

YEAR REPORT 2016

STICHTING BOERENGROEP
(PEASANT FOUNDATION)

**Farm Experience
Internship 2016**

Hier werken boeren, tuinders, wetenschappers, studenten, NGOs en bedrijven samen aan een beter voedselsysteem en eerlijke landbouw.
25 juli – 19 augustus 2016

Toekomstboeren

BioRomeo

DE BOLSTER

Ekoboerderij De Langehof

***'N GROENE KANS**
Biologische productie

Biogroentenathome

Schapenstreek

DE GROENEN HOF

DE STOERDERIJ

Veld & Beek

FOOD FOREST KETELBROEK

Stichting Boerengroep Wageningen

De Hoge Born
Land goed voor jou

LAREN-NERA-DE-BEEGGH

CAPUCHINHA CATERING
WERELDSE KEUKEN

ilea
Centre for learning on sustainable agriculture

ASEED Europe

DE 'ULLIT

Other
Co-creating Knowledge

Wise
For Change

University Fund Wageningen

WAGENINGEN UR
RSO chairgroup For quality of life

DE STROOM

LAZUUR
Food community

DE OPTIIMURDE TUIN
In het Volle Leven

de Nieuwe Ronde

PREFACE

This year report is an overview of all Boerengroep activities held in 2016. Throughout the year, the international, interdisciplinary group of students united in Boerengroep, have organized many events in order to bridge science, practice, movement and stimulate students to develop a critical view on agricultural practices. Boerengroep volunteers from Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Brazil, Costa Rica, the USA and interns from Greece and Ghana have also brought forward their own viewpoints into the debate. This made the debates, excursions, workshops and discussions even more enriched!

We are supervising international students, and we are working together with a growing amount of NGOs, Foundations, farmers unions, researchers, film makers and human rights organizations and peasant movements. Our yearly summer course, the Farm Experience Internship, was a success again, with participants from Bhutan, Taiwan, China, Tanzania, Brasil, Colombia, the UK, Catalunya, Italy and the Netherlands. One of the participants, Laura (Colombia) is part of a peasant movement there, and she gave a very interesting lecture on the post-conflict situation in her country, after the peace agreement was signed. In this way, students were connected to peasant struggles around the world. And big news is that our summer course will be part of La Via Campesina's Agroecology Training and Learning Network!

Other exiting news is that Boerengroep was part of the Dutch Delegation during the Nyeleni Forum for Food Sovereignty in Romania, where 600 farmers, peasants, shepherds, fisherman, pastoralists and NGOs, organizations, foundations and activist groups were united to work on food sovereignty.

Gaining expertise and connecting different viewpoints, also brought us into the Ministry of Economic Affairs this year, to discuss our recommendations on the food agenda (VoedselAgenda).

Last, we will keep on bridging science, practice and movement. We have also published several articles, which can be downloaded from our website boerengroep.nl/bg/archive We bring students to the field, and farmers to the lecture rooms of the university. We inspire students – the future policy makers, researchers, lecturers and policy makers – to develop a critical view on the food production chain, in order to work towards food sovereignty.

We wish you to enjoy this year report and that you'll be inspired by our activities!

Kind Regards,

Stichting Boerengroep – Peasant Foundation

January, 2017

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1. INTRODUCTION BOERENGROEP AND INSPRINGTHEATER

Since 1971, Stichting Boerengroep (*Peasant Foundation*) aims to connect the university (students, research, education) with the reality and challenges of farmers and peasants in the Netherlands and worldwide. “*The education at the university was very theoretical and moreover it often gave a wrong impression of the reality of farmers and peasants*” – Jan Douwe van der Ploeg, one of the founders of the Boerengroep. Therefore de Boerengroep started to conduct interviews with farmers. These interviews were then taken into the university where researchers were questioned and stimulated to conduct research on the true needs of the farmers in reality. In 1971, a massive demonstration took place. Half a million farmers were on the Streets to protest against the low prices – the Boerengroep was there to support them. Until the moment of today, de Boerengroep is still fighting for social, just and sustainable food production. We do this by bringing students into the fields and farmers into lecture rooms at the university.



Figure 1 Big demonstration by farmers and peasants in Brussels, 1971

By bridging agriculture-related forms of science, practice and movement, Boerengroep contributes towards the development of a critical view on reality by students – the future policy makers, researchers and teachers. We stimulate students to work together in interdisciplinary and international groups, with many different actors which all have different realities and different types of knowledge. We realize this by organizing critical discussions, field excursions, capita selecta courses, lectures and exchanges. Also, we listen to the voices of the food producers and take their challenges – as well as their innovative practices - to the university, as a way to work towards a fair and sustainable food production in the world. We connect all these people together and we actively search for research questions from the field: from peasants, farmers and gardeners. Our strength is thus to bridge the gap between science and reality and this is of crucial

importance at a university. Thanks to Boerengroep, it is ensured that students will not lose their critical view and connection to reality, which is an important characteristic of the scientist. Irene Cardoso (professor of Soil Science at the Federal University of Vicosa, Brazil and vice-president of the Brazilian Agroecology Association) explains about the importance of our activities:

“What I like about it [the international summer course of Boerengroep], is the way that the students can be connected to the reality, but in a way that they feel free to become part of this reality.”

Pablo Tiftonell (former professor Farming Systems Ecology, Wageningen University and current coordinator of the National Program on Natural Resources, Environment and Eco-Regions of the National and Agricultural Research Institute of Argentina) adds to this:

“It is important that students develop a different dimension in a way that they learn about agriculture and agroecology. For instance, a classical example is how a crop, or a plant, responds to the additional nutrients. So you can go to your lectures in the university and first of all the two axis are always there. On those axis you have for instance how much Nitrogen there [x-axis] and how much the plant grows [y axis] and there is a nice curve. Well try to find that somewhere in reality. It is completely different. First, because there's not only two axis, there are many many more. And second, because there's so much variabilities, so much heterogeneities, so many other things going on, and that gives you a multidimensional perspective of how things are. Still, when you go back to the classroom, and you sit there, we're going to ask you about this curve and you are going to have to know this. But you will know this, together with what you have seen in the field. So you can judge that knowledge, those models of reality, with a different eye once you've seen things in the field.”

Boerengroep aims to:

- Approach agricultural topics from different angles: connecting social science with natural science; academic theories with practical challenges and innovations;
- Highlight the (im)possibilities and challenges that farmers, peasants and gardeners face;
- Create understanding for diversity of opinions and stimulate a critical attitude towards your own position;
- Stimulate transparency of the food production chain to support a critical attitude of consumers, farmers, researchers and students;
- Realize fair and vital agriculture by:
 - visualizing the situation of farmers today and in the future through knowledge exchange amongst farmers, students, consumers, and professionals
 - stimulating local economies, in order to improve the position of the food producers
 - Building, defending and strengthening Agroecology and Food Sovereignty
 - Inform, experience, discuss, facilitate, publish, and activate in order to shed light on present-day issues in agriculture. In this way, Boerengroep

and Jump-in Theater wish to stimulate a critical attitude towards agriculture and food.

Partners of Boerengroep

In order to work towards social, just and sustainable food production, Boerengroep works together with many different partners, among which:

- **PhDers** and **students** of Wageningen University, in order to support them with the organization of events they find important to address, e.g. a symposium or movie screening;
- **Chairgroups** at the Wageningen University, like Rural Sociology Group (RSO) and Farming Systems Ecology (FSE). We are always in close contact with chairgroups in order to discuss about thesis topics, internship opportunities and organizations of events and courses. We are supervising on average 2 interns with Boerengroep, so that students have a place to work on topics they find important to share with others, while gaining work experience, broadening their professional network and having the informative opportunity within an international organization with over 40 years of experience. Moreover, we are actively involved in offering thesis topics to students, that are related to agriculture related challenges of the realities that peasants, farmers, gardeners and indigenous communities face.
- **Organizations**, like ILEIA, Toekomstboeren, ASEED and Milieudefensie;
- **Foundations**, like RUW, Otherwise;
- **International research and advocacy institutes**, like TNI;
- **International human rights organizations**, like FIAN;
- **Educational Institutes** like Warmonderhof and VHL;
- **Farmers Unions**, united in platform Aarde Boer Consument (ABC; 'Earth Farmer, Consumer'), of which we are part as well. ABC unites farmers/peasant organizations (Nederlandse Akkerbouw Vakbond (NAV), Nederlandse Melkveehouders Vakbond (NMV) and Vereniging voor Biologisch Dynamische Landbouw), with the X min Y Solidariteitsfonds and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). The goal of ABC is to work together towards a social and economically sustainable agriculture. According to our vision, that is an agriculture that strives towards regionally closed cycles, and takes into account human rights, the environment, animal welfare, and a healthy soil. Also, peasant/farmers should receive a fair price for their products. In order to reach these goals, ABC argues that food and agriculture should not be part of the free market and that the production of several agricultural products should be regulated, so that a fair income is guaranteed, both here in the Netherlands, as well as in the rest of the world.

