

We create our rural future!

Rural Youth & Young Farmers Workshop

22-25 October 2015, Dronten, the Netherlands

REPORT





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Acknowledgement



We would like to thank the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation, the Dutch Biodynamic Association and the Warmonderhof!

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 22-25 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 (figure X), 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, 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. But one important dream they had in common. 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. Hard work. Very hard work. Most of the work was done by hand.



In the war the polder played an important role. Lots of people were hiding there for the Nazis as in the area it was relatively quiet. Some of the polder pioneers had to wait until 1950 until they were sure if they got their farm.

We continued with a nice dinner (figure X).

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



Friday

Energizer

The day started with the energizer. First we did some exercising moves (figure X). Afterwards, we created the map of Europe by positioning ourselves in the room according to our country in relation to the other participants (figure X).

Short introduction to the day

.....The introduction was related to the programme of the Day the timings in the agenda and the expected outputs from the day. Technical arrangements of the day were presented and logistical arrangements for the day.

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:

Market of initiatives

During the market of initiatives some participants gave short presentations about their organisations and 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, i.e. 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:

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



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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!

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.

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](#) 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



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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:

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,*



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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.

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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.



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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.

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
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<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 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



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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 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 (ArbeitsgemeinschaftBäuerlicheLandwirtschaft), 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)



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- 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 Witzhausen 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:

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).

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

- Annette Harberink, NatuurderijKeizersrande - 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



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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 eathships 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 Zonnegoed) 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

The aim of this energizer was to find out how we are connected through the small specific to ourselves things that we like, such as for example the smell of freshly cut grass, working outside while raining etc. So, we created a network and we found out the properties of a network:

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" with 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 seeded up the work. Some architectural elements of the houses were also simplified, in order to keep it cheaper and faster made, because of short construction terms. The project was financed by private money and bank mortgage.

Main principle of the association management is sociocracy, when all the people delegate decision making right to the selected group, where decisions are 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 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



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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: Grass was gathered as symbol of cooperation between the farmers. There was the soil with the shells as symbol of a very expensive land and 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

We started the day with some exercising moves and continued with a massage cycle.

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 X). 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.

Working in Groups

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

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

Here is the report of each working group:

Rural development in Eastern Europe working group:

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.

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



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- **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
 - 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

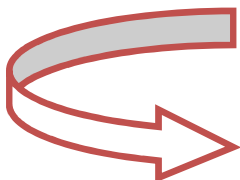


How to start a farm working group

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



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- 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
- 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 ≈ butcher
 - milk /dairy
- Animal treatment = surface per head, way to slaughter, ...

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

Where are we?

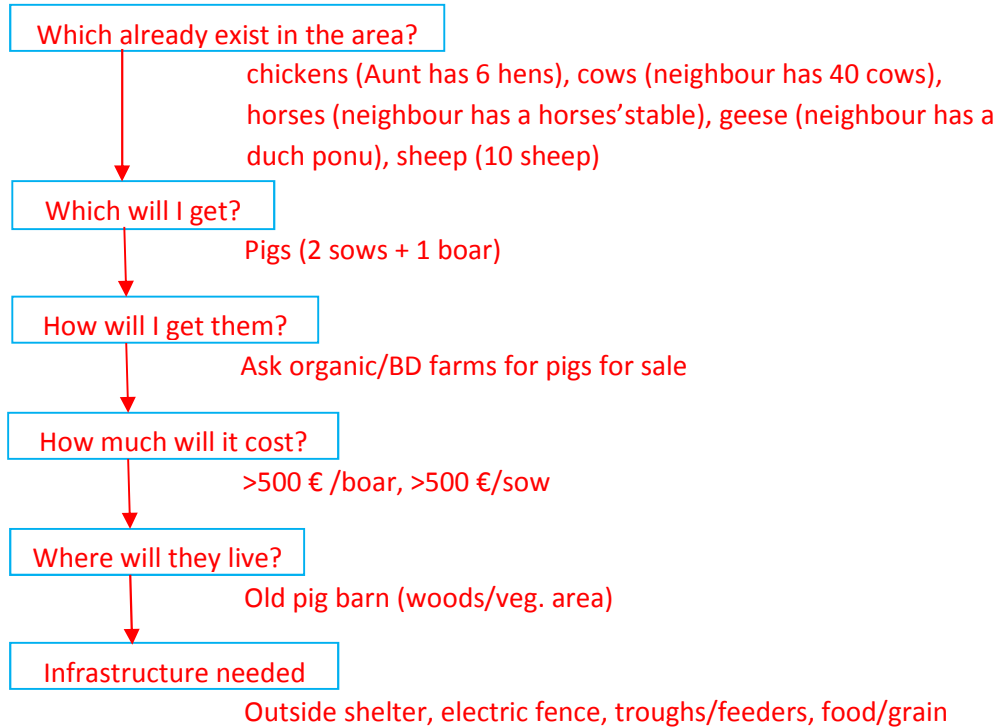
Germany, North/East, 1800-8000 h, DDR grand scale Agriculture neighbours

Which animals suit that area?

