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# RESOURCE <sup>[ENG]</sup>

For students and employees of Wageningen UR

no 5 – 8 October 2015 – 10th Volume

## Rowing is hot

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




## >> CRISTIAN + REFEREEING

Cristian Dobre, assistant professor, Biometris

### 'It's a competition for us too.'

He didn't quite make the top as a youth player in Romanian football. But since 2011, Cristian Dobre has been working in professional football in the Netherlands as a linesman. For Vitesse-De Graafschap in this case. He does it for the energy he gets from the crowd. 'I'd rather be raising the flag with 20,000 people behind me than blowing the whistle for only 1000.' And the challenge of making the right call in a split second. At 36, he is too old for an international career. But he'd love to do Ajax-Feyenoord one day!  RK / Photo: Paul Meima



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## **QUESTION OF PERCEPTION**

Awful. The leaves are changing colour and there are already piles of them in corners waiting to be swept up. It was still dark when I got up this morning and the traffic queues were three times as long thanks to the first autumn downpours. Quite awful. What I hate even more are the people at work who say they can smell autumn in the air and they so love the changing seasons. 'Wonderful, seeing your breath on a cold autumn morning.' My perceived temperature always drops towards freezing point then. In this case, you can draw a parallel between temperature and speed. More specifically, internet speed. In recent weeks, *Resource* editors have been hearing rumours about slow internet in the buildings. Apparently the network could be overloaded because campus is more crowded. So we went and measured it. Armed with a laptop, we did 'speed tests' in every building, once on a quiet Friday afternoon and once on a busy Monday morning.

To our surprise, we always got a good connection to the digital highway. Further enquiries revealed that the internet speed is good, just a little slower than in the past. According to an expert, that's no reason for complaint; it is simply the perceived speed. Also awful when all's said and done.

*Edwin van Laar*



>> Koi carp with 'cold sore' | p.8

# THE POSITIVE SIDE TO THE FARC

Julian Cortes, a Colombian political refugee and Master's student at Wageningen UR, was in Havana (Cuba) last month to interview members of the FARC. He was in luck as while he was there, the negotiators reached agreement on a provisional peace settlement. After almost 60 years, it seems as if the end is in sight for Colombia's civil war. Resource spoke to him.

## *Why were you in Havana?*

'I was interviewing seven rebels who were part of the FARC's team of negotiators in Havana. I'm doing my thesis with the Sociology of Development and Change Group for my Master's in Development & Rural Innovation. My research is on the rural development practices that the FARC have in rural areas. The FARC do a lot of community work in the areas they control. They provide laws and regulations, run health campaigns and support the creation of community action groups. That is the positive side of the guerrilla group.'



## *Do you sympathize with the FARC?*

'They have interesting political ideas on how to improve democracy in Colombia and make conditions better in the countryside. Of course as a product of the war, they have committed violent actions. That is why we have to stop the war. A lot of Colombians sympathize with the guerrillas' principles. The problem in Colombia is that if you agree with some of their ideas, you are seen as a member of the FARC. But I'm not a FARC member, I'm a pacifist.'

## *Do you want to alter the image of the FARC?*

'No, I want to tell the story that has not been told by the mass media. The guerrilla movements are painted as being evil. But that is not the true situation as I experienced it when I was working with some farming communities in regions occupied by the FARC. In Colombia, more people die every year from famine and malnourishment than at the hands of the guerrillas. But people in Colombia and other countries don't realize that.'

## *You are a political refugee. Why did you have to leave your country?*

'I was a student leader at the National University of Colombia in Bogota. After I graduated, I worked with farmers' groups in the areas controlled by the guerrillas. After that, I was a lecturer at the university in Bogota. Then I was accused of being with the guerrillas and concocting a plan to assassinate the president at the time, Uribe. That was a big lie. I spent three years in prison. That's how it works in Colom-

bia. At present there are 10,000 political prisoners. Only 1300 of them are FARC members; the rest are students, farmers, academics or intellectuals. When I was released from prison, the paramilitary threatened to kill me so I left the country.'

## *The breakthrough in the negotiations was the agreement on the adjudication of crimes committed during the civil war. What do you think of the outcome?*

'This agreement means that the government is accepting the guerrilla movement's political status. So the guerrillas are no longer being seen as a terrorist group. The adjudication of crimes applies to all the actors in the conflict. That is very interesting because violations of human rights are also committed by the Colombian army and paramilitary groups, not just by the guerrillas. In signing this agreement, the government is accepting that responsibility.'

## *It has been agreed that the punishment for crimes will be community service. Is that acceptable for the victims, whichever side they were on?*

'That is a problem. Both sides will need to accept the situation and make a start on reconciliation. And that reconciliation does not just apply to the victims. Colombia is incredibly polarized. Colombians will have to learn to live with the fact that there are differences of opinion and that we should not defend them with weapons.' **BRK**



Master's student Julian Cortes studied the development work that the Colombian guerrilla movement FARC does in rural areas.



## BIG JUMP FOR WAGENINGEN IN TIMES RANKING

- From 73rd to 47th
- Highest ranked Dutch university

Wageningen UR has stormed into the top 50 in the World University Rankings, where it is 47th. That makes it the best Dutch university in the most important university ranking in the world, produced by the British journal *Times Higher Education* (THE).

The big jump raises questions. Have Wageningen's re-

searchers suddenly become so much better? No, the people responsible for the rankings have changed the way they calculate their quality assessments. Firstly, the THE editors no longer outsource the data collection for the ranking; this is carried out in house. Secondly, THE has switched from Web of Science to Elsevier's Scopus for the data collection. THE has now evaluated 11 million papers from 22,000 journals, as opposed to 6 million papers from 12,000 journals for the previous ranking. That also means an in-

crease in the number of non-English-language journals.

These changes reduce the relative advantage of universities from wealthy countries where they speak English and rewards collaboration in international networks. In addition, the editors expanded the survey among researchers. This time, the survey was in 15 languages, compared with nine languages in previous editions. A correction was also made for the excessively high proportion of American respondents to the survey. **AS**

## © COLUMN | STIJN

### 'Women are cleaners'

I think I am racist. Or misogynistic. When I first saw our new female African scientist walking along the corridor, for a second I honestly thought: hey, that's the new cleaner. Apparently my brain thinks that women who look African are probably cleaners. I wish it weren't true, but I did think it. Sorry. Actually I'm behaving the same as NWO. In giving research funding to talented researchers, this Dutch Organization for Scientific Research gives men preferential treatment. Men are more likely to be awarded a grant, even though the proposals from women are assessed as being equally good. Abhorrent. However, I do not think that NWO hates women. It is just that the organization unconsciously treats specific groups differently, just as I do. And, really, our discrimination is very understandable. Left unfiltered, the world is one big jumble of information. People who do not pre-sort soon find themselves on the edge of a nervous breakdown. It just so happens that in my lifetime I have seen more African cleaners than African scientists, and NWO just happens to have seen more successful male scientists than female ones. It is logical that we discriminate. Preconceived opinions are only a sign of intuitive pattern recognition.

So in my view we should come up with a friendlier word for unconscious discrimination. Not to approve of it but to make it something we can openly discuss. I bet that almost everyone implicitly excludes people, but who admits to breaching the Dutch Constitution in their thoughts? What right-minded man calls himself a racist or misogynist or carries on listening to others once that label has been applied to him? A milder name for discrimination offers a way forward. Because as long as discriminatory thoughts meander about only in people's heads, no one can ever talk them out of existence. **B**

**Stijn van Gils** (28) is doing doctoral research on ecosystem services in agriculture. Every month he describes his struggles with the scientific system.



### in brief

#### >>TROPICAL GREENHOUSE

##### Rescue mission fails

The Tropical Greenhouse at the Dreijen will definitely be demolished. A final attempt to save the greenhouse by incorporating it in residential group accommodation for the elderly failed. The greenhouse will now be replaced by a new building with 20 to 25 flats in three stories for starters, two-person households and the elderly. There will be no accommodation for students, at the express request of local residents. Students will however be moving into the Herbarium, next door. That building, which has been vacant for some time, will get 41 student rooms. Refurbishment work has already started. **RK**



PHOTO: NORBERT LUKKEZEN

#### >>ECOLOGICAL AGRICULTURE

##### Successor to Tittonnell

The Farming Systems Ecology group will get a new professor as the successor to Pablo Tittonnell, says rector Arthur Mol. According to Mol, Tittonnell has done fantastic work in extending the discipline of ecological agriculture, initiating a lot of PhD projects and making good links with society at large. Mol wants to maintain the discipline but does wonder whether the chair would be better off as part of a larger research group. The rector plans to investigate the option of larger, more robust chair groups with several professors who can respond to changes together. **AS**

#### >>HUMANITARIAN AID

##### Hilhorst goes to ISS

Thea Hilhorst has been appointed a professor at the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague. The Wageningen professor of Humanitarian Aid and Reconstruction will be working on the research project 'When disasters meet conflict', for which she got a Vici grant from NWO earlier this year. She will initially have a part-time position at the ISS, which is part of Erasmus University. Hilhorst will also continue to work part-time for the next two years at Wageningen University, where she supervises about ten PhD candidates. **AS**

# RECTOR WANTS EARLY EVENING LECTURES

- Dreijen to remain partly in use for three years
- Experiment with teaching between 5 pm and 8 pm

Wageningen UR has decided not to go ahead with major renovation of De Dreijen as a way of coping with rising student numbers. But rector Arthur Mol wants to experiment with teaching on campus between 5 pm and 8 pm.

The Executive Board will be keeping De Dreijen open for another three years, says Mol, but it will no longer be carrying out extensive refurbishment of the complex. The university still needs lab space in Transitorium and the Chemistry Building. The growth in the number of students means that there are not enough labs on campus. The rector eventually wants to digitalize some of the practicals and make more intensive use of the labs so that all teaching can be done on campus.

Another part of his plan is to put an end to the '9-to-5 mentality' in teaching. Mol wants to extend lecture hours to 7 pm or 8 pm. 'We now have great buildings on cam-

pus that are empty for two-thirds of the day. If we can have lectures until 8 pm, we will have gained a lot. Then we will be able to cope with the growth and students can go on to the canteen and their society afterwards.' Mol is talking to the Student Council about how to implement this – for example, one evening lecture a week for Master's students.

The rector also wants to see whether there are potential effi-

ciency gains in the timetable. 'Are all teaching rooms permanently occupied? We will be looking at Wi-Fi use to measure that. Lecturers sometimes reserve a classroom for the entire period, even though they only need it on a couple of occasions. We hope this approach will let us detect that.'

The limited restoration work on De Dreijen means the university will no longer be investing millions. It will cost a couple of hundred

thousand euros to keep the labs open in Transitorium and the Chemistry Building. Mol: 'We can justify that. We'd like to invest more in teaching but we aren't getting any extra money from the government.' Based on demographic data, he expects the growth in Dutch Bachelor students to tail off in the next few years. That is why a limited investment in temporary teaching rooms is the best option, says the rector. **AS**



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

# NO EVIDENCE OF BRAIN DRAIN

- Scientists themselves do not see talent exodus
- Competitive position of the Netherlands is a problem, though

At the end of September, Maaïke Kroon, who was Scientific Talent of the Year 2015, announced that she would be going to Abu Dhabi. Her 'boss' Franks Baaijens, rector at the Technical University Eindhoven, sounded the alarm in Dutch newspaper *de Volkskrant*. Apparently there was a threat of a Dutch brain drain.

