

We create our rural future!

Rural Youth & Young Farmers Workshop

22-25 October 2015, Dronten, the Netherlands

REPORT





Table of contents

Introduction	1
Thursday	1
Welcome! by Forum Synergies and Future Farmers Movement	1
Storytelling and campfire	1
Friday	4
Energizer – Participatory Yoga and World Map	5
Short introduction to the day.....	5
Inspiring stories of young entrepreneurs	5
Market of initiatives	5
Reality checks/Field visits	5
Energizer – Web of Connections	5
Report of inspiration from the groups	5
Campfire	5
Saturday	4
Energizer – Participatory Yoga, Tapping Circle, Living Chair and Mini-applause	5
Plenum session	5
Working in Groups.....	5
Creating Land-Art	5
Energizer – Rhythm Circle and People to People	5
Cool initiatives and organisations	5
Plenary	5
Cultural dinner	5
Sunday	4
Presentation of conclusions	5
Creating the European map of connections	6
The end: new memories and a new beginning	6



Acknowledgement

We would like to thank our funders: Fondation de France, Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation and Dutch Biodynamic Association. Thank you to our host Warmonderhof farming college and Maarten Roelofs and to the other staff of Warmonderhof, especially the people that cooked for us wonderful meals all these days and the lady that took picture 21. Thank you to Zita van Steijn, the accommodation coordinator within Warmonderhof, and to the Warmonderhof students for their hospitality. Thank you to Leon Veltman who offered us guided visits to the Warmonderhof (optional part of the programme). Thank you to Loes Martens who energized us during the workshop. Thank you to Francesco Melita who through his improvised story reminded us to trust our hearts. Thank you to Jaring Brunia and Daphne Lubbers, the young entrepreneurs, for sharing with us their start up farming story and plan respectively. Thank you to Anita Selicka, Crina-Monica Stanica-Negrescu, Dorothea Pille, Elske Hageraats, Hannah Steenbergen, Hannes Lorenzen, Henriette Keuffel, Inike Docx, Iztok Erjavec, Lukas Helfenstein, Marijana Muhic, Mathilde Leriche, Milos Homola, Romy Horn, Thomas Huemer and Tymur Pliushch for presenting during the market of initiatives. Thank you to the hosts of the field visits: Annette Harbering from Natuurderij Keizersrande, Mirjam Burema from Aardehuizen, Joost van Strien from Zonnegoed, Michael, Sune and Florian from the LONK project, Paul Fisher from Warmonderhof and Gaia and Maayke from Twisk Organic. Thank you to the rapporteurs of the field visits: Olga Khomenko for the A package, Hannah Steenbergen and Steven van Brussel for the B package and Julia Prokhorova and Margarit Artemyan for the C package. Thank you to Irma Horstman for guiding us through the land-art session and showing us another type of art of which most of us were not aware of until that moment. Thank you to Hannes Lorenzen for presenting the Rural European Parliament, to Liljana Tanevska for presenting the Forum Synergies and to Micha Lubbers for presenting the Youth Food Movement. Thank you to Marija Tomic, Joris van der Kamp, Liljana Tanevska, Lucie Sovova, and Monica Stanica for the pictures. Thank you to all the participants for their contribution to the cultural dinner and for their enthusiasm and positive energy throughout the workshop.



Introduction

Forty young people from 24 European countries have been participating in the Rural Youth & Young Farmers workshop organised by Forum Synergies and the Future Farmers Movement. During four days – from 22nd to 25th October 2015 – the participants had the chance to go out and experience the realities of young entrepreneurs in the Dutch countryside, exchange ideas and visions and use the open space to work together on the topics they wanted. The workshop was held at the Warmonderhof, a school farm situated in the polder, the reclaimed lands of the Netherlands. This document reports on the activities, content and outcomes of the workshop organised by day.

Thursday

Welcome! by Forum Synergies and Future Farmers Movement

The workshop officially started with the welcoming given by Forum Synergies and Future Farmers Movement:

Joris van der Kamp gave an overview of the history of the Flevoland, the province of the Netherlands where the workshop was held, one of the reclaimed lands in the Netherlands. The pioneers that started working in the polder came from different parts of the country and had a different cultural and religious background. However, they had in common one important dream: They all wanted to have their own farm!

In the early 40's they started working in the Polder. The first period they were digging the drainage channels, as everything was wet. That was a hard work, a very hard work! Most of the work was done by hand (figure 1).



Figure 1 Creating the drainage system in the polder by hand.



We continued with a nice dinner (figure 2).



Figure 2 Marteen Roelofs gives the start of the dinner in the dining room.

Storytelling and campfire

After a delicious dinner we head to the campfire where Francesco Melita guided us to the realm of courage, dreams and emotions. A story which encouraged us to follow our dreams, reminded us that we have company in our journey and that we have our heart to lead us in life (figure 3).



Figure 3 Francesco Melita with his hand on his heart reminds us in his story that it is the best guide in our life.



After the story we continued enjoying the campfire and the company of each other.

Friday

Energizer – Participatory Yoga and European Map



The day started with the energizer. First in order to wake up we did some participatory yoga (figure 4): each in turn had to show a yoga exercise or an exercise move and the others repeated it.

Figure 4 Participatory yoga during the energizer

Afterwards, we created the map of Europe by positioning ourselves in the room according to our country of origin (figure 5). The center of the map was Dronten, the Netherlands – the location of the workshop. The North and South were given and the participants had to organize themselves, according the position and distance of their countries in reference to that point. This was to see which geographical area we covered all together.



Figure 5 European map during the energizer

Short introduction to the day

Liljana Tanevska explained the timings in the agenda and the expected outputs from the day. Technical and logistical arrangements of the day were presented, so the programme run smoothly.

Inspiring stories of young entrepreneurs

Two young entrepreneurs from the Netherlands, Jaring Brunia and Daphne Lubbers, shared with us their entrepreneurial stories; her ppt presentation is available on a joined document. Their presentations were recorded after asking their permission. Here are the transcripts of their farming stories:

Jaring: “Ja, ok. ... Hi guys, I am Brunia and I am a farmer in Friesland. It is in the North of the Netherlands and I think is the most beautiful place in the Netherlands actually, but some people



will think different about it. As Joris mentioned I am a farmer, but when I was young, I always saw my parents working really hard and I said “No, I never want to become a farmer. Is way too hard working and you’re always with the animals and is always dirt and you can never just leave and have free time and just go on holiday.”. So I studied rural development and in my last year of my study I was working in an office job and it was so boring! I was just sitting there and typing all kinds of contracts and doing things for other people, just from maps. So, I’ve moved back to my parents’ house, just to have more time to work on my study in the evening and to have some ..., to make my head.... -How do you say?- clear again. In the evening I started working on the farm, helping my parents, cause my dad was a little bit ill those days and they stopped milking cows and they sold the production rights for the milk. So, they have some sheep and they were just having a kind of hobby farm. So, in the evenings I was always working... And time went really quick when I was working with the animals and on the farm and wearing these old clothes. So, one day I told my parents: “Maybe, yeah, maybe I want to become, still I want to become a farmer.” And they said: “No, no, you are crazy! It is impossible to start this place over again!” So, I kept that in mind and just thought what I want to do. It is a big step to become a farmer. Then some other farmer said to me: “We can make one big farm of it and you can take over mine in a couple of years.” So, we tried to work together and then, because I did not know much about agriculture, I asked him quite a lot of things and I would take course about how to become a good farmer. And then I saw that farming in the Netherlands was quite illogic for me. It was... I was always... the calves were ill, so I need to give them antibiotics and need to spread chemical fertilizer on the field. And it felt so unnatural and I said “Can we do things differently?”. And then other farmer said to me “No, that’s ... it’s not possible, because then you do not earn money.” So, it was kind of conflicting in my head, cause I wanted to farm on, you know, just having some cows in the field with their small calves and have all those flowers in the fields, but instead of that, I was driving a tractor almost the whole day, mowing and spraying manure and spraying chemical fertilizer and doing all kind of things I did not want to do. So, then I was thinking about my system of farming and I got to know some things about permaculture and holistic grazing management and then I told the other farmer “I stop working together and create my own farm on my parents’ farm again.” So, that was in 2012. I decided to go for it and make my own farm according to my dream; which is no antibiotics, no chemical fertilizers, almost no concentrated food. So, I want to farm just pure on grass and all the opportunities nature gives me. So, it was quite a big step again, cause I needed to buy my own herd. I didn’t have any cows anymore. And then I was thinking what kind of breeds do fit in my system. So, I bought all kind of old breeds from the Netherlands. And it was quite a search to get those animals again and find which were also capable of giving enough milk and it cost me two years to make the milking powder and ?(05:43) for the winter months and raise my herds, my calves. So, last year in 2014 in spring suddenly 50(05:54) heifers, that’s a cow who’s calving for the first time, they calved all in one month, so it was pretty busy. And then I had all of the sudden all those calves and then I found out that the milking powder was not working properly and so it



was really busy! And ... But in the meantime, now those two years, I am kind of proving that I can farm without all those chemical stuff on my farm and can have a good income just by using nature. If you look in nature you see all the cows or sheep or most of animals are giving their youngsters in spring, so I am copying the success factors of nature. So, on my farm they are all calving then. So it is quite busy, but there is also the best quality of grass on fields in those period. And it is quite funny to see that the feed a cow needs during the season is almost like curved like this (showing with his hands) and how the grass grows during the season is almost the same curve (showing with his hands) if you put it on a graph. It is a little bit weird that I do it like this in the air, but ... So, if you put those two together you can make really cheap, healthy milk and feeding the animals properly in the time, how they would do it in nature. And if you think further about it, it's ... Because people said to me it's impossible to get every year in spring a calf and cows' best pregnancy time is during the longest day of the year. That's in the summer months. So, a cow knows: "if I get pregnant during the longest day, I will get my calf nine months later and that's spring next season". So, that's all kind of interesting things in nature you can copy. But if I... With only just doing like this I couldn't have enough cows on my fields to get a proper income. So, I start looking at nature again and if you see: if cows or buffalos in nature would graze in a fully working ecosystem, they will always be closed together and keep moving to the fields, because they need the safety of their herd and because, if they are so closed together, they need to keep moving otherwise all the grass is gone. So I do not have wolves and all those kind of things to make my ecosystem full and to do the cows dead by natural, but I can copy that with the electric fences. So I have all kind of electric fence in my fields to let the cows graze where I want to graze them. So it's almost managing the moment when the cow and the grass come together and so I can grow a quite long grass and give the cow what they need and also give the grassland what they need to give pretty high yield without getting – how do you? – putting fertilizer on it. So, it is quite interesting what you can do only by looking at nature and copying the natural things, the success factors, on your farm seeing as a kind of ecosystem and to get proper income from it and do make the future more sustainable, because if ... In Holland has quite a big, how do you say it? ... almost **all(10:04)** farmers are keeping their cows inside and just keep mowing and spreading manure and just using antibiotics and all those kind of things and I think that's not a sustainable way for the future to make our food. By doing it like this, we can have and it's more beautiful on the rural area and young farmers have a chance to get with low ... to not get too much in debt and have a good income. So, that's pretty much what I am doing. I don't know how much time I have, so ..."