Together we organize:

- **critical discussions and lectures** about agricultural topics, both practical topics as well as political debates related to food production;
- **capita selecta courses** at the Wageningen University, like the international, 3ECTS summer course Farm Experience Internship;
- **field trips** to farms and gardens throughout the Netherlands;

- **excursions and exchange programs abroad**, like a Permaculture Trip to the UK and a EU Youth Exchange in Romania;
- **research mediation** between university (researchers, students, education) and the needs of peasants, farmers and gardeners in the Netherlands and abroad. Boerengroep stimulates others to provide us with research questions and their challenges. We can then find students who can work on this as their internship or thesis;
- **Working Groups**. Together with the RSO chairgroup we stimulate students to organize events of their own interest, related to food production and the reality of food producers. This is partly done via the 'Farmers Tales';
- **conferences**, like Voedsel Anders;
- **markets**, like Reclaim the Seeds;
- **interviews with farmers**. In cooperation with Toekomstboeren, Boerengroep members often go to the field to conduct interviews with farmers on topics like access to land, innovative ways of farming, agroecological approaches etc.;
- **interactive theatre, 'Inspringtheater'**, which is an important part of St. Boerengroep. The Inspringtheater provides students a critical view on developments in agriculture in an interactive form of theatre.

FINANCES

Boerengroep mainly receives finances in the form of subsidies. **Wageningen University** is the main important source of subsidies, which we mainly use for structural costs. Of these subsidies the two coordinators (one of Boerengroep and one of the Jump-in Theatre) are paid, as well as several of our activities.

The **Commissie Aanvragen Subsidies** (CAS) of the Wageningen University kindly supports us financially as well, so that we can cover the costs of excursions, lectures, gifts for speakers, travel costs etc. The Jump-in Theatre mainly covers its own costs via the income of performances and other activities. They also receive financial support from the CAS.

Moreover, the **University Fund Wageningen** (UFW) of the Wageningen University supports us with a financial contribution in order to stimulate the academic development of students. One of the contributions of the University Fund is used for our yearly summer course, the Farm Experience Internship.

Depending on the kind of activity, Boerengroep also receives financial contribution from partners and sponsors, as well as contribution by students.

2. BOERENGROEP ACTIVITIES

Here we will elaborate on the activities of Boerengroep throughout 2016.

2.1 EDUCATION

Boerengroep is closely related to the research and education at the Wageningen University. We supervise **interns** from the Netherlands or abroad. We offer them the opportunity to gain work experience within a foundation, we stimulate them to organize events on topics of their own interest and we support them in the execution of their activities. Below you find several events, organized by the Boerengroep intern as coordinator of those events.

We also offer **thesis** topics, related to the challenges and questions from agricultural workers. We stimulate farmers to send us their research questions, so that we can connect students to these topics. We then connect the student with a supervisor from one of the chairgroups of the WUR. In this way, we make sure that scientific research and education stays linked to the practice and is solution-oriented to challenges from agricultural workers.

Besides offering thesis topics and internship opportunities, we also organize a 3 ECTS **capital selecta course**: the Farm Experience Internship (RSO-51303).

Last, Boerengroep is involved in writing **articles** and publishing **video's** with the intention to spread the word of producers, scientists and movements, and to stimulate critical thinking amongst students.

FARM EXPERIENCE INTERNSHIP (FEI)

Date: 25th July – 19th August 2016

Participants: 15

In cooperation with: RSO (WUR), farmers, gardeners, NGOs, companies etc. (see picture)

More info:

farmexperienceinternship.wordpress.com



This year, the FEI (Farm Experience Internship) was organized for the fourth

year by Boerengroep, with the support of the chairgroup Rural Sociology (WUR) and foundation Otherwise. The FEI is growing every year, with even more sponsors and hosts. In this way, Boerengroep ensures a real interconnection between science, practice and movement, which is agroecology. The organizing team existed out of 9 people: the coordinator Boerengroep, Elske, Boerengroep intern Maria (Spain) and Boerengroep volunteers Heitor (Brazil), Roos (Netherlands), Raquelle (Spain), Claudia (Italy), Michelle (Netherlands), and Otherwise coordinator Jildou (Netherlands) and intern Fogelina (Netherlands). Being part of such an international, interdisciplinary team gives a wonderful experience to students as well as the coordinators to set up a one month interdisciplinary program on agroecology in practice, bridging science, practice and movement.

The participant group was a very international group as well, with people from Bhutan, Taiwan, China, Tanzania, Brasil, Colombia, the UK, Catalunya, Italy and the Netherlands. One of the participants, Laura (Colombia) is part of a peasant movement there, and she gave a very interesting lecture on the post-conflict situation in her country, after the peace agreement was signed. In this way, students were connected to peasant struggles around the world.

The FEI is a 3 ECTS summer course, encompassing one week preparation phase (excursions, lectures, workshops), followed by two weeks practical experience at a farm, garden or food forest in the Netherlands. Finally in the fourth week, all participants come back together to share experiences and discuss how to strengthen food sovereignty. Throughout the course there is space for evaluation and feedback so that the course can be improved every year. We got a lot of positive feedback! Students really like the connection between theory and practice, as well as the different angles that lecturers bring into the course. In this way, students are motivated to develop a critical view on agriculture practices and they are stimulated to bridge science, practice and movement. The farmers were enthusiastic as well. They felt heard, appreciated, and even empowered. We also ask the farmers to come up with research questions for students. In this way, one of the FEI participants is now conducting her thesis on a question of a farmer, namely how to introduce cows with horns into the farm.

DOCUMENTARY AND DISCUSSION ON CHILD LABOUR CONTROL IN COCOA PRODUCTION, GHANA.

Date: 5th October 2016

Participants: 35

More info: <http://www.boerengroep.nl/childlabour/>



The intern of Boerengroep, Alex Adu Gyamfi, is master student of Development and Rural Innovation (MDR). As an agricultural extensionist from Ghana, Alex wants to raise awareness about child labour in agriculture (cocoa production). *"Child labour has been an international concern because it damages, spoils and destroys the future of children. Children are the hope and future of a nation."* Therefore he organized this event with the support of Boerengroep. He organized a presentation and documentary on "child labour and control in cocoa production in Ghana". The main aim of the programme was to raise awareness of child labour and perception of it in order to mentor our children in agriculture in order to sustain their interest in when they grow up. The focus was also on how child labour hampers the child's future regarding education and health, but also how to make agriculture attractive again for the younger generations that are migrating to the urban centers to seek for non-existing jobs. Nowadays the youth are losing interest in agriculture and following illegal mining causing much destruction to the farm lands which is a threat to food security and sovereignty. After the short presentation and two documentaries the floor was open for discussion among the audience. The debate was hot regarding child labour of the 'golden' crop which contributes more than any other in the agricultural sector in Ghana employed a lot of the rural population. There were numerous contestations about the definition of International Labour Organisation (ILO) in the sense that it needed to be reviewed and contextualized to the local. What is considered labour in the West, probably in southern rural communities was simply survival.

Audience were inclined into the second position because as put it, the 'dignification' of people is something that is constructed and understood in different ways, more locally maybe in this case rather than imposed, therefore, the Achilles' ankle of this ILO definition and the phobia around child labour. The programme were patronised by 34 participants from various countries (Ghana, Nigeria, Canada, Netherlands, Peru, Italy, and a few more) with different educational background which made the discussions very unique and interesting.

In conclusion participants agreed that child labour exist in cocoa production and other industries but we should be cautious about the way we perceive it so that we can mentor our children in agriculture in order to take over in the future. Besides the child education and health should be taken serious as far as we are mentoring the children. They should take part in application of pesticides and carry heavy loads.

DOCUMENTARY AND DISCUSSION ON ILLEGAL MINING IN GHANA

Date: 16th December 2016

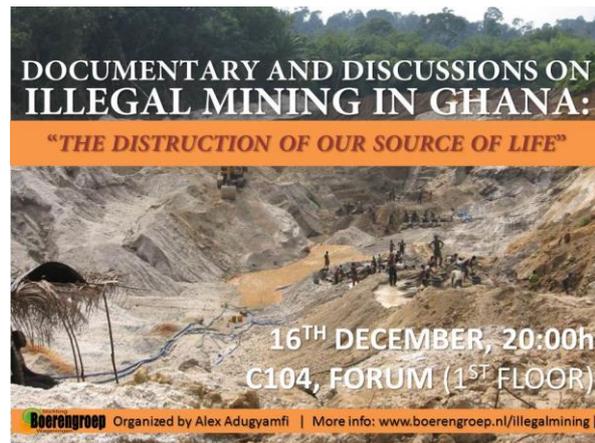
Participants: 30 (90% international)

More info:

<http://www.boerengroep.nl/illegalmining/>

The second event organized by Boerengroep intern Alex Adugyamfi (MDR student) was about illegal mining in his country, Ghana. Alex: *"Food security has been the concern of many countries because of the projection of population increase of about 10 billion in 2050 by United Nation. A lot of people are wondering about how we are going to feed the world, land availability etc. It was this concern that I thought to draw the attention of people about certain activities that might hinder food security in the years ahead hence the presentation of the topic: illegal Mining in Ghana; The destruction of our source of life."*

During the event we watched two short documentaries and Alex facilitated a very interesting discussions, where students from different countries held a debate what are the core problems of mining and how to tackle it. Some problems observed: pollution of soil and water bodies with mercury, sludge and other chemicals (these chemicals end up in rivers and ground water, and thus also in drinking water and irrigation water); destruction of farms and farm lands; degradation of land and vegetation; deforestation and loss of biodiversity. We compared the situation in different countries and came up with some challenges to tackle: tackle corruption; create awareness about health and environment; Storage of agricultural produce is important so that peasants get a better (fair) income and don't have to start working in mines; the government should pay for schooling costs (books, transportation etc) so that people don't have to work in mines in order to get money to send their children to school; people should be more proud of being a peasant (sometimes peasants say 'I'm unemployed' because they don't see farming as a real job).