There is no evidence of such

an exodus at the moment, says Laurens Hessels, senior researcher at the Rathenau Institute. Data from 2011 show that a quarter of Dutch scientists work abroad – mainly young PhD candidates and postdocs. An equally large number of foreign researchers work at Dutch universities. Unfortunately, there is little information on whether the smart ones are most likely to emigrate. One study does show that slightly more recipients of the prestigious ERC grants came to the Netherlands than left in the period 2008 to 2013.

Talking to young Wageningen professors, it is clear that no one

recognizes that picture of an exodus. What they do recognize is the sense of unease. It has become harder to fund research in the Netherlands in recent years as more scientists are competing for the same amount of money. And universities are unable to offer millions in initial funding as a way of attracting talented scientists from abroad. Ironically, it's the top scientists who are affected least by this, says Dolf Weijers, professor holding a personal chair in Biochemistry. They still get their Veni and ERC grants.

In the meantime, funding opportunities and employee benefits are immensely better in

emerging regions such as the Arab Gulf states, says Erwin Bulte, professor of Development Economics. A postdoc can earn more there than a professor in the Netherlands. Talented people like Kroon are given vast sums of money to set up new research groups and institutes.

It is a contest that the Netherlands should not even be trying to win, says Bulte. It is much more important to invest in social capital. Take scientific networks, the academic climate, sociable departments and pleasant living conditions, for example. This is how the Netherlands can distinguish itself from Abu Dhabi. **RR**



# HEDWIG BRUGGEMAN TO HEAD THE CDI

• **New manager wants to make sustainable development tangible**

On 1 November, Hedwig Bruggeman will start as the new manager of the Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) at Wageningen UR. She is well acquainted with its area of work – agriculture and development – as she spent the last ten years as the director of AgriProFocus.

When Bruggeman returned to the Netherlands ten years ago after 25 years in development projects in Africa, agriculture did not have a high priority in Dutch development policy. Education and health care were considered more important than food. So agricultural and development organizations set up the club AgriProFocus, aimed at promoting entrepreneurship among small-

scale farmers in the tropics. In her role as director, she has often worked with the CDI and other groups within Wageningen UR over the past few years.

What is her opinion of Wageningen UR's development group with its 60 employees? 'The CDI will have to make choices. It is not a consultancy firm; its philosophy is that sustainable development should be encouraged. And it needs to highlight its strengths more. For example, the centre is good at multi-stakeholder processes, in which you bring together different parties in the food supply chain to solve problems. The CDI knows how to guide such a process. That expertise in change processes is a strong point.'

Now Bruggeman wants to manage that. 'I could have stayed on at AgriProFocus for another five years but I'm ambitious. The CDI is a bigger group and part of a renowned



PHOTO: POPOVA FOTOGRAFIE

university.' She has been warned that Wageningen UR is a large organization with many internal procedures. 'I don't want to get bogged down by that. I don't want to be per-

manently in meetings; I like working with people who can take responsibility. I'm good at securing new assignments, promoting the group – that's what I will be doing.' **AS**

## 'WE'RE ON THE RIGHT COURSE'



**What is so environmentally friendly about this asphalt?**

'Half of the bitumen in the asphalt has been replaced by lignin. Bitumen is extracted from petroleum, so it's a fossil product. Lignin is a vegetable product and therefore renewable. The petrochemical industry guzzles energy and has high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Also, the production of bitumen is declining. Refineries are focusing less and less on petroleum. So we expect a shortage of bitumen eventually.'

**When will we have bio-based asphalt on the A2 motorway?**

'We're not that far yet. The motorways use ZOAB, a sensitive kind of asphalt. Our experimental strips have a different surface layer. This is a trial. The risks are too great to do this on the motorway. But we do have plans to expand its application. Depending on the results in Zeeland, of course.'

**Environmentally friendly asphalt got a lot of interest. Any weird questions?**

'Journalists always want to know if it's already on the market and where you can order it. But this is a demonstration project. The trial strips have been there for three months. The official presentation was last week. The first results are encouraging – we're on the right course.' **RK**

**Who?** Richard Gosselink  
**What?** Bio-based Products researcher  
**Why?** Involved in the development of the first bio-based asphalt, which was officially opened last week at an industrial park in Sas van Gent.

**Science Cafe Wageningen**

www.sciencecafe.wageningen.nl

*The quest for*

**Novel antibiotics**

Prof. Gilles van Wezel (Leiden Univ.)  
Prof. Oscar Kuipers (Univ. of Groningen)

Thursday, October 22nd  
19:45 - live music  
20:15 - Science Café Loburg  
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RESOURCE  
Your studies on sandwiches on Wageningen UR

# TORCHING PLANTS FOR SCIENCE

- Plant ecologists simulate savannah fire at Radix
- Experiment to see why some plants survive and others do not

It looks like vandalism: dozens of scorched young tropical African plants on a pallet in a shed behind Radix. Grey PVC tubes are acting as pots. The leaves are drooping and the green is singed in places. About 50 metres further along, seven plants are waiting meekly to be subjected to fire. Researcher Imma Oliveras (Marie Curie Fellow) and Professor Elsa Pastor are applying wood wool to make a little savannah fire.

Pastor is a chemical engineer at the University of Barcelona specializing in fires. She has been flown in especially for this job. About 50 of these little fires are being started over a period of a couple of days. A total of 27 different forest and savannah plants are being subjected to a short fire lasting exactly 40 seconds. Sensors in the flames keep an accu-

rate tab on the temperature. This is pyromania for the sake of science.

But the atmosphere is still light-hearted and slightly keyed up. Curious colleagues come to take a look. Elmar Veenendaal, associate professor in the Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation group, is enjoying himself. But he is quick to explain that this really

is a serious experiment. The trials simulate a genuine savannah fire.

Such real fires have effects that we do not properly understand yet. Some plants survive the fire while others do not. Veenendaal wants to know why. Might it be to do with their root system? He is particularly curious about the species that are found in the transitional area between savannah and

forest. 'We know roughly what goes on for typical forest plants or typical savannah plants. But it is not clear what happens in the transitional area.'

After the fire, the plants will be going back into the greenhouse for a few months to track the effects. Experiments will be starting in Africa later this year. For real.

**■ RK**



'Fire professor' Elsa Pastor from Barcelona (left) and researcher Imma Oliveras (right) are torching plants in the name of science.

PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

# HERPES VIRUS KIDNAPS CARP'S IMMUNE SYSTEM

- Virus that gives humans cold sores on the lips is deadly for carp
- In the distant past, herpes 'nabbed' interleukin-10 from fish

Wageningen cell biologists have shown for the first time that a deadly virus included a gene for a molecule from the immune system of fish in its genome more than 400 million years ago. That is why the koi herpes virus is able to circumvent the immune systems of carp and koi.

The koi herpes virus is a cousin of the herpes virus that gives hu-

mans cold sores on the lips. It is what is known as an intelligent virus that multiplies during an attack and then goes into a kind of sleep mode. It is woken up again for example by bright sunlight or reduced resistance. Carp do not get cold sores from the herpes virus; 90 per cent of them die.

In infection with the herpes virus, the molecule interleukin-10 (IL-10) plays a crucial role in the immune system of fish, as researcher Maria Forlenza and her colleagues in the Cell Biology and Immunology group discovered. IL-10 normally starts to act after the fish's innate and fast-working immune system has managed to keep the virus under control by killing the surround-

ing cells. Then IL-10 activates the acquired, slow immune system. It produces antibodies that disable the virus. Timing is very important here; if IL-10 comes on the scene too early, the immune system will no longer work.

It is precisely that aspect that the herpes virus exploits. In the distant past, the virus 'kidnapped' a piece of DNA with IL-10 from a host. Forlenza: 'The virus now has its own version of IL-10. This gene means that as soon as the infection starts, lots of viral IL-10 is created. That causes the fish's immune system to think that it doesn't need to react.'

The swapping of genetic information between the virus and the host cell had already been seen in

mammals. Forlenza and her colleagues are the first to have found this function of IL-10 in fish. The discovery is important news for evolutionary biologists. They originally thought that the transfer of IL-10 to the herpes virus took place about 100 million years ago. Now that it also turns out to be in the koi herpes virus, the transfer must have taken place about 300 to 400 million years ago, estimates Forlenza.

But the discovery also has practical implications. 'This knowledge will let us make a less aggressive herpes virus. If you first bring the farmed fish into contact with this less aggressive virus, they will produce antibodies. Then you have a vaccine against herpes.' **■ AS**



# MICRO-ALGA IMITATES OIL PALM

- Mutated alga turns out to be efficient oil producer
- Possible solution for deforestation due to oil palm plantations

A lot of the vegetable oil in our diet comes from palm oil plantations in South-East Asia for which rainforests have been cleared. PhD candidate Lenny de Jaeger was looking for an alga that could produce this oil in a more sustainable fashion. He developed a promising option.

De Jaeger was researching the micro-alga *Scenedesmus obliquus*. 'It produces sugars with the help of sunlight and under certain conditions it then converts the sugars into starch and triacylglycerol.' This TAG is an excellent raw material for producing vegetable oil for consumption. Using UV radiation, De Jaeger developed a mutant of the micro-alga that does not produce starch. That increased the TAG share from 45 to 57 per cent. What is more, fatty acid production was twice as efficient as in the ordinary alga. That is a breakthrough in oil production using algae, says the PhD candidate.

The mutant of *S. obliquus* may well be able to produce enough oil to rival the oil palm. To test that, a new PhD candidate

is now conducting trials in AlgaePARC, Wageningen UR's test facility for algae research.

The only disadvantage of *S. obliquus* is that it lives in freshwater. Saltwater algae would be preferred for large-scale production because salt water is available in almost unlimited quantities. That is why De Jaeger is also studying *Neochloris oleoabundans*. As the name suggests, it also produces oil. However, De Jaeger was mainly interested in the amino acids in *N. oleoabundans* that let it survive in salt water. After mapping the alga's genes, he now has his sights on a few genes that cause this salt tolerance. De Jaeger thinks that you could insert these genes in other algae, making them tolerant to salt too.

With this suggestion, however, he touches on a dilemma in algae research. 'Changing the fatty acid composition is very tricky without genetic modification.' But a GMO alga is a problem if you want to use the alga for food products. That is why he used UV to modify *S. obliquus*, even though this is a much less precise method for disabling genes.

Even so, De Jaeger is optimistic about the future for genetic modification, as his proposition that 'GMO-derived food products will eventually save more lives than GMO-derived drugs' shows. **AS**



Lenny de Jaeger will obtain his doctorate on 9 October. His supervisors are Gerrit Eggink, professor of Industrial Biotechnology, and René Wijffels, professor of Bioprocess Technology

## VISION <<

### 'Mars plants actually need large leaves'

**The Martian** is currently showing in cinemas. Astronaut Marc Watley (Matt Damon) has to survive on his own on Mars after an accident. Last Tuesday evening, ecologist Wiegier Wamelink gave a short introduction in Cinemec about his own attempts at gardening using Mars soil. Of course he saw the film too.



