



# Agroecology in Amsterdam



## The Roots & Shoots

Annet van Hoorn  
PowerPoint made by Tobia Jones



# A Sequence



## The Roots of Agroecology

### Why Agroecology Now?

Meeting ecological needs

Meeting social needs

### Agroecology in the Netherlands

### Agroecology & Cities

#### Shoots of Agroecology in Amsterdam

Urban

Peri-Urban

Promoting Agroecological Urbanism

Opportunities & Challenges

# The Roots of Agroecology



**Horizontal Exchanges**

**Cooperation between peasant communities & interdisciplinary teams of scientists**

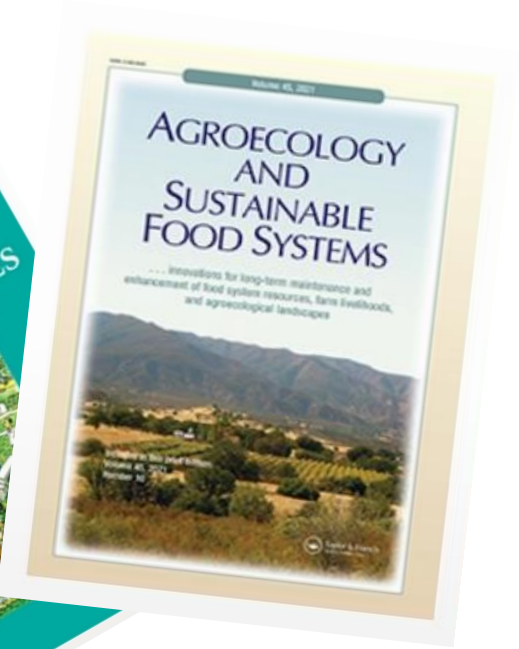
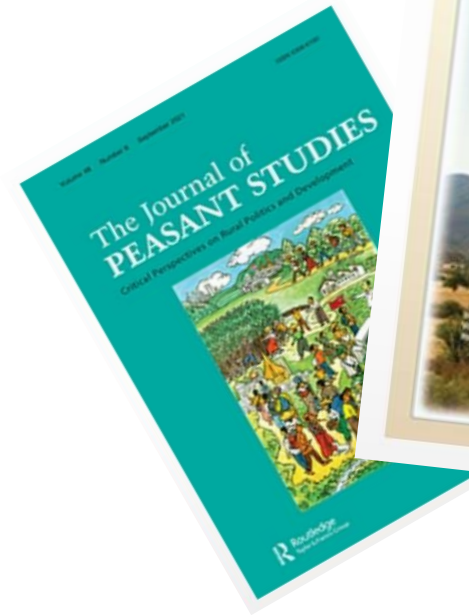


**Resistance to the Green Revolution**



# Multidimensional & Dynamic Roots

- A holistic and integrated **science**
  - A set of principles and **practices**
  - A **movement** for social & environmental justices
- => Strategies to transition & transform our food systems



# Food Sovereignty Movement



“the **right** of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food (re)produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their **right** to define their own food and agriculture systems,” (Nyéléni, 2007)

A countermovement to the dominance of industrial agricultural practices, power of corporations and a highly-processed & import-dependent diet.



Gender equality, anti-racism, youth empowerment



Grassroots, People Power

# Institutionalization

- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other people living in Rural areas (UNDROP) – inc. Rights to land, to seeds
- FAO, state governments, development NGOs promote & fund as a guide to transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems



DIVERSITY



CO-CREATION AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE



SYNERGIES



EFFICIENCY



RECYCLING



RESILIENCE



HUMAN AND SOCIAL VALUES



CULTURE AND FOOD TRADITIONS



RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE



CIRCULAR AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

# Why Agroecology Now?

- Climate Change Emergency
- Biodiversity Crisis – environmental services declining
- Industrial farmers, highly-indebted, dependent on fossil fuels
- 90% of the \$540bn of global agricultural subsidies given to farmers destroy nature and fuel the climate crisis (UN report 2021)
- Health crisis of diet-related diseases, COVID-19, processed industrial food
- 1/3 of world's food is wasted