Daphne: "Yeah, good morning my name is Daphne Lubbers, I am 30 years old. I was in this school (she means our host: Warmonderhof) seven years ago. I think in 2010 I got a kind of a graduation party. And I am not from a farm; I am not a farmer's daughter, so I just went to this school, because I wanted to have a practical study and here I could do that one day a week study and the rest working on a farm. So, that's where my interest in agriculture began. And in 2010 I got here this graduation party and I thought "Well, I like animal production most, but I



didn't get enough knowledge, so I started on a bachelor in livestock management in Wageningen. And then I got a daughter and I wanted to go to the ... to America or abroad somewhere, but the dad of her, he was like "Stay here.". So, I did my thesis at [?\(18:41\)](#) that is a dairy cooperative in The Netherlands and they asked me, the sustainability manager, "Can you explore what are the opportunities for dairy farmers to contribute to health and welfare of calves which go to the veal production chain?". Like Jaring told you his calves are going to veal producers and yeah... I never... I didn't know a lot about it, so I said "Ah, yeah, yes. Nice!", it's a nice cooperative, so ... I'll tell you something about veal production, because I do not know if everybody knows something about it. Because in the Netherlands we are very successful in producing dairy, but we are also worldwide leader in exporting veal, but without eat veal. So yearly there are like 1.4 million calves killed for export or mostly are for export. And they go to the south of Europe mostly where they like veal. And this chain is not really positive for health and welfare of calves, because they are picked up by a livestock trader in ... on a farm and every farm has a few calves and if they are ... a car is ... trader, truck is full, they go to a collection center. And yeah, you see a collection center on the picture. And, they... yeah, they go in big groups to veal farm and that's mostly 800 calves, pretty big. These calves don't have a developed a ... they are not resilient, because they are still very young and they need a lot of antibiotics, because they all get sick, because all the pathogens from all the farms are mixed. So, yeah, that's a short ... about veal production. And then, yeah, I studied the issues for them. So, I did interviews with a lot of people in the chain and I, yeah..., I got a list of issues which is not really interesting now. But, I started working at an environmental organisation, but I was really like "Ah, I want to do something and nobody is doing something in this veal production chain, because it's really a bulk product." and I met some dairy farmers and they said "I don't like it, I don't want to send my calves to this veal production farm, but there is no other option.". And I met some farmers who raised themselves the [?\(21:43\)](#) calves. And then I met this farm the [?\(21:47\)](#) and they try to follow natural behaviour of the cows. So the cows have horns and they have a forest where the cows are walking and that family herds [are ?\(22:00\)](#) are also walking with the cows in fields. And, yeah, to make this possible actually they need some income from the calves and now they don't get, yeah, a lot of money. So, now I am just starting like "How am I going to do this?" so I am now like in a starting phase and I try to work together with a lot of people and talk about it and do workshops about it. So, I work together with the YFM, I don't know if somebody knows them, but ... Yeah. He does, so Youth Food Movement. And ... well they ... they ... that's a group of young people who is organising activities and has dialogue about agriculture and food and this year they have a theme and it's a ["man meat"\(23:00\)](#), so, yeah, it's kind of a coincidence, but it's, yeah, really nice that I can discuss this problem with a lot of people through this network. And we are on a [? week\(23:14\)](#) now and I work together with a [? salon\(23:18\)](#), also from a designer perspective they try to find solutions on a ... yeah ... on problems now and the ... [?\(23:32\)](#) she is a designer. The starting point is that every farm had, has its own milk, because of its own feed and its own farmer and its own landscape and now all



the milk is going to one tank and it's going to a dairy production unit. And she wants to start a new cooperative where you can sell this milk with all this different taste and it looks different and different story and also she wants to incorporate the calves like a unique selling point of this cooperative. And now we are under the [?\(24:15\)](#) week. That's a pretty big event in Eindhoven (city of The Netherlands in the Brabant province) and, yeah, we made a barbecue where actually two designers made a barbecue and we helped to start this. And it's really successful actually, so we were very busy the whole week and people really want to know about "man meat", so every day we had another man, we had the ... "hanen" (Dutch), the [?\(24:47\)](#)... the... the... cocks, huh? Yeah? And ... Roosters, yeah, that's it, which are killed the first day. And we had the male goats and we had the male cows. So was my plan, well I am really now in research phase, but I want to raise the calves from this farm, the [?\(25:13\)](#), probably in nature parks and well they have a farm which is already only grass fed, they do not feed maize, any concentrates and they don't use antibiotics and they are, from yesterday, they are organic. So, they are also ... also really developing. And we are going to try to market this meat and this milk also together, because actually, yeah, you cannot produce milk without producing meat, but we do not know if it is going to work or ... yeah. But that's also really a designer thing: how you are going to translate that complex story to an easy product or action. So, I am really busy with questions like how big should it be to earn money or how small can it be and, yeah, what's the [?\(26:08\)](#) proposition and I don't know a lot about meat. So, yeah, some people say "Ah, no you need to feed them corn otherwise it's not good meat." and other people say "No, grass fed meat is the best.". So, it's also like yeah, I try to investigate that and also for myself what is my role, because I come from kind of sector perspective and designer perspective and I am quite idealistic, but I do want to have impact, so, yeah, I also wanted to be a little bit bigger than only a really small farm for myself, so that's really, yeah, searching and talking and ... But I also want to do something, so I really ... The scenario is now that I am going to buy my [calf\(26:58\)](#) like in a month and I am going to try to follow the whole processing from slaughtering to selling. That I know like all the ins and outs or ... I mean a little bit. How it goes and how can I sell it and what products I can make. And then the [?\(27:16\)](#) also has some bulls now or some, like [50\(27:21\)](#) bulls already which are kept there and they don't have a market for them. So, I am going to sell them to earn some money. And I want to start in the spring with 5-10 calves and try to crowd fund them and start producing. So, that's the plan, but ah ... yeah."

Market of initiatives

During the market of initiatives some participants gave short presentations about their organisations or projects. They had a table where they could use their laptop and other material for giving the presentation and accepting the participants that were interesting in knowing more about the organisation or project that they were involved in. Every 15 minutes a new round began; a sound announced the participants that they should move to another table/presentation.



The PowerPoint presentations, when used, are available in joined document. Here is the content of the presentations in alphabetical order:

Common Soil by Hannah Steenbergen

Common Soil is a vision for a new grassroots network of citizens that take actions to restore and steward living soil. Its main feature will be the Common Soil Learning Centre. This land-based learning centre for regenerative agriculture, ecosystem restoration, regional food systems and land stewardship aims to inspire the next generations of farmers and citizens to become stewards of the soil. The centre will comprise of a working mixed farm, an education centre, as well as various food and farming-related enterprises and initiatives.

From the campus, Common Soil will also coordinate education, trainings and events, as well as public awareness campaigns and communications, crafting a story of inspiration, restoration and hope.

The centre will be an inspiring example of how sustainable farming and land management can regenerate land and build soil fertility, while at the same time producing wholesome food and other products. The local as well as international community will be involved through hands-on learning experiences and courses which will empower individuals to become active and the new generation of land stewards. Thereby, Common Soil will be instrumental in reversing land degradation and accelerating the expansion of regenerative farming and ecosystem restoration in degraded landscapes.

Estonian young farmers' association, YouthAgSummit, "Terra Madre - We feed the planet!" and IAAS by Henriette Keuffel:

The Estonian young farmers association (Noorte Põllumeeste Klubi NPK), which is the only association as such in Estonia, brings together students of agricultural and natural sciences interested in agriculture/farming and rural life as well as all other people interested in before-mentioned. We organize several events with politicians, researchers, farm visits, sector specific meetings and further trainings as well as informal get-togethers to exchange information and bound. We are very interested in co-operations with other rural groups and open for new opportunities.

Besides the Estonian NPK though, I personally have participated in different agricultural conferences, such the YAS (YouthAgSummit) in Canberra, Australia, which gave me many new ideas how to pursue with PR-work regarding agriculture and food security in the future. Recommendable for young people 18-25 years old to check out the webpage and get engaged on global level in a global network of young farmers and anybody else, who has something to share in concern of food security. (www.youthagsummit.com)

A major part of the YAS are the #3LittleThings, shown on the poster, which all 100 delegates took home from the conference to start tackling their individual problems to strive for one common goal!



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

The second to mention is the “Terra Madre - We feed the planet!” organized by the Slow Food Network and Slow Food Youth in Milano a similar conference. Also recommendable for anybody feeling the interest and spirit for engaging in PR for agriculture and sustainable farming for a food secure future.

Another association I have joined recently due to my master's program Agribusiness is the IAAS (international association of students in agriculture and related sciences), who try to connect future farmers and science related students to each other and enable them to cooperate through networks, field trips/internships and knowledge exchange.

At last, my bottom line is that networking and exchanging knowledge is the first, yet biggest and toughest step to make towards a food secure future. Therefore staying hungry for knowledge and being open for discussions are crucial things to do and I kindly ask everybody to do so.

Farm Experience Internship (FEI) by Elske Hageraats:

People interested in this project and curious to know what this is can visit the following website: <https://farmexperienceinternship.wordpress.com/>

Food Processing on Farms by Milos Homola:

The biggest problem for small farmers is processing their primary products into products with added value and extended shelf life. The problem is not the processing itself, but the hygiene rules and other bureaucracy, where the producer needs to generate tens of documents and to invest a lot of money.

The local organization in Slovakia, Ekotrend Slovakia, which is an association of small producers, started to work on guidelines for small producers after a Forum Synergies gathering in Bitola, Macedonia. A success story from Latvia was presented where they had created their own guidelines by translation of an Austrian working example and this in turn boosted the development of small producers. We started by translating the Austrian guidelines, but it was almost 1000 pages long and without a budget plus a lack of volunteers skilled in German agricultural terminology, it was very slow. Although we were still hearing about risks and epidemics from the Ministry of Agriculture and Hygiene Office...at the end of last year we started a co-operation with the Research Institute of Food Production, where the translated piece of Austrian guidelines was used for inspiration and after a year of work, meetings and discussions we have the final draft. We are now waiting on comments from relevant stakeholders.

The cooperation with the Research Institute was very important for a successful acceptance by the authorities, because it is something completely different when the Farmers Association speaks of the elimination of risks as opposed to a well known director of a Research Institute, even if they say the same thing.