BOERENGROEP ARTICLES, VIDEO'S, PUBLICATIONS

Boerengroep has published several articles and video's (see also boerengroep.nl/bg/archive)

- **Voedselsoevereiniteit zet diepere wortels in Europa.** Boerengroep, 2016 (NLD). Lees [hier](#)
- **'Onderzoek van de WUR is gestuurd'**, Boerengroep, 2016. (NLD) Lees [hier](#)
- **Challenges of producers in Ghana II: Illegal Mining.** Boerengroep intern, Alex Adugyamfi, 2016. Read [here \(ENG\)](#)
- **Challenges of producers in Ghana I: Child Labour.** Boerengroep intern, Alex Adugyamfi, 2016. Read [here \(ENG\)](#)
- **"Allemaal Lokaal" (Eveyone Local) at bio-dynamic farm Ruimzicht in Halle.** Boerengroep, 2016. Read [here \(ENG\)](#)
- **Report visit Monsanto Wageningen.** Boerengroep, 2016. Read [here \(ENG\)](#)

2.2 EXCURSIONS

EXCURSION BUFFALO FARM STOERDERIJ AND PIG FARM

Date: 26 March 2016

Participants: 25 (60% international)

Pictures: [facebook](#)

On a beautiful day in Spring, a group of WUR students visited buffalo farm the Stoerderij. Farmer Arjan Swinkels – who has graduated from Warmonderhof some years ago - greeted us with coffee and tea, and explained his story: how did he ended up with these beautiful and impressive animals? After Warmonderhof he wanted to keep animals. Due to the coming end of the milk quota and the low price for milk, he asked google which other animals he could milk - and that's how he ended up with these beautiful animals. "Always go for your dream!"

Stoerderij: <https://www.destoerderij.nl/>

After the Stoerderij, we visited pigfarm de Daltonhoeve, where the farmers keep the pigs on straw, a 'one star' for animal welfare. They open up their farm so that people can come in to see how pigs are being kept, and talk to the farmers about their challenges and daily practices. "Ofcourse we would like to have more stars (improve animal welfare), but how can we realise it when the consumer keeps on paying such low prices for the pig meat?"

Daltonhoeve: <http://www.toerismeveghel.nl/organisatie/6185371/de-daltonhoeve>



EXCURSION LAYERPOULTRY FARM

Date: 14th May 2016

Participants: 30 (75% international)

More info: <http://www.rondeeleieren.nl/>

On the 14th May we visited a 'Rondeel' farm, a concept of keeping chickens in a very special way.

This concept was developed by the Wageningen University. After that, we went to another

layerpoultry farm, which is organic. Students were stimulated to discover the differences in the way chickens are kept. On both farms we had a tour and the farmer told us about his practices and reasons.



EXCURSION TO MONSANTO

Date: 21st June 2016

participants: 35

More info patents:

www.boerengroep.nl/topics/seeds

On the 21st of June, Monsanto Wageningen opened their doors for Boerengroep and 30 participants for a tour and discussion. We are thankful to Monsanto Wageningen for this invitation and open discussion so that we can share knowledge and concerns from different viewpoints. The employees of Monsanto Wageningen are disappointed about the negative image of the company and feel they wanted to openly discuss about it, and to show people that 'we are not evil'. They told us that they would like to show that all these negative stories going on about Monsanto are often false. Moreover, big challenges regarding patenting, for example, is – according to the employees – not a result of Monsanto's vision, rather it is created like that by society and politicians.



The employees held a lecture on the issue of a patent right versus a breeders right. After the lecture and a short Q&A, we had an excursion through the research facilities of Monsanto. It was very interesting to see people very much against patents in discussions with people who are part of the Monsanto company. In the end there was a lot of mutual understanding. Students understood that Monsanto is operating within a legal framework and it should therefore be the framework that should be targeted. On the other hand, the employees were really open to listen to our points of concern. Partly they even agreed with it, but they were 'just doing their job'. Moreover, the company in Wageningen isn't involved in genetic modification, since that is not allowed. Read the full report on the visit here: <http://www.boerengroep.nl/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Boerengroep-Excursion-to-Monsanto.pdf>

EXCURSION "ALLEMAAL LOKAAL"

Date: 25 June 2016

Participants: 30 (60% international)

In cooperation with: RUW and Milieudefensie (Friends of the Earth Netherlands)

More info: <http://www.boerengroep.nl/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Allemaal-Lokaal-at-Farm-Ruimzicht.pdf>

Importing soy from Latin America, so that we can feed our cows in Europe and eat cheap meat. Most people are not in favour of this production method. But what to do? Farmer Gerjo and gardener Fred from the dairy farm Ruimzicht have one mission: to have a 100% local production system with care and attention for the animals, the people and the environment. Their vision is to work as locally as possible, sponsor – and empower – the local economy, instead of the multinationals. They sell 'amazon free milk and meat' since the cows are fed with locally produced food. Moreover the farm generates its own energy and sells its products locally.

Milieudefensie organized the day 'Allemaal Lokaal' (everyone local) where several farms in the Netherlands held an open day to show that it is possible to run a farm without soy from Latin America. Boerengroep and RUW coordinated the excursion from Wageningen towards Ruimzicht farm in Halle. We had a very nice group of international students from Wageningen. We got a tour on the farm and there was a little discussion afterwards.



MOESTUINROMANTIEK.

Date: 11th September 2016

Participants: 30

In cooperation with: Inspiringtheater (Jump-in Theatre)

Together with the Jump-in Theatre group of Boerengroep, we have organized an event "MoestuinRomantiek". There was a tour in the organic garden de Ommuurde Tuin, by the gardener, Esther Kuiler. The Jum-in Theatre performed a play about experiencing food. We enjoyed local, organic food from the garden, cooked by Esther and interns. Also other speakers were invited to talk about eco therapy, bee keeping and a talk about vegetables. All in all, a special, totally different way to experience a garden!



2.3 LECTURES AND DEBATES

LECTURE OIL AND WATER DO MIX

Date: 19 February 2016

participants: 46 (80% international)

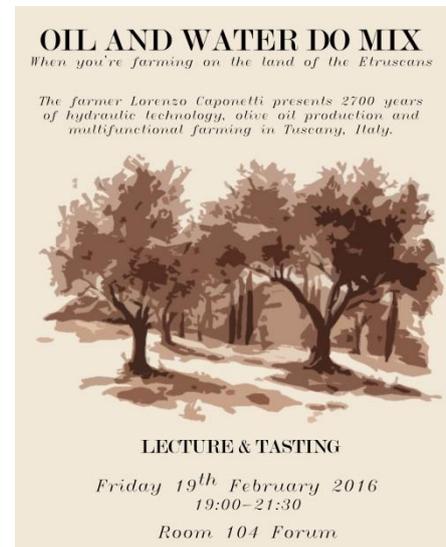
In collaboration with: MOA Master Class

More info: <http://www.casacaponetti.com/agriculture/>

Boerengroep member Federico Andreotti organized an event together with the MOA masterclass. The farmer Lorenzo Caponetti during Oil and Water do Mix presented his organic multifunctional farm, explained how to taste olive oil and he led an open discussion regarding the main points of his farm: knowledges, history, biodiversity, community, farm practices.

Lorenzo Caponetti's farm is located in one of the most historically rich areas of Italy, in the heart of the ancient Etruscan region. To protect this invaluable resource, he has developed a non-profit program to catalog and document the Etruscan ruins on the property. Lorenzo showed his farm which is based on ancient techniques that farmers have used for thousands of years in central Italy to cultivate the most fertile soil possible, which makes his land something truly extraordinary. They hand harvest, produce and distribute our signature olive oil, which has brought the Caponetti name to kitchens and dinner tables around the world. Lorenzo believes in what he does, and the variety of educational programs that we offer on the farm is a reflection of our commitment to lasting knowledge through experience. He is an example of a right person able to make the right choice. He invited interns from universities around the world, who gain expertise in their chosen field through on-site training. In his kitchen they have developed a seasonal cooking program where chefs and students are invited to share their techniques and develop a new relationship to the food on their plates. He invited us to explore the past, participate in the present, and help us to preserve the future. The lecture relating to his farm was inspirational for most of the participants (Around 50). During the open discussion several topics were argued from the most technical aspect relating to his farm, like irrigation system or effectiveness of crop rotation to a more social aspect like involve the local community in the food supply chain. Lastly looking to our future climate change were interrogated.

