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StartHub

Incubator for startups has been going one year | **p.20** |

RESOURCE ^[ENG]

For students and employees of Wageningen UR

no 7 – 12 November 2015 – 10th Volume

Golden rules of diet


Due for a facelift | **p.12**



>> DIAAN + MANTRAILING

Diaan Jamar, technician in the Plant Physiology chair group

'I have to learn to read Malko'

Diaan Jamar and her Bernese mountain dog Malko are not really going to track down missing persons. But they are training for it. This hobby is called mantrailing: working together to find a 'missing person'. As soon as they are on the right track it gets serious and there is no holding back Malko. And afterwards there's the reward: an egg or a piece of cheese or sausage. For Malko, that is. And for his boss? 'That interaction, doing something together – I love that.'  RK / Photo: Guy Ackermans



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DOWN TO EARTH

Never underestimate how far-reaching Wageningen's themes can be. I was taken by surprise in my own back garden last week by the words of a plumber. It's all to do with 2015, or The Year of Soils, declared by the United Nations and adopted with much fanfare in soil-related professional circles. Outside such circles however, the soil story seems to be pretty much dead and – well, buried. Ask around about the Year of Soils next time you're waiting in the checkout queue and you'll be met by a deafening silence. Of course Wageningen got invited here and there to explain the tremendous importance of soils in our lives. The highlight being the election of the soil creature of the year on 4 October. Which brings me back to the plumber in my back garden. Before he started digging he grabbed a handful of soil and let it run through his fingers. 'Good soil, Mister. Fertile and full of critters. That's important. Don't suppose you knew that. It's not the Year of Soils for nothing.' Thrusting his spade into the ground he added quietly that the woodlouse is the commonest inhabitant of our gardens soils. Nice.

Edwin van Laar



>> [World trade wrestles with GM regulations | p.18](#)

WUR COUNCIL: 'NETWORK RULES RESTRICT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION'

- Restrictions on use of social media
- WUR Council has fundamental objections

The council says that the new rules for the Wageningen UR computer network will restrict people's freedom of expression. It will only approve the proposed network regulations if the rules on social media, among other things, are changed.

The main aim of the regulations is to guarantee a secure, stable WUR network. But the regulations are also supposed to protect Wage-

ningen UR from 'actions that (...) could harm its reputation or that are unlawful or criminal'. This text was in the previous regulations but a new addition says that the text is 'applicable in particular (...) to social media'. According to the draft text, targeted investigations of users are permitted in order to prevent '(unjustified) deliberate negative publicity about Wageningen UR'.

And the WUR Council is not happy with that. 'We don't think the regulations should impose restrictions on social media posts,' says Wilco Muller, a WUR Council member representing VeSte. The

council thinks that students have the right to make negative statements about their university. That is a matter of principle. Dutch law is sufficient for dealing with any statements so extreme that they count as libel or defamation, says Muller. He understands that stricter rules should apply for staff, but they already have the dos and don'ts of the social media guidelines.

The debate is not just about the freedom of expression. For instance, the student members of WUR Council do not want users who connect to the Wi-Fi network with their own devices to be forced

to install a virus scanner. The staff members also wonder how enforceable that rule is.

As it happens, the council is already consulting with the Legal Affairs department behind the scenes. Another phrase that did not go down well - the suggestions that users 'are expected to be ambassadors of Wageningen UR' has already been scrapped. The Executive Board did not want to comment on the issue before the meeting scheduled for the evening of Wednesday 11 November. A comment from the Executive Board will be published on resource-online. nl. **RR**

SPORT MORE EXPENSIVE FOR STAFF

- Sports rights out of Optare package
- Squash, tennis and swimming out of basic package

Taking part in sports through their employer is about to become a lot more expensive for Wageningen UR staff. They are no longer allowed to buy sports rights through the Optare employment benefit package. And swimming, tennis and squash have been taken out of the basic 'fitness' package. Tightened up tax regulations lie behind these measures, explains Henri ten Klooster, head of De Bongerd Sports Centre. Tax inspectors have scrutinized the basic fitness package there and declared it 'too extensive'.

