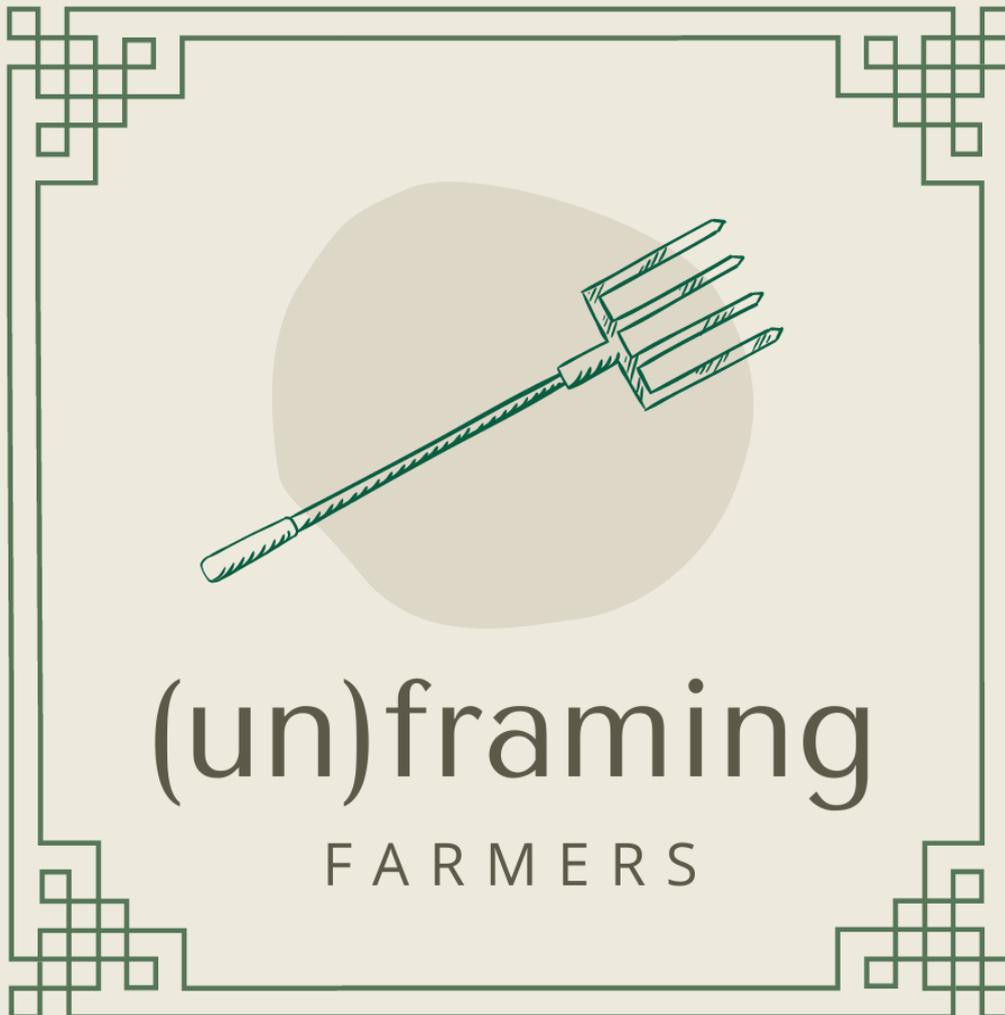




*present*



Year Plan 2022

# Preface

This year's theme for Boerengroep addresses a neglected bottleneck for achieving change in our society: the way we actively and passively frame farmers and farming systems. It is an important topic to pause at, because it leads to polarisation in current debates, and influences policy and research to such an extent that they sometimes lead to very unsustainable outcomes. We want to dissect the narratives that are formed around farmers by the university, the citizens and the farmers themselves, and understand to what extent they are useful or obstructive for a sustainable future.

## **Are farmers part of nature?**

Agriculture as a sector is often framed as intrinsically separate from nature, and even opposing nature. The root of this is found in the increasing specialization of both science and policy in the past decades. Ironically enough, both agriculture and nature in the Netherlands are facing similar challenges like the loss of biodiversity and excessive nitrogen and greenhouse gas emissions. While types of agriculture that primarily aim to be a part of nature - such as organic or bio-dynamic farming, nature-inclusive farming - seem to be the logical way forward to address these challenges, the current reality of agriculture doesn't enable this shift.

Farmers have been told that they are entrepreneurs<sup>1</sup>, and must adhere to the logic of markets and continuous growth. This framing, in essence, pushes farmers further away from nature and local, cyclic systems. To this day, we expect farmers to combine these two, often opposing positions: they should be good entrepreneurs and produce cheaply for the world population, while also adapting to climate change and limiting nitrogen emissions

## **Climate change and Nitrogen**

Especially livestock farmers have taken a few blows in recent public debates surrounding climate change and nitrogen. The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture are deliberating far-reaching measures to address these problems. They want to buy out hundreds of farmers and expropriate them if necessary<sup>2</sup>, to quickly reduce nitrogen emissions in the Netherlands.