This event was very interesting and gave to most of the students good thinking points relating to make the right choice in food production, sensibility to the level community and to respect our land and traditions. Lorenzo opens his farm for internship and collaboration with Wageningen University.



 Supported by the Masterclass Organic Agriculture

SATOYAMA – THE RE-PEASANTIZATION OF JAPAN

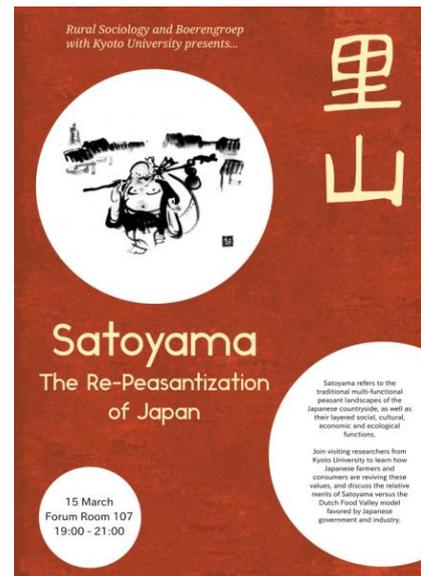
Date: 15th March 2016

Participants: 60 (75% international)

In cooperation with: RSO (WUR)

More info: <http://www.boerengroep.nl/satoyama/>

Boerengroep and RSO chairgroup invited 11 guest speakers from Japan, China, Korea, Indonesia and Madagascar who will share their knowledge on a Japanese concept SATOYAMA: the re-peasantization. Satoyama refers to the traditional multi-functional peasant landscapes of the Japanese countryside, as well as their layered social, cultural, economic and ecological functions.



What are the merits of Satoyama versus the Dutch Food Valley model favoured by the Japanese government and industry? Five guest speakers held a short presentation, they showed video's and afterwards there was a Q&A with the whole group.

LECTURE AGROECOLOGY – BRIDGING SCIENCE, PRACTICE, MOVEMENT

Date: 25 April 2016

Participants: 200 (60% international)

In Cooperation with: Voedsel Anders

Recording event:

<http://wurtv.wur.nl/p2gplayer/Player.aspx?id=dZGTo4>

(NOTE: starting at 01:10:00)

On the 25th of April the we organized the event "AGROECOLOGY – bridging science, practice, movement" with key speakers Pablo Tittonnell, Irene Maria Cardoso and Menno Houtstra. Questions were: how can we work towards more sustainable food production?

What can we learn from examples in science, practice, movement? How can we strengthen the Agroecological Movement, bridging science, practice, movement? We had a market with several initiatives and projects:

- Eurijn local currency
- Van Akker Naar Bos
- Toekomstboeren
- PPAUW Permaculture
- Otherwise
- ILEIA



TTIP-VRIJ FESTIVAL – LANG LEVE DE LOCALE ECONOMIE!

Date: 28 May 2016

Participants: 150 (15% international)

In cooperation with: Milieudefensie

On the 28th of May, the national action day against free trade agreements TTIP and CETA and ISDS, Boerengroep and Milieudefensie organized a TTIP free Festival – Long Live the Local Economy. We wanted to raise awareness about the dangers of these free trade agreements and to celebrate the local economy. In this way, we showed the citizens of Wageningen that we don't need these treaties in order to have a lively, social and green city. During the festival there was a city college about TTIP, as well as music, dance, a swap programme and of course local food and drinks!



GRASSROOT SCIENCE: PALM OIL

Date: June 2016

participants: approx. 100 (80% international)

In collaboration with: Otherwise, FIAN, RUW

More info: boerengroep.nl/palmoil

During the Grassroot Science month, Boerengroep, FIAN, Otherwise and RUW joined forces to organize a series of events around one topic. This month, we chose for the topic palm oil. There was a documentary on land grabs, a workshop on making palm-free products, a debate of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil and Boerengroep would organize a skype talk with a peasant movement that faces problems because of the palm oil industry. We have been in contact with many peasant groups in Indonesia, Africa and Latin America. Although they were all very enthusiastic to share the story with us, in the end it turned out impossible. There was the issue of bad internet connection, bad access (to go to the city where there is good internet) as well as danger (the fear of being killed for speaking out). Nevertheless, it was wonderful to gain many contacts and we will certainly try another time!



STRENGTHENING FARMER-LED SEED SYSTEMS

Date: 15th June 2016

Participants: 45

In cooperation with: ILEIA, Louis Bolk, Otherwise, ASEED, Seed Commons Wageningen, Biodiversity International.

More info:

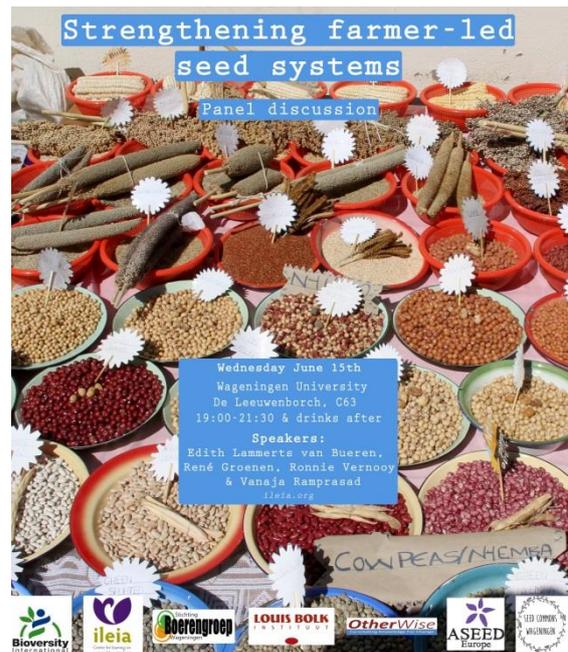
boerengroep.nl/farmerledseedsystems

More info on seeds:

boerengroep.nl/topics/seeds

Farmers, especially women, have been the custodians of the world's biodiversity through saving, using, exchanging and selling seed and propagating material. The rights of farmers to do this are a core component of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, as well as their right to participate in decision making and in the sharing of benefits arising from the use of plant genetic resources. However, only a small number of governments have established effective farmer-centred measures for the implementation of access and benefit sharing of genetic resources. Yet, there are various examples of successful farmer-led initiatives, some of which happen through a collaboration between researchers and farmers. What are the lessons of effective access and benefit sharing for family farmers?

We first had an interesting panel discussion with speakers: Edith Lammerts van Bueren (Louis Bolk Instituut), René Groenen (farmer breeder at De Groenen Hof), Ronnie Vernooij (Bioversity International), and a video message from Vanaja Ramprasad (Green Foundation, India). Then there was a more informal meeting with drinks to have further discussion. Boerengroep member Jon also initiated a seed market, where people could buy and swap seeds. It was important for Boerengroep to be part of this event, in order to gain more knowledge on biodiversity through seeds and propagation material. The Boerengroep members keep track of all information and share this at our [website](#), so that students can easily find material for further studies.



DEBATE BETWEEN BOERENGROEP, LTO, CBI, YFM IN UTRECHT

Date: 15th November 2016

Participants: 60 (Dutch)

More info: <http://www.boerengroep.nl/themas/glb/>

Boerengroep was invited by SIB (**S**tudenten **I**nternationale **B**etrekkingen, university Utrecht) for a panel debate "Knuffelkoe of Megastal?" with Kees Romijn (LTO), Cor Pierik (CBI) and the YFM. It was a very interesting debate where CBI presented the statistical data on agriculture in the Netherlands. Our country is number 2 in the world in terms of export of agricultural products. Kees Romijn (LTO) explains how everything is going very well with farmers in the Netherlands. Boerengroep went against this narrative, emphasising how seven farms a day have to quit because of rising costs and decreasing agricultural prices. Moreover, the scaling up of farms after the milk quota was taken out, has led to enormous environmental problems. We are now having a huge problem with phosphate and might lose derogation.

Boerengroep also mentioned the importance of food sovereignty and small scale farmers. 70% of the food in the world is created by small scale farmers, using only 30 % of the agricultural resources. 80% of the people who are suffering from hunger live in rural areas. Therefore it is important to listen to those people. We already have enough food to feed the world, but food needs to be produced there where it is needed.