**Are there similarities between you and Marc Watley?**

'We are both botanical analysts. The way we work is very similar. We do our best with the limited resources we have and every problem is tackled step by step. The film gives a good picture of the scientific process.'

**Is the science right in the film?**

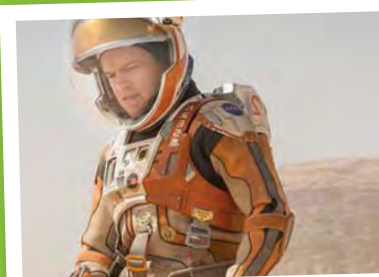
'Of course the storm that leaves him abandoned on Mars is impossible. The atmosphere on Mars is far too thin for such a destructive storm. Marc Watley moves just as he would on earth and that's not possible either. Gravity is much lower on Mars than here. He also lives above ground but you would have to live at least one metre under the ground on Mars because of the cosmic radiation. Mars inhabitants would become like Hobbits.'

**How do you rate Marc Watley as a gardener?**

'Marc grows potatoes and uses human faeces as fertilizer. I would do that too but you would need to disinfect it first. In the film, a chemical method is used to create water but that can be done a lot more simply. There is ice just under the surface of Mars. The plants also look very unreal. Little sprigs with leaves that are far too small. Mars gets 60 percent less light than the earth so plants would actually need large leaves.'

**What does this film mean for your research?**

'This is a real bonus, of course. I hope it'll mean my work gets more attention. We are busy preparing to go crowdfunding. Mars is in at the moment. Especially now that NASA has found traces of flowing water on Mars.' **RK**



# ROOM FOR BIG INCREASE IN AFRICAN FARM YIELDS

- **African farmers only achieve 20 to 30 percent of the potential production**

Agricultural yields in many African countries could increase by a factor of three, according to new research by scientists including Martin van Ittersum, professor of Plant Production Systems, for the Global Yield Gap Atlas. But current practice is difficult to change.

The Global Yield Gap and Water Productivity Atlas measures the difference between potential

and actual agricultural yields in a country. That gap has not become much smaller in Africa in recent years, concludes an international group headed by Van Ittersum. At a conference in Ethiopia, the research team presented new data showing that farmers in ten African countries achieve only 20 to 30 percent of the potential yields in their country.

The researchers looked at the cultivation of maize, sorghum, millet, wheat and rice by farmers in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The yield gap in Bangladesh is small-

er, but there too the data show that yields could almost double if farmers were to use better seeds, treat their soil properly, make efficient use of water and keep diseases and pests better under control. Actual production in countries such as Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan is at about 40 percent of the potential yield. The research team will soon release figures on India too.

It is important to establish the yield gap in these countries, say the researchers, because Africa's population continues to grow and governments need to see how they can make improvements to

farming that will let them continue to feed their people.

Van Ittersum: 'This problem is much greater than I had imagined. The population in sub-Saharan Africa will almost triple between now and 2050. In addition, people are starting to eat more meat so agricultural production will need to rise by a factor of 3.5. If we are to prevent a large-scale increase in the area under cultivation, we will have to go all out in our efforts to raise the yields from existing farmland substantially.'

The atlas and the research data are available digitally via [www.yieldgap.org](http://www.yieldgap.org). **AS**

# FREE PILLS DON'T REACH THE VULNERABLE

- **Worm infections are a problem in Africa in particular**
- **Medicines have to reach a majority in order to be effective**

Worm pills that are handed out free of charge in Uganda fail to reach the most vulnerable groups. And a lasting reduction in worm infections is impossible if the pills are not being administered widely. These findings are reported by development economist Erwin Bulte and chief researcher Goylette Chami together with English and Ugandan colleagues in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

Infection with hookworms or *Schistosoma* worms affect hundreds of millions of people, mainly in Africa. The worms spread via polluted water and eventually cause problems such as anaemia, protein deficiency and damage to the urinary tract. Between 10,000 and 200,000 people die every year from worm infections and associated complications. The infections have a big social impact too. Infected children attend school less while infected adults are less productive.



**Analysts count worm eggs under the microscope in a Ugandan village.**

Since 2003, the World Health Organization (WHO) has been handing out free pills that kill the worms. Bulte's results show that this programme has difficulty reaching minorities – such as Muslims in a mainly Christian area – and the poor. The imperfect cover makes the programme much less effective, says Bulte. 'To really eradicate worms from the system, you need to reach 80 percent of the

people. Otherwise the group that has been treated will be infected again by the untreated group in no time.'

Bulte is surprised by the findings. The study took place in 17 small villages with about 60 to 70 households each. In each village, two trained but unpaid inhabitants are given the task of doling out pills. Before and after the distribution of the pills, a check was

made for worm eggs in the excrement of all the inhabitants. 'You would expect news to travel fast when a "distributor" gets the medicine,' says Bulte, 'and that everyone would turn up within the next two to three weeks.' But in practice the information spreads in a very uneven way. The 'distributors' don't seem to be selling the pills; they just remain unused. **RR**



The issue of women at the top certainly got people talking in the past two weeks. The same was true for vegetarian canteens and 'bicycle problems'. If you too have an opinion, join the debate online or email [resource@wur.nl](mailto:resource@wur.nl).

REACTIONS ON...



# RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL

## DANGER AHEAD

A divider separating bikes from the new bus lane causes former employee Rob Nout to have a nasty fall. The province quickly takes action and removes the obstacles.

No one online is really surprised by the accident. 'Even so, it's not nice to be proved right in this way,' says **Fietser die zich er bij de aanleg al boos over had gemaakt**. He or she is not the only person to have been taken aback by the poor visibility of the obstacles. The debate then moves on to the current hazards on campus. Such as the terrible overcrowding: with the large numbers of students cycling round, collisions are a constant threat. What is more, the large groups hide the obstacles from sight. 'Perhaps an idea to look at the red posts that are always lying flat at Orion?' writes **Verveelde Fietser**. 'I reckon they are much more dangerous. I nearly cycled over them a couple of times.'

## WANTED: TOP TALENT (M/F)

Of course it's fine if women reach the top, writes *Resource* blogger Jan-Willem Kortlever. But stop the contrived attempts to get a 'gender balance'.

In particular, Jan-Willem's remark that 'men just happen to be more natural-born leaders' raises online hackles. 'Unbefitting of a university student,' writes Das. Men may well be overrepresented in senior positions but there



are other possible explanations for that. Apparently, Jan-Willem's argument is just a 'series of prejudices without foundation'. **Huisman** says that the different roles for men and women are the result of a long period of evolution. 'You can't change that in just a few decades.' New fathers still have to fight for a 'daddy day' and getting longer leave is far from automatic. Also, apparently women don't see them as serious partners in running the home. 'As well as the emancipation of women, show that men are capable of this. That's not being done enough at the moment.'

## CARNIVORE-PROOF

After a successful trial, meat-light Mondays are to be a permanent fixture on campus. Both the caterers and the Green Office are pleased.

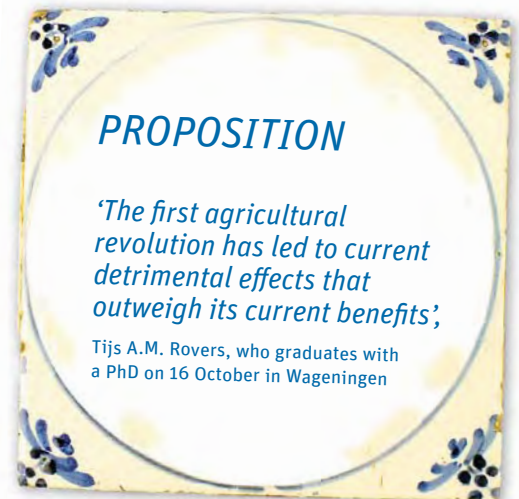
The entire campus? No ... One small cafe is still bravely holding out against the vegetarian

hegemony. 'Sports pub De Bongerd still lets you choose between meat and vegetarian,' writes **John Schouten**, 'just the way it should be in a democratic world'. Although the caterers swear that there is no question of coercion, others share this feeling. 'I personally only eat meat once or twice a week on principle,' writes **Flexitarier**, 'but I am strongly tempted to start eating it every day again with this kind of patronizing approach imposed from above'. **\*Zucht\*** thinks that is a stupid argument. After all, there is still meat on sale on Mondays too. 'It's not banned, there's just a different assortment.' But no one is listening. Half an hour later, **Ella Vogels** starts sounding off: 'I just want to eat meat [] it's nobody else's business if I do.' **RR**

## PROPOSITION

*'The first agricultural revolution has led to current detrimental effects that outweigh its current benefits';*

Tijs A.M. Rovers, who graduates with a PhD on 16 October in Wageningen



# ‘I’m not a really first-class scientist’

A scientist who has found his direction should persevere. ‘Not get sidetracked. That is fatal,’ says departing professor of Nutrition and Health Frans Kok. Personally, he is most proud of ‘his’ people. ‘Helping to create and inspire this group, that’s my principal contribution.’

text: Rob Ramaker / photo: Sven Menschel

**E**arly this century, nutrition experts gathered in a hotel in Luxembourg for a conference. At the closing party there was one person who showed absolutely no sign of just how long the day had been, relates Ellen Kampman, professor in Nutrition and Disease. An unflagging Frans Kok danced to disco music for hours on end, occasionally dragging various people onto the dance floor: colleagues as well as unsuspecting hotel guests whom he mistook for conference participants.

Colleagues know that Frans Kok can be relied upon to make any drinks party convivial. He claps people on the shoulder, makes jokes and introduces people to each other. His introductions are usually accompanied by a generous compliment about a good paper or interesting new research. Kok likes to see ‘his’ people excel. ‘I think that is wonderful,’ he says, ‘although I’m not exceptionally altruistic. Especially when they are young people.’ He cites Marianne Geleijnse as an example. He once hired her; now she is about to become a professor holding a personal chair.

## HIS TEAM

Kok is retiring this year. He is officially leaving Wageningen UR on 15 October. With a conference and, of course, a drinks party. During preparations for his farewell, he reflects on his career. ‘Personally I’m not a really first-class scientist,’ says Kok. People of that calibre are rare in the Netherlands. ‘Hans Clevers and perhaps one or two others.’ His chief source of pride is the team he has gathered about him. ‘That I have helped create and inspire this group is my principal contribution,’ says Kok. ‘That train will soon be continuing on its way at full speed.’

While Kok was its head, the Division of Human Nutrition expanded from two to five chair groups and started a cooperative alliance with the hospital in Ede. The range of the division’s scientific research grew too. Researchers now study our taste and odour senses in MRI scanners and

how nutrition can be used to slow down cognitive decline. Moreover, the new field known as nutrigenomics emerged, which examines how our genes and nutrition react to one another. Kok noticed this new direction in the late 1990s and introduced it in Wageningen.