Of course, we should ask ourselves how much animal sourced food we should consume. Also, the current amount of livestock in the Netherlands is unsustainably high. Nevertheless, blaming and eradicating farmers isn't proving to be effective. In the last few years, no major shift has been taking place in the amount of livestock and the general farming style of the average Dutch farmer, while the average Dutch consumer continues buying the same amount of animal products.

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<sup>1</sup> Jan Douwe van der Ploeg (2020) Farmers' upheaval, climate crisis and populism, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 47:3, 589-605

<sup>2</sup> RTL Nieuws (6 september 2021) 'Vergevorderde kabinetsplannen voor uitkopen en onteigening boeren wegens stikstof', zie: <https://www.rtlnieuws.nl/nieuws/nederland/artikel/5252501/boeren-worden-uitgekocht-stikstof>

## **Framing of Peasant farmers**

When we, as Boerengroep, talk about peasant farming, we notice the power of framing peasants as backwards and irrelevant in today's world. Here, the international peasant movement, has successfully - with the help of researchers like Jan-Douwe van der Ploeg, Louise Vet and Pablo Tittone<sup>3</sup> - reclaimed the title and found empowerment in it. This shows that framing of farmers and farming in a system is not irrevocable.

## **(Un)framing**

Framing establishes the limitations of what is considered possible and what isn't. To reach a true transition, we need to be able to break through these frames and don't let ourselves be constrained by phrases such as "solutions need to be realistic". As Rogier Schulte<sup>3</sup> says, "we have run out of realistic solutions towards sustainable food systems (...). As little as thirteen months ago, it would have been considered 'unrealistic' that planes would stop flying, that schools would be closed, countries locked down. Nor does 'unrealistic' mean 'unpalatable', or that people will be left behind. In the business world, the phrase 'disruptive solutions' has long had positive connotations: these are the solutions that will bring us into the future".

Through different examples, we have shown the power of frames and why we need to reveal and question them. To bring together agriculture and nature and see food production as a public good instead of merely a business. Thus, we need to break the aforementioned frames! In the next year, Boerengroep wants to attempt this and foster a critical view at narratives about farming, this together and in conversation with all different actors in the food system.

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<sup>3</sup> Resource (7 april 2021). [Opinion: go for 25% organic! - Resource online \(resource-online.nl\)](https://www.resource-online.nl/)

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# INTRODUCTION TO BOERENGROEP

## Who are we?

Since 1971, Stichting Boerengroep (*Peasant Foundation*) aims to connect the university (students, research and 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”* states Jan Douwe van der Ploeg, one of the founders of Boerengroep. Therefore, 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 (family) farmers. The foundation of Boerengroep followed the big farmers’ protests of 1971 in Brussels. Half a million farmers were on the streets to protest the Mansholt plan and the students who started Boerengroep wanted to support them and dive into the struggles farmers were facing. Until the moment of today, 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 against the Mansholt plan, 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, teachers and possibly even farmers. 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, to work towards a fair and sustainable food production system in the world. We connect all these people 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 can gain a 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 Tittonell (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 axes are always there. On those axes you have for instance how much Nitrogen there is available [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 axes, there are many more. And second, because there’s so much variability, so much heterogeneity, 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’s sister foundation, Stichting Inspringtheater (Jump-in Theatre) organizes workshops, courses and produces theatre performances in collaboration with students/employees of Wageningen University. Inspringtheater brings creativity in the world of science and uses participatory theatre techniques (Theatre of the Oppressed/Forum Theatre) to encourage dialogue, critical thinking and empowerment.

Inspringtheater originates from ‘Het Boerentoneel’ (Farmers theatre), which was founded by Boerengroep in 1972. Theatre plays concerning agricultural issues were performed, followed by substantive discussions. Nowadays we use an applied drama technique and participatory theatre practice created to empower audience individuals to determine social change: Forum Theatre. The founder of this methodology of Theatre of the Oppressed, Augusto Boal, worked with peasants in Brazil, which had a huge effect on society by empowering the peasants and farmers. By participating, audiences are enabled to make decisions, to address critically the issues presented to them and to reflect on the social life within a safe environment offered by the theatrical design.

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:
  - o. visualizing the situation of farmers today and in the future through knowledge exchange amongst farmers, students, consumers, and professionals
  - o. stimulating local economies, in order to improve the position of the food producers
  - o. building, defending and strengthening agroecology and Food Sovereignty movements to discuss and activate in order to shed light on present-day issues in agriculture and discern pathways of change

In this way, Boerengroep and Jump-in Theatre wish to stimulate a critical attitude towards agriculture and food. The Boerengroep board currently consists of around 15 board members, of which a chair, a secretary, a treasurer and several general board members.



Boerengroep board picture during meeting, beginning summer 2021

## Our partners

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

- **Students and Ph.Ders** 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;
- **Wageningen University and Chair Groups**, like Rural Sociology Group (RSO) and Farming Systems Ecology (FSE). We are always in close contact with chair groups in order to discuss thesis topics, internship opportunities and organizations of events and courses. We are supervising on average 2 interns per semester 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 50 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.
- **Farmers**, both local farmers and elsewhere in the country, who seek a closer connection to the university, such as Pluktuin Sayuran, Ommuurde Tuin, Beersche Hoeve and many more. This group expands every year.

