 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • otherwise • ILEIA • Bolster • Boerengroep • MOA students • Boerenverstand • Students of Wageningen • Farmers • FSE chairgroup • Wwoof 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select farms and ask them • Stay some weeks • Learning for students • Connecting farmers • Broaden view • Preparation with and involve organisations • Evaluation: share what is learned • Motivate students to ask research questions based on practice • Bring research and farmers closer



After that, we closed the meeting with a big circle and a lot of energy to make things happen!