How he spots promising new directions for nutrition science, Kok cannot say. That is intuition. ‘It is something that I read that makes me think: gosh!’ Right now he has that feeling about big data. As a scientist, when you decide to focus on a new subject like that, says Kok, you must persevere and not let anything distract you. ‘Not get sidetracked. That is fatal.’ Only by sticking to a direction, will

**‘You should not blindly tag along behind a director who’s keen to have the upper hand in deciding the direction you take.’**

you eventually reap the benefits. As evidence, Kok refers to the Eat2Move project that focuses on sport and nutrition. By lobbying endlessly he, and a team of others, managed to secure funding – and thus research. This is why he warns researchers to keep a level head. ‘You shouldn’t take every idea equally seriously that a Louise (Fresco, RR) might have,’ says Kok, ‘or blindly tag along behind a director who’s keen to have the upper hand in deciding the direction you take.’

## WILD IDEAS

This is why Kok is worried that the chance to be led by their curiosity is something that is increasingly unavailable to scientists, especially young ones. These days the research agenda is steered mainly by trade and industry. Kok is not against this in principle, as long as enough scope remains for ‘wild ideas’. But he is seeing too little of this. Which is a



Professor of Nutrition Kok will be doing odd jobs at home, running and, especially, cycling; next year from Rome to the Netherlands.



pity, especially for young talent. 'Young people possess a great deal of creativity and we could do more with that.'


In view of his criticism of the influence of trade and industry, however, it is striking how capable Kok is at entering into cooperative alliances with companies. These account for some 30 percent of the revenue of Human Nutrition. This is partly pragmatism, says Kok. He can't do anything about the fact that he works in the prevailing system, which means he relies on contract research. Given this, it is understandable that Kok cannot support the standpoint of Martijn Katan, emeritus professor of Nutrition at VU University Amsterdam, that food scientists should have no links at all with industry. He does not want to dismiss half the division. Moreover, where problems like obesity are concerned, Kok views trade and industry not only as part of the problem, but also as part of the solution.

Sometimes Kok sees the will in companies to really change things. 'That isn't just window dressing.' And so he sees it as his civic duty to try to steer companies in the right direction. 'If you can contribute to bringing down the content of the wrong fats in a bar of chocolate, to reducing portion sizes or to bonuses that depend in part on fostering public health, then you have earned your money for society.'

#### BEER

As a scientist, Kok is vulnerable to criticism about additional functions. For example, he is sometimes attacked for being the chairperson of the Beer Knowledge Institute, which is funded by breweries. Kok thinks the criticism cuts

no ice. He believes that the institute provides reliable and well-considered information, does not evade the health risks and disapproves of, say, binge drinking. 'If the breweries had tried to make me dance to their tune, I'd have stepped down long ago.'

For Kok, the coming months will be all about winding down. He is not a scientist who cannot walk away from his work. Once he retires, he will be doing odd jobs at home, going running and, especially, doing a lot of cycling; next year from Rome to the Netherlands. But in the coming months he will still be working in Wageningen at least one day a week. On things that need to be completed or that he has not previously got round to doing. And hopefully he will be able to do that in an office in the new Helix building, which will soon house all of Wageningen's nutrition research. The result of one of the directions he has unceasingly persevered with since about 2000. Without getting sidetracked. 

#### ANTI-GURU

Frans Kok is regularly in the media, mainly debunking nutrition myths. For example, in the TV programme *Nieuwsuur* he recently criticized the trend of avoiding gluten. He was also a fierce critic of Dr Frank, author of a diet book published in 2010. Kok has a low opinion of the many 'charlatans and gurus' who have made nutrition their business. 'It is their marketing strategy to rebel against established science. They write a book about nutrition. Then a cook book along the same lines. That's one way to earn a lot of money.'





# Invisible storage under the campus

There is nothing to see, but deep underground, in the middle of the campus, there is a massive heat reservoir that helps us keep a cool head in the summer and keeps us warm in the winter.

**text:** Roelof Kleis / **photo:** Guy Ackermans

**F**riday, 9 October is National Sustainability Day so Wageningen UR will be showing how sustainable it is on the Thursday before at the info market in Forum. One problem is that some achievements are difficult to visualize. Take ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) for instance, technology that makes use of the ground for heat and cold storage. The campus took the first steps towards ground source heating and cooling in 2007. Now half of its buildings are connected up to the underground reservoir. But how does it work exactly and what makes it so sustainable?

Under the campus, at a depth of about 45-85 metres, there is a well-insulated water-retaining layer of sand known as an aquifer. This layer is used in the summer to

store excess heat from the buildings, and in the winter to heat the cold buildings. To avoid any misunderstandings: that layer of water is not a source of heat in itself – we turn it into one. That is why you can compare it to an accumulator – a rechargeable battery. The water is a temporary storage site for heat and cold.

This layer of water is naturally at about 11 degrees Celsius. This cold water (the source of the cooling) is used in the summer to cool the buildings. Heat exchangers transfer the heat from the buildings to the cool water from the ground. The water – heated to 17-18 degrees – is then pumped back into the ground elsewhere on campus, where it serves as a source of heat in the winter. The process is reversed in the winter, with heat exchangers extract-




ing the stored heat. 'So you have sources of heat and sources of cold, and the water goes back and forth between the two,' is how energy coordinator Michiel Van der Wal summarizes the process.

#### ADDITIONAL

GSHPs are fundamentally different to geothermal power, technology that involves pumping up hot water from deeper layers many hundreds of metres or even kilometres below the ground. That heat can be used only once. It should be said that the GSHP system is not the only source of heating and cooling in the campus buildings. There are also standard central heating boilers and air conditioning systems. Van der Wal explains that GSHP is an additional facility in most of the buildings. That is the case in Forum, Atlas and Radix-West. 'GSHP is supplementary there. Orion has its own, more modern system, where GSHP is the main source and the conventional heating and cooling systems are supplementary. The same will apply in Helix. So that's a fundamental difference.'

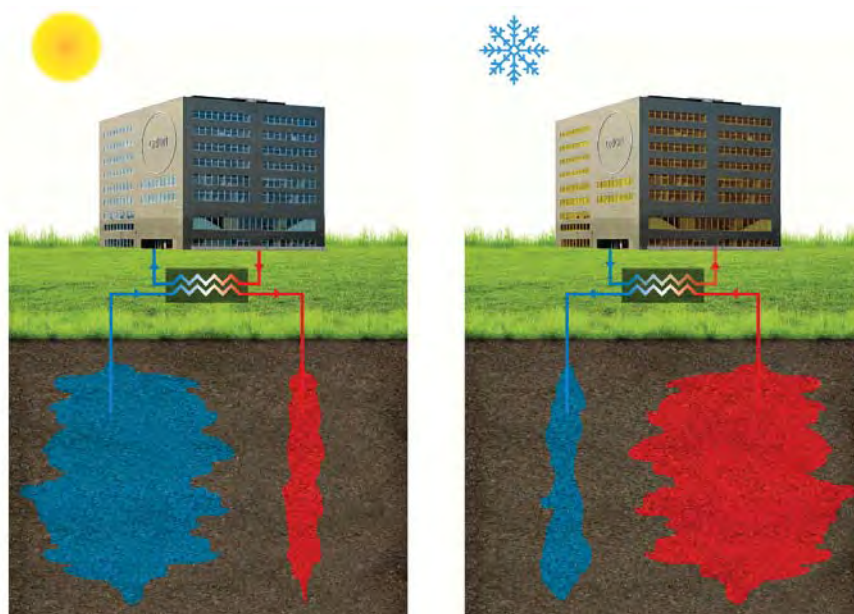
Large numbers are involved in all this pumping water back and forth. Van der Wal: 'Each pump can manage up to 110 cubic litres of water per hour. So that's 110,000 litres of water. We have a permit for a maximum of 1.4 million cubic litres of water a year with associated thermal energy of 4 megawatt hours. But we're nowhere near that amount yet: we are about halfway.' Pumping all that water costs energy too. Even so, GSHP is sustainable as it does not use up fossil fuels and therefore helps reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. GSHP also helps towards the achievement of the objective to be energy-neutral by 2030.

The storage of heat and cold is a question of balance. The system works best if you pump as much energy and water from the cold source to the warm source every year as you do in the other direction. That requires an awful lot of figuring out and playing with the controls, if only because no two seasons are alike and each building is different. 'Orion, for example, systematically requires less cooling than heating,' says Dick van Hoften, Control Engineering project manager. 'So that leaves a cooling surplus. We recently resolved this issue by connecting up part of Actio, Vitae (Rikilt) and Zodiac to the GSHP cooling system. Then the air conditioning systems there don't have to work so hard.'

Since the GSHP system was introduced in 2007, half the buildings on campus have been connected up to the underground reservoir. Van der Wal says that there are ideas for Gaia, Lumen and large parts of Radix but no concrete plans as yet. Today, the info market in Forum will be focusing on the GSHP system because of Sustainability Day. But as was said earlier, there's not much to see. The reservoir does its sustainable job quietly, hidden deep under the ground. 



Control Engineering project manager Dick van Hoften (left) and energy coordinator Michiel Van der Wal in Orion's engine room. Orion has its own, modern ground source heat pump system.



## LEADING THE FIELD WITH MODEST RESULTS

The Netherlands is the global leader when it comes to ground source heat pumps (GSHPs). According to Statistics Netherlands, there were 2740 GSHP systems here two years ago, with a combined capacity of 1103 megawatt-hours of energy. At the current rate of growth, there will be 3500 such systems in 2020. But the effect is modest as yet: those 3500 systems reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from buildings by 2 percent a year. GSHP also has only a modest share in Wageningen UR's total energy consumption. About 3 percent of the self-generated sustainable energy comes from GSHP. On the other hand, it uses a lot of water. All the Dutch GSHP systems combined use 261 million cubic litres of water a year, making them the biggest application for groundwater after drinking water (756 million cubic litres). The difference is that the water is not used up; it simply serves as a means of storage. Of those 261 million cubic litres, at most 1.4 million is used by the GSHP system on campus.







## LOVE SONGS

Music could be heard everywhere in Wageningen town centre, with rock in the market and pop in the Molenstraat. The pubs were full and a lot of young people were out and about, going from cafe to cafe. On 1 October, Wageningen hosted 25 talented Dutch bands at 12 different venues as part of Popronde 2015. The Haarlem sisters Nina and Laura Philips were there too, performing as All the King's Daughters. The twins' low-key, captivating folk songs sent shivers down the audience's spines during an intimate concert in cafe Vreemde Streken. You can find more photos of Popronde 2015 at [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl).

© EvL / Photo: Remo Wormmeester







‘It is the best combination of society life and sport’

# The magic of rowing

Student rowing club Argo is bursting at the seams. Its membership is twice that of the traditional Wageningen student societies. This is no isolated example: rowing clubs all over the Netherlands are incredibly popular. Is all that messing about on the water really so much fun? Yes, but that is not all.

**text:** : Linda van der Nat / **photos:** Sven Menschel

**T**he Channel Championships on the Rhine last weekend marked the end of W.S.R. Argo's trial period. After a month getting to know the society, the other rowers and the sport, 220 first-year rowers got in the boat to compete against one another for the first time. This was also the point when new members finalized their enrolment with the club — 200 in total, 40 more than last year. ‘A few more than we had reckoned on,’ says chair Bas Ooteman proudly. ‘Great to see that so many first-years are apparently so enthusiastic about rowing.’