Future Farmers Movement, Toekomstboeren and La ferma by Monica Stanica:



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

Future Farmers Movement evolved from the Future Farmers In The Spotlight project and developed side by side with the Toekomstboeren Dutch farmers' association. Future Farmers Movement is a European movement that aims to support future farmers, who actually are the next generation of innovative agro-ecological farmers, in building ecologically, economically and socially viable livelihoods. This is achieved by facilitating the exchange of inspiration and information among future farmers and their interaction among them and with organisations that support them. Toekomstboeren is an association for new and future farmers. „Toekomst“ means „future“ and „boeren“ means „farmers“ in Dutch. It is the national future farmers of the Netherlands. One of the aim of the association is to inspire. Therefore, they are interviewing and writing articles, which they organise in thematic bundles, about inspiring farmers in the Netherlands. The first bundle on permaculture is already published and the second one on access to land is on its way. The association also aims in facilitating the exchange among farmers. Therefore, they are organising different events throughout the Netherlands. And how this all relates to a personal level? Because I am a future farmer. I have some land in Romania where I would like to start a Community Supported Agriculture (C.S.A.) farm with strong social and educational aspects which the long-term goal is to evolve in a farmer's knowledge hub and inspire the farmers of the region to adopt sustainable farming practices. But I would like to do this together with other people, so here is a call for partnership! ☺ Both for individuals and organisations, since we would like to work closely with different organisations, like research centres, universities, farming schools and so on. Interested? Contact details: laferma@gmail.com

Höfe gründen und bewahren by Dorothea Pille:

hofgründer.de enables small and medium sized farms in Germany to realize their potential as creators of innovative smallholder agriculture through promoting and supporting extra familial hand-over of farms. *hofgründer.de* engages and reaches out to the young generation of agriculture entrepreneurs, established farmers, the academic world and the wider public to build community impelled to drive this change. Being the first to do this in Germany, the organization also offers an online matchmaking platform that connects farmers with young agricultural entrepreneurs. Due to the help of *hofgründer.de* in all aspects of a farm handover (legal, economic, social), more and more farmers consider the option of extra-familial handovers. This provides them the opportunity to sustain the role their farm plays in their community, pass on their knowledge and continue living on their farm, even if it is run by a new owner.

The situation of farm succession in Europe is alarming. *Only in Germany, 70 percent of the country's 300.000 (mostly small) farms do not have a successor within their families. Currently, up to 10.000 small and midsized farms close per year, although many of them could provide decent income for one to two families.* Therefore the goal should be to establish a strong comprehensive European network to preserve small and midsized farms. This goal can only be reached by working together with other European institutions on an exchange basis.



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

Contact:

hofgründer.de
Weingasse 10
36199 Rotenburg an der Fulda - Germany
Telefon: 06623 9157-380
Fax: 06623 9157-389
E-Mail: info@hofgruender.de

Team: Christian Vieth and Dorothea Pille

InterAfocg by Mathilde Leriche:

What is InterAfocg ?

InterAfocg is a French national network of organizations (Afocg) making lifelong vocational trainings in economics (accounting, management, strategy...) for farmers and rural inhabitants. Educational methods focused on experiences (coming from the trainees), time (the approach promotes trainings lasting in the time in order to interact better with the experience) and collective (the trainees learn from each other). Afocg organizations aim to improve people's abilities to understand and to master better the complexity and the totality of their farms, according to their values and their goals. Afocg encourage each person to become more autonomous, responsible and united in the agricultural and rural development. The national organization InterAfocg realizes different activities for its local members: animation of the network, investigation on several topics (settlement and transmission, small farms management, work organization and time management on farms, women in agriculture, collective farming...), training of the trainers, promotion and representation to other organizations and public institutions.

Contact : InterAfocg 26 rue Beaubourg 75003 Paris France – (+33) 1 40 09 10 18 -interafocg@interafocg.org - www.interafocg.org

Why is InterAfocg concerned by farm succession?

Afocg in the network realize trainings about farm succession through different approaches (social, economic, legal...) targeting different people (transferors, young farmers...), in order to facilitate and to make the process successful. InterAfocg has been investigating this topic for several years to give analysis to different public: its members in the making of their trainings and more generally the actors of agricultural development concerned by this topic.

References:

- InterAfocg, *Transmettre les fermesets'installerdemain*(2005): guidebook (100 p.) with testimonies and tools about farm succession and settlement to facilitators
- InterAfocg, *Transmission/Installation : se connaître pour s'aider/céder* (2013) : web articles (http://www.interafocg.org/journees-gestion-2013_310.php)
- Collective (FADEAR, AFIP, FNCIVAM, FNAB, InterAfocg, Terre de Liens), *Des idées pour transmettre sa ferme* (2013) : guidebook (60 p.) with testimonies and tools about farm succession to farmers

InTeRCeR by Iztok Erjavec (author: Institute InTeRCeR, www.instituteintercer.org):



Background information

The Institute for Sustainable Development and Holistic Solutions – InTeRCeR (<http://instituteintercer.org/>) was established by academic educated people who saw that current approach to problems in Slovenia is not solving problems, but instead creating new ones. The trend of sustainable development and its promotion is not new, elder generations lived by this principle, because they could not afford to destroy environment in which they lived, because environment has enabled their survival. People who promote sustainable development usually do not even know what it actually is and what it means.

Presentation

My presentation is focused on preserving traditional cultural landscapes. My background is from biology and I am making specialization in landscape ecology. This project came out from my research work of comparing development of landscapes through time periods and looking for solutions how to preserve and improve conditions in these landscapes.

Slide 8

Comparing situation in towns and countryside from point of view of people and problems they have.

Older people in the countryside possess agricultural land, but because of their age they are unable to cultivate it alone. Consequently they cannot get additional income which could improve their economic status, the land is not cultivated and landscapes are overgrowing which lowers landscape diversity, biodiversity and traditional landscapes are disappearing.

Unemployed people in towns do not possess arable land, but they are willing to work and would like to work to improve their economic status. They cannot afford to buy expensive organic food and food represents a great expense for family budget.

Additionally, industrial agriculture has severe negative impacts on the environment which also lowers landscape diversity, biodiversity and is destroying traditional landscapes.

This situation leads to low self-sufficiency with local food, overgrowing of landscape, disappearance of traditional landscapes with their landscape diversity and biodiversity.

Slide 9

Conclusion is to connect people from countryside and towns for intergenerational cooperation in order to grow high-quality food.

Slide 10

The aim is to establish sustainable living of people in the environment and nature protection on the basis of knowledge transfer from older generations to younger ones. The simple solution is solving more problems combined.

Slide 11

Presentation of our eco-social innovative idea: If people want to eat healthy food they need to work, they need knowledge – someone must teach them how to grow food and in this process will also start to produce surpluses.



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

Surpluses are basis for establishment of intergenerational social cooperative and eco-social brand for production and marketing of regional organic food products, promote sustainable development of landscapes with introduction of eco-innovations and old farming practices.

Eco-social brand will address social and environmental aware customers and for wider recognition of our work.

With our model we will strength local economy and rural development.

Slide 12

This model is also providing benefits for the nature – we are restoring habitats for species which are getting lost today due to industrial agriculture: orchards, extensive meadows, hedges,... If we want to preserve maximum number of species we have to preserve the habitats they live in. We do not know the exact number of species in a habitat, so the only conclusion is to preserve the habitat – habitat approach by species conservation. Habitats are also part of traditional cultural landscapes; through habitats preservation we are also preserving landscapes.

Slide 13

The aim of social innovation is to reduce the costs for the society.

Slide 14 - 17

Presentation of pilot project where members of Institute went into cooperation with a farmer in order to find out if this model is possible.

Presentation of methods we used in our pilot project

References in slides

Allen L. K., Hetherington E., Manyama M., Hatfield J.M., van Marle G.2010. *Using the social entrepreneurship approach to generate innovative and sustainable malaria diagnosis interventions in Tanzania: a case study.* Malaria Journal,9:42

<http://www.malariajournal.com/content/9/1/42>

O'Brien R., 1998. *An Overview of the Methodological Approach of Action Research* (online).(19.6.2014).

http://www.web.ca/robrien/papers/arfinal.html#_Toc26184665

Pain R., Whitman G., Milledge D. in River Trust L.2014. *Participatory Action Research Toolkit: An Introduction to Using PAR as an Approach to Learning, Research and Action.* Durham University (19.6.2014).

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/beacon/PARtoolkit.pdf>

Slide 23

Here we are presenting Integral Economy approach of our social innovation towards establishment of intergenerational social cooperative and eco-social brand. Written in Slide 11

Our organization is part of the movement of Integral Green Slovenia (http://integralna-zelena-slovenija.si/index_eng.html) which is promoting and implementing alternative – holistic economy models in Slovenia. Examples of these models are Mondragon in Spain, Sekem in Egypt, Grameen Bank in Bangladesh...

Beginner of Integral Economy approach is TRANS4M Center for Integral Development, Geneva, Swiss (<http://www.trans-4-m.com/>) which put all the alternative economy models into common



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

frames for other people who are dealing with development of alternative economic models to understand and to develop their own economic models for their projects.

Integral Economy Model of Land Sharing was developed in cooperation with TRANS4M and Integral Green Slovenia.

Slide 24

By Integral Economy approach we always start with moral core – What are the broader societal and natural benefits we want to achieve? What do we want to contribute to society and nature with our project?

This is in the centre.

Slides 25 – 27

Explaining every of four realm of Integral Economy approach. Sequence goes south – east – north – west

Slide 28

Detailed explanation of every realm from view

of personal growth: being – becoming – knowing - doing
economy

enterprise start-up: community activation – developmental catalysation – innovation driven research – transformative enterprise

society: from profits to profiting society - from survival to co-evolution - from hierarchy to democracy - from growth to sustainability

Slides 29 – 33

Explaining Land Sharing Integral Economy through each realm

Slide 34

Picture/scheme of Land Sharing Integral Economy development of idea towards establishment of social enterprise and eco-social brand

Slide 35

Picture/scheme of Land Sharing Integral Economy development of employment creation

Junge Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft (jAbL) by Romy Horn:

The „Junge ArbeitsgemeinschaftBäuerlicheLandwirtschaft (jAbL)“ is a term that is difficult to translate to English. The closest you can get is something like „Youth Association for Peasant Farming“ or “Youth Association for small-scale agriculture”, but both are a bit misleading since it is not necessarily only small scale farmers in the association and the word “peasant” can have a negative connotation in English (as in German – using the term in the name was a conscious decision to reconnect the word with positive associations). Still, the aims of the association are most often in line with those of small-scale/peasant farming.

The jAbL is a group of young farmers, gardeners, beekeepers and other people from agricultural sectors, and has members from all over Germany. Members come from conventional and



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

organic backgrounds with the common aim to further develop and shape a sustainable agriculture in the present as well as for future generations. It was founded in 2009 at a meeting of the main organization AbL (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Bäuerliche Landwirtschaft), with the objective to give young people a more distinct voice in the organization. Collaboration with AbL is close and contacts to many farmers in AbL as well as the association's political work are very helpful. Furthermore, we see ourselves as being part of an international movement that includes Via Campesina and Nyeleni.

The jAbL is working on political topics and we involve ourselves actively in politics to increase awareness in society for the needs of agriculture. We believe that industrial agriculture is not a solution to the food challenges of the future, but rather small scale, regionally adapted farming and food sovereignty should be promoted. Generally, economic action in natural environments should be guided by respect for people, animals and plants. Therefore we want, amongst other things, to facilitate the formation of new farms, create a good working environment on farms, enable fair prices for farmers, strengthen or regain the independence of farmers, strengthen or regain seed sovereignty, create more exchange and solidarity among farmers, and to strengthen regional cycles of resources. At the same time we are fighting not least against a further decrease of farm numbers, rationalization, repetition of a few theorems instead of a broad education of farmers, the industrialization of agriculture, contract farming, patents on life, heavy import/export, and agriculture being a field of "lonely business rivals".