Squash, tennis and swimming do not fit the definition of corporate fitness and should therefore be taken out of the package, according to the tax inspectors. Ten Klooster: 'The costs for those sports on the commercial market are quite different.' Staff who play squash or tennis, or who swim



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

through the package are at too great an advantage, say the tax inspectors. From now on these sports must be paid for outside their sports rights. How much they will cost is not yet clear. According to Ten Klooster this affects at least 150 of the 1049 staff members with sports rights.

At least as significant financially is the fact that it is no longer possible to buy sports rights through the

employment benefits package Optare. Within Optare sports rights can be deducted from the salary before tax. That is no longer allowed. This affects 500 staff members who currently buy their sports rights through Optare. Another 500 staff have sports rights but do not buy them through Optare. Ten Klooster deplores the measures. 'I've been working for years to get sports rights into the employment bene-

fits package. But there is nothing I can do about this.'

Besides these changes prompted by comments from the tax inspectors, sports rights were already set to go up in price this year. Staff will pay 1.50 euros more per month, bringing the total cost to 240 euros a year. Students will pay 10 euros more per year (94 euros). These raises are due to the construction of the new sports hall. **RK**

MOOCS IN MANDARIN ARE POSSIBLE

• Chinese interest in free online courses

There are firm plans to offer Wageningen MOOCs - free online courses - in Mandarin. Wageningen University wants to license the Chinese MOOC platform XuetangX for this. If the deal is closed, the first two Wageningen MOOCs will be translated as a pilot. The courses will be supervised by a Chinese teacher.

Ulrike Wild, programme director for Distance Learning at Wageningen UR, sees China as a huge market for Wageningen University. With the translated MOOC she hopes to reach students who do not speak English. Besides being a recruitment instrument the online courses also constitute a calling card with which Wageningen wants to make its name known and 'claim' certain topics such as nutrition. It is also hoped that new teaching methods and materials will

trickle down into on-campus education.

Wageningen is not the Dutch pioneer in this field, however. A handful of Delft University courses are already being offered in Chinese. And thought is being given in Delft to MOOCs in Arabic and Russian.

Meanwhile the third Wageningen MOOC started on Monday 9 November. The course was set up by Sander Kersten, professor of Nutrition, Metabolism and Genomics. **RR**

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Honours programme

To all the students who have been turned down for the Honours Programme.

So that's how it goes in Academia. Our whole system depends on selection and self-promotion. Applying for grants, trying to get published in high-impact journals: the academic life is a constant battle with victories and defeats. And hey, you've just lost your first battle.

Of course you will get countless other chances to excel. But – without wanting to discourage you – do you know how these things work in Academia? The committees which assess research proposals are almost overwhelmed by the flood of excellent proposals they get. So the first thing they look at is which competitors have already received a grant. Because they have already proved themselves. In other words: success breeds success, and the same goes for failure. So there you'll be with your ordinary degree without honours. A piece of paper whose value – thanks to all the attention the Dutch press has paid recently to bare pass grades given out of pity – is in doubt from the start.

But there is hope. I am offering an exclusive opportunity to all rejected honours students to apply for my personal Excellence Honours Plus Programme. Needless to say, my budget is minimal and my status laughable. But there are so many Honours Programmes in the Netherlands by now that employers cannot possibly keep track of what they all mean.

You can apply by sending me a letter of motivation and a copy of your rejection letter. I will provide successful candidates with an induction into the day-to-day reality of life as a scientist. I've got an awful lot of jars that need washing up. **R**

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

>> LEI IN QUEST

'Best question of 2015'

Could the Netherlands be self-sufficient? Quest magazine considered that the best reader's question of 2015. In the magazine LEI researcher Petra Berkhout answers a key aspect of that question: is there enough food? The Netherlands can grow enough food for 17 million people but our diet would look very different, explains Berkhout in the autumn edition of Quest. We wouldn't manage two pieces of fruit a day without imports, but we do have more than enough vegetables. We would still be able to have a bit of chicken but we had better give up pork. **KG**



>> DOCTORATES

Record numbers expected

For the first time, Wageningen will produce more than 300 PhD graduates this year. This brings the number of PhD theses to a record high for the third year in a row. Some of the PhD candidates still have to defend their theses in the coming months. So in theory they could still miss the mark, cautions head of PhD services Emiel van Puffelen. But the count may reach as many as 305 doctorates by the end of the year. Last year's record was 287 doctorates. In 2013 there were 273. In March this year the 600th Wageningen PhD thesis was submitted. **RK**