Wageningen is not the only town where student row-



## ‘Starting something new together creates a bond’



ing clubs are doing good business. The rowing societies were pretty popular during the introduction weeks in Delft, Groningen, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht, Eindhoven, Leiden and Enschede too. Some students had to be turned away because there were not always enough boats to accommodate all the first-years. In Wageningen, almost 300 students registered an interest initially, with 80 having to be turned away at once.

Kristel Kooij, sports participation manager for the Royal Dutch Rowing Association (KNRB), confirms that student societies are incredibly important for rowing as a sport. ‘The KNRB has about 34,000 members, a good third of whom are students. The Netherlands has 120 rowing clubs and about 20 of these are student clubs. We grow bigger every year and that is largely thanks to the students,’ Kooij says rowing is popular among students because it is an activity that combines sport and club life particularly well. ‘You practice the sport but you also get experience sitting on committees and boards and there’s plenty of room for a social life. Competitive rowing teaches you to function in a team, work towards goals,

deal with setbacks and persevere. So you really benefit in your personal development. The many hours spent training also force you to plan well.’

### THE BEST COMBINATION

It was precisely that combination of sport and sociability that made Jip Jordaan and Bart Middelburg decide to join Argo. Bart, a Master’s student in Earth and Environment, says, ‘For me, sport is a great way to let off steam; I love working towards a competition with my mates. I wouldn’t get much fulfilment from a society that was only about alcohol. In that respect, Argo is the best combination of society life and sport. It’s a real student society with traditions and rituals but the rowing gets priority.’

Bart made a deliberate decision to become a league (rather than competitive) rower three years ago after completing his introductory period. ‘Competitive rowers put a lot of time into their sport and their bodies need rest. I like being actively involved in the society in other ways than just the rowing. I’ve been regularly serving behind the bar on Tuesday evenings for a while now. It often gets





late then and you can't combine that with competitive rowing. I did have doubts as I'd like to push my performance to a higher level. In fact, I'm pretty fanatical for a league rower; last year I rowed really intensively, about four to five times a week. This year I will be focusing on

coaching. I'm never going to be a competitive rower now. I really enjoy rowing but I don't want to give up everything for it.'

Jip Jordaan did decide to go for competitive rowing. Although that was not obvious from the first moment she got into a rowing boat. 'It was clear that I did not have a natural talent,' says the second-year Food Technology student. Jip joined the rowing Society during the AID week following encouragement from her uncle, who said she would make a good rower given her height (1.85 m). 'I wanted to join a society but I wanted to do something else as well. I thought sport would be the most fun, being all fanatical in a team. But rowing was quite tricky, the sequence of actions in the strokes and keeping your balance. My coach said I looked terrible.'

#### FANTASTIC MESS

That is a familiar story for first-year rowers, says chairman Bas. 'Almost none of the people who join our society have experience rowing. Most of them have spent years practising other sports and fancy trying something new when they come to university.' That is another reason why rowing is popular with students, he thinks. 'Starting something new together creates a bond. That first training session is often more a case of trying something out than actual high-quality rowing. Keeping your balance is difficult, rowing in unison is difficult – in short, it's a mess.'

#### 'I wouldn't get much fulfilment if it was just about alcohol'

But it is a fantastic mess. Everyone is on a voyage of discovery; there is a huge sense of adventure in the boat.'

Jip soon caught the rowing bug. She even registered for the selection for competitive rowers. 'To start with, I sometimes had my doubts whether it was the right decision. A lot is demanded of you; you are at Argo nearly every day and sometimes we even started rowing at seven in the morning. It was also tough on my body; I hadn't that much experience of sport so it took some getting used to. It's not so much fun to sit in the boat in pain. I did wonder at times whether this was what I really wanted.'

The answer was yes. One year on, Jip is still a competitive rower. She has access to the best coaches and the fastest boats. She doesn't see it as a big problem that she has to watch her diet and go to bed early and is unable to drink any alcohol for the next six months. 'The nice thing about competitive rowing is that you and the rest of your crew give it all you've got. You push yourself to extend your limits and it makes you really strong, both mentally and physically. We are really close as a crew and we often go to parties or dinners together. Then it's not so bad if you can't have a drink. And apple juice tastes quite nice too.'

#### OLYMPIC STANDARD

First-year rowers can soon be trained to a high standard. Chairman Bas thinks that this is an inviting prospect for



Jip Jordaan (left) chose competitive rowing, Bart Middelburg (right) went for the slightly less fanatical league rowing. In the middle is Argo chair Bas Ooteman.



**‘There is a huge sense of adventure in the boat.’**

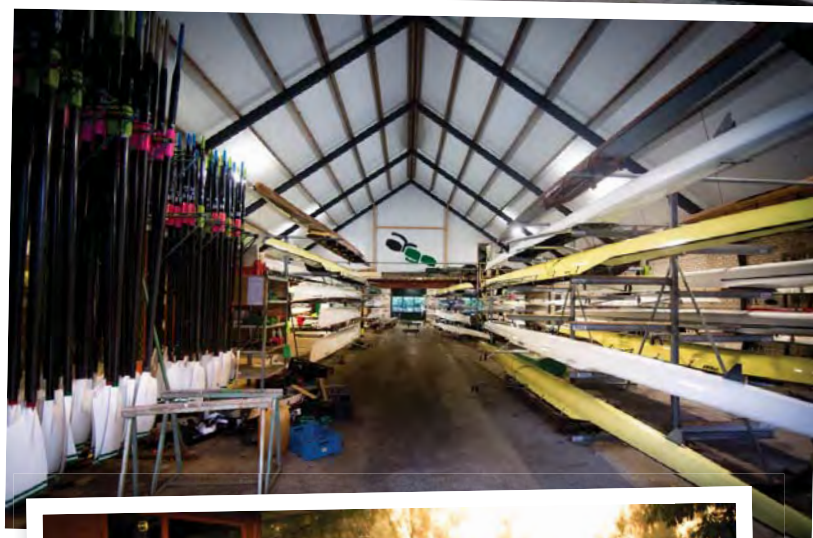


students too. ‘If you want to reach a high standard in volleyball, you have to start playing when you’re eight. If you only begin when you’re 18, you will never be more than an amateur. But if you start rowing when you’re 18, you can still reach Olympic standard. That’s a nice thought.’

Kristel Kooij of the KNRB: ‘About 40 per cent of our national team consists of rowers who came through from youth training while the rest came from student rowing. Rowers who quickly reach the highest level are often students who have been swimmers, for example, or speed-skaters at a high level before and so are already extremely athletic. There are examples of athletes who started rowing in 2008 and went on to win a medal at the Olympics four years later. That’s possible.’

That is why the KNRB provides support for the student rowing clubs. Kooij says, ‘We make sure the conditions are right. For example, we assist the boards, which change every year, via the Aegon Board Cup, and we encourage all the societies to have their own paid professional coaches. We think it is important to have good collaboration because the student rowing clubs are an important source of top-level rowers.’

Jip is not dreaming of a career as a top-level rower. ‘A project has now started for going to the 2020 Olympics. That sounds really cool to me but you would have to move to Amsterdam quite soon and train twice a day. I’m fanatical and I go all out for rowing but I’m not prepared to do that. In the first place, I wouldn’t want to move to Amsterdam and secondly you wouldn’t have any time at all for student life.’ <sup>6</sup>



**Film clip of Argonaut oarswomen**  
Go to [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl)  
Keywords: video and varsity





# IS IT TOO BUSY?

Every year more people come to Wageningen to study. This year is no exception and student numbers have increased yet again. This is making the campus very busy. Is it perhaps too crowded?

**text:** Lucas du Pré / **illustration:** Henk van Ruitenbeek

## Joris Fortuin



**Head of Integrated Facility Management**

'It is noticeably busier on campus. This was to be expected. In previous years lectures were also held on the Dreijen campus. That is no longer the case this year. **For the first time all**

**the university's education facilities are located on the campus. Naturally, this is making it more crowded.**

Students of the university are also being taught in the rooms in Forum that formerly housed Van Hall Larenstein. The rooms were renovated over the summer and redesigned, so now they can accommodate more people. In addition, everyone knows that the first period is always very busy. So it is undeniably more crowded, but whether this is a nuisance, I don't know. It will be interesting to see whether the crowdedness continues throughout the year.'

## Suzan van Oolderen



**Cleaner in Orion**

'I can't help but notice that it is busier this year. That's evident from the amount of rubbish. **Every year it gets a bit more crowded and every year a bit dirtier.** That's only logical of course, the more people the dirtier it

is. The lecture rooms on the third and fourth floors especially are always full of students. That's where the most rubbish is. I work six hours a day and do a morning shift and an evening shift.'

## Fred Jonker



**Policy staff member for information (and timetabler)**

'It wouldn't surprise me if it were busier on campus. There are now more students and the number of students who graduate is much lower than the number of new first-years. There must be about 400 to 600 more students

than last year. **That's roughly 5 percent growth, I reckon.**

The official figures are not yet known. At the moment the lecture rooms can accommodate all the students. It's a bit of a squeeze but it's doable.'

## Corné van den Berg



**MSc Biotechnology**

'It is true that there are more students but that doesn't cause me any inconvenience. It is very busy in De Bongerd at mealtimes but if you plan your sporting activity well, it's not a problem. **Most of the tables in**

**Forum are occupied in the lunch break, but you can always arrange to meet elsewhere.**

The bike racks too were very full during the first few weeks. That is not ideal but now the worst of it seems to be over. Actually I simply find it very sociable that more people are walking around on campus.'

## Peter van Leeuwen



**MSc International Land and Water Management**

'It gets busier every year and this year it is really too busy. The Wi-Fi in the buildings like Forum and Orion is unreliable, especially when there are a lot of people about. In previous

years that was not the case. There is no longer anywhere to park your bike. **Perhaps the university should stop publicizing itself until there is enough space again to accommodate the growth.'**

## Hanneke van Keulen



**BSc Business and Consumer Sciences**

'I think it's not as crowded as all that. This year the flow of people on campus is much better thanks to the new bus lane and wide cycle and pedestrian paths. That makes it manageable with so many students. But





it is noticeable in a couple of things. In the breaks you can't find anywhere to sit and eat. And there are bikes parked all over the place. That kind of ruins the whole look of the campus. **And it was crowded in De Bongerd, but now that the weeks of waived sports rights are over, that's okay again.** The university should carry on recruiting new students but make sure it provides better facilities, such as places to eat lunch, seats and bike sheds.'

### Dan Lu



**MSc Leisure, Tourism and Environment**

'I did my Bachelor's in Macau, in China. I was at a campus university but it was much quieter than here. There were only 2000 people including the lecturers. **So I've had to get used to the situation here. On weekdays it is busy.** Especially at lunch time in Forum. Impossible to get a seat. When

I arrived in Wageningen a lot of students had to register. That too caused long queues, but now they have gone.'

### Jannes Kamp



**Manager with catering company Cormet in Forum**

'This year we are finding it busier than in previous years. I estimate some 5 percent more people. We were well-prepared for the increase. For example, this year we have added a salad bar and packaged sandwiches and we are doing a lot of on-site cooking. **The more customers the better from our point of view.** Having said that, it is important that foot traffic at the cash registers continues to flow well. Otherwise long queues form and there are too many people in the canteen. As of this year, you can pay with a debit card without entering your PIN. That saves time when paying and keeps people moving along.'