1/40 tonnes of GHG come from synthetic N fertilizers

25% of global emissions from agriculture & land

**Resilient  
Resourceful & Regenerative**

# Agroecology meets ecological needs

- Civilization, city life – based on food from annuals
- All civilizations based on annuals as a source of food have vanished
- Our civilization is suffering from droughts, hurricanes, dust, heat, floods, climate change because of annuals
- 60% of people live in big cities > 250.000 (2012)

## **Perennial Agriculture:**

- Perennials as the source of food (apples, chestnuts, hazelnuts), fuel, medicines, building materials
- Soils being built, cleaning groundwater, habitats created, beauty restored, CO2 being sequestered
- Savannas – richest biome: best use of sunlight and gases



# Agroecology meets social needs

Healthy land, healthy food, healthy people

- local food production with environmental services

People need to be listened to and have their local knowledge valued and be part of decisions

- co-creation, horizontal learning & direct democracy

People need social justice

- gender equality, racial justice & youth inclusion

People need dignified livelihoods

- economically viable, solidarity economy, cooperatives

# Agroecology in the Netherlands



de BioTuinders



Lobby  
Work groups  
Small-scale tech  
Commons  
Collective land  
ownership



Permacultuur Boeren  
Nederland

# Agroecology in the Netherlands



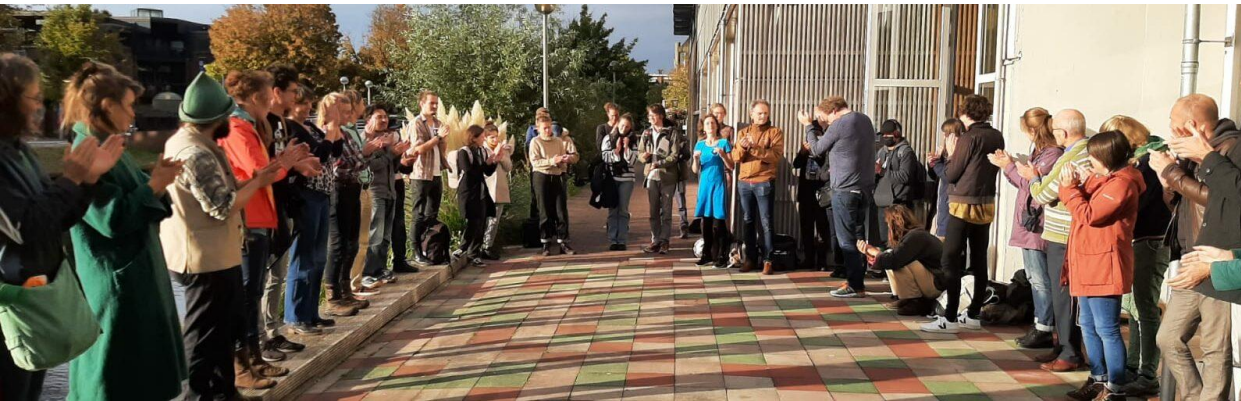
Universiteit  
Leiden



Federatie van  
Agro-ecologische  
Boerenorganisaties



Agroecologie Conferentie Nov 2021



Permacultuur Boeren Nederland



Network Consolidation  
Monday 10-4pm  
Plantage Dok

# Agroecology in the Netherlands

**A European Green Deal**

Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent



## **Dutch policy perspective**

- Transversal principle in element of the EU Green Deal and new CAP (Common Agriculture Policy)
- Translating to 'ecoschemes' & programming 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar funds
- Translated to 'natuur-inklusive landbouw'
  - Guiding principle for farming transition in Noord-Holland
  - Environmental regulations, groundwater & biodiversity protection



**Diluted to technical & ecological practices**

**Limited to rural areas**



# Agroecology & Cities

From urban agriculture to urban agroecology



Havana, Cuba



Rosario, Argentina



Brussels, Belgium



London, UK

# Havana, Cuba

Biodiverse, productive and resilient city farms  
50% of fresh food from urban & peri-urban



**Organopónicas**  
**Agroecology principle design**



Worker Cooperatives

Social consumption

- schools – hospitals , market

Soil quality, intercropping

Organic agrochemical production

# Rosario, Argentina

Grassroots social movement and an institutionalized group

2001 economic crisis – 20 years of experience

Urban Agriculture Program

Green Belt Program

- Protect land, sanction soil depletion and pollution
- Support marginalised groups to rebuild soil & build livelihoods by offering infrastructure