FARMERS TALES

Farmers' Tales is Boerengroep's weekly dialogue on the practice and politics, narratives and nuance of food production. An informal place to meet up with other students, PhD'ers, researchers, farmers, peasants and toekomstboeren. Participants are stimulated to share ideas and questions or just pass by to gain knowledge on a variety of topics (e.g. for their thesis or internship). See boerengroep.nl/research-education/farmers-tales/

boerengroep presents...

FARMERS TALES

weekly dialogue on the practice and politics,
narratives and nuance of food production




2016 FORUM ON FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Room V72 Leeuwenborch
12:30 Thursday June 9

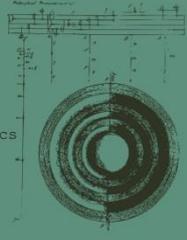
boerengroep presents...

FARMERS TALES

weekly dialogue on the practice and politics,
narratives and nuance of food production



HOLLOW EARTH



mythologies
and
microbiopolitics
of the
living soil

Room V72 Leeuwenborch
12:30 Thursday May 12

boerengroep presents...

FARMERS TALES

weekly dialogue on the practice, politics,
narratives and nuance of food production

12:30 Thursday March 3
Leeuwenborch Room V72

Agroecology

brazilian
students
movement



@Heitor Mancini Teixeira

boerengroep presents...

FARMERS TALES

weekly dialogue on the practice and politics,
narratives and nuance of food production

RESISTE



mobilization
of Mayan
beekeepers
against
GMO soy

12:30 Thursday February 18
Room 3048 Leeuwenborch
*** not in V72! ***

boerengroep presents...

FARMERS TALES

weekly dialogue on the practice, politics,
narratives and nuance of food production

Poster design for Social Change



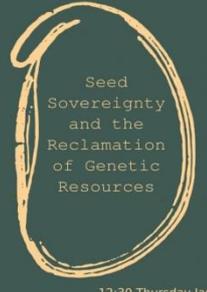
12:30 Thursday March 31
Room V72 Leeuwenborch

BRING YOUR LAPTOP  Jon T'anis

boerengroep presents...

FARMERS TALES

weekly dialogue on the practice and politics,
narratives and nuance of food production



Seed
Sovereignty
and the
Reclamation
of Genetic
Resources

12:30 Thursday January 21
Room V72 Leeuwenborch

boerengroep presents...

FARMERS TALES

weekly dialogue on the practice and politics,
narratives and nuance of food production

Permaculture,
Social Justice
& Resilience

experiences in Nepal



12:30 Thursday January 14
Room V72 Leeuwenborch

boerengroep presents...

FARMERS TALES

weekly dialogue on the practice and politics,
narratives and nuance of food production

NICARAGUA

Struggle for land, territory
and autonomy in the face of the
Gran Canal Interoceánico



12:30 Thursday January 28
Room V72 Leeuwenborch

boerengroep presents...

FARMERS TALES

weekly dialogue on the practice, politics,
narratives and nuance of food production

Government, Research and Household
Perceptions on Solutions to
Rural Food Insecurity
in Eastern Rwanda



12:30 Thursday March 17
Leeuwenborch Room V72

2.4 WORKSHOPS

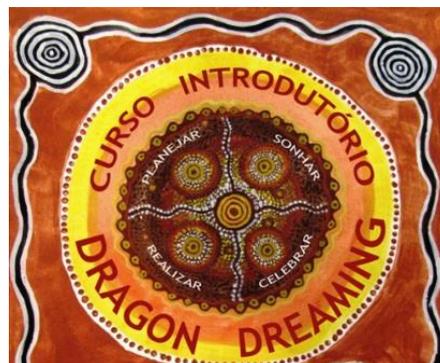
WORKSHOP DRAGON DREAMING

Date: 28th April and 2nd & 3rd May 2016

Participants: 35 (75% international)

In cooperation with: RSO (WUR) and Otherwise

Prof. Felipe Simas from Brazil contacted Boerengroep to offer a three day 'Dragon Dreaming' workshop. Dragon Dreaming can be defined as an approach to consensual participatory strategic planning for projects and organisations in the field of Ecologically Sustainable Community Economic Development. It serves individuals, organisations and communities, in developing outrageously successful sustainable projects, using the powers liberated from our collective intelligence in such a way, that all participants are able to identify themselves completely with the project. It draws inspiration from Australia's aboriginal people, the latest scientific discoveries, Living Systems Theory, and Deep Ecology. The process gives high value to every stakeholder's deepest visions and motivation, so our collective synergies can unleash their full effect.



The Dragon Dreaming method is also extensively used during the Farm Experience Internship (FEI) summer course on agroecology in practice. We got a lot of positive feedback from all participants, and personally I think this was one of the most useful workshops we've had in the year. It enables to work together in groups and create a strong 'group spirit' so that you can work on a project as one whole, thinking out of the box and stimulating creativity while having joy in the work.

WORKSHOP PERMACULTURE PPAUW

Date: 6th - 8th May 2016

Participants: 60 (40% international)

In cooperation with: PPAUW

Eco Village PPAUW and Boerengroep organized a Permaculture Gathering, full of lectures, workshops and co-creation of knowledge. Permaculture is a system of agricultural and social design principles, about working with, rather than against nature. It's about thoughtful observation, looking at ecosystems, plants and animals in all their functions, rather than treating any area as a single product system.

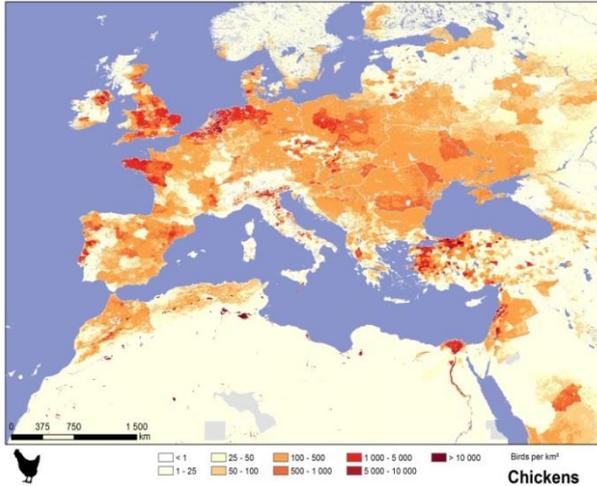
During the weekend, there were people from all over the Netherlands that joined the gathering. It was especially interesting for students to see permaculture in practice, with lots of examples, viewpoints and projects in the Netherlands.



DIY WORKSHOP: HOW TO SLAUGHTER A CHICKEN

Date: 28 May 2016

Participants: 15 (40% international)



The Netherlands is the world's largest exporter of eggs for consumption and egg products, and the third largest exporter of chicken meat. Of the 10 billion **eggs** that Dutch chickens lay annually, 6.5 billion go abroad and 50% of the meat and the hatching eggs also ends up being exported. Of the 67,000 farms in the Netherlands, nearly 2,000 are active in poultry.



At the 709 broiler farms in the primary production, some 46 million broilers grow in these farms every year. There are 20 poultry slaughterhouses in the Netherlands where approximately 750,000 ton meat is produced every year. (source: [Rabobank](#) and [Dutch Agro-Food](#)).

THE SECRET LIFE OF SOY



You need 605 grams of soy to produce 1 kilo of chicken meat; and 36 grams of soy to produce one chicken egg ([Soy Barometer 2014](#)). This is shipped from Latin America, where amazon forest is chopped down to make way for agricultural land, since Europe isn't able to provide enough protein for its livestock.

Keeping this all in mind, Boerengroep argues it is important to reconnect people to their food in order to develop / keep a more sustainable consumption style. Moreover we find it important to keep alive traditional skills and knowledge. Therefore, Boerengroep raised 10 chickens and received 10 more chickens from a farm close by. We invited an expert, who could teach us how to properly slaughter a chicken. For most participants (including myself) it was the first time to kill a chicken – which was quite confronting and really made me more aware of meat consumption. Although it was difficult for some people, everyone agreed it feels good to eat meat and really know where it comes from.



2.5 MOVIE NIGHTS

MOVIE : ORPHANS OF THE LAND

Date: 27th June 2016

Participants: 60 (60% international)

In cooperation with: Movie-W and Jessica Milgroom (WUR)

More info: orphansoftheland.org

Jessica Milgroom (WUR) presented her documentary *Orphans of the Land*, about land grabs and resettlement in Mozambique. She gave a short presentation beforehand and after the screening there was a debate about the relation of development, nature conservation and people.



The number of people displaced by 'development' has risen from 10 million to 15 million per year in the last decade alone. People facing resettlement are filled with hope for a better life. Although some families find prosperity after resettlement, as orphans of the land, villages lose autonomy to make decisions about the natural resources on which their livelihoods depend. Resettled people cannot access enough land to recreate their traditional cropping system, leaving them vulnerable to food insecurity. Displacement that is caused by development projects, known as development-forced displacement and resettlement (DFDR), is a hidden human rights problem because it is seen as an unavoidable consequence of development. Many international donors, governments and development agencies argue that resettlement should be carried out as if it were a development project itself that can improve people's lives. However, despite attempts to compensate for losses, evidence suggests that DFDR tends to culminate in long-term and often severe social, economic and cultural impoverishment for resettling and host-village residents.