# Welcome Shop for refugees

**The Red Cross will be opening a Welcome Shop for asylum seekers in Wageningen as it has done in other towns. The aid organization's local Student Desk has found premises – Industrieweg 34 – with the help of Wageningen UR.**

The Red Cross Welcome Shops are intended as collection points where people can bring goods for refugees. Wageningen is the 15th place to get such a Red Cross shop. The shop is housed in a depot belonging to the university on the Industrieweg in the Nude district.

The Red Cross's Student Desk is really pleased that the university

has let it use this building, says chairperson Amy in 't Groen. 'Our first priority was to find a site. Now we can concentrate on collecting clothing and shoes. That still requires a lot of hard work and preparation.' The shop is open twice a week for handing things in:

Wednesdays from 10:00 to 12:00 and Mondays from 19:00 to 21:00.

The shop started doing business on 7 October.

Christian de Kleijn of the Renkum-Wageningen branch of the Red Cross says there is currently a big need for men's clothing. 'At present, the asylum seekers' centre De Leemkuil in Wageningen mainly houses young men.' Specifically, they need shoes (sizes 38 to 42), trousers (S-L), underwear, winter coats and warm jumpers in all sizes. Flat women's shoes are also welcome, as are clothes hangers.

The Red Cross is also looking



for more volunteers and a shop manager. If you want to help, you can apply through [www.ready2help.nl](http://www.ready2help.nl) or the Wageningen volunteers centre.

© RK/NJ

# 'Expand the Honours Programme'

**Some students have sent the Executive Board an open letter about the Wageningen education programme for excellent students. The three students say that it is a shame that only a select group can take the Honours Programme when far more students are able and willing to take on this additional challenge.**

Robin van der Bles and Jelske de Kraker, both former Student Council members, and Carina Nieuwenweg, a Molecular Life Sciences student and Resource blog-

ger, say the Honours Programme is so popular that the number of places has never been enough to meet the big demand. 'For every student who is able to take part in the programme, at least two get turned away,' they write. 'Would it not be fitting in a scientific environment if everyone were to get an opportunity to work on his/her excellence?'

Wageningen wants to use the money made available by the abolition of the basic grant to fund the Honours Programme. Robin, Jelske and Carina feel that all students should be able to benefit

from this money. That is why they propose setting up an 'Open Honours Programme', a demand-driven programme with more flexible participation so that 'everyone who can and wants to can work on his or her excellence'. The students call it a 'programme where your achievements make you excellent, not the taking part'.

The Student Council thinks the three students' action is a good way of getting a debate going about the programme for excellent students, says Bram Kersse-makers, a VeSte council member. 'We understand their view that

teaching should be challenging for everyone and that all students should benefit from the money released by the abolition of the basic grant. We are not sure that an Open Honours Programme is the best way of achieving that, but we see it as the Student Council's task to take initiatives by students seriously. We certainly think it's a very good idea to have a debate about what the university means by "excellence".'

Educational Institute director Tiny van Boekel has not yet read the students' letter and is therefore unable to comment. © LvdN

# Lab coat pimping

First year students Molecular life sciences pimped their lab coats in De Bunker on 30 September. The event was organised by study association M.S.V. Alchimica. More photos on [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl). ©



PHOTOS: REMO WORMMEESTER



# Taking self-made tempeh drink to Milan

Six Wageningen students were in the final of EcoTrophelia in Milan on 5 and 6 October with the tempeh drink they developed themselves. They came fifth in this European competition for food technology students.

The six students had been meeting up for months for four to five hours a week to think up a process for the production of their drink Temphtation. They also conducted sensory tests, carried out literature studies to demonstrate the nutritional value of their product, designed the packaging, conceived a marketing strategy and drew up a plan for the financing.

The Wageningen team were the convincing winners in the Dutch preliminary rounds. Two out of three participants in the AgriFood-Top in June voted for this Wageningen team. Henk Kamp, the minister of Economic Affairs, handed the award to the students, five of whom are from Indonesia and one from Germany. 'We didn't know who he was,' says team captain Marie Luise Puhlmann. 'He was clearly an important man because they were all important men at this event, but it was only when he was announced as a speaker that we realized that it had been the minister who gave us the thumbs



PHOTO: REMO WORMMEESTER

The six students who developed Temphtation. Team captain Marie Luise Puhlmann is top right, in red.

up after our presentation and then handed us the prize.'

Temphtation has been created for the Asian market. Tempeh, made from fermented soybeans, is already used a lot in Asian cuisine, say the five Indonesian team members. 'The fact that the beans are fermented helps the absorption of the nutrients,' says Marie-Luise, promoting the product. 'And it is sustainable too because it uses the entire bean, including the skin.' Such claims have to be backed by evidence of course. Which the students did, using literature from Indonesia.

In the lab, the students produced their alternative to dairy drinks in four different flavours. They carried out the sterilization, which ensures a long shelf life for the product, at FrieslandCampina. 'We don't have that equipment at the university,' explains Marie-Luise. They had good contacts

with other companies too. Vida provided the tempeh free of charge, for instance, and International Flavours and Fragrances Inc. gave them the flavourings.

Wageningen University does well in EcoTrophelia every year. In 2013 a Wageningen team won the second prize with a hot chocolate drink using quinoa and in 2012 Wageningen University even came first with a meat substitute made from fermented lupines and oats. 'The team that won then consisted entirely of Indonesian students. They made tempeh from lupines instead of soya beans,' says Marie-Luise. That also explains why

there are so many Indonesians in the team this time. 'Indonesian students in Wageningen always get help from seniors, who share their experiences.' And that includes the stories about the success at EcoTrophelia. **KG**



View the Temphtation commercial at [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl).





**MANY? (1)**

Most men and women aged 30 to 44 years old have had sex with eight different people, reveals a study from Chapman University in California. A quarter of the 60,000 Americans questioned had even gone through more than 14 bed partners. For the rest, the study was about the relationship between weight, length and the number of sex partners.

**MANY? (2)**

In contrast to popular opinion, tall men do not have more bed partners. Length is not very relevant. Except for very short men, who 'have to make do' with five women. Weight, on the other hand, is a big factor. Overweight men have twice as many bed partners as skinny men: eight and four, respectively. Among women the difference is marginal. So throw out the bathroom scales.

**BLADDER TEST**

After an evening's drinking it is easy to lie, claim researchers at California State University. Lying is the suppression of the truth. And suppression is easier if you are already doing it in some other way. Holding in your pee, say. Inhibitory spillover is the name of this phenomenon in the world of science. Or rather: never trust anyone with a full bladder.

**SCENT**

Scent branding is the latest hype in marketing. The scent of a hotel, for example, is more important than the interior, the kitchen or the staff, we discover from Indian research in the *Journal of Trade and Global Markets*. How should Wageningen UR smell? Of fresh conifers, plants in bloom mixed with cow manure? Or simply of Forum: poorly ventilated lecture hall air.

## Wageningen students are most mobile

**Wageningen students are most likely to go abroad for part of their degree, with as many as 52 percent doing a course module or internship in another country. That is more than for any other Dutch academic university.**

Eindhoven (42 percent) and Maastricht (39 percent) are some way behind, according to the latest figures published by the education service centre Nuffic in the report *Mapping Internationalization*. This annual survey contains all the information on student flows in Dutch higher education.

Wageningen students are pretty mobile but students at some universities of applied sciences are even more international-minded. HAS Den Bosch (98 percent) and the Hotel School in The Hague (93 percent) beat the lot. They are fol-

lowed by Vilentum (CAH/Stoas, 64 percent) and NHTV Breda University of Applied Sciences (53 percent). When all academic universities and universities of applied sciences are combined, Wageningen is fifth.

Wageningen also does well in the opposite direction. Wageningen has the highest proportion of international students after Maastricht. At Maastricht, 47 percent of the students are from abroad, mainly Germany. In Wageningen, 21 percent come from over the border. However, that percentage has been falling in recent years, because the number of Dutch students is increasing faster than the number of foreign students.

In total, 62,653 foreigners are studying in the Netherlands this year, almost 9 percent of the total student population. Just over half of them are studying at an academ-

ic university, which means that an average of 13 percent of the students at these universities are international. As said, that percentage is a lot higher in Wageningen. This year, 9,315 Dutch students are studying abroad with a student grant or loan. Most of them (85 percent) are studying in Belgium. **Ⓜ RK**



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER

## Jumping for joy at Droeffeest

Almost 3000 people came to the Droevendaal student complex on Saturday 27 September for the annual Droeffeest. They were able to enjoy workshops,

stand-up comedy and all kinds of food. Of course accompanied by loads of beer and pot. Even so, the music was the highlight. There were bands playing, while

electronic music dominated later on in the evening. Each (generally packed) bungalow had a different DJ, each with a distinctive style. **Ⓜ RR**



## EPISODE 58 - MORTIERSTRAAT 14B <<

Text  
Rob  
Ramaker

*The story so far: Derk has seriously fallen for a guy for the first time since coming out. Making the first move suddenly becomes a whole lot harder when you are really in love.*

### Droef party

In a group of eight, nine people, they cycled haphazardly towards the noise. Except for Willem-Jan, who didn't want to go to 'a hippy party' on principle, all the housemates were there. A PET bottle filled with homemade gin-and-tonic was being passed around. Only Derk was quick to pass on the bottle. That was of course all part and parcel of living an athletic life, but today he was also feeling his stomach churning with nerves.

'Will he be there tonight?' asked Bianca, for the third time. 'Jelle, is he coming?' With her front wheel, she weaved dangerously along the edge of the cycle path. 'Yeah,' said Derk. He thought back to how he had been cautiously testing the waters on WhatsApp over the past few weeks. After all that apping, Derk was sure that Jelle would be there tonight, but he was sure of no more than that. 'And you like him, don't you?' asked Bianca. Derk nodded. 'Well, that's fab, isn't it?' Bianca took a big swig from the PET bottle.

When they had safely arrived a little while later, Derk looked about enthusiastically, forgetting his nerves for a moment. All sorts of people were milling about at Droevendaal, there were some jugglers and music was audible everywhere. When his eyes met Jelle's in the distance, he was startled. Derk waved sheepishly and let himself be guided by Bianca to a bar. As they stood chatting, drinks in hand, Bianca's words were going in one of Derk's ears and out the other. Over her shoulder, Derk saw in the distance how Jelle was talking animatedly to a curly-headed guy. Perhaps he had only imagined the spark that had passed

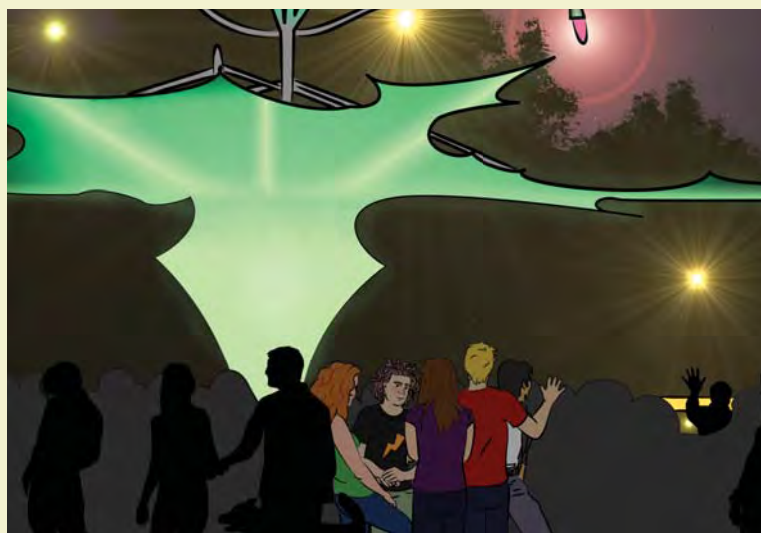
between them, thought Derk gloomily, and to Jelle he was just a guy. Bianca, who was meanwhile rambling on, slurring her words, prodded him.