# Rosario, Argentina



Food production on land unsuitable for development

Agroecology Centre

Compost inputs from Municipality  
Seed bank coordination  
Training & Technical Assistance  
Free Access to Markets



**Biointensive - 20kg of produce from 1m<sup>2</sup>**



# Brussels, Belgium

Market Gardeners  
Community Growers  
Citizen Cooperatives

New professional farmers  
- soil health, land reform  
Land trusts

## Brussels Agency for Research & Innovation

ACTION **CO-CREATION**

- Financed 7 action research projects for sustainable food systems (2016)
  - To promote access to healthy food for all
  - To develop a logistical platform for alternative food systems
  - To support transdisciplinary food system knowledge production

Agroecology lab - <https://www.agroecologie-ulb.net/>

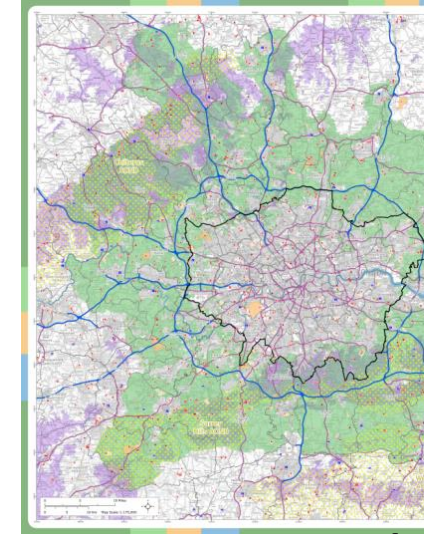
## Brussels Capital Region's Government Agreement (2019)

- Strengthens the **Good Food Strategy**
- Establishment of an **Agroecology Centre** “giving an overview of the best agroecological techniques fitting in an urban environment” including supporting infrastructure, a seed bank and a land observatory



# London, UK

2020 gathering – share ideas to:  
Access land, increase revenue for agroecological producers, engage local authorities and create skills to grow at scale



**Fringe Farming - the potential for peri-urban food growing**

Sustain is delighted to launch our new Fringe Farming project to boost agroecological food production at the edge of UK cities, working in partnership with practitioners and researchers to greatly increase access to land for socially and ecologically beneficial farming close to urban communities.

Share  

Get updates 

Identified data gaps, structural barriers, current opportunities and steps that should be taken to allow this vision to take place



## Fringe Farming project

- Land access facilitation initiatives with a Farm-start programme
- Cooperative farming livelihoods

What about Amsterdam?

# Shoots of peri-urban agroecology in Amsterdam

Voedsel Bos

de Stadsgroenteboer CSA  
- Compost enterprise

 *Fruittuin van west* 

- Biomeiler compost
- Chicken tractor

TUINEN VAN  
WEST

 **CSA**

- Sliding scale
- No dig farming



# Shoots of peri-urban agroecology in Amsterdam



## Boerderij De Meent



- Puts social and ecological values first
- High quality agroecological produce for social projects
- Walk-in houses, reception centers & Social Grocery Store
- Undocumented people co-design, farm & cook