>> STERKSEL

Bridging loan

The Ministry of Economic Affairs has provided extra funding for Wageningen UR's Pig Innovation Centre at Sterksel this year, to enable the applied research station to continue its work in support of sustainability. The ministry reported this to the lower house of parliament. As the Dutch product boards have been abolished and the pig sector's producers' organization is not yet able to fund collective research, Sterksel was in danger of falling between two stools. Earlier this year the Wageningen UR research station halved its staff due to falling research assignments. **AS**

NO LONGER SMALL-SCALE BUT STILL THE BEST

- Programme director at Plant explains
- 'Good administration and personal contact'



Wageningen has come out top in the Dutch Bachelor's degree guide *Keuzegids Hoger Onderwijs* for the eleventh time in a row. It's becoming normal. Yet something extraordinary is going on because the small scale which was always considered to be the secret of Wageningen's success has long been a thing of the past now. Student numbers have doubled in ten years. How do you maintain quality in the face of that? By solving glitches immediately, says programme director Anja Kuipers of Plant Sciences.

'The increase in student numbers is even bigger for us than the Wageningen average,' says Kuipers, whose BSc programme got the highest score (92 points) in the *Keuzegids*. 'In 2005 we had 10 or 12 first-years, this year we've got 70.' She

sometimes speaks to students who've spent some time at other universities. 'They comment on how well organized Wageningen education is. It is possible to have a lot more personal contact with teachers and study advisors, it is easy to sign up for courses, and the administration is good. These strong points of Wageningen's are here to stay.'

The growth in student numbers has compelled Plant Sciences to make continuous adjustments. Kuipers: 'At the end of the first year we have a mini-internship in the business world. These used to be individual internships but because of the growth in numbers they are now done in groups.' The first-year courses in cell biology and mathematics had to be scaled up fast and

chemistry practicals had to be reorganized so bigger groups of students could be taught in the labs. 'The crux was always to keep lots of contact between students and teachers,' says Kuipers.

The student growth also created problems for thesis supervision in the final year. But Wageningen's strength, says Kuipers, is that the education institute and the teachers are quick to come up with solutions. Increasingly, for instance, students are supervised in writing their thesis proposals and reports in groups. Kuipers: 'That requires fewer staff per student, and it means students can help each other too. It is more efficient but achieves the same learning goals.' **AS**

See also the article on page 27

ANALYSIS

VVD HAS KEY ROLE IN UNIVERSITY FUNDING

Wageningen UR is struggling with a deficit because student numbers are growing faster than education funding from the Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ). The Dutch parliament will be discussing this problem in a few weeks. Of the various political parties, D66 (liberals), the CDA and the ChristenUnie (both Christian democrats) want more money for the university, but the PvdA (labour) does not see the need. The VVD (conservative) has a key role.

The ChristenUnie (CU) is only a small party but an active player when it comes to agriculture and education. Like the CDA, the CU always felt that agricultural (or 'green') education, which includes Wageningen University, should be the responsibility of EZ, the ministry for the agricul-

ture sector. That would ensure collaboration between policy-makers, science institutes and businesses. But the CU is no longer convinced of this. Member of Parliament Carla Dik-Faber now feels the university should move to the Ministry of Education (OCW).

Dik-Faber: 'Wageningen University's growth is capped at two percent but its actual growth is a lot more. These problems can't be resolved within the EZ budget. So unless something changes, we'll be bickering about the funding for green education and coming up with a band-aid solution every year. That is why OCW needs to take over green education. Then you can apply an allocation formula to the budget so that funding is based on pupils and students.'

Dik-Faber does not think this

would harm collaboration within the sector. 'The healthcare degree programmes are funded by OCW but there is still cooperation within the healthcare sector.' So the CU is supporting D66, which has advocated moving green education to OCW for a while. Together they have drawn up a motion to that effect.

In the past, the PvdA would have supported such a motion, but the party is now in a tricky situation. The coalition party provides both the Minister of Education, Jet Bussemaker, and the 'State Secretary for green education' – Sharon Dijksma until recently and now Martin Van Dam – and they do not agree on this issue. That is why PvdA MP Henk Leenders 'does not have a principled standpoint'. He says the differences in funding between green education and education

covered by OCW are small. 'I think that we should have a calm separate debate some time about the position of green education,' says Leenders. The PvdA needs time.