'What's the matter? You're not listening at all.' She looked round and saw Jelle in the distance. 'You should go over to him,' she said eagerly, and pushed Derk in Jelle's direction. 'But...' Derk took a step backwards. 'No, go over there now,' said Bianca. 'I don't want to see you again until you have spoken to him.' She walked off demonstratively.

Derk hesitated, took a swig of beer and made his way slowly through the crowd. In the press of bodies he soon lost sight of Jelle and started ambling about, searching, at the place where he had last seen him standing. Feeling defeated, he thought of the head of curls. I knew it.

'Looking for someone?' Grinning, Jelle appeared beside him. Derk was tongue-tied. He stuttered and blushed. Jelle laughed, amused.

'So shall I just kiss you then?'



ILLUSTRATIONS: KIM PETERSE

Resource follows events at Mortierstraat 14B

## KSV Franciscus gets the most new members

**KSV Franciscus is able to report the most new members of all the student societies this year. Of the 241 students who registered for the society introduction stage (VIT), 180 eventually enrolled as members.**

Ceres, which was able to add the most new members last year (170), has 158 first-years now, while 148 students have joined

SSR-W, 20 more than last year. NSW Navigators, Nji Sjri and Unitas all say that they have got 50 new members.

'The society premises look a bit smarter and there is more room thanks to recent renovations,' says Matthijs Verburg, the chair at KSV Franciscus. 'I'm not going to claim that we got more people joining because we're better than the other societies. We're simply Franciscus.'

Student sports association Argo is also doing well. In fact, it has actually outdone the traditional student societies, with 200 new members. Talking about the large number of new members, Saskia Tersteeg, W.S.R. Argo's secretary, says: 'As a student rowing club we're unique in Wageningen as we have social activities at Argo as well as the sport side.' (See too the article on page 18.)

On average about 75 to 80 percent of the students who register with a society during or just after the AID eventually become members. That is because students sometimes register with more than one society and make a final choice later on. Students also drop out during the VIT. NSW is an exception to that rule: the 50 people who registered have all become members.®

**Twan van der Slikke**



## &gt;&gt; PARTIES

The best parties according to Wageningen Uitgaans Promotie. Check [www.wageningenup.nl](http://www.wageningenup.nl) for all parties.

**CAFÉ LOBURG - LUCIE THORNE IN CONCERT**

**Thursday 8 October from 21:00 to 02:00**

Singer Lucie Thorne is well known in her home country Australia and she is a rising star in Wageningen too. Now she will be giving another intimate concert in Café Loburg. Last year, almost 200 people came to listen to this fantastic performer singing her sensitive numbers. Once again, admission is free.

**KSV - LIGHT UP FRANCISCUS**

**Thursday 8 October from 22:30 to 05:00**

The last open party of this period is at KSV Franciscus. One last chance to go wild before the revision and exams week starts. Come in

an old white shirt because fluorescent paint will be flowing freely at this neon party for a guaranteed colourful spectacle. It's definitely worth going when admission costs only 4 euros.

**BBLTHK - POPCULTUUR: QUIET IS THE NEW LOUD!**

**Wednesday 28 October from 20:30 to 23:30**

Popcultuur Wageningen regularly puts on events in the 'Quiet is the New Loud' series in Wageningen's public library. This time, two performers from Rotterdam are scheduled to appear: singer-songwriter Lisa Lukaszczyk (Luka) and the poetical musician Wannes Salome, alias Autumn Child. ⑥

## &gt;&gt; THE WORKS

**'I HEAD-BUTTED A HYENA'**

**Who?** Jip Vrooman, Master's student Forest and Nature Conservation & Aquaculture and Marine Resource Management

**What?** Thesis research on the effect of elephants on vegetation

**Where?** Botswana

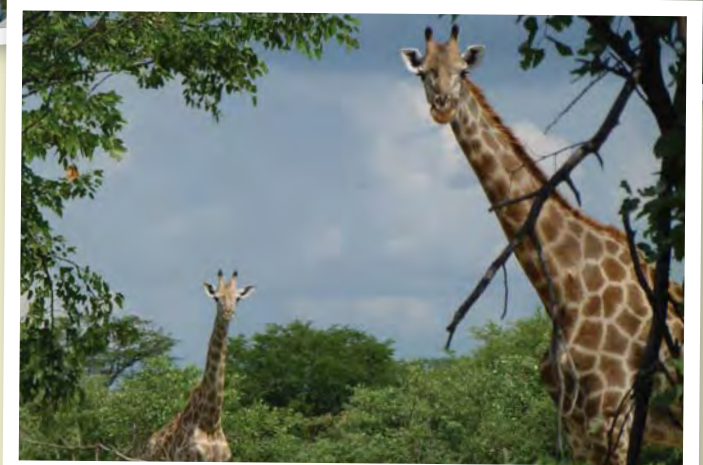
'My research was about the effect of elephants on the height of vegetation, in relation to the distance to water. We expected that many elephants were sticking to the area near the park's lakes and were therefore eating much of the vegetation there.

To do the fieldwork, we camped out repeatedly for a couple of weeks at various sites in the park. We drove into the bush with two Jeeps loaded up with food, drink, tents and research materials. After eating a breakfast cooked on a gas burner, I would leave for the field in the very early morning to measure trees and to establish the species. Another student did the same for grass species.

It was pretty isolated; during our first trip we came across absolutely no one. But we did see all sorts of animals passing by: hyenas, elephants, buffalo. Previously I thought: oh elephants, really great, cool. But actually they are pretty dangerous. One time an elephant stood just six metres away from us. It was fabulous, but also very nerve-wracking.

'Don't move, don't move!' said our supervisor. Because if they take fright, they can stampede. The night that I was woken in my tent by the howl of hyenas is also etched in my memory. I could hear that they were close, and suddenly I felt a hard thump against my tent – I had simply head-butted a hyena.

We spent the rest of the time in Maun, the city where the research insti-



tute was. There we entered data and made preparations for the next field trip. Sometimes we went out on the town with the locals. Then the other student and me would be the only white people in the whole bar. Everyone was very interested in us and would come over to shake us by the hand. I have to say that felt a little weird.

The Botswanans are very worldly and modern yet before a couple gets married the groom gives the bride's family a number of cows. And many Botswanans are religious – as was my supervisor. That sometimes led to deep discussions when we sat around the camp fire late at night.' ⑥ JB





## MEANWHILE IN... <<

### Meanwhile in... Catalonia


**In the news:** Independence supporters won a majority in the Catalan parliament last week. They assert that this is enough to start devolution from Spain. Much to the displeasure of the Spanish government.

*Commentary by Marta Portell Milán, Master's student of Food Biotechnology*

'In Barcelona only the supporters of independence celebrated the election results on the streets. Together, the parties that want to separate from Spain have achieved a majority in parliament. However, only 47.75 percent of all those entitled to vote in Catalonia voted for independence. This is not the majority. Everyone is now claiming victory and that is making the situation confusing.

We are keen to devolve because we have always had a bad relationship with Spain. The government in Madrid has never listened to us, and this is despite the fact that we are the strongest region in the country economically. This has to change. Various attempts to achieve this have been made in the past. Catalonia once submitted a proposal for a new form of financing for the region and another calling for greater recognition of the Catalan identity. The Spanish government rejected these proposals without ever offering alternative solutions. Among many Catalans this has bred an aversion to Spain.

Other parts of Spain, such as Navarra and the Basque Country, are economically independent. I think this would also be the best option for Catalonia. In the areas of culture, language and education, too, Catalonia must be able to make its own decisions. The Spanish government is making this impossible, which leads me to believe that independence is the only solution.

This will not happen immediately, but if the Spanish government does not change its attitude, support for separation will only increase. The question is what this will mean ultimately for the future of Catalonia. I think that we will always stay in the European Union and that Europe will help us in this matter. Whether we will have our own army is another issue because there is no military culture here.'  LdP

### in memoriam

#### Egbert Westphal



On 17 September, Egbert Westphal passed away at the age of 77. Egbert was the initia-

tor and also the manager and editor for many years of the successful PROSEA project. PROSEA (Plant Resources of South-East Asia) published 24 books over a period of more than 15 years (1987-2003) and a database with over 7000 useful plants in South-East Asia. Editors and hundreds of authors from the region and the rest of the world worked on the standard textbook, with Wageningen UR staff responsible for most of the editing and organization, and with funding from WUR, DGIS, the EU, ITTO and FINNIDA among others.

Egbert studied Tropical Agricultural Plant Breeding in Wageningen, graduating in 1966. After his study, he did field work in Africa in Uganda, Ethiopia and Cameroon. His work in Ethiopia resulted in a large collection of plants for the Wageningen herbarium as well as a doctoral thesis on the pulses of Ethiopia and a survey of agriculture in that country. His work in Cameroon led to publications on Cameroon crops and farming systems. His contributions to tropical plant science remain very important.

From 1985 until his retirement he worked in the Tropical Plant Breeding department (which later became part of the Agronomy department), spending increasing amounts of time on PROSEA. His dreaded editor's red pen ensured high standards in the books. Despite his negative experiences in Indonesia during the Second World War, he got intense pleasure from his visits to that country, where he had been born in 1938. He also made countless trips to countries around the Mediterranean together with his wife Josien, where they often visited and ad-

mired the remains of ancient Greek and Roman culture in particular. Unfortunately Parkinson's disease brought his retirement to an untimely end.

We will always remember his sense of humour and the interest he showed in staff and how they were doing. We offer Josien and the children our deepest sympathy.

*The former Wageningen PROSEA team.*

#### Xavier Garnier



We have received the sad news that our colleague Xavier Garnier passed away on 1 October

from cancer. Xavier was only 55. Xavier was a sociable, friendly and very committed and involved colleague who was always there for his fellow workers and ready to help where needed.

Xavier spent more than 15 years working in Wageningen UR's financial administration, where he held various positions. On 1 January 2006, Xavier became the controller for the Department of Animal Sciences. Xavier played an important part in the development of the business economics activities and the provision of services to the department's chair groups and project managers. He had a central and significant role within the department, functioning as its financial conscience and point of contact.

Xavier had many personal contacts with various colleagues in various units within the organization, from his fellow workers in the team to project managers, chair group holders, colleagues in other WUR F&C departments and the ASG Management Council. The effort he put in, his expertise, his experience and his personal, accessible approach to his job were highly valued within the department.



The way in which Xavier dealt with his illness deserves a great deal of respect and admiration. For example, he was determined to attend his son's graduation ceremony despite his illness, and he managed it too.