MOVIE: SILENT LAND

Date: 13th October 2016

Participants: 60 (Dutch)

In cooperation with: ILEIA, Jan van der Berg

More info: silentland.org

In Cambodia, more and more fertile land is being taken by big Industrial agriculture. Family farmers (peasants) are fighting for their land rights in order to contribute to the food sovereignty in their country. Who has the answer to feed the growing world population? *Silent Land* shows the stories behind this dilemma. A film by Jan van den Berg.





This year Food4All took place from 22-24 of November 2016. Food4All aims to highlight the problems of our broken food system, while at the same time celebrating hopeful and inspiring alternatives. Food4All was nice and intimate this year.

On the **Tuesday** we had about 35 people for the Joe Cross film, 'The Kids Menu'. After the film we had a short discussion. The audience appreciated the film, particularly some of the reflections on the role of teachers and pedagogy around kids and food. Some people were inspired to share their own personal stories about their relationship with food or with involving kids with cooking and harvesting. Some of the questions discussed were: Are there any local initiatives here that deal with education of children around food? Is the fact that so many people can't access healthy and sustainably grown food a political question of power along the food chain?

During the Food4All lunch lecture on **Wednesday** we screened episodes of The Perennial Plate. The Perennial Plate is a two-time James Beard Award winning online weekly documentary series dedicated to socially responsible and adventurous eating. The activity was visited very well with around 50-60 students and employees of Wageningen University. The farmers in the mini-documentaries were very poetic about their connection to the food they produce. This was received very well by the audience. However someone did comment at the end: "How can you love food so much? I just eat for sustenance."

On Wednesday evening approximately 30 people came for the movie Local Food Roots. This British documentary is an inspirational immersion in local food culture, with stories that cover the urban, rural, large and small scales. Besides this documentary the Nyéléni Europe film was shown. Nyéléni Europe is the widest international movement aiming to realize food sovereignty in Europe. It aims to build common strategies in order to re-organize the way we structure our society around food and agriculture today. This was followed by a good discussion with Jan Wieringa from Veld en Beek and Pieter Lammerts from De Nieuwe Ronde.

On **Thursday**, the final evening of the Food4All Film Festival, the award winning documentary "Just Eat It" by Grant Baldwin and Jenny Rustemeyer was screened at Movie W. This is a documentary about food waste that addresses the issue from both a birds-eye perspective by looking at the food chain and a personal perspective where we follow Jen and Grant in their challenge to only consume food waste for 6 months. Before the movie Erik-Jan van Oosten talked about food waste in a local context such as the Foodsharing Wageningen Platform and presented two books about cooking with food waste to browse through during the break. The movie was followed by a 20 minute conversation about our food waste. The 40 to 45 people that attended this screening felt that they needed to change their behaviour and saw food waste not just as an inefficiency but as an ethical issue. Practical advice on how to ask shop keepers for food waste was exchanged, as well as an academic discussion on the role of population in food scarcity was held. Other feedback included remarks on the role of Wageningen University and its focus on the production of food in research and education, underplaying the importance of the food waste crisis. The argument was made that a cultural shift towards a more sustainable society has to include how we treat and consume our food.

2.6 SYMPOSIA, CONFERENCES, FAIRS, BIOBEURS

EXCURSION BIOBEURS – DE BIOLOGISCHE VAKBEURS (IJSSELHALLEN, ZWOLLE)

Date: 20&21 January 2016

Participants: 12

Every year, Boerengroep stimulates students to go to the BioBeurs, the event for the Dutch organic sector. Students can meet with companies, take part in workshops and see all kinds of career examples and of course it is a very good moment for networking. Boerengroep arranged and paid the transport for the students to the BioBeurs.

RECLAIM THE SEEDS, WAGENINGEN

Date: 13th February 2016

Participants: 1000 (10% international)

In cooperation with: ASEED

More info: reclaimtheseeds.nl

Around 1000 participants in seed fair and workshop programme on the campus of the University of Wageningen. Joint statement against patents on crop plants and against the power position of the major international agrochemical companies. Marie-Monique Robin and Olivier de Schutter presented the Monsanto Tribunal to the participants. On the 13th of February, the Forum Building of the University of Wageningen accommodated the annual seed fair of Reclaim the Seeds, organised by Boerengroep and environmental organisation ASEED. Apart from people who came especially for the seed fair, visitors of the Voedsel Anders Conference passed by the fair as well. The stalls, where one could swap or give away home harvested and selected seeds, have been used frequently and eagerly. Apart from regulars from all over the country, there were stall holders and visitors from Wageningen and surroundings as well. The permaculture garden of Ecovillage Ppauw, the Centrum voor Genetische Bronnen (The Center for Plant Genetic Resources) and co-organizer Boerengroep presented themselves, as well as a group of students who have ambitious plans for the seed sovereignty of Wageningen and surroundings. It's clear that the growing of special crops and the cultivation of one's own seeds, is very alive in Wageningen and surrounding! The programme was full of interesting lectures and discussions. One of the highlights was the Monsanto Tribunal, presented by documentary maker Marie-Monique Robin and former UN rapporteur for food safety Olivier de Schutter. The lecture room was bursting at its seams, filled with people who wanted to hear how, in October, the accusations against Monsanto for doing damage to humans and the environment, will be substantiated.

The series of workshops on how to cultivate, reproduce and save and store one's own seeds, was very popular as well. Gardener and permaculture teacher Linder van den Heerik taught about the basics of seed saving. Foundation Omslag presented the DVD From Seed to Seed, with 7 hours of very detailed information on how to grow over thirty varieties of crop plants and then how to harvest and store the seeds. The film is divided

into chapters and sub-chapters, which makes it easy to work with this DVD. Janneke Top presented her book about seed saving, titled 'Zelf Zaden Telen', and gave a lecture on this topic as well. The book offers a load of information on seed saving, growing beans and cross pollination. You can read reports of most of the workshops. Reclaim the Seeds, together with all its participants, sends out a strong message -for the fifth year in succession- that the agricultural diversity and the availability of seeds is extremely important, and that the reproduction, reuse and trade of seeds should be permitted. It's about living organisms which are the result of thousands of years of agriculture, they should be common goods, and the use of crop plants shouldn't be restricted by patents. Only in this way sustainable, local agriculture can counterbalance the dominance of the major agricultural companies in the seed market.

On Sunday the 14th of February, there was the opportunity to visit local vegetable garden projects. The Creative Garden at Hoge Born showed us around in their forest garden, aquaponics greenhouse and other projects in the beginning phase. When we arrived at Ecovillage Ppauw, wet snow had begun to fall, so we were sitting inside enjoying coffee, homemade pastries and the rocket stove admiring the garden through the window. Unfortunately, due to the bad weather, only a few participants showed up to visit these interesting projects.

Did you miss out on the Wageningen Seed Fair? Don't despair.. there will be another Reclaim the Seeds seed fair in Lier -nearby Antwerpen- on the 27th of February! Like in Wageningen, you can expect a mix of stalls with a diversity of seeds, and an interesting workshop programme. Organisers Reclaim the Seeds: ASEED and Boerengroep.



BOERENGROEP AT ACTIVIST VILLAGE OF NEIL YOUNG, ZIGGO DOME

Date: 9th July 2016

Participants: 1 (coordinator Boerengroep)

Location: Ziggo Dome, Amsterdam

Boerengroep was invited by protest singer Neil Young, to raise awareness about patents on seeds at his 'activist village' that he brings along during his worldwide tour. The Boerengroep coordinator was

interviewed for a documentary on the importance of seed saving and sustainable agriculture. Moreover, it was a good moment to promote Boerengroep amongst the 17.000 visitors. We've spread flyers and handed out vegetable seeds.



CONFERENCE MONSANTO TRIBUNAL, THE HAGUE

Date: 14-15- 16 October 2016

Participants: 15

In cooperation with: Otherwise and ASEED

More info: <http://www.monsanto-tribunal.org/>

The Monsanto Tribunal is an international civil society initiative to hold Monsanto accountable for human rights violations, for crimes against humanity, and for ecocide. Eminent judges heard testimonies from victims, and will deliver an advisory opinion following procedures of the International Court of Justice. A distinct parallel event, the People's Assembly, was a gathering of social movements from all over the world that exchanged ideas and planned for the future.

Boerengroep and Otherwise decided to go to the Monsanto Tribunal as reporters. We documented ideas and visions of several key speakers. We are in the process of editing and translating these video's as an input for a debate at the Wageningen University. The video's will also be shown at the Reclaim the Seeds event on the 4th of March in Nijmegen. A delegation of 15 students from the WUR joined Boerengroep and Otherwise to support documentation and get input for a critical debate regarding the practices and consequences of Monsanto (Bayer).