- **Organizations**, like VoedselAnders, Toekomstboeren, ASEED, Milieudefensie, Green Active Network (GAN), Cultivate Collective, Eurijn, Nieuwe Netwerk and SlowFood;
- **Foundations**, like RUW, Otherwise, Stichting Heideboerderij, Stichting Herenboeren, Van Akker Naar Bos;
- **International research and advocacy institutes**, like TNI, Louis Bolk Institute;
- **International human rights organizations**, like ActionAid
- **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. The platform ABC envisions an agriculture that strives towards regionally closed cycles, and considers human rights, the environment, animal welfare, and a healthy soil. Furthermore, peasants/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, lectures, dialogues** about agricultural topics, both practical topics as well as political topics related to farming and food production;
- **capita selecta courses** at the Wageningen University, like the international 3 ECTS summer course Farm Experience Internship;
- **field trips** to farms and gardens throughout the Netherlands;
- **excursions and exchange programs abroad**, like to the Agroecology Europe Forum in Greece
- **research and 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, particularly during the Alternative Thesis Market we organize each year. There are also possibilities for students to do their thesis with Boerengroep, for example action research on movement building.
- **working groups**. Together with chair groups such as RSO and FSE, 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 'Farmers Tales';
- **conferences**, like Voedsel Anders Conference;
- **markets**, like Reclaim the Seeds and the local Farmers' Market;
- **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 or the effect of climate change;
- **critical written pieces** that reflect on ongoing discussions within the university and/or the agricultural sector. These pieces are published on our website, or become a part of publications by other organizations, such as the Jester;
- **interactive theatre, 'Inspringtheater'**, which is an important part of Boerengroep. The Inspringtheater provides students with 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 source of subsidies, which we use for structural costs such as paying the coordinators of Boerengroep and Inspringtheater.

The **Committee Activity Support (CAS)** of Wageningen University offers partial support for some costs related to activities that we organize (for students) in Wageningen, such as costs of excursions, lectures, gifts for speakers, travel costs etc.

The rest of the costs for Boerengroep's activities are covered by a combination of asking small participation fees and occasional gifts from sponsors/partners/subsidies.

As the structural costs have been increasing these past years due to inflation, Boerengroep aims to get more structural gifts by starting '**Friends of Boerengroep**' in 2019, to be able to fulfill our ambitious plans. Besides this, Boerengroep also started a merchandise project in 2019 by selling organic, sustainably designed t-shirts. .

The activities organized by Jump-in Theatre are mainly covered by contributions of commissioners and the CAS.

Since 2018 Boerengroep has been a member of **Eurijn**, the local currency of Wageningen (and environment). We aim to pay in Eurijn and stimulate the local economy as much as possible when we buy presents or collaborate with local parties.

# BOERENGROEP ACTIVITIES

Below you will find a description of all the activities that Boerengroep aims to organize in 2022. As has become very clear in the past two years, we cannot predict the future and the degree to which these events will be possible. It is important to plan ahead and know what's coming, but we also like to be flexible to the interests of the board of Boerengroep and to be able to respond to new developments in agriculture.

Furthermore, we plan to organize the Boerengroep 50 years reunion and festival in 2022, since we were not able to organize it in 2021.

**The budget of 2022 can be found in the attachments.**

## Year Theme Activities

In 2022 our focus will be the way we frame farmers and agriculture - as mentioned in the preface. We want to get into the topic of the socially constructed division between nature and agriculture, and the framing of small-scale and large-scale farmers. This topic is closely related to the original goal of Boerengroep - namely making students more critical. What narratives are being used in the university classes, and in research? How does this relate to real farmers and to the future perspectives of farmers, policy makers and citizens?

A testament to the way we frame farmers can be found in the current policy decision being made by the Dutch government which clearly dictates the goal of buying out or forcing out farmers to reach nature and infrastructure goals. We want to invite critical researchers and farmers such as Marcel van Silfhout (who is losing his biodiverse grain fields because of policy decisions to develop more - though probably less biodiverse - nature) to help us break through framing. Our goal is, as always, to be as interdisciplinary as possible and include perspectives from social and exact sciences, and to move past polarization.

As will be specified below, the year theme also comes back in the ongoing activities of Boerengroep, such as the excursions and Farmers' Tales we organize.

### 1. Year Theme Kick-Off

During the kick-off event, which will take place somewhere in February, we want to discuss the framing of agriculture and nature. We will invite a scientist or activist to talk about debunking narratives and the effects of certain framing on public image and policy, and invite farmers to tell their story and view on things.

What:	evening event
For:	students, peasants, farmers, researchers
Hours:	20 coordinator, 30 board
Costs:	€170

## 2. Thematic Evenings

After this, we will organize 4 subsequent evening events - that elaborate on today's major agricultural discussions. In the events we will bring together farmers, researchers and policy makers and discuss the nitrogen and biodiversity crisis, and how to empower farmers who want to do things differently. The precise subjects will be determined with the working group organizing these evenings, and depending on societal discussions.

