

Agroecology: Make it work – first evening.

Wednesday, 19th of March, Forum Building.

Agroecology in one word. To start the evening every participant introduced him/herself and wrote down one word that comes to his/her mind related to Agroecology. Every word was put in the front board. The same (or almost the same) words were put next to each other, forming clusters. The facilitator asked some people why they chose that word. A word cloud about **Agroecology** was built out of that:



The words that were mentioned many times are bigger in the word cloud. (size is proportional to the number of mentions).

After that three short presentations were held about experiences in India and Brasil. Supraba Seshan (Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary and winner Whitley Award) shared her story on the cooperation between farmers, scientists and students in protecting biodiversity in India. Irene Cardoso (vice chair Brazilian Agroecology Association) reflected on the dynamics between the universities, NGOs and farmers that have shaped the agroecology movement in Brazil

focusing on the methodology “Peasant to Peasant”. Heitor Teixeira talked about agroecology student initiatives in the Federal University of Viçosa.

Then, initiatives that have recently sprouted in Wageningen briefly presented themselves. These included: the Interdisciplinary Farm Experience project, Seed Swaps, The Green Party, WEP, Permatuin and Project EAT.

To finalise the meeting a plenary discussion was open to everybody: What can we do to strengthen/support an Agroecology network in the Netherlands?

The main ideas that came out were:

- Summer school agroecology
- Make existing initiatives visible
- Demonstrate agroecological principles visible on the campus
- Communicate with farmers (how to?)
- Organise visits to farms & invite farmers on campus
- Understand the farmers (including their self identity)
- Understand what we have & how to connect with motivated people

To be continued next evening....