Date: 17th October 2016

Participants: 1 (coordinator
Boerengroep)

In cooperation with: platform Aarde Boer Consument (ABC)

More info: www.boerengroep.nl/themas/glb and www.somo.nl/nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/03/Alternative-Trade-Mandate-NL.pdf

Boerengroep and other members of platform Aarde Boer Consument were invited at the Ministry of Economic Affairs in The Hague to discuss about the Food Agenda of the Netherlands (Voedselagenda). In 2020 the CAP will be on the agenda for the period 2020-2027. Present were: Gerrit Brummelman (Ministry EZ), Guus Geurts (ABC), Nico Verduin (LTO), Hans Geurts (ABC, NMV), Keimpe vd Heide (ABC, NAV), Elske Hageraats (ABC, Toekomstboeren, Boerengroep), Suzan Reumers (Agro & Natuur) and Willem Schoutsma (Voedselzekerheid).

Platform ABC formulated critique and suggestions on the draft of the food agenda. We ask for the ministry of EZ to take into account:

- More regulation (e.g. keep quota). Food should not be part of the free market.
- Food Sovereignty in the CAP, with emphasis on the protection of markets in food insecure countries against the free market economy where subsidized food from the rich countries can destroy local markets.
- Protect other countries against land grabs
- Reset the balance between patent right and breeders' right. Also take into account the influence of the WTO, and bilateral treatments like TTIP, CETA, TISA.
- Focus more on the production of proteins. At this moment EU regulations are enhancing the import of soy and palm oil. ABC thinks that arable farmers should be rewarded to produce protein crops here in the EU.
- The government should make sure that they get a fair price. Farmers cannot invest in the environment, animal welfare, a healthy soil etc. if they don't receive a fair price.
- The government should diminish the market position of the 'big players' in the agricultural sector. In a true free market, all participants are equal and free during discussions about price negotiations and conditions.
- Market intervention and management of supply and demand to ensure stable and fair prices. The government should create flexible quota and end the dumping of food in the world market.
- Regionalisation and food sovereignty. Trade in agricultural products can only be 'free' in areas where all rules and regulated are more or less the same for all actors. This creates space for the smaller actors in the chain / the market and ensures fair competition. As example: the EU should be as self-sufficient as possible in protein crops. In a sense, this is summarised as food sovereignty, where producers get a fair price and producers/consumers can decide which products can be offered at the market, in opposition to the current leading world market where big corporations decide which products end in the supermarkets.

NYELENI EUROPEAN FOOD SOVEREIGNTY FORUM, ROMANIA.

Date: 26-30 October 2016

Participants: 1 (coordinator Boerengroep)

More info: nyelenieurope.net



Boerengroep was part of the Dutch Delegation to the Nyeleni European Food Sovereignty Forum in Cluj Napoca, Romania. Other members of the delegation represented: Via Campesina, Wageningen University, Toekomstboeren, BD Vereniging, TNI, ILEIA, ABC, FIAN, Friends of the Earth (Milieudefensie), International Collective in Support of Fish Workers (NetVISwerk), ASEED, and several producers (shepherd, farmers, gardeners etc.)

Boerengroep discussed met with many international groups related food sovereignty and challenges they face. The Farm Experience Internship became part of Via Campesina's European Agroecology Learning and Training Network. In February 2017 there will be the follow-up meeting to further discuss about this.

The full report on the event by Boerengroep can be read (in Dutch) here:

www.boerengroep.nl/nyeleni2016

CONFERENCE ACCESS TO LAND FOR FARMERS IN THE EU, BRUSSELS

Date: 7th December 2016

Participants: 1 (coordinator Boerengroep)

Location: European Parliament and European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels

More info: <http://www.greens-efa.eu/en/article/access-to-land-for-farmers-in-the-eu/>



In Europe, land speculation and land concentration are an increasing threat to small and medium sized family farms and new farmers (e.g. Toekomstboeren). Soaring land prices make it increasingly difficult for farmers to have access to land. In the meantime, investors are buying up enormous pieces of land, sometimes using legal loopholes. Land is increasingly becoming a globally tradable commodity and an object of financial speculation.

Boerengroep is very concerned about land speculation and land concentration. In the Netherlands, seven farms have to close every day. Mostly because of decreasing agricultural prices and increasing costs, like the price of land. The conference Access to Land for farmers in the EU visualised the importance of land, from the perspective of different stakeholders from NGOs, scientists, regulatory bodies, politicians and farmers from several European countries. Together the situation was analysed and a discussion was held to come up with possible solutions.

Thanks to attending conferences, Boerengroep can add information at our [website](#) so that students find overviews of various information about relevant topics – in this case Land. In this way, Boerengroep also stimulates the connection between science and practice. Moreover, students are stimulated to look at different (contrasting) viewpoints from a critical view.

CONFERENCE NATUUR WIJST LANDBOUW DE WEG - VAN AKKER NAAR BOS

Date: 9th December 2016

Participants: 2 (the coordinator and one board member of Boerengroep)

Location: Bemmelen

More info: <http://akkernaarbos.nl/congres-2016/>



In the Netherlands, more and more people are searching for ways to make agriculture more sustainable. This conference 'Natuur wijst landbouw de weg' (Nature shows agriculture the way) brought together peasants, policy makers, scientists and society to talk about transition towards sustainable agriculture. Key note speakers were: Prof. Pablo Tiftonell, Ir. Kees van Veluw, Louis Dolmans, farmers Geert van der Veer, ir. Bas Volkers (Ministerie Economische Zaken) and others. The main lecture was by Pablo Tiftonell, who spoke about Ecological intensification of agricultural landscapes: the need to increase food production there where it is needed, in an agroecological way to ensure it fits local conditions.

Boerengroep was also present at the conference with an info-stand, so that people could get to know Boerengroep and sign up for the newsletter. Thanks to attending conferences, Boerengroep can add information at our [website](#) so that students find overviews of various information about relevant topics – in this case Land. In this way, Boerengroep stimulates the connection between science and practice and students are stimulated to look at different (contrasting) viewpoints from a critical view. Moreover, it is increasing the [network](#) of Boerengroep. Afterwards, we were invited by the ministry of Economic Affairs to join a debate about entrance of new farmers in the Netherlands.

3. INSPRINGTHEATER

Inspringtheater | Maureen Klijn

First the year 2016 will be discussed generally. Then the performances and the rest of the activities will be explained.

IN GENERAL

2016 was an active and fruitful year for the Inspringtheater. We performed 7 times in different locations.

We performed try-outs of 'Dealing With Stress' for the Winter AID and in Impuls (WUR) in February. In Impuls we invited several potential clients that could have interest in the performance. We received positive feedback and had a meeting with Cor Meurs and Claudie van Dreumel (trainers WUR) about becoming a part of their training about stress. The idea would be interesting for employees of the WUR. It's definitely a hot topic for students from all different backgrounds how to manage yourself (and your stress) in a sustainable way.

In April we performed 'How Am I Ever going to Finish My PhD?' three times in a row. We also performed this play in October. The audience and the clients (WASS and EC&PC) were very enthusiastic and kept asking for more. This same client is also interested to stage our new performance about stress in 2017.

In September we organised in collaboration with Stichting Boerengroep a theme night about love; in the beautiful 'Ommuurde Tuin' in Renkum we organised several workshops, a short performance and a delicious meal around the campfire. The workshops were about the behaviour of bees, observing vegetables and eco-therapy; to live from the heart and to feel connected with the world around you. The audience was very moved by the evening. We could organise a similar evening in the future in a different garden in collaboration with Boerengroep.

In autumn we also made a start with a peer group for our jokers (facilitators). It's important to invest in them; they can make or break our performances. We will continue to give feedback and tips to each other.

PR

The website and Facebook of the Inspringtheater are lively and up- to -date, we receive many applications for new actors. For the performance 'Dealing With Stress' I gave an interview in the Resource (WUR) and the announcement for the try-out was visible all over the WUR on the promotion screens.

REMARKS

Because the Inspiringtheater had the chance to perform 3 times in a row (April) with the same group of actors, we could save on the director's costs. This allowed us to make up for the loss in 2015. The rest of the savings are necessary to invest in the new play 'Dealing With Stress'. Everyone (even our regular director) worked for free on it. We also want to invest in a joker course in 2017 and give a small fee per occurrence. In 2017 we are also planning to create a new piece about dairy-farmers (a very hot topic at the moment) in collaboration with Boerengroep.

PERFORMANCES AND ACTIVITIES

PERFORMANCES 'DEALING WITH STRESS'

Data: Winter AID (1x), Impuls (1x)

Participants: 4

Audience: Winter AID about 150 students. Impuls: about 50 people.