What:	discussion evenings and lectures
For:	students, WUR-employees, former Boerengroep members
Hours:	80 coordinator, 120 board
Costs:	€620

## Ongoing activities

### 1. Farmers' Tales

Farmers' Tales are small events that we organize throughout the year, related to topics that we are working on. It is the most accessible way to bring farmers that students wouldn't come into contact with, to the university.

Farmers' Tales usually take place during lunch time, when we invite a speaker to give a personal telling of his/her farm or research, followed by a broad discussion. We also like to combine a Farmers' Tales with an excursion to the farmer on the weekend. This way, we create a continuity in our activities. As 2022 will be all about narratives and framing, we plan to invite for example farmers who have found difficulties in the framing of farmers, or for example in the division between nature and agriculture.



What: dialogues  
For: students, peasants, farmers, researchers  
Hours: 50 coordinator, 80 board  
Costs: €60

### 2. Co-organized events

Sometimes things work better when they're done together. To organize certain events, we find value in collaborating with other organizations, and we provided some budget to make this happen. For this, we think in the first place of the other critical organizations such as Otherwise and RUW.

What: lectures, film, debate, workshop  
For: students, farmers, researchers, other interested  
Hours: 40 coordinator, 40 board  
Costs: €113,33

### 3. Movie screenings

Boerengroep uses movie screenings to spread stories of agricultural pioneers, developments towards more sustainable forms of agriculture and other movements in a distinct way. Sometimes, we do this in cooperation with the local arthouse movie theatre. Although we also organize it on a smaller scale in the Building with the Clock or another space where a beamer is available. We aim to organize three movie screenings in 2022, and these will all involve the year theme in some way. In this category, we also include screenings of movies that are made by Boerengroep interns or volunteers.

What: Movie screenings on agricultural topics  
For: students and non-students  
Hours: 30 coordinator, 70 board

Costs: €200  
Earnings: €90

#### 4. Farmers' Markets

A farmers' market on Campus is meant to provide a space for local organic farmers and other local entrepreneurs to sell their products and to broaden their circle of customers. Also, it is meant for students and WUR-employees to become familiar with the farmers, to meet them and each other and to discuss the importance of local food production. Through the farmers' markets, students can be informed about where they can get local organic produce and/or join subscription schemes of farmers. From experience in previous years, we learned that organizing one Farmers' Market a year is well feasible.

What: market for local organic farmers  
For: students, WUR-employees and local farmers  
Hours: 15 coordinator, 32 board  
Costs: €165  
Earnings: €112,50

#### 5. Farm excursions

We distinguish two different types of excursions with different aims. We intend to organize several editions of each type of excursion.



*Excursion to Pluktuin Sayuran September 2021*

## EXCURSION TYPE 1: LOCAL FARM

Boerengroep has built good relationships with local sustainable farmers near to and in Wageningen. We like to take students to the fields to show them different farming styles and to give them the opportunity to meet farmers and have a dialogue with them. Examples of farms we like to visit are: a CSA self-harvest garden (Nieuwe Ronde), a small-scale organic garden (Ommuurde Tuin) and an organic dairy farm (Hooilanden). The majority of the local farm excursions happen in autumn and in spring, as those are the best months to have bike excursions.

What: excursion  
For: students, PhD's  
Hours: 16 coordinator, 70 board  
Costs: €240

## EXCURSION TYPE 2: INNOVATIVE WAYS OF FOOD PRODUCTION

One main expertise of the Dutch agri-food sector is intensification. The Netherlands is specialized in very innovative and efficient ways of food production with a high yield per acre, and at the same time there is a growing amount of farmers who do things "differently". With type 2 excursions, we plan to visit farms that master a type of innovative agriculture such as: urban farming, food forest, aquaponics. During this excursion students are encouraged to think about questions like: What are the developments in these sectors? How do they contribute to food sovereignty? What are the challenges?

This year, we also want to visit farms that are conventional but in a transition to become more nature-inclusive or organic, and understand what struggles they are facing. Because, in the end, the students, as future researchers, policy makers or farmers, can make a difference, and it is important to see the dominant topics from all sides and steer away from too polarized discussions. We are excited to visit farms that we have not yet been before, and hear their stories and opinions about dominant narratives, while also having the opportunity to get our hands dirty and connect to the farmers while doing practical things. We plan to do three of these excursions in 2022.

What: Excursion  
For: students, PhD's  
Hours: 20 coordinator, 20 board  
Costs: €1050  
Earnings: €337,50



*Excursion to the Beersche Hoeve during the FEI 2021.*

## 6. Boerengroep Breaks

Since the start of the Academic year 2018/2019 Boerengroep organizes 'Boerengroep Breaks' twice a month. The Boerengroep Breaks are an informal space where you can meet up with other students, share ideas and get into dialogue on challenges and new initiatives that farmers engage in in the Netherlands and around the world. They are organized in a cafe in order to have a very low threshold for students to attend. We aim to continue the Boerengroep Breaks in 2022. At the start of the academic year we organize a special edition of Boerengroep Breaks where interested students can get to know us. We also have a special Boerengroep Break for Sinterklaas, as this is just before winter holidays, and one at the end of the academic year. Sometimes we plan an activity to steer the discussion towards a specific and relevant topic.