Cows, sheep, geese, pigs, ducks, horses, chickens

Which animals we like?

Cows, sheep, geese, pigs, ducks, chickens



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
 } marketing
- 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
- 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!

separate housing & eating 😊
private space



how many times per week/month?

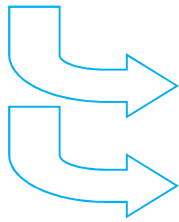
- **Seasonal festivals**
 - Easter
 - Michaelmas (Harvest festival)
 - Christmas
- Have celebrations
- Non-violent communication
- Don't mix work problems with community life **how?**
- Circles of discussion → community life

(sociocracy)



work

- Place for visitors/woofers/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
- Decision-making process to be decided in advice (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 SHCOOLS, 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/HELPIX



- Solidarity: each one does according to his/her capabilities
- Donate surplus

Local partnerships

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

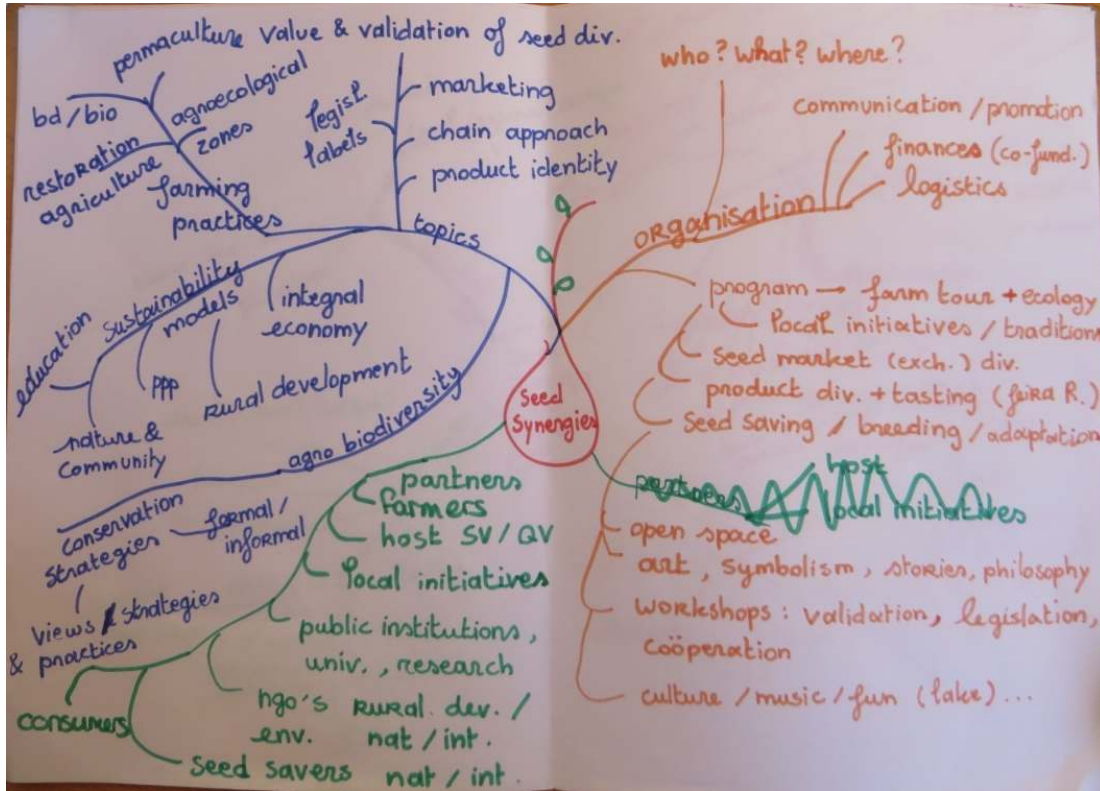


Figure 1 Proto map of the seed synergies event.

Main topic: The Value and Validation of Seed Diversity.

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



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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.

OUT

A Forum Synergies edition on the topic of seeds can be a good opportunity for Sementes Vivas to invite a broad (national and international) network of people and organisations working on seeds and rural development.

Short summary: In relation to seeds, some problems 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, 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, agro-biodiversity and seed saving and breeding.



Creating land-art

After the work in the groups, we prepared for the art session (figure X). 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 X). 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. The pictures below (figure X) are illustrating the art pieces and the atmosphere in the woods.

Energizer

We created music with garbage bags and our bodies and after that we played "people to people".

Plenary

We presented the work in the working groups (figure X).



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.

.....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 as a spot of resources, initiatives, materials and possibilities. Participants were invited to join ongoing and propose new initiatives.

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 X). We made a big circle around four tables that were full with these specialties and we explained what we brought (figure X).

Sunday

PUT ACTIONS IN REALITY! Riding on the roads of our map.

Presentation of conclusions

The last session consisted of the proposal from the rural youth and young farmers workshop as part of the Manifesto in the European Rural parliament. 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”

The participants have also shared the impressions from the workshop. Here are some of the expressions 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!



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

Im 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 its 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!