To achieve these goals we are fighting for better political conditions for farmers. This is done by many different activities:

- Two conferences a year (one in spring/summer at a different location each year - usually a member's farm - and one in Altenkirchen in November)
- Public actions e.g. against GMO, for fair prices, for a better accessibility to land,... (see photos)
- Discussions with political representatives
- Regional events (podium discussions, presentations)
- Participation in protests, e.g. the annual big protest in Berlin in January "Wirhabenessatt!"
- Connection to other groups
- Participation in the campaign "MeineLandwirtschaft"

Everybody can participate; "physical" meetings every week take place in Witzenhausen because many members live there, and there is also a monthly skype meeting open to everyone (and of course the biannual conferences as a meeting point). Furthermore, there is an e-mail list with around 300 members to receive information about what jAbL is doing or certain events. Next to that there is a smaller mailing list for active members to coordinate the activities of jAbL and different working groups exist or can be created at any time.

An example of a public action:



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

In January 2014 several members of jAbL put together a “seeds tour” in the context of the European Seed Regulation negotiations going on at that time. Since a big protest against these negotiations was planned for the 20th of January in Brussels and around the same time (18th of January) the annual big protest for a better agriculture in Berlin was taking place, the idea was that two groups would start their tour in Hannover with one group going with a tractor from Hannover to Berlin and the other group going from Hannover to Brussels. Thus the aim was to symbolically connect the two events. Different stops were made along the way to inform people about seeds and to talk to practitioners, media and politicians (please also see photos in the presentation).

Landwijzer vzw by Ineke Docx:

Landwijzer was established by an alumni of Warmonderhof 17 years ago in Belgium. It is a farming school offering course on organic agriculture. The school offers a two years long part time course. So there is a course one day per week, every Monday and the rest is all about practice. People attending the school are from different backgrounds and they are mostly between 20 and 50 years old. The school is doing more and more lately a kind of selections before the applicants can start the course in order to clarify if applicants want really to start farming. So, now the focus is really on future farmers and the selection consists of some practical experience for 10-20 days before the beginning of the course. In this way applicants can discover for themselves if farming is really what they want to do in the future. There are places for 40 people twice a year, 20 in Gent and 20 in Antwerp. In the first year the focus is on getting a general knowledge of mixed farms during the course. However, students can choose for their practical experience the farm that they really like, so maybe one is going to a vegetable farm and another one to a farm with animals. During the second year they are asked to write a report and they are helped to do their own business plan. So, inside the course there is all the knowledge about economical aspects, how to manage a farm, all the laws and the rules concerning farming; so also knowledge about how to get subsidies. It is calculated that 65% of graduates start their own farm after graduation.

Netzwerk Existenzgründung in der Landwirtschaft (NEL) by Thomas Huemer:

Netzwerk Existenzgründung in der Landwirtschaft (NEL) is a young Austrian association devoted to support farm succession by means of adult education, information, advice, research and all other tools relevant to support the aim. It has set out to work on farm succession within Austria and cooperate with other organisations in Europe and worldwide who support the same goals.

A small group of food policy activists noticed the upsurge of interest in farming and the decline in farm holding numbers and founded NEL in December 2013. Recent activities include film screenings, a symposium, radio and TV appearances, newspaper articles, a small theatre performance and several research papers.

Rural Youth Europe by Lukas Helfenstein:



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

Rural Youth Europe (RYEurope) is an European Non-Governmental Organisation for rural youth. Established in 1957, it functions as an umbrella for youth organisations working to promote and activate young people in the countryside. It provides international training possibilities and works as an intermediary between national organisations, youth organisations and public institutions on an European level. Rural Youth Europe is a member-led organisation: democratically constituted and led by young people for young people.

United Nations Development Programme by Marijana Muhic:

New Future for Rural Producers at Zadar's Local Farmers Market

It's been little more than a year since the Farmers Market was first opened in Croatia's Zadar County in September 2013, but in that short time the market project has established itself as a model for rural regeneration.

Hundreds of residents of Zadar now regularly flock to the market each Saturday morning to buy fresh fruit, vegetables and other produce directly from local farmers who previously struggled to find an outlet for their goods. Established with the support of UNDP and the County of Zadar, the new Farmers' Market has provided a much-needed boost to the incomes of local farmers, while at the same time providing top-quality produce at reasonable prices for consumers seeking healthy alternatives to imported food sold in retail chains. "We first came here because we were looking for fresher and healthier fruit and vegetables," says one local couple browsing the stalls at the Farmer's Market, "And we've kept coming back every week. Not just because the food is such high quality but because it's a friendlier place than the big shops. There's a sense of community and it gives us a good feeling to know we're supporting local farmers." Tourists, too, join the bustle of shoppers from Zadar, attracted to the organically farmed products on sale and the market's uniquely local atmosphere. "Supermarkets are pretty much the same everywhere," says a visitor from Germany, "But local markets are always unique. It's a much more interesting experience—and the quality of the food is superb.'

Supporting rural producers

The idea of setting up the Farmers Market emerged from a long-standing partnership between UNDP in Croatia and Zadar County to improve the socio-economic prospects of the country's rural areas. This partnership has focused on strengthening the region's traditional agriculture to help restore the livelihoods of local farming families. Two of the major challenges for small-scale farmers in this region are the problems of finding suitable outlets for their products and of competing with big retail chains that offer cheap imports. The fruit and vegetables offered by local farmers are of exceptional quality, many of them produced organically. But until we set up the Farmers' Market the farmers could only sell them on roadside stalls. The needs of big retail chains for regular supplies of high volumes of produce at rock-bottom prices simply can't be met by small-scale farmers. The prices they offer aren't even sufficient to cover the costs of production. To meet these challenges, UNDP and the County of Zadar jointly invested nearly USD 34.000 in the necessary infrastructure to make the market a viable option for local farmers, including stalls and refrigerators, as well as promotional activities and materials to market the



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

new brand. UNDP further undertook direct management for the first three months to help ensure the market's sustainability.

Quality Control

A crucial aspect in ensuring the success of the Farmers Market was the selection of local farmers able to guarantee a high quality of produce. In this task the project partnership was able to draw on the success of its training courses for local farmers. Aimed at helping local farmers prepare for the economic challenges of Croatia's entry into the EU in July 2013, these courses included certified training in cheese-making, fruit and vegetable growing, olive harvesting and beekeeping, as well as sheep and goat breeding. Through the growing expertise of local farmers in organic farming, combined with strict product control and joint marketing, the Farmers Market has earned a strong reputation for its organic produce. In a recent survey conducted by UNDP, 28% of customers said their reason for shopping at the Farmers Market was the availability of organic products.

Location – shortening the supply chain

Highlights

- In little more than a year, the market project has established itself as a model for rural regeneration.
- The idea of setting up the Farmers Market emerged from a long-standing partnership between UNDP in Croatia and Zadar County to improve the socio-economic prospects of the country's rural areas.

Another key factor in ensuring the success of the Farmers Market was the selection of its location. One of the aims of the project to help rural producers by providing them with more direct contact with their customers, overcoming the need to sell through middle agents. In this way, by shortening the supply chain between agricultural producers and their customers, the project reduces producers' losses in profit and transport costs. The location chosen for the Farmers Market in Zadar was in line with these aims of cutting costs for rural producers and maximizing their opportunities for sales. This meant ensuring a place with easy accessibility by car and with existing overhead shelter. The project partnership agreed to a generous offer from the management of Supernova to locate the market, free of charge, in a covered section of its large parking lot—a lively area lined with restaurants and cafes.

Reality checks/Field visits

The field visits aimed to give us a taste of the Dutch rural reality. During them we visited innovative educational entrepreneurial programmes, inspiring farm and building models and we gained insight in community relationships. Three different packages were available, each of them consisting of two parts/visits. We had to choose which package we want to attend.

Here are the three packages:

Package A: Young people in nature & rural society



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

- Annette Harberink, Natuurderij Keizersrande - A starting young entrepreneur cooperating with the local nature organization St. Ijssellandschap. We will speak with farmer Annette Harberink and learn from her how she managed to start up this farm. <http://www.keizersrande.nl/>
- Aardehuizen, Ecol living district De Aardehuizen – Mirjam Burema gave us a tour through the ecological living district of the Aardehuizen. At the Aardehuizen the participants joined and build their Earthship houses together. Earthships provide the residents with shelter, but also with smart and simple technology for water, electricity and food. The environmental impact during construction and living is extremely low. More information about the earthships can be found at <http://www.aardehuis.nl/en/>

This package includes a relative long bus ride – one hour each way.

Package B: Learning entrepreneurship

- Joost van Strien (farmer at Zonnegood) offers a few hectares of his farm as learning ground for young agricultural entrepreneurs. Learn more about how Joost manages his land in partnership! We will also speak with Chris a young farmer on the land of Joost.
- LONK project – An inspiring new model where young people in the last phase of their studies from Warmonderhof get space to learn and practice entrepreneurial skills. Michael, Sune and Florian started producing and marketing their own spelt bread! We will speak with the supervisor Joost van Strien, as well as with the young entrepreneurs!

This package includes 2 * 20 minutes driving.

Package C: Young people and development

- Dronten Warmonderhof school farm (our workshop location) is a fast growing school for organic & biodynamic agriculture. Paul Fisher explains how he combines managing the arable farm at Warmonderhof with teaching and supervision of students. www.warmonderhof.nl
- We will visit Gaia and Maayke, former Warmonderhof students, who are currently managing a fruit orchard on 12 km distance from the Warmonderhof.

Bags were available where we could place any item that would intrigue us during the visit. These items could be used for reporting the visit and also during the next day's art session. For better reporting the visits, volunteers were asked from each group to be the rapporteurs.

Energizer – Web of Connections

The aim of this energizer was to find out how we are connected through the small things that we love. A ball of wool was used to make the connection. One person named what he/she loved, for example: the smell of the land after the first rains, the sound of biting a fresh apple, camping in the rain and keeping the equipment dry, etc. When another person also loved this



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

specific thing, he/she could shout and receive the ball of wool, while the former person held on to the end of the string. In this way a web of connections was created. This web showed how we are all connected to the strange things we love.

Report of inspiration from the groups

During the report of inspiration the rapporteurs presented to the other groups what inspired us during our field visit. Some of us also collected different items from the locations that we visited and we show them and explained why we collected these particular items to the other groups. During the visits each group have made a collection with pictures from the visit which was shown through a projector. The ppts with these picture collections are available in a joined document.

Group attending package A

Rapporteur: Olga Khomenko

Group A visited two locations: "Natuurderij Keizersrande" farm of Annette Harberink and self-sufficient Earth-houses settlement "Aardehuis".

The first place was a biodynamic farm that combines both nature preservation and agricultural production. Annette started in 2010 searching for farm land to rent and in 2013 she was already ready with buildings. Annette works with Nature 2000, she managed to overcome governmental paradigm of separating nature and agriculture and combined it on her farm.

At the moment she is farming on the 145 ha with 80 cows and some chickens. Her main production principles are that everything is interconnected and have to work in cycle and be self-sufficient. She is also trying to keep her production as energy efficient as possible. She manages the farm almost alone with one worker. For some specific activities she hires some people during the year. She also works with schools and always has some interns. She organised the area of the farm and made it pleasant for people walking on tours with flowering stripes along the passes. She is trying to work as much as possible with the neighbourhood.