Workshop 'Dealing with stress'



Voor wie? Alle studenten
Door wie? Het Inspiringtheater, onderdeel van stichting Boerengroep
Waar? Onder andere op Wageningen Campus
Hoe lang? 45 minuten
Wat is het? Inspiringtheater of *theatre of the oppressed* is een vorm van interactief theater. Na een korte voorstelling over een bepaald onderwerp gaan de spelers de dialoog aan met het publiek. Vervolgens kunnen toeschouwers de rollen van de spelers overnemen.

Maureen Klijn, coördinator van Het Inspiringtheater: 'Ik heb gemerkt dat stress een heel actueel onderwerp is onder jonge mensen. Iedereen wil veel, heeft veel ambitie. Tegelijkertijd leeft de vraag: wie ben ik en hoe bewijs ik wie ik ben?'

De vorige coördinator van het inspiringtheater, Marloes Harkema, kwam met het idee om over stress een voorstelling te maken, voor en door studenten van Wageningen Universiteit. Toen ik met haar idee verderging, merkte ik dat het een *hot topic* is.

Bij de voorbereiding van de voorstelling heb ik veel mensen gevraagd waar zij stress van krijgen. Ik heb van vrienden gehoord dat media en vooral Facebook veel stress veroorzaken. Facebook is een soort spiegel, een manier om je te vergelijken met anderen en dat geeft stress. Het is moeilijk om in het nu te blijven, terwijl ik denk dat dat de oplossing voor stress is.

Hoewel stress en burn-outs sterk spelen onder jonge mensen, heb ik gemerkt dat er toch een taboe op ligt. De maatschappij ziet het als je eigen fout als je een burn-out krijgt. Mensen die het krijgen, denken daardoor snel dat ze een loser zijn. Terwijl ik juist denk dat mensen die een burn-out krijgen, heel sterke mensen zijn met een rijk leven. Ze doen veel en hebben veel ambities. Wat ik wil bereiken met deze voorstelling is dat het taboe minder wordt en dat het gesprek op gang komt.

Het inspiringtheater is geen therapie, maar door te doen, dus door een rol over te nemen in de voorstelling, kunnen mensen wel dicht bij hun gevoel komen en dat creëert ruimte. Je krijgt een andere kijk op de situatie. In het interactieve gedeelte komt er een gesprek op gang, is er ruimte voor reflectie en lichtheid. Het inspiringtheater is niet per se bedoeld om tot een oplossing of een antwoord te komen, maar het laat mensen zien hoe het anders kan. Ik hoop dat mensen na afloop van de voorstelling trouwer kunnen zijn aan wat ze nodig hebben en beter hun grenzen kunnen aangeven.' 6

Meer studiestress

Het aantal studenten dat hulp zocht bij de studentenpsychologen van Wageningen Universiteit was in 2014 ruim 30 procent hoger dan in 2013, zo laten de jaarcijfers van de psychologen zien. Dat is niet volledig te verklaren door de toename van het aantal studenten, want ook het percentage hulpzoekers steeg, van 6,8 naar 7,2 procent. Vooral het aantal studenten met studiegerelateerde stressklachten nam volgens de psychologen toe. Ook de sterk toegenomen interesse voor het vak Intuïtieve intelligentie kan een indicatie zijn dat bewuster leven en omgaan met stress belangrijke thema's zijn voor studenten. In het collegejaar 2013-2014 volgden 130 studenten het vak, een jaar later waren dat er 204.



PERFORMANCE PHD SUPERVISION

Data: April (3x), October (1x)

Participants: 5 actors per performance

Audience: Per performance about 50 students, 200 total



PERFORMANCE & ORGANISATION MOESTUINROMANTIEK

In collaboration with Stichting Boerengroep

Date: September

Participants: 4

Audience: 30 people



MoestuinRomantiek

De Groenteman
over waarnemen

De Imker over
verbondenheid

De Boerin over
het ongewone

*Scenes over de Liefde
Eten, drinken, kampvuur*

11 Sept 2016
Ommuurde Tuin,
Renkum

11 Sept 2016 | Ommuurde Tuin, Renkum | 19:30 – 20:00 | € 17,50- incl. diner en drankje | Kaarten: boerengroep.nl/moestuinromantiek

PEER GROUP JOKERING

Date: November

Participants: 3

We will continue this peer group in 2017 and invest in a joker course.

4. BOARD MEMBERS, STAFF AND FUNDING

4.1 THE BOARD

The Board of Stichting Boerengroep in 2016, consisted out of:

Name	Function	Period
Flora Sonkin	chair	September 2015 onwards
Menno de Boer	treasurer	January 2016 onwards
Rozemarijn Koorling	Secretary	December 2015 onwards
Federico Andreotti	Board member	November 2015 onwards
Maria Borrás	Board member	November 2015 onwards
Jonathan Tanis	Board member	September 2015 onwards
Joao Lotufo	Board member	November 2015 onwards
Linda Groot Nibbelink	Board member	November 2015 onwards
Noor van der Vorst	Board member	October 2016 onwards
Inge Maassen	Board member	October 2016 onwards
Nicholas Panayi	Board member	December 2016 onwards
Lory Boutchakdjian	Board member	December 2016 onwards
Lucy Gay	Board member	December 2016 onwards

4.2 THE STAFF

The paid staff of Stichting Boerengroep in 2016, consisted out of:

Name	Function	Period
Elske Hageraats	Coordinator Boerengroep	May 2015 onwards
Maureen Straeter	Coordinator Inspringtheater	September 2015 onwards

4.3 FUNDING

Boerengroep received funding from:

Wageningen Universiteit

Postbus 9101
6700 HB Wageningen

Commissie Subsidie Aanvragen WUR

Dr. Niemeijerstraat 6
6701 CP Wageningen

University Fund Wageningen

Droevendaalsesteeg 4
6708 PB Wageningen

5. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2016 STICHTING BOERENGROEP

Some notes about the financial overview. The insurance costs for the year 2016 are paid in 2015, and the insurance costs for 2017 are paid in 2017. Therefore, there are no insurance costs on the 2016 financial overview.

The subsidy of the WUR amounts €14.285,00 instead of the budgeted € 28.570,00. This is caused by the fact that the subsidy for the second half of 2016 is not yet received.

Kosten	
I. Overhead organisatie	
Loon coördinatoren Boerengroep en Inspiringtheater	€ 15,566.28
Loonheffing	€ 4,176.00
Verzekeringen	0*
Subtotaal	€ 19,742.28
II. Kantoor	
Administratie	€ 302.77
Tijdschriften abonnementen	€ 735.76
Telefoonkosten	€ 82.50
Kantoorartikelen	€ 138.48
Website	€ 322.85
Vergaderkosten	€ 33.10
Bezoek symposia / congressen	€ 188.18
Structurele kosten(bankrekening, postbus, kvk)	703.58
Subtotaal	€ 2,507.22
III. Lezingen, workshops, debatten en excursies	
BG materiaal en eten voor activiteiten	€ 1,625.85
Huur locaties activiteiten	€ 595.00
Kosten sprekers	€ 661.64
Vervoerskosten sprekers / facilitatoren	€ 177.85
Cadeaus sprekers	€ 193.46
Consumpties sprekers	€ 12.64
Reiskosten deelnemers OV / Auto	€ 415.69
Reiskosten coördinator	€ 179.60
Honoraria medewerkers WUR (CAS max 50%)	€ 15.00
Diversen	20
Subtotaal	€ 3,896.73
V. Inspiringtheater	
IT deelnemersbijdrage	€ 250.00

IT eten & drinken gedurende activiteit	€ 16.94
IT Honoraria in natura aan derden (€10 p.p.)	€ 132.67
IT honoraria regisseur (CAS max 50%)	€ 1,633.50
IT overige ondersteunende materialen (CAS max 50%)	€ 18.10
IT Reiskosten coordinator (CAS max 100%)	€ 74.93
IT reiskosten derden (CAS max 100%)	64.02
Subtotaal	€ 2,190.16
VI. Terug te krijgen	
Terug te krijgen	€ 2.50
Subtotaal	€ 2.50

Inkomsten	
I. Subsidies	
Subsidie WUR	€ 14,285.00
WUF	€ 331.21
CAS	€ 3,570.00
Subtotaal	€ 18,186.21
II. Ander inkomsten	
Bijdrage deelnemers	€ 1,257.50
Restituties	€ 0.00
Bijdrage ander organisaties	€ 3,465.20
Subtotaal	€ 4,722.70

Overzicht	
Kosten	
I. Overhead organisatie	€ 19,742.28
II. Kantoor	€ 2,507.22
III. Lezingen, workshops, debatten en excursies	€ 3,896.73
V. Inspringtheater	€ 2,190.16
VI. Terug te krijgen	€ 2.50
Kosten overgebracht uit 2015	424.80
Kosten totaal	€ 28,763.69
Inkomsten	
I. Subsidies	€ 18,186.21
II. Ander inkomsten	4722.7
Inkomsten totaal	€ 22,908.91

Totaal 2016	-€ 5,854.78
Geld op de bank	€ 9,775.86
Cash in kluis (IT + BG)	€ 313.00
Saldo	€ 10,088.86