# Shoots of peri-urban agroecology in Amsterdam



Plan Biopolder  
Lutkemeer Polder  
Social movement



# Shoots of urban agroecology in Amsterdam

**Healing**

**Urban food gardens**

**Women  
Empowerment**

**Led by women of colour**



**Social Inclusion  
& Diversity**

**Neighborhood  
Market**

# Shoots of urban agroecology in Amsterdam

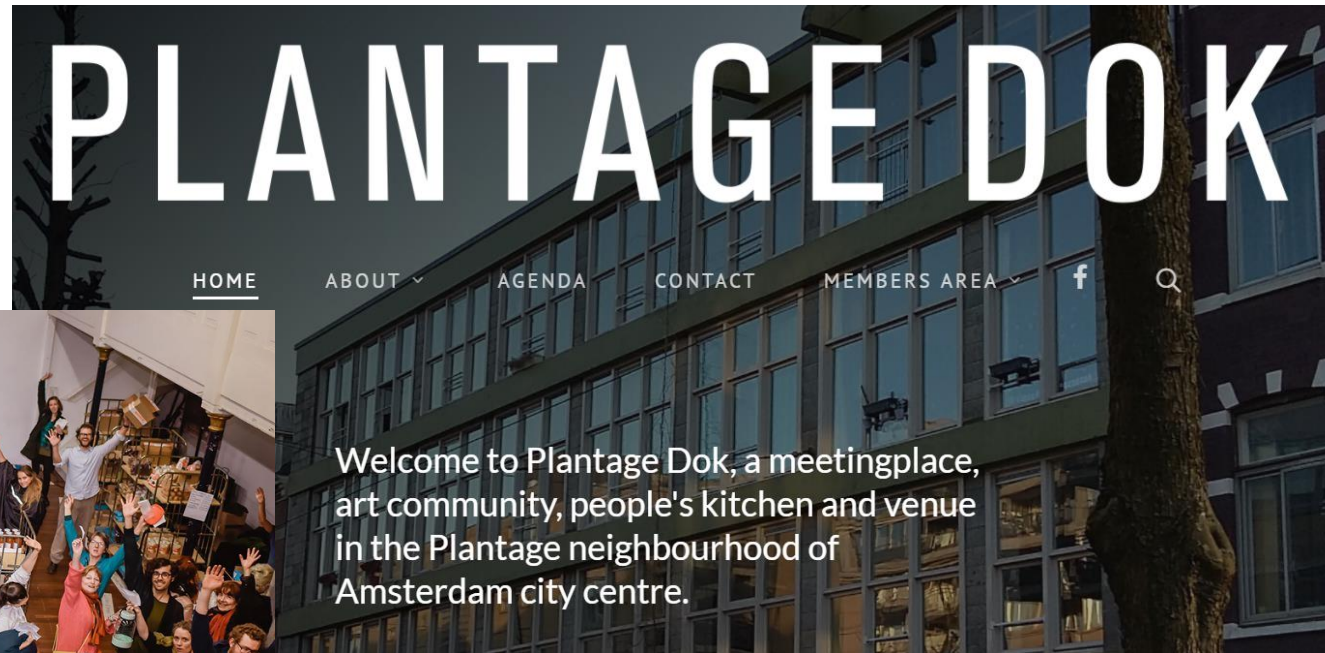
## Noordermarkt



**Direct access to agroecology and organic farmers**



# Shoots of urban agroecology in Amsterdam



vokomokum

ASEED  
EUROPE

# Shoots of urban agroecology in Amsterdam



**Food Coop**

**Community  
Compost**



**Buurtkeuken**

**Social Inclusion**

# Agroecological Urbanism

Agroecology and urban planning combine to enable food system transition. Three main approaches:

1. More commoning
2. An ecology of care with more-than-human solidarities
3. Support resourceful communities with empowering infrastructures



**Conversations towards an  
Agroecological Urbanism**

Image: Tom Brundage, Cambridge Museum, 1900  
Scholar: Kaitlin C. Adkins, www.kaitlinc.com  
© 2014, all rights reserved. Photo: Hugo Maerzke

# More Commoning

- Legal protection of soil and agricultural land (such as green belts, corridors and agricultural parks) from future development
- Land access facilitation initiatives (i.e. land trusts) and farm-start programs that support cooperative farming livelihoods & land justice
- Expand food reproduction on land unsuitable for development, e.g. alongside roads, railways and under powerlines.
- Support consumers' co-operatives, food recovery and solidarity kitchens, open knowledge exchanges and skill-shares

# An ecology of care with more-than-human solidarities

Bring nature back into the urban, and heal the nature-culture divide

1. Reproduce the ecological conditions that enable urban citizens to live (regeneration, not extraction)
2. Mainstream awareness of the interdependencies of biodiversity and soil, plant and human gut health for planetary wellbeing
3. Reclaim time and knowledge for caring functions (soil regeneration, water and nutrient preservation, cooperation with other species)

# Support resourceful communities with empowering infrastructures

Food system transitions need solidarities and investment in collective organization and infrastructure beyond the level of the farm.

- Tap into widely present but rarely used urban resources
- Resource food growers as stewards of soil health and biodiversity
- Build well-equipped urban landscapes that serve agroecological food growing, processing and eating in its full bio-cultural diversity
- Community-based and community-managed food hubs