The next place we visited was a settlement project. As it is stated on the web-page of the organisation their main goal is: "it is our intention to build, work, live in our homes and in our lives in harmony with nature, in constructive relationship with one another and as a source of inspiration to the world around us". In order to reach this they constructed their living space almost completely independent from the external system. Unlike earth-ships they decided to stay connected to common electricity supply network, in all the rest aspects they are completely autonomic. There are 23 houses in the settlement including community house in the center of the settlement. Almost all of the houses belong to private families and only 3 of them belong to housing cooperation and are rented to people.

All the main construction works started in October 2011 and were ready by July 2014. The building process was a real challenge, because of all the needed permits for constructions and methods of construction. For example in 2013 they had to give up the idea of walls built from tires, because it was a way too long process. Later they started to construct walls from the straw blocks that speeded up the work. Some architectural elements of the houses were also simplified, in order to keep it cheaper and faster made, because of the construction deadline. The project was financed by private money and bank mortgage.



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

Main principle of the association is sociocracy. Main decisions are taken together, but smaller are delegated to the selected working group, where decision is taken by the consensus principle. It is also important to mention that the project has good cooperation with the local community; for example they make a common project like the recreation permaculture garden for both settlement and local community.

Items gathered: Silva gathered soil from the Natuurderij Keizersrande, because “the lady (the farmer, Annette) we visited at the farm highlighted this as a great advantage for the prosperity of her farm. But most importantly, the fact that the Netherlands has always had “beautiful” soil has always been a great advantage in comparison to other countries. What she said made me think about soil in its complexity and got it interlinked with other issues I deeply care about as climate justice, droughts, poverty, food, and deforestation. “Beautiful” soil, meaning a healthy soil can be the synonym of abundance, blossom and peace, whereas “bad” soil can be the synonym of poverty, hunger and war at worst case.” Inês gathered a clover from the Natuurderij Keizersrande, because for her: “It represented the spirit of that farm and of the life style of the farmer. In her (the farmer, Annette) presentation, she said she maintained the cows outside up to that moment, because there was still food for them out there, like clover. She takes advantage of everything that nature and biodynamic farming has to offer and the clover represents that.”

Group attending package B

.....

Items gathered: Liljana gathered grass, because she considered it as symbol of cooperation between farmers, as well as soil with shells, because she considered it as symbol of a very expensive land and a very fragile soil due to the organic production and preservation of the air in the soil.

Group attending package C

.....

Items gathered:

Campfire

The day ended with a campfire where we could all socialize, relax and exchange impressions of the day.

Saturday

Energizer – Participatory Yoga, Tapping Circle, Living Chair and Mini-applause

We started the day with participatory yoga and continued with a tapping circle. Standing in a circle, making half a turn, we gently tapped the person in front of us on the head, shoulders, back and arms. Then we got closer together in the circle, one person facing the back of the person in front, got really really close and set down, on each other’s laps, making a living chair. We ended with the mini-applause: clapping with 1 finger, 2 fingers, 3 fingers, 4, 5, the whole



hand, then including stamping the feet and then counting down again to whole hand clapping, 5 fingers, 4, 3, 2, 1, shhh.

Plenum session

During the plenum session there was an open space where all of us suggested themes of our interest. These themes were also put on paper (figure 6) optionally. At the end of the plenum session we were divided into groups. In these groups we further developed the theme that we have chosen to work upon.



Joris van der Kamp

Figure 6 Overview of the open space and close up of different topic propositions put on paper

Working in Groups

During the work in the groups we had to write down:

1. Bright ideas
2. What do we need to put them in practice
3. Cooperation in putting them in action

Here is the report of each working group:

Rural development in Eastern Europe working group:



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

People are the ones can create changes in the rural areas; therefore we are putting them in the centre of our discussions.

Problems:

- Lack of motivation and interest;
- Lack of knowledge/understanding;
- Lack of Employment possibilities;
- Lack of support;
- Limitation of possibilities;
- Infrastructural problems;
- Lack of local economies.

Solutions

- Positive examples;
- Cooperation between different interest groups, different sectors and different levels;
- Networking (international, digital, ...);
- Economic decentralization and development of rural entrepreneurship;
- Improve the feeling of local identity.

Actions:

- Professional speed dating (local, regional etc.) – creating entrepreneurial relationship between youth and professionals;
- Local authority support programs for young entrepreneurs;
- Training events (master classes) – AGRITERA + training cooperation NGO;
- Career days → project clinics → Creating rural hubs;
- Motivational public speeches;
- Marketing strategies of rural places;
- Connecting formal education (through theses, project week etc.) with rural realities (actions and issues – practical co-operation);
- Creating innovations;
- Echoing villages festival (workshops, volunteering, slow food, games);
- Interest group representatives (focus groups, “lobby”).

Priority action “Local authority support programs for rural young entrepreneurs”

There is a need for support programs that include moral support, legal support, infrastructural, capacity building (exchange), mentorship (both to provide it to local authorities and from the local authorities to the youth), financial as following cheap loans, tax incentives, crowd landing and crowd funding opportunities, guarantee funds, insurance opportunities.

Therefore we would like to initiate (1) Career days to acquaint youth with good practices and to equip them with tools to start their own rural career. These Career days should be organized in partnerships/co-operation with chamber of commerce, LAGs, NGOs, companies, educational institutions, co-operatives, ministries and other interested partners.



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

Furthermore (2) project clinics to guard the development of projects by experienced professional partners as mentioned in above and stimulate the entrepreneurial drive. Which at last include (3) creating rural hubs that consist of both formal events as organized exchanges, educational courses, study trips and informal events as group of regulars, field visits and speed dating.

Future Farmers Movement working group

To act as a platform to organize, mobilize and connect new, beginning and aspiring farmers

Aims

- **Connect:** future farmers together
- **Support:** future farmers
- Share: experience and knowledge
- **Recruit:** new members through inspiration and encouragement and revitalize the current farming image in a positive way
- **Build Awareness:** of future farmer issues among the farming community and the general public
- **Political Involvement:** create an EU presence through lobbying, influencing policies and establishing funding connections and possibilities

International Level

European coordination

- Improve existing website; possible internship position focused on developing website (funding?)
- An interactive map of initiatives across Europe highlighting relevant projects, good practices, etc.
- Regular meetings between members
- Future Farmers in the Spotlight films

National Level

Local contacts

- Identify existing national groups; support and create new groups in the gaps
 - Develop guide for establishing new groups
- Research local and national initiatives
 - Interviews
 - Collect stories
 - Website platform
- Promote Farm Experience Internships

Other ideas: starting a farm, access to land, training, etc.

Communication

- Internal: Google docs, Forum...
- External:
 - Network meetings—attending meetings of other congruent organizations



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

- Social media and promotion

Next Steps

- Funding-internship for web building (GLS Bank)
- Monthly Skype meetings
 - Rotational administration from each member
- Map of initiatives
 - Development of interactive map—e.g., mundraub.de website
 - Each member to find initiatives
- Planning next internal international meeting

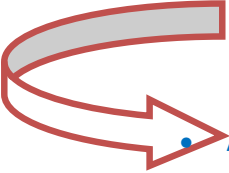
Long-term Needs

- Organizational structure
- Funding
- Recruitment of members
- Promotion
- Organizational bylaws
- Future farmers gatherings

How to start a farm working group

Practicalities

Knowledge

- Experience of older farmers → partnership/hubs/incubators between old and future farmers → organisation + asking neighbours
- New knowledge (research) → link universities with needs of farmers (organisation)
- Experience/practical knowledge
 - finding testing areas
 - action research e.g. no till, mulch, ploughed, different varieties 😊 ++
- Have a contact with different specialties (vet, lawyer, marketers etc)
- Knowledge transfer: interns of farm schools on the farm
 - inviting experts
 - organising workshops on the own farm
 - invite students to make their researches
 - communicate with local university + **apprenticeship scheme**
-  Attract outsiders to the farm by giving workshops/courses (food production, saving seeds, kitchen workshops, storing/fermenting food)
 - short courses e.g. fermentation, cooking etc.
 - international courses e.g. permaculture, biodynamics
 -
- Seminars/study groups/exchange of knowledge on administration, marketing, legal issues ... (not the actual food production)
- PRIMARY SCHOOL – LESSON ABOUT – SUSTAINABLE, LOCAL, ENVIRO, ...



- Disseminating Experience & Knowledge

Finances

- **MAKE A BUSINESS PLAN according to the land and localities**
 - EVALUATE COSTS & REVENUE
 - EVALUATE OWN CAPITAL & EXTERNAL FUNDS
 - EVALUATE WHAT IS NEEDED FROM THE START AND WHAT CAN BE POSTPONED
- **SHARE OPORTUNITIES 2014-2020 CAP +**
- **EU funding**
- **Investors** (How to find?)
- Share costs / investments with other farmers by buying together some expensive machines & working with it together.
- **Crowdfunding +**
- Share with farm members (as C.S.A. members/consumers)
- At the beginning has parallel other job.
- Sell own intellectual products (advisory)
- Attract external advice: always good to have advice from someone who is not involved
- **Start small?** and develop slowly
- Fundraising events, auctions

- Make up a working business plan, taking into account your primary needs, your own capital, money from funds, estimating the money you 're going to spend & revenue
- Apply to different organisations
 - EU funding
 - Make app. 2014-2020 CAP
 - Search for investors
- Crowdfunding, share expenses
- Fundraising events, auctions

Land

- Check whether there is an organization that facilitates **farm succession** in your country
- **REVOLUTION OF DIRECT PAYMENTS (PER HECTAR)**
- Ask big farms in the surroundings if they want to **rent** a piece of their land
- Start a **crowdfunding** campaign to buy land
- Contact foundations which lent funds or which can acquire land and that we can reimburse at special conditions (time limit)
- Creating the fields into mountains like cascades and converting the mountains into field of work
- Working with protected areas (nature reserves)



- Writing announcement in the newspaper or among circle of the friends
- Contact directly (old) farmers, create a land network between young and old farmers
- Proposing labels for regional projects
- Working on local species : adapted plants, seed bank

Buildings

- Sharing some storage rooms with neighbours
- Low cost, low maintenance, easy construction
 - local resources & skills
 - ecological building → straw balls construction + clay = also economical & healthy
- Building with your neighbours and farm members



privacy to be preserved

- Asking for volunteers
 - your community
 - through your website
 - WWOOF & other volunteering organisations

for doing the finalisations (e.g. painting etc.)

Workshops on (alternative) building techniques can bring more volunteers

- Legislation – what are you allowed to build, is there a way around it?
- Plan-what buildings are needed



surface & use: to be determined rapidly in the process. Influences cost very much

- Resources saving systems (water recycling for example) to be involved from the start, before building
- Money! Funds for projects

Animals

- They are really cool!
- Which are suitable where? (database → who gathers all info from all regions? Participatory research → E.U. funded)

- Diversification, shared grazing

- Buy animals → costs?