What: dialogue evening  
For: students, other interested persons  
Hours: 40 coordinator / 120 board  
Costs: €100

## Annually recurring activities

### 1. Excursion to the Biobeurs

The Biobeurs in Zwolle is a national trade fair where people come together who are active in the organic chain. The fair is an important place to broaden our network and a good opportunity for students to get familiar with the organic market. There are workshops, presentations of product innovations and a lot of space to meet many different actors. At the fair, we connect students with the sector and collect research questions from the field.

What: excursion  
For: students  
Hours: 15 coordinator, 45 board  
Costs: €200  
Earnings: €112,50

### 2. Excursion to Reclaim the Seeds

ASEED organizes the yearly recurring event 'Reclaim the Seeds' – a market where about 1000 people come to exchange seeds and discuss seed related topics such as seed laws, ownership, breeding methods, politics and biodiversity. In 2019 it was organized in different cities in the Netherlands, and Boerengroep did its own version with lots of workshops and market stands in Wageningen. After that, it wasn't possible anymore due to Corona, but in 2022 we intend to organize an excursion to the national Reclaim the Seeds event.

What: market  
For: students and PhD's  
Hours: 15 coordinator, 40 board  
Costs: €150  
Earnings: €75

### 3. Farm Experience Internship (FEI)

The **Farm Experience Internship (FEI)** is a yearly 3 ECTS international, interdisciplinary summer course at the Wageningen University, which intends to bring together theoretical knowledge from students with practical skills and knowledge from farmers. We organize this course together with the RSO chairgroup of the WUR. The coordination of the course is shared by the Boerengroep coordinator and one or two intern(s) – in this way, we also train students to set up projects and increase their network. It is preferred to have a working group of about 5 people in total. Being involved in coordinating the FEI, encourages students to start up a FEI in their country. In this way, we also link Wageningen University to other universities around the world.

In the FEI we discuss agroecology as an example of a fundamentally different narrative when it comes to practice, science and politics. In 2022, we will organize the tenth edition of this successful summer project that has changed many lives. We therefore intend to include the previous FEI-generations in some way.

What: 3 ECTS international, interdisciplinary summer course

For: students  
Hours: 150 coordinator, 300 board  
Costs: €3070  
Earnings: €2550



#### 4. Annual Introduction Days (AID)

During the AID of the university, Boerengroep participates by having a stand at the information market where lots of local organizations and student groups are present. Before the AID starts, we dedicate time to design and print flyers and/or other promotion material for Boerengroep and our activities.

What: student introduction days  
For: new students  
Hours: 4 coordinator, 20 board  
Costs: €45

#### 5. Regreening

The Regreening is a day or weekend organized by the GAN and takes place twice a year, at the end of summer or in fall and at the end of winter. Opposing the 'ontgroening' of student organizations, it is a weekend with activities, lectures, workshops and excursions for all (new) students interested in sustainability. The goal is to introduce students to all the 'green' organizations, places and initiatives of Wageningen. Boerengroep is part of the organization and organizes some activities.

What: Weekend on sustainability  
For: (new) students  
Hours: 6 coordinator, 60 board  
Costs: €100

#### 6. Seriously sustainable week

Since 2015, Boerengroep has participated in the 'Seriously Sustainable Week', a week-long festival surrounding the National Sustainability Day (De Dag van de Duurzaamheid) coordinated by Green Office. The program differs every year, but it is always a mix of serious and fun activities such as movie

screening, lectures and workshops. Boerengroep participates in the Sustainability Market which serves as the opening event for the week and organizes one or two other activities. In the past two years, Boerengroep organized local excursions during the Seriously Sustainable Week, which we probably will do again in 2022 (see excursions).

What: promotional market, workshops, films  
For: students, WUR-employees  
Hours: 6 coordinator, 6 board  
Costs: €35



*Bike excursion to Streekwaar producers during Seriously Sustainable 2021.*

#### ALTERNATIVE THESIS MARKET

During the Seriously Sustainable Week, Boerengroep organizes the Alternative Thesis Market, together with Otherwise and Green Office. During this lunch event, we organize a market where external organisations can show their thesis and internship opportunities, and students get the chance to expand their network and see what's possible outside of the university.

What: promotional market, workshops, films  
For: students, WUR-employees  
Hours: 6 coordinator, 10 board  
Costs: €117,50

## 50th anniversary Activities

### 1. Reunion

Because we think there is a lot of value in getting to know people who were previously in Boerengroep, and we think that building and nurturing connections is important to strengthen the critical movement, we want to organize a 50 year Boerengroep reunion dinner where we invite everyone who has been involved with Boerengroep and/or Boerentoneel or Inspringtheater in the past. Of course, we were planning to do this reunion dinner in 2021, the year of our anniversary, but it wasn't possible to bring a significant number of people together in a room without too many restrictions so we had to postpone it.

Now we are planning to organize the reunion in early Spring 2022. We also plan to share the results of the survey we did in 2021 to get to know the perspectives of people involved in Boerengroep in the past 50 years.