We really miss Xavier here in the department. We offer Paulien, Celine and Timon our deepest sympathy as they cope with the loss of Xavier.

*Geurt Heimensen and Arend Krikke, also on behalf of the ASG Management Council*

## announcements

### Call for papers Conference: Dis-closing Sustainability: The Transformative Power of Transparency?

Submit your abstract before 15th October if you would like to take part in this international conference, organised by Environmental Policy group, Wageningen University. The conference will be held in Wageningen between 24-25th June, 2016.

INFO THEMES AND PROGRAM:  
WWW.TRANSPARENCYENP2016.COM

### Student Safaris in Southern Africa

There will be student trips to Southern Africa (Selected Topics, 3 ECTS) again in period 4 (Feb. 2016). You will join other enthusiastic, highly motivated students on a trip to explore African nature and wildlife. Come to the information session on Wednesday 14 October, 12:30 – 13:15 in C 0221 Forum, or visit [www.studentsafaris.nl](http://www.studentsafaris.nl).

### Exhibition of wood sculptures in The True Limpet gallery

The True Limpet Art Gallery has an exhibition until 25 October of wood sculptures and computer animation films by artist Hans de Wolf. Mythology and folklore are important sources of inspiration for the artist. He likes to cause confusion by using absurdism and paradox as a way of shaking up our rusty brains! Gallery opening hours: Wednesdays from 10:00 to 15:00, Saturdays, Sundays from 12:00 to 17:00. Address: Herenstraat 11.

### Aid for refugees

The Red Cross has opened its 15th Welcome Shop in a WUR storage depot at Industrieweg 34. People can hand in clothing, shoes and other items for refugees at this shop. The Red Cross will then make sure the items get to the asylum seekers' centre on the Keijenbergseweg in Wageningen. To start with, the shop will be open twice a week: Monday evenings from 19.00 to 21.00 and Wednesday mornings from 10:00 to 12:00. The site [www.hulpvoorvluchtelingen.nl](http://www.hulpvoorvluchtelingen.nl) tells you what items are needed at present and how you could help as a volunteer.

### How do you cope with the blues as a student?

You may have a great student life but it would be no surprise given all the changes if you felt a bit low and started worrying for short or long periods. The site [gripopjedip.nl](http://gripopjedip.nl) gives you free, anonymous help, via email or an online group

course in a chatbox. Recent research by the Trimbos Institute shows that this helps reduce depression and anxiety and gives you a feeling of being more in control of your life. This free service was part funded by the Ministry van Health, Welfare and Sport.

WWW.GRIPOPJEDIP.NL

### Wanted: cleaner (m/f)

For three hours a week outside of office hours for a company in Wageningen. In the event of sickness and/or holidays, you will be expected to work more hours to cover. The idea is that you work together with our other cleaner, in consultation where necessary. Info: call 0317 466699 and ask for Marianne.

### Drum band OBK in Bennekom needs experienced percussionists

If you fancy drumming in your free time during your study, you may be the person we're looking for. Just come to one of our rehearsals on Thursday evenings from 20:00 and ask for Dick or Jan. You will find the music society at Ki-erkamperweg 36 in Bennekom.

WWW.OBK BENNEKOM.NL

### Talpa Productions is looking for a nature expert/field biologist for a TV programme

Do you think you could help create an ideal society? We are looking for men and women, entrepreneurs, doers and idealists. We'd also like people in the programme who know something about nature and living a sustainable life. People who want and are able to make

a difference. If you are innovative and adventurous and you think you fit the profile, call 035-5333576.

## agenda

### Thursday 8 October 21:00 FREE CONCERT BY SINGER-SONGWRITER LUCIE THORNE, THE 'TASMANIAN NIGHTINGALE'

Thorne's songs come from a rich Australian tradition of oral storytelling combined with atmospheric folk music. Her voice is warm, deep, intimate, sometimes a little husky, and reminiscent of Joni Mitchell. Thorne is a star in her home country, Australia, and beyond, as her international reviews testify: 'Thorne writes some of the most simple and beautiful songs you will hear. Four Stars.' (The Age) and 'This is a gem' (Rolling Stone). Location: Café Loburg, Molenaarstraat 6, Wageningen.

### Friday 9 October to Wednesday 28 October

#### FILMS FOR STUDENTS

Showing at Movie W: *Banana Pancakes*, about the effect backpackers have on a village in Laos; *Taxi Teheran*, a tragi-comic taxi journey revealing conditions in Iran; *In Grazia di Dio*, a realistic feel-good movie about family relationships; *La Isla Mínima*, a detective thriller in a forgotten Spanish village; *Mareketa Lazarova*, an epic Czech classic about the Middle Ages; *Theeb*, an adventure film about a Bedouin boy in the desert where the British are challenging Ottoman rule.

WWW.MOVIE-W.NL

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**Thursday 15 October, 19.45**  
**LIVE STAGE MARNIX PRESENTS ...**

Walt & Tina Wilkins (US) at Café de Bospoort, Bospoort 1, Ede. Walt Wilkins wrote hundreds of songs for others, and he is a charming performer of his own songs. Walt (guitar, vocals) is accompanied by his wife Tina (vocals), Bill Small (guitar, vocals) and Bart de Win (keyboards, vocals). Admission €12. Booking in advance: [www.livestagemarnix.com](http://www.livestagemarnix.com)

**Sunday 18 October, 15:00**  
**BLUESCLUB XXL WITH LOLA GULLEY & THE SEVEN SONS BAND**

Lola is a dynamic blues and R&B singer. She combines a funky keyboard style with an energetic stage performance. She has shared the stage with such famous names as the Pointer Sisters, Bobby "Blue" Bland and Bobby Womack. Location: Café Loburg, Molenstraat 6, Wageningen

**Tuesday 20 October, 17.00 - 21.00 (in English)**  
**INTERDISCIPLINARY DEBATE: 'WATER DELIGHT'**

The expectation is that over the next few decades more than half of all global challenges will concern water, whether the issue is too much water or too little. These water-related challenges are so huge and complex that we cannot hope to feel safe simply relying on the technologies from the past. We need to look for new integrated multidisciplinary solutions. The keynote speaker is Henk Ovink, the

Netherlands' Special Envoy for International Water Affairs. Location: Hotel de Wageningsche Berg

REGISTRATION VIA: [WWW.KLV.NL](http://WWW.KLV.NL)

**Thursday 29 October, 9.30 - 17.30**  
**BRAINSTORM-SYMPOSIUM ON SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY**

Making better microbes, improved vaccines, new plants, better genomes, artificial noses, detection tools... Synthetic Biology is now one of the five strategic investment themes of Wageningen UR. Can Synthetic Biology principles also speed up your research?

Join the symposium and the interactive workshop in the afternoon. Venue: Hotel de Wageningsche Berg, Gen. Foulkesweg 96

REGISTER (ONLY 100 SEATS AVAILABLE) VIA [WWW.WAGENINGENUR.NL/SYMPOSIUMSYNTHETICBIOLOGY](http://WWW.WAGENINGENUR.NL/SYMPOSIUMSYNTHETICBIOLOGY)

**Thursday 5 November, 9.00 - 19.30**

**PE&RC DAY 2015: ONE'S WASTE... ANOTHER'S TREASURE?**

The annual symposium is organised by the PhD council of the Graduate School Production Ecology and Resource Conservation (PE&RC). Each PE&RC-day deals with a challenging, cutting edge topic and is meant for scientists, young and old, to meet each other and exchange their views on the topic. In this year's event, we will look at anthropogenic waste through the lens of an ecosystem, presenting innovative ways of managing waste through recycling or upcycling. Venue: Hotel de Nieuwe Wereld, Marijkeweg 5, Wageningen

INFO AND REGISTRATION: [WWW.PE-RC.NL](http://WWW.PE-RC.NL)  
 NLPD2015

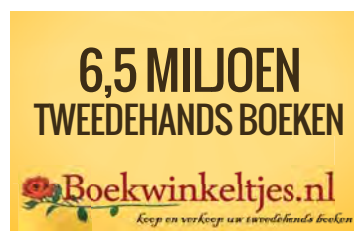
**Tuesday, 17 November until Friday 20 November**

**7TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COEXISTENCE BETWEEN GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) AND NON-GM BASED AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY CHAINS (GMCC-15)**

The conference focuses on coexistence of genetically modified and conventionally produced agricultural products and food in international supply chains and trade. Leading experts from various academic disciplines and industry, regulators, policy makers and other key stakeholders from around the world gather to discuss the challenges and opportunities in managing different types of foods in global markets. Venue: Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky in Amsterdam.

INFO AND REGISTRATION:  
[WWW.WAGENINGENUR.NL/GMCC2015](http://WWW.WAGENINGENUR.NL/GMCC2015)

Deadline for submissions: one week before publication date (max. 75 words)  
 Email: [resource@wur.nl](mailto:resource@wur.nl)



## colophon

Resource is the magazine and news website for students and staff at Wageningen UR. Resource magazine comes out every fortnight on Thursday.

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### Printer

Tuijtel, Hardinxveld-Giessendam

### Subscriptions

A subscription to the magazine costs €58 (overseas: €131) per academic year. Cancellations before 1 August.

### Advertising

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### Publisher

Marc Lamers, Corporate Communications & Marketing Wageningen UR



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## De sociale dimensie van de opwarming

Nijssen & Walter

We dreigen te stranden op klimaat. Maar zijn verdeeld. Welke aanpak brengt ons op één lijn en mobiliseert alle krachten?

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# >>TYPICAL DUTCH



ILLUSTRATION: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

## Wa-gggg-eningen

**'Ggg-goed, in the Netherlands, you always need to know how to pronounce the gggg-sound', the customs officer said to me while stamping 'arrival' on my Taiwanese passport, upon my first arrival at Schiphol Airport last year.**

Upon my arrival in Schiphol Airport last August, I was full of joy and felt super excited about starting my new adventure as a master's student. While smiling delightedly and waiting to pass the immigration office, a very interesting conversation took place.

The customs officer: 'What is the purpose of your visit to the Netherlands?' Me: 'I come here to study, Sir.' The customs officer: 'Where are you going to study?' Me: 'Wageningen University' (pronouncing the 'g' as in goat). The customs officer then looked at me and made the sound: 'Ggggggggg' (the sound of spitting). Me with my eyes open widely tried to mimic: 'Ggggggggg'. The customs officer shook his head and repeated: 'Ggggggggg... Wageningen!'

I then turned around to look at the line behind me. There were at least another 15 people waiting in the queue and this guy was trying to teach me how to pronounce a proper 'G' sound in Dutch. So I couldn't help but start to smile wildly and said 'Wageningen!'

The customs officer: 'Goed, in the Netherlands, you always need to know how to pronounce the "G" sound.' Then he gave me a wink while returning my passport. I walked away and continued smiling, thinking, 'Well, that was interesting! Welcome to the Netherlands!' **Fen-Yu Lin, Master's student of Climate studies, from Taiwan**

**The customs officer then looked at me and made the sound: 'Ggggggggg'**

*Do you have a nice anecdote about your experience of going Dutch? Send it in! Describe an encounter with Dutch culture in detail and comment on it briefly. 300 words max. Send it to [resource@wur.nl](mailto:resource@wur.nl) and earn twenty-five euro and Dutch candy.*