Funding:  "buy a sheep" crowdfunding



Funding: CSA with members paying the price of the animal

- Receive animals (taking over)

- Food for the animals: grown on site

grown in cooperation with other farmers or nature preserved areas

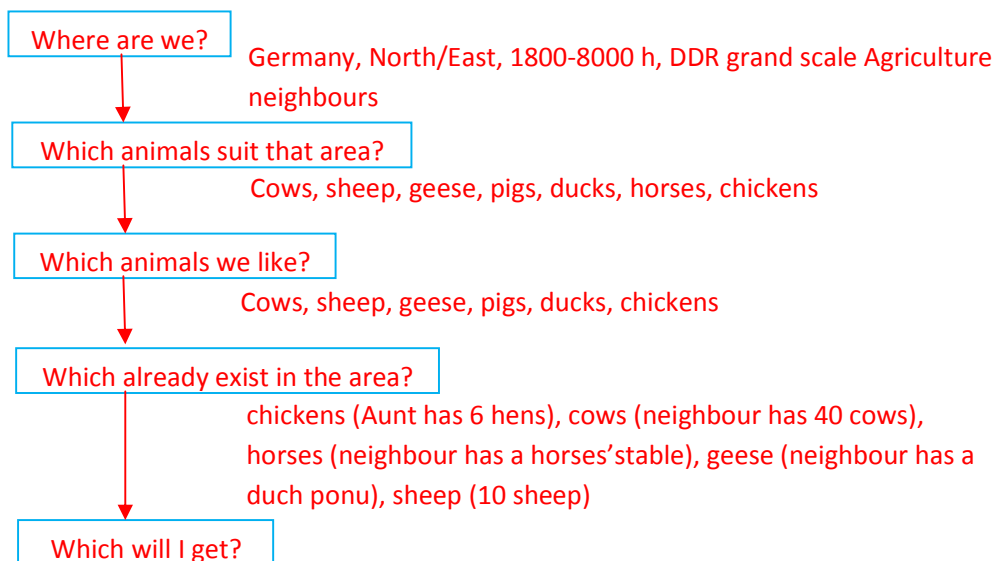


RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

- **Animal shelter: legal limitations/possibilities**
 - construction type (needs of animals)
 - additional buildings (feed storage, milking parlor ...)
- **vet/antibiotics/health costs/homeopathic**
- **Animal traction**
- **LOWER "PLEMENARY" (BREEDING RIGHTS) RESTRICTIONS FOR SMALL FARMERS**
- **Function of animals on the farm: clean up beds**
 - income from meat \approx butcher
 - milk /dairy
- **Animal treatment = surface per head, way to slaughter, ...**

Animals: example: Bössower/Storhenhof ME/Germany (Example of thinking process for the animals)

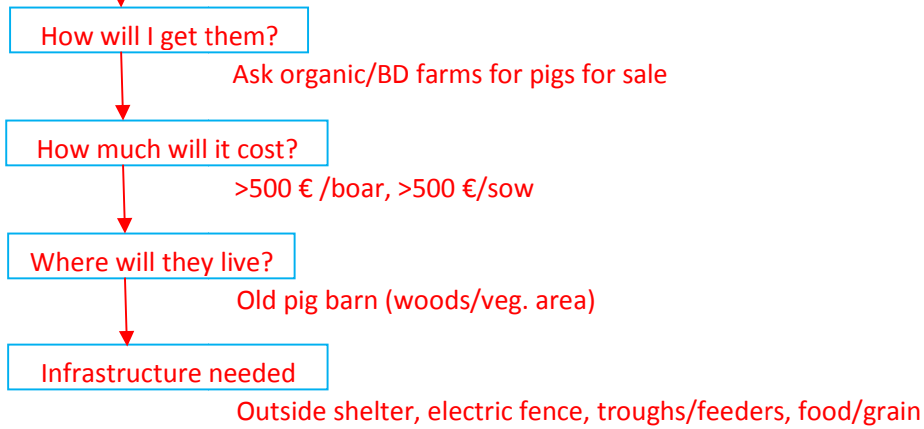




RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

Pigs (2 sows + 1 boar)



Processing

- What makes sense where?
- Receive feedback from consumers about products and packaging.
- Collaborating with neighbours who have proper equipment (cooperation)
- Recruitment of skilled processors
- Infrastructure: has to be approved (legal framework)
 - or find a way around the legal framework? (e.g. closed club for members only)
 - mobile craftsman for some activities (EX: mobile slaughter)?
- Knowledge of how to do it
 - build on local traditions
- GUIDELINES FOR SMALL PRODUCERS – “LOWER” HYGIENE STANDARDS
- Find customers to sell directly to
 - market study on each/some products
 - working with pre-order or demand
- Ways of storing the processed items
 - legal aspects
 - (trying to decrease amount of stored) what is good to be stored (e.g. potatoes & see above(r))
- Make unusual products → niche markets
 - make special production volume for testing
- Using a good standard of packing for our products.



Marketing

- **DIRECT MARKETING**
- Creating a website, using social media marketing, facebook, twitter, ...
- Be part of exhibitions
- Making flyers, marketing on papers



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

- Make site visit to the consumers, inform them of the best things
- Installing connections with local consumers (open air farmer markets, farm shop, weekly deliveries)
- Events on the farm for the people (cooking workshops, grilling, festivals, weed-dating, ...), **eco-camps**
- Co-working with local caterings & **public institutions**
- Consumer participation actions in the production (day of field planting → harvesting → cooking)
- **TEACH PEOPLE TO GO TO RURAL TO SPEND THERE AFTERNOON → WEEKEND**
- Establish a discount system for regular consumers
- **Community supported agriculture (CSA)**
- Sell your sustainable farm ideas to the (potential) customer

Community-social aspects

Living together

- Have farmers of different specialties on one farm in order to go multi-purpose production. All spheres have some responsible person, but everybody helps when it is needed.
- **Shared housing**
 - shared meals
 - shared child and elderly care!



how many times per week/month?

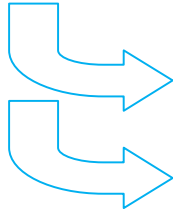
- **Seasonal festivals**
 - Easter
 - Michaelmas (Harvest festival)
 - Christmas
- Have celebrations
- Non-violent communication
- Don't mix work problems with community life **how?**
- Circles of discussion
 - community life
 - work

(sociocracy)
- Place for visitors/wwoofers/intern house/mediators/counselor between in house people and between in house and external people
- **People living on the farm but working elsewhere? + +**
Not all who live on the farm should work there



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

- Decision-making process to be decided in advance (or “in advance”? – I could not fully understand the handwriting)



avoid future conflicts

conflict-solving method

WE ARE HUMANS ! THERE ARE ALWAYS CONFLICTS

I	→ Am I meant to live in community?
US	→ sociocracy → consensus → where are the limits of sharing?
MAKE IT STRONG	→ Celebrations

Social farming

funding opportunities



- Working with children, handicap people, care farms (elderly,)
- LONG TERM CONTRACT-MUNICIPALITY SCHOOLS, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS
- Payment according to income (C.S.A.)



Dottenfelderhof: no payment, just take what you need?

- Attracting unemployed people to farm, at least for part-time job./ Spreading the ideas of biodynamic agriculture among people by introducing excursions where people could learn what organic farming is about.
- Welcome refugees, roms (amazing workers!), immigrants, etc. delinquent youths
- WWOOF/HELIX
- Solidarity: each one does according to his/her capabilities
- Donate surplus

Local partnerships

- Share tools, knowledge, Time !
- COMMON ACTIVITIES – PROMOTION, TOURISM,



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

- Soil rotation between farms (if they are small). Bringing neighbour's products on farmer's markets, or doing it in terms. → diversified products
- Establishing some festive markets, attracting people & selling products to them. Open days at the farm
- "Agriculture is solidarity"
 - shared financial pressure and burden
 - common insurance fund
- Cooperate with nature protection organisations
- Cooperate with local schools (school garden on the farm made by children)
- Define the type of agriculture/growing we want: organic/biodynamic? or also conventional? For which branches of the activities?
- Events for local consumers (self pick day), workshops, opportunity to volunteer on the farm

Farm school

- SHORT TERM COURSES – FOCUSED
 - cooperation with normal and alternative schools in the surroundings
- Visits on farm of the public & schools (elementary, high school)
- 1 week course ("The School Otherwise")
- Create internships for students to work on the farm during the holidays, gaining some practical knowledge in the sphere of agriculture. → FEI
- Invite "teachers" as mentors, theoretical and practical
- Apprenticeship (min. 3 years) and exchange with other farms (regional, national, European)
- (Just) enjoy Nature with children
- Internships
- Share/Teach old farmers knowledge
- Permaculture?
- Cooperation with other schools for organisation of eternal classes
- Infrastructure
- Teachers who where/are farmers
- Research institute/centre
- Examples:- La Ferme du Bec-Helloiun in France

-

Activities (sport, events, festivals)

- Creating a mini league of sports, where the community can be involved (how relates with agriculture/farm?)
- Organising night event's for the people who want to taste our products free (without money) like wine, eggs, meat, ?
- Open-doors days, grill days



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

- Harvest festivals & weeding festival/days/speed dates
- Making art & cooking workshops for team-building
- Make a school garden
- ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG FAMILIES (Like?)
- Involving kids into helping on the farm by playing competitive games who win gather more harvest or weeds or Colorado beetles
- Have/invite artists/poets/storytellers/craftsmen/theater people/musicians, so the “land workers” don’t have to do that as well. Shared skills etc.
- Yoga sessions
- Discovering wild plants
 - cooking with it
 - healing with it
 - edible weeds (weeding & harvesting on the same time)
- Farm visits
- Parties, weddings
- Planting/weeding contest 😊

Seed synergies working group

SEED SYNERGIES – Forum Synergies on the topic of Seeds – 201?, Idanha-a-Nova, Portugal

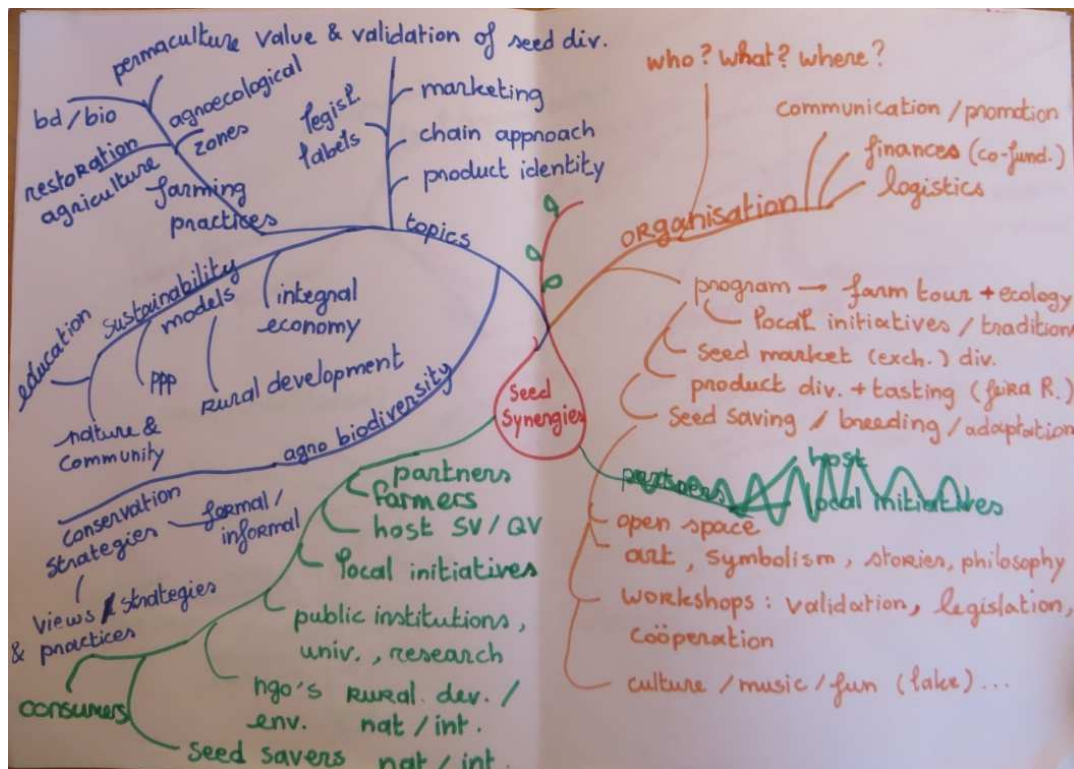


Figure 7 Proto map of the seed synergies event.