What:	reunion dinner
For:	students and former Boerengroep/Inspringthater relations
Hours:	10 coordinator, 16 board
Costs:	€4.500
Earnings:	€3.500

### 2. Festival

A 50 year jubilee deserves a big celebration and therefore we were planning a one-day festival in September 2021. We already did a lot of brainstorming about this festival and made the necessary contacts, but in the end we decided to cancel it as it wouldn't be how we dreamed to organize it, namely a festival open to everybody with continuous workshops, music bands such as the former Boerentoneel band de Maatjes, a forum theatre workshop and market stands by local farms.

Therefore we are keeping this as a plan for 2022.

By aiming at more than only the University we hope to bridge the gap between WUR culture and Wageningen culture. This will be a day of celebration, but there will also be an educational component to it, provided by the workshop and lecture givers. Furthermore, it allows students to gain insights by talking to professionals in the sector and to build a network that will serve them in their future life.

What:	festival
For:	students, former Boerengroepies and citizens
Hours:	50 coordinator, 200 board
Costs:	€6.120
Earnings:	€4.200

## Networking activities

### 1. Green Active Network (GAN)

The Green Active Network [GAN] is a network of all the green organizations of Wageningen. The mission is to reinforce the green movement and to build a bigger and stronger green community. Of course, Boerengroep is part of this network. Every now and then a meeting is organized for the green organizations to update each other, share ideas, and form working groups whenever desired. Together we organize the Green Corner at the AID market and the Regreening, two times a year.

Within the GAN, Boerengroep also easily finds the way to other organizations, such as S&I and Green Office, to discuss ways of making the educational program in the university more sustainable. We want to put energy into putting a working group around this topic in 2022.

What: communication, promotion  
For: the board  
Hours: 25 coordinator, 45 board  
Costs: no costs

### 2. Conferences, Congresses & Fora

As Boerengroep we want to be up to date on topics such as sustainable agriculture, circular farming, food sovereignty, peasant movements, climate change mitigation and agroecology. In the past two years, due to Corona, we haven't been able to make use of this, but we are sure there will be interesting places to go in 2022, such as the Agroecology Europe Conference, where we have been able to expand our network in the past.

What: attending conferences, congresses & forums  
For: the board and coordinator  
Hours: 40 coordinator, 80 board  
Costs: €1200

### 3. Platform Aarde Boer Consument [ABC] meetings/activities

Boerengroep is a member of platform ABC, platform Earth, Farmer, Consumer. This platform aims to achieve socially and economically sustainable agriculture. An agriculture in which farmers produce safe and high-quality healthy food in a responsible manner. Members of this platform come together once every 6 weeks. Besides the meetings, the coordinator spends time on following current agricultural developments and being engaged in the discussion. In this way the information from farmers can be spread to students. When national elections approach, we often co-organize a debate evening. Since Corona, these meetings have been taking place online, and in 2022 online and live meetings will probably alternate.

What: Attending meetings & forming a critical opinion  
For: coordinator  
Hours: 50 coordinator  
Costs: €75

# INSPRINGTHEATER



**COPYPOINT** HOE LEEF JE DUURZAAM IN JE DAGELIJKS LEVEN?  
HOW DO YOU LIVE SUSTAINABLY IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE?  



**COPYPOINT** HOE ZIET JOUW PROTEST VOOR HET KLIMAAT ERUIT?  
HOW DOES YOUR PROTEST FOR THE CLIMATE LOOK LIKE?  

*(an art project we did during the lockdown to open the dialogue - six different motives were hanging all over the city centre in the weeks before the elections)*

Inspringtheater is looking forward to 2022. Finally we are out of the pandemic crisis and can play theatre again. However, we're stepping into a much bigger crisis: the climate crisis. Communicating properly, having a dialogue which leads to understanding, togetherness and action has never been more important. The power Inspiringtheater has is to bring these topics on stage and open the dialogue to a broad audience. In 2022 we are planning a diverse programme which will lead to opening dialogues and preparing students to be able to do so themselves. The topics of Inspiringtheater are mainly connected to the Boerengroep topics and the year theme '(un)framing farmers'. However, Inspiringtheater is going to use its power also to open the dialogue on topics of diversity and togetherness, since these are the crucial aspects of solving any crisis. After a long time online and not being on stage, we're absolutely ready to use Forum Theatre to improve our communication skills, also in 2022!

# Inspringtheater general

## 1. Board Meetings

In 2022 Inspringtheater wants to continue growing the board of Inspringtheater to a stable group of about 6 to 8 people. We were starting in the year 2021 with 7 Inspringtheater members, but due to graduation, we were shrunk to 4 members. In 2022 we will be finally able to get out there and have Inspringtheater events and plays, making it much easier to find people who want to be involved. We decided on meeting every first Tuesday of the month.