Main topic: The Value and Validation of Seed Diversity.



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

Host: Sementes Vivas/Quintas Vivas, Portugal – an establishing organic/biodynamic seed company and self-sufficient farm, with a community set-up.

Short summary: In relation to seeds, current challenges we could identify in the organic chain are:

- The limited use of organic seeds for the production of organic products
- Limited cooperation and vertical integration within the chain (seed to plate), due to which products don't get the value or appreciation they could potentially get
- The lack of cooperation and understanding between the formal and informal seed 'sector', meaning the commercial companies and the seed savers.
- The increasing loss of knowledge and practices of seeds as a cultural heritage, agrobiodiversity and seed saving and breeding.

A Seed Synergies gathering could bring together many relevant actors down the chain, from seed savers, to farmers, gardeners, consumers, seed companies, ngo's working on rural development, public institutions, research institutes, universities, processors and retailers, local actors, the municipality and legislators.

Sementes Vivas as the host could provide for a suitable location, as the farm will be established in one or two years and seed production as well as seed cleaning will be done on site. The curriculum of Sementes Vivas is broad and will include not only organic/biodynamic seed production, but also breeding, education and restorative agricultural approaches.

The focus of the gathering would be to **celebrate (local) seed diversity**, share knowledge and practices, create more understanding, awareness and new synergies. As well as the recognition that this rich cultural heritage needs our collective attention. We envisioned a preliminary program that could support this:

- Day 1: Arrivals (Lisbon)
- Day 2 Morning: Transport to Idanha-a-Nova + farm tour
- Day 2 Afternoon: Regional tour (ecology/culture)
- Day 2 Evening: presentation of participants and initiatives
- Day 3 Morning: Seed exchange & Product market (celebrate diversity)
- Day 3 Afternoon: market of initiatives on different conservation strategies, views and practices on seed saving and breeding
- Day 3 Evening: Seed Art, Philosophy (peace work), Music
- Day 4 Morning: Farming practices, seed saving, breeding and local adaptation seminar
- Day 4 Afternoon: working groups on product validation, legislation, cooperation, ...
- Day 4 Evening: Art, Music
- Day 5: Return



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

It will be important to provide enough rest, energizers, fun, wonderful food and pleasant accommodation. Essential will be the enthusiastic involvement of the Sementes Vivas team, the network and Forum Synergies.

Future of farming - farm succession, access for citizens to farm land and support entrepreneurship working group

This working group consists of two working sub-groups. One of them is the ***“Rural development programme”*** working subgroup and the other one is ***“How to support the process of farm succession?”*** working subgroup. Below are their reports:

Rural developement programme

Aim:

The aim of the programme is to help future farmers through financial assistance and entrepreneurial education.

The programme launches for the first time and we do expect to get some comments/advices from the people who are familiar with agriculture.

Being a part of the programme you will get:

- Education
- Supervision of doing or creating of the business plan
- Loans from the bank with low commissions/interests
- Support from your village community

- ***You must create new working opportunities for people from your community***

What do we need?

- Your commitment to be a part of the programme
- your application

Long term perspective

- establish more "Rural developement programmes" & networks throughout Europe
- Forcing the existing ones
- Exchange 'best practices'

How to support the process of farm succession

Bernadett & Dorothea (Austria, NEL & Germany, Hofgruender.de) are both interested to support these processes as advisors. So they were talking about how to use effects of synergy between them, just with the focus, what are they doing or what would they like to do as an advisor.



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

The aims they are sharing are:

- respectful collaboration with and between the clients (successor and presuccessor)
- transfer knowledge to both sides about the solutions that could be possible
- develop visions and opportunities with their clients
- connect the old farmers with the future farmers, including their visions and ideas

They figured out what they need to put these aims into practice:

- coaching for the old farmers and the future farmers
- creating meetings and workshops for potential clients and other actors in the field of farm succession
- extending media work (to strengthen awareness of the meaning of thinking in a process)
- networking

The concrete ideas, what they could do as next steps, are:

- to coach and supervise each other during their practice as advisors
- to exchange experiences and knowledge about farm succession
- networking
- media work: for example to create a common newsletter for actors, other advisors and clients

The idea of how to support transferors and successors is near to some ideas of the future farmers movement, so it is important to be in contact with them and share experiences.

Creating land-art

After the work in the groups, we prepared for the art session (figure 8).



Figure 8 Ready for the land-art session!

We walked till the nearby forest where Irma Horstman, a land artist, was expecting us. She told us that she has place sticks with red peppers on top along the forest's side path (figure 9). We had to choose a red pepper stick and work in group with the people that were choosing the same red pepper stick. We had also to connect the art pieces between them.



Figure 9 Irma Horstman explaining the red pepper sticks and the creation of the creative groups

The compound picture below (figure 10) is illustrating the art pieces and the creative atmosphere in the woods.



Figure 10 Land-art creations into the woods

Energizer – Rhythm Circle and People to People

We did a rhythm circle, creating improvised music, using garbage bags, hands, feet and other body parts. After that we played “people to people”.

Cool initiatives and organisations

Hannes Lorenzen presented the *European Rural Parliament*, Liljana Tanevska presented the *Forum Synergies* and Micha Lubbers presented the *Youth Food Movement*; his ppt presentation is available on a joined document. Their presentations were recorded after asking their permission. Here are the transcripts of Hannes Lorenzen and Micha Lubbers and the summary of Liljana Tanevska presentations:

Hannes: “Ok!We would like to do three [?\(02:32\)](#) before we come to reporting of the working groups and that’s a little input on other fields in which you might be interested. One is the *European Rural Parliament*. What is that? It has a tradition. It was initiated many years ago in Sweden where people thought “Well, the rural areas are totally forgotten. We have to make something which connects people in the rural areas” and they called it the rural parliament. And they started bringing together rural communities, meeting every 2nd year to discuss what do they have in common. It’s almost the same thing what we are doing here. So: “What do we have in common?”, “What is going well?”, “What is not going well?”, “What do we want to change in



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

the policy frameworks?”, “What can we do ourselves in order to solve our problems?”. And from Sweden this kind of developed in the whole Scandinavian countries, then to Estonia, then to many Eastern European countries to do the same thing, every 2 years to do gatherings. Anita from Latvia for instance, the rural forum of Latvia has already organised 2, no? Was it 2? They are ... I think they have already organised 10 in Estonia, is that right? There are others now just starting. I won't mention them all, but you see here one is the Latvian rural parliament. So, it is gathering, it is helping each other to understand what is needed, where the good examples is, where good practices are and to give the message to the politicians “What is needed that we can continue this?”. And we have 2 years ago organised in Brussels the first *European Rural Parliament*, we don't have rural parliaments everywhere in Europe, but already ... How many countries? Do you know? I think it's now something like 12 or 13(04:54), but is growing and we will have in 2 weeks the 2nd *European Rural Parliament* in Austria. At that occasion we expect something like 250 people from something like, I think, 35 countries now. That's I think the level we've reached. So, more that we have represented here. And there was a process before we were able to organize that and that was: we were asking rural champions, national champions, to find out where the energy is, who is doing what. And then to have a message from each country from these rural movements to say: “What do you think is important?”, “What is the important message for you to other rural movements in Europe?” and then “What is the message from you towards European institutions, governments and what so ever?”. So this gathering will take place from the 3rd November to the 7th November in Schärding in Austria. And we've gathered something, well, a number of ideas which we have put together into a book which will be published on the situation of rural areas in Europe and it's not only the E.U., it's also Balkan countries, it's also ?(06:21) and also our neighbors in Europe, so not limits! No limits! And out of all those contributions, we've made a manifesto, the rural manifesto that will be adopted in 2 weeks in Schärding in Austria. Why do I tell you that? There is one paragraph of 6 lines missing. Guess about what! Youth! So, I would like to invite you, whoever likes to do that, to sit together in a small group during dinner or whatever and make a proposal really to boil everything down to 5 lines, what is important? Not an easy task, but that would be our message to that manifesto and I very much hope that it's going to be included like that, very simple and at the same time very difficult task. I think you should have a look at this website: european rural parliament dot eu (<http://www.europeanruralparliament.eu>). And if anybody of you is interested to come, welcome. I think we cannot without limit accept people, but there are still places free. So let me know if you would be interested to be there. At the moment I can only say all the costs of being there and food and everything is covered. The only problem could be for you the transport costs, but maybe there are other solutions we can find. So, if you want that, if you really want to be there, let me know and we can discuss it. You will be there?”

Forum synergies presentation consisted of the current initiatives. The ongoing scholarships were presented as possibility for the workshop participants to join, the ongoing initiatives on forestry and civil dialogue were presented and the web page forum- synergies.eu (<http://www.forum-synergies.eu/>) as a spot of resources, initiatives, materials and possibilities. Participants were invited to join ongoing and propose new initiatives.