What: Meeting (12 sessions)  
For: Inspringtheater Board  
By Who: Coordinator, Board  
Hours: coordinator 25, 25 board  
Costs: 60€

## 2. Inspringtheater Breaks

Since the start of the Academic year 2018/2019 Boerengroep organizes 'Boerengroep Breaks' twice a month. Since 2020 Inspringtheater is joining the Breaks, which makes it even easier to connect the Inspringtheater and Boerengroep members and create overlap in the visions. The Boerengroep Breaks are an informal space where you can meet up with other students, share ideas and get into dialogue on challenges and new initiatives that farmers engage in in the Netherlands and around the world. They are organized in a café in order to have a very low threshold for students to attend. We aim to continue the Boerengroep Breaks in 2022. In the start of the academic year we will organize a special edition of Boerengroep Breaks where interested students can get to know us. We also have a special Boerengroep Break for Sinterklaas, as this is just before winter holidays, and one at the end of the academic year. Sometimes we plan an activity to steer the discussion towards a specific and relevant topic.

What: cozy dialogue evening  
For: students, other interested persons  
Hours: 40 coordinator / 160 board  
Costs: see "Boerengroep Breaks"

## 3. Theatre group

The technique we often use in Inspringtheater is called "Theatre of the Oppressed" and it has different forms in itself. One way of using this technique is to write a script beforehand and let the actors act it out. The other is to give space to develop a play by their own and let the topics which are occurring in the groep become a play. The latter we have not been using so much in the past, because of the overload of other activities. In 2022 we want to give space to this idea, since it can help students a lot to get a grip on their opinions, gain new perspectives and become aware of others.

In 2022 we want to offer a group of students the space to rehearse once per week in the clock building by making their own goals and creating a performance. An old 'Inspringer' will be joining the groep to help them develop and to facilitate the process. In the end the groep can decide themselves where and what they want to perform. It's a free creation space.

What: Open Theatre Group  
For: Students  
By Who: Coordinator, students  
Hours: coordinator 30  
Costs: 480€

## Workshops

### 1. Jump-in Sessions

By organizing Jump-in Sessions we create a platform where students can get an easy introduction to theatre at an academic level using interactive theatre techniques and exercises. During the jump-in sessions, we create a platform to explore new ideas, and new ways to stimulate the dialogue. The jump-in sessions also give a podium to people who want to develop their training skills or for theatre students who want to share their knowledge with others. In 2022 Jump-in-sessions can take place monthly again. That will help us building a continuity and making Inspringtheater viable to a broader audience, which was unfortunately not possible during the pandemic.

What: Jump-in sessions  
Who: coordinator, participants and intern-trainers  
Hours: 25 coordinator  
Costs: €1500 for the whole year

### 2. Wageningen-Theatre-Workshop-Weekend

We are planning an intense workshop weekend based around everything Inspringtheater has to offer. Joining this workshop weekend is a good opportunity for people to stay in touch with Inspringtheater. It's an ideal situation to create more contact with the different theatre groups in Wageningen and other Forum Theatre groups in the Netherlands. We can support each other and work together. A part of the weekend can be dedicated to the art of jokering.

What: 4 interactive theatre workshops in 2 days  
Costs: €1600  
Earnings: €750  
Hours: 25 coordinator

### 3. Participative theatre - how to be social again?

After this long time of acting out your social skills very differently, we want to offer a space where we can work along the question: How to be social again?

Participative theatre gives a lot of opportunities to do research on the mechanisms a society has. The mechanisms in social behaviour have changed radically during the pandemic. How quickly will we get used to the no-distance-society again? Did we evolve new behaviours that will not leave anymore? We will play around with these questions and figure out what we need to be social (again).

What: Workshop  
For: Students, participants  
By Who: director, coordinator  
Hours: 25 coordinator  
Costs: €600 per workshop  
Earnings: €610 per workshop

#### 4. Cops in the head

Cops in the head is a theatre method which comes from the founder of Forum Theatre. However, Forum Theatre focuses on the oppression outside of us and how we can react to it. The so-called 'Cops in our head' is on the other hand the oppression we create in ourselves by judging ourselves with the measurements society subconsciously is giving us.

In our student life and working life and in how we solve problems we are faced with, this is an aspect which constantly makes us hesitate. So we want to offer a session to raise some awareness of the cops in our heads and provide the tools to deal with this.

What: Workshop  
For: Students, participants  
By Who: director, coordinator  
Hours: 25 coordinator  
Costs: €600 per workshop  
Earnings: €610 per workshop

#### 5. Wild Perspectives

In 2021 Inspringtehatet was asked to give a workshop on participatory theatre in the Capita Selecta Wild Perspectives. This was a huge success, so that for 2022 we're already invited to create this workshop again.

What: Workshop  
For: Students, participants  
By Who: director, coordinator

Hours: 25 coordinator  
Costs: €600 per workshop  
Earnings: €610 per workshop

## Courses

Inspringtheater organizes courses in different participatory theatre techniques on a regular basis. These courses are financially accessible and ideal for international and busy students.

### 1. Forum Theatre course

This course provides the basic knowledge and techniques about Forum Theatre given by our main director Suzanne Prak. We traditionally give this course in the beginning of the academic year to offer the basics of Forum Theatre to the new students and introduce them to the broad activities Inspringtheater is doing.

What: Course (4 Sessions)  
For: Students  
By Who: Suzanne Prak  
Hours: 15 coordinator  
Costs: €820  
Earnings: €375

### 2. Joker course

In participatory theatre, we always have a so-called Joker. This is the facilitator of a performance, guides through the evening, and interacts with the audience and the actors.

This role is essential for a good performance.

That's why we train Jokers once per year on how to be a good facilitator of a play.

What: Course (4 Sessions)  
For: Students  
By Who: Suzanne Prak  
Hours: 20 coordinator  
Costs: €700  
Earnings: €350

## Lectures

The methodology of *Theatre of the Oppressed* and *Forum Theatre* is unknown to a lot of people. Next to that, in our experience we see that some students are *afraid* to join in practicing theatre themselves. Because we believe this methodology is interesting to learn about, especially for students in Wageningen (social studies, international development) we want to spread the word and show that theatre isn't scary at all! Before we even get start acting, we hope that having a lecture on this methodology will help some students wrap their heads around the concept. This is also a way to motivate students to join us and clients to invite us to perform. The history & possibilities of Theatre of the Oppressed (and of het Inspringtheater) is exciting and rich!

What:	lecture
Costs:	€220
Earnings:	€75
Hours:	5 coordinator

# Theatre plays

## 1. New plays

### 1.1 Anti-Racism play: How to overcome white fragility

This Forum Theatre play will be created in cooperation with the DARE project of Wageningen University to offer students a critical view on where racism lies in our society. There is way more racism than the obvious racism. Even to this day, stories pop up on a regular basis on the campus of Wageningen about people feeling discriminated against based on their race. We usually know that it's about the underlying patterns built into society. But what are these patterns? Where do we come across these unaware, underlying patterns and how can we become aware and change our behaviour and be consciously aware of these changes?

We will make scenes fitting to student life, so the play will be made by students and with students to make it relatable and actually helpful for their daily life.

What: Play  
For: students  
By Who: Coordinator, director  
Hours: 30 coordinator  
Costs: €2135  
Earnings: €1000

### 1.2 Shadow theatre

Shadow theatre is a form of theatre where we can express things abstractly and in that way leave space for interpretation.

This is why it's a fitting theatre technique for participative theatre.

Within shadow theatre the focus lies on the process, so the participants can create their story by using the instruments of how to make shadow theatre.

Geertje Klaver will guide us through the process of a shadow-theatre-workspace, which will be like storytelling with your whole body, a sheet and light.

What: Play  
For: students  
By Who: Coordinator, director  
Hours: 30 coordinator  
Costs: €2135  
Earnings: €1000

### 1.3 (un)framing farmers

The year theme of Boerengroep is '(un)framing' farmers.

One of the major aspects in the communication problems on how to solve the climate crisis, is that we've chosen for certain framings and beliefs and it's hard to get away from them. This year Boerengroep wants to challenge these framings again and ask: What is it that a farmer can do and can't do? What does "responsibility" mean? And how can we work together towards a combination of nature and farming?

All these questions Inspringtheater wants to focus on in a play produced in cooperation with Wageningen University.

What:	Play
For:	students
By Who:	Coordinator, director
Hours:	30 coordinator
Costs:	€2135
Earnings:	€1000

### 1.4 Chair Group plays

This year we want to offer small plays to chair groups which can offer students to work on a certain topic with the methods of forum theatre.

What:	Play
For:	students
By Who:	Coordinator, director
Hours:	30 coordinator
Costs:	€2135
Earnings:	€1000

## 2. Continued plays

Some of our plays extend past the academic year because they are still in demand and are still relevant to certain audiences. It is nice that people are still enthusiastic about our older plays and in economic terms it is good to keep the momentum alive. Currently the 'Are you sure?' play will be continued on through this academic year

## 2.1 Are you sure

In 2022 we will finally be able to perform this play again. We're still on hold for 3 performances which were planned to take place within the first week of the pandemic.

This play is about scientific integrity and bending the numbers to fit your research. During the performance, the audience is invited to think along about how they themselves would act and 'jump in'.

What:	rehearse and perform existing plays
By who:	coordinator, director, actors and joker
Hours:	30 coordinator
Costs:	€680 per play
Earnings:	€600 per play
Expected:	3 performances

## PR

In 2022 we especially need to create a bigger vivability so that students know how to find us. We will print some new flyers and work on social media visibility.

What:	promotional material, make a short movie about Inspringtheater
Costs:	€280
Hours:	30 coordinator, 20 board

## Special events

### Reunion

Inspringtheater wants to organize a small meet up with all the old Inspringtheater and Boerentourneel members. Due to the 50 years anniversary year and the production of the magazine, we've been in contact with multiple old members, who would like to meet the others again and maybe even play in a little theatre project together.

For: students, former Boerengroepies/Inspringers and citizens  
By Who: Coordinator, Board  
Hours: 40 coordinator  
Costs: €600  
Earnings: €500

### Excursion

Since we will be able to travel again in 2022, Inspringtheater has decided to use this chance and connect with international Forum Theatre makers.

There are conferences, plays or courses all around Europe, which we would organise excursions to. In 2022 we decided to do one excursion outside of the Netherlands. Where it will specifically take place, the new Inspringtheater board will decide.

For: students  
By Who: Coordinator, Board  
Hours: 30 coordinator  
Costs: €300  
Earnings: €150

# Appendix

Budget Boerengroep

Budget Inspiringtheater

Budget Total