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

Micha: "This is a ... I will introduce myself later. This is our new website, we're really proud of, mostly because we made this pretty awesome movie. I am not 100% sure if it is really loading perfectly. It's a little bit [?\(19:41\)](#) Yeah, it does. That's a real [soup\(19:50\)](#), actually, so ... It's still living, no worries ... Show you guys later a bit more... Oh, this is awesome. I think they worked on it for quite some time, so yeah ... Ah, yeah, thanks for having me. My name is Micha Lubbers, I am the chairman of the board of the *Youth Food Movement*. Joris asked ... asked us to tell something about our movement in The Netherlands, but also worldwide, cause we're part of the Slow Food Movement which I will explain a bit later. Yeah ... and we want to make a change in this world through food. And ... uh... yeah, that's me serving food in ... at an event we hosted in Amsterdam, is called "It's the food" ... Actually someone from the Youth Food Movement made a plate which is made completely of sugar, but it's like a honey friendly dish in a way that everything is not prepared honey, but it's all different types of ... well ... plants and stuff bees go to ... ah ... yeah ... And I wanted to show you this movie. Hopefully it loads well. [Wow\(21:34\)](#). (Movie playing) And ... this is actually the result of an event we ... we were part of, where actually the Slow Food Youth Network organize in Milan a couple of weeks ago and this is the result. There was the result ... I come back later. There was a letter to the world as we say and also response to the [?\(23:10\)](#) letter he wrote in 1972. Ah, I'll tell you something about the Slow Food Youth Network or the *Youth Food Movement* as we call ourselves in the Netherlands. [Oouh\(23:21\)](#), this is on the left top. Ah, tell you something about ... what we do, what type of things we do, how we do it and then what we're part of and if you want how you can participate. Well, what is the *Youth Food Movement*? It's a member organisation in the Netherlands, but also worldwide it's part of the Slow Food Youth Network and that's part of Slow Food worldwide organisation with more than 300 000 members ... and it has different departments in countries and in the Netherlands the Youth department started in 2009. And we have different regions now in the Netherlands and it's an organisation of young farmers, just consumers, chefs, people working in science, people working in policy, all these different people together and we think that's the strength of our organisation. This is [?\(24:34\)](#) the last years and he is a dairy farmer and he was at one of our events in Milan as well. This organisation is about good, clean and fair food. Good when it comes to taste, real products, good quality, good taste. Clean is about the impact on the environment when it comes to pesticides, but also how you go along with the soil, but also in relation to nature. And fair when it comes to the price of the farmer and everything along the food chain. That's what the ideology base of the Slow Food Movement is about. And this is our director in the middle, [Yossi\(25:19\)](#). She actually thinks farmers are cool. She is not a farmer herself, but two on the side are actually old students of here actually. And [Henk\(25:33\)](#) on the right side and [Gerard\(25:35\)](#) on the left side, they were in Milan as well. And we think we can make a change in the food system. As I ... as you all probably know and as I try to show in the movie is that we think the food system if you can speak of like a real food system, but all the systems together is ... is going the wrong way and we want to change that system and we think we can change that system top down as well as bottom up. So you need two directions and we believe that ideas and projects and innovative ideas from the bottom up can be inspiring, but you need the strength and you need to work together to get ...



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

to be an alternative for the current systems, **to say(26:24)**. So you have to interact with government, you have to interact with the current food chain, but you also have to inspire people to be part of your movement, but also to work as an entrepreneur or as a farmer and see that you are not standing alone. Well, and in the end we want to make that change as you see. Well as I explained we are not just here in the Netherlands. It is worldwide, this is I think a pretty old map, but I could not find a new one. Is where the Slow Food Youth Network is active now, there is new departments coming up, I would say every day, but that is not true, but there is new, new departments coming up ... And yeah, what do we do? We have different actions. This was an action in the past. This is Krispijn on the right. He is a potato farmer and this is actually on the Dam square in Amsterdam to show the general public the ... to show the prices they get for the potatoes isn't a fair price. But if you say that people, well they will not notice if you just put that straight up on the news or whatever, if you put it like up in their face people say "Why you do that?", "Why are you wasting those potatoes?", you can say "Well, it doesn't matter cause I don't get a fair price.". We also educate. So we want to show young people in our yearly academy the different parts of the food chain, industrial, biological, all these different parts of the food chain and we do it in a very interactive way. So we visit different places as I will show later. Yeah, that's what we do. And we organize events and we think, well, food can be fun. This is an event in **?(28:35)** in Italy on the Terra Madre. And ... yeah, we think you can have really good conversations and you can have a really good party afterwards, nothing wrong with that. Well, how do we do that? As I said we organize lectures, but we do in a bit different way, we think. This is "It's the food", as I showed you I was serving there, we had some lectures that you can see on the **?(29:07)**, but we had some different lectures from farmers, people who work in the policy, all from our movement telling their own story: why they are active, why they are in the movement, what they are actually doing. But then we had a dinner and this ... this dinner was about all things that actually ... the ... well, mainly cows eat. So it was corn, also be compared with fish, cows are not eating fish of course, but all these different types of vegetables and stuff that normally goes to ... well goes into meat and people eat it indirectly, but now people eat it directly and there was part of the story. And there was a little bit of food waste there as well. So the food was wasted or otherwise thrown away by super markets or other markets was used to cook. And somebody actually who cooked it told about how she, in this case, she made it, how she made it and the whole story around it. So we want to have the people who produce the food, people who cooked the food and people who eat the food connect with each other and have this debate. Ah ... this other thing I told you about is the YFM academy ... Really proud of that, cause is a yearly coming event, it's 9 weeks on a Saturday and you see all these different parts of the food chain and you visit farms, you go to universities, you go to cities to have urban **gardenings ? have(30:40)** that discussion, really big agriculture, small agriculture and the thing is this is a group of 25 young people, but is from all these different parts of the food chain, **they call themselves(30:55)** food professionals, **but all these different ideas(30:58)**. And what we do, we have these different cases, organisations pay for a case ... and we give them like most of the time marketing projects and you see really nice interaction between the different ... well ... different people who participate **?(31:18)**. I just have to say you



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

can still subscribe, this is in Dutch, cause the academy is in Dutch. So if you're Dutch, you can still subscribe for the academy till 9th November(31:28). Ah ... we're not just Dutch, as I said, we just organize a big event in Milan. This is on the expo ... the Terra Madre Giovani, so the Youth Terra Madre as Slow Food Youth Network calls it. This is on the expo in Milan making a statement that ... well not coca-cola or McDonalds is making the food, the farmers are making the food. I think they had really a big impact. You've seen nothing on the news here in the Netherlands, but it was like front page news in Italy. I think there is a really, really big impact if you're there with 2 500 young people, making such a statement and well ... that's very nice. As I said there is this result(32:17), I really recommend you to visit the(32:21) website: feeding the planet dot atavest dot com. Ah ... it's really about movies they made during this event in Milan which was a 3 days event. Ah ... and stories from people who are ... well interacting with the movement. Really nice to visit, short, but really compact and really nice and inspiring. It's feeding the planet dot atavest whit is a - t - a - v - e - s - t dot com. The?(33:04) work as well, but I want to show you?(33:07) first. We have these different regions now, so we do not have like a very strict organisation, is like an organisation which is really bottom up and you see all these different events in the country now being organised based on ... on ... on online, connecting with each other through facebook, twitter, instagram and?(33:35). Ah ... and really, really other important events for us are to the general public, so we're a member organisation, but all these events we organize and this is an event we were a partner in and we are not organising just for ourselves or for our members. We want to show like all these different people that they can easily participate just by being there and maybe have a good meal and have a bit of a chat. Otherwise, we think, we just preaching to the believers. And this is?(34:08) food waste event and, as I said, we cook with food that otherwise is wasted. There is actually a food waste restaurant now in Amsterdam?(34:16) inspired by... by YFM members as well. Ah ... and this is another event we're really proud of, the "Food Film Festival", as it says it's food, it's a lot of good food there, it's a lot of films about all these topics concerned with agriculture and food and it's a festival! So ... there is a bit of a party there. Ah ... and as you see is all organised by, well, young people in ... well they're quite enthusiastic at least in this picture. Ah ... recently we had, we participate in this project,?(34:58), it's about the Common Agricultural Policy,?(35:00) is organising it. Ah ... we had an opening event in Milan as well and ... as you see there is a chef there,?(35:09), and he is cooking a project truffle and the truffle farm itself is also there, so we had a bit of a discussion about that, but he is also an old chairman of the board of SIGIA(35:21), so it talks a little bit of the Common Agricultural Policy and this whole thing is about ah ... getting people to know what the Common Agricultural Policy is about. Well that's just very briefly who we are, what we do, why we do it. I just want to ask you just ...please join us ... We are not just in the Netherlands. We are, I would say almost everywhere, but that's not true. We're in many countries, Slow Youth Food Network and it's easy to start up a Slow Food Youth Network in your region as they are formats available and yeah ... very inspiring examples from other regions from Uganda, Australia, Latin America, well as I said the Netherlands, Italy of course, ah ... So, yeah, please join and otherwise just follow us on facebook, twitter and keep



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

asking us stuff. Ah, yeah, that's pretty much what we do, so yeah. I have time for some questions, so I kept it short."

Plenary

We presented the work in the working groups (figure 11, 12).



Figure 11 Presentation of the "Rural development in Eastern Europe" working group



Marija Tomic

Figure 12 Presentation of the "Future Farmers Movement" working group



Marija Tomic

Figure 13 Presentation of the "How to start a farm?" working group



Marija Tomic

Figure 14 Presentation of the "Seed synergies" working group



Marija Tomic

Figure 15 Presentation of the "Future of farming - farm succession, access for citizens to farm land and support entrepreneurship" working group



Cultural dinner

Food and drink specialties as well as some poetry, music and dances help us share some of the culture of our countries (figure 16). We made a big circle around four tables that were full with these specialties and we explained what we brought (figure 17).



Figure 16 Food and drink specialties as well as traditional songs and dances and national poetry composed the cultural dinner



Lucie Sovova

Figure 17 Explaining what we brought as cultural item from our country of origin

Sunday

Presentation of conclusions

The last session consisted of a round of the summary of the report of each working group and a small talk about what each group is thinking to do after the workshop. Moreover, the proposal from the rural youth and young farmers' workshop as part of the Manifesto in the European Rural Parliament was presented and feedback on it was asked. The text that was developed and updated is:

"Many young people are ready to stay in, or move into, rural areas and to take responsibility as farmers, rural entrepreneurs or citizens for the future well-being of rural economies and communities. We see the need to innovate while building upon traditions and good practices. But we need effective education systems, vocational training, access to land, housing, credit and cultural activity, and specific support to young farmers and entrepreneurs. We call on governments and civil society to focus resources on this crucial issue of securing the energy of youth and promoting intergenerational cooperation for the sustainable future of Europe's rural areas."

Creating the European map of connections

Afterwards a blank European map was presented to us (figure 18). On it we creatively mapped how we are connected (figure 19)!



Figure 18 European blank map



Figure 19 European map with connections



RY&YFW - Dronten - the Netherlands

forum  synergies

The end: new memories and a new beginning

During the last moments of the workshop we shared the impressions from the workshop. Here are some of the reflections shared:

We would like to have this workshop next year again!

The discussions of the gathering and the spirit of the workshop will provide us with new possibilities!

Unique possibility for exchanges of differences and visions and personal visions!

I'm impressed by the richness of the workshop and to network with all participants!

Now we have to act! We have responsibility to act!

We had a diverse food table as a symbol of connections and passions we can carry on for future farming! We should have practical exchanges of farming experiences in the future!

We can create future and cooperate and it's our challenge to do it!

We have to continue to share and boost this energy!

My Reflections are getting stronger and puts me in real connections with the life and the inspiration for future!

I have passion, the map in the head and heart to carry on.

We have a map for "epochal train" on which we are all passengers!

We ended the workshop by dancing under the Forum Synergies' song, a song which lingered in our minds for days and days ... and which still is as well as the image from below (figure 20)!



Figure 20 Till next time we greet you and welcome you to join our European map of connections