That puts the ball in the court of the other coalition party — the VVD. Last year, that party combined with the opposition to compensate green education for cuts. What does the VVD want now? No comment yet from MP Helma Lodders; she will only give an interview just before the debate on the EZ budget. That debate has been postponed because Van Dam is taking over from Dijksma as EZ State Secretary. The VVD also needs time, to discuss the matter with the cabinet and decide whether to do anything about green education before the next election. **Albert Sikkema**

EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER: ALL FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- Karmenu Vella visits Wageningen
- 'Think about recycling even at the design stage'

'If an EU member state has a budget deficit of more than three percent, panic breaks out. But nobody mentions the fact that Europe uses over 40 percent more raw materials than it produces.' These remarks were made by European commissioner Karmenu Vella (Environment, Maritime Policies and Fisheries) during his visit to Wageningen on 4 November.

In Orion, Vella made a plea for sustainable economic growth. 'Growth and prosperity for everybody is simply impossible with the current linear economic model.' He advocated a circular economy. Without using the term 'cra-

dle-to-cradle', he told an audience of about 50 – largely students – that we need to start thinking at the design stage about how the raw materials can eventually be recycled again. He also proposed the 'sharing economy' as a new business model. And he argued the case for 'blue growth' in addition to the much vaunted 'green growth'. '70 percent of the planet is covered by seas and oceans, but 95 percent of our economic activity is on land.' The success of offshore wind farms shows that it is worth making better use of the sea. 'That sector barely existed back in 2007 but now it employs 75,000 people. That is half as many as work in the fishing industry.'

'Lots of obvious statements, but still good to hear from someone in his position,' concluded Mischa Streekstra afterwards. She was one of the four students who got the



PHOTO: AARTJAN VAN DE GLIND

chance to tell the European commissioner and other members of the audience what topics in the environment and fisheries they are working on. She said that she would soon be starting a PhD project on the impact that ocean acid-

ification is having on the physiology of shellfish. Vella responded with 'research is important'. 'I found that a nice surprise,' said Streekstra. 'Politicians usually ask whether all that research is really necessary.' **KG**

'THE CELEBRITY OF THE GROUP'



How busy have you been?

'In the days before and after the event I was getting calls from the papers and television all the time. The first time you talk to NOS news is especially nerve-racking but fortunately most of the media have taken a positive attitude.'

Did you get some funny questions?

'A lot of the questions were about how the steak tasted, but they were hard to answer. We haven't made a product you can taste yet. And I wasn't happy that people already took bites to taste – it wasn't made for that.'

Does all the media attention bring you some good things too?

'We have now been approached by companies. Impossible Foods is interested, for instance. That is a company which makes 'plant blood', imitating the taste of blood using plant material. And it's been taken up at the ministry of Economic Affairs too.'

And do you get a lot of personal responses?

'Of course family and friends tell you they've seen you. At work they joke that I'm the 'Dutch celebrity' of the group. **RR**

Who? Atze-Jan van der Goot, professor of Food Process Engineering at Wageningen University

What? Presented 'his' vegetarian beefsteak to the world last week

Where? Featured on the NOS news, in the NRC and Volkskrant newspapers and many other media

Science Cafe Wageningen
www.sciencecafe.wageningen.nl

Thursday, November 26th
19:45 - live music
20:15 - Science
Café Loburg
FREE ENTRANCE

Dr. Lammert Kooistra (WUR)
Prof. Steven de Jong (Utrecht University)
Drones in science

Partner:

Sponsored by:

Food Valley NL
WAGeningen UR
KLV
LC 3U RG
RESOURCE



CITY CAN BE COOL ISLAND TOO

- **Negative heat effect in the morning**
- **PhD researcher comes up with handy formula**

We are all familiar with the concept of a heat island by now. Cities are generally – especially in the evening and at night – hotter than the countryside. The city stores energy by day and emits it again by night. But on a calm, clear summer's day it can easily be a few degrees cooler in the city than in the surrounding countryside. Why is that? How does a heat island temporarily turn into an island of coolness? PhD candidate Natalie Theeuwes of the Meteorology and Air Quality chair group has an explanation. Theeuwes studied the role of the atmospheric boundary layer in this phenomenon. That boundary layer is the part of the air which is directly influ-

enced by processes on the ground. The boundary layer varies, depending on the weather, from a few dozen or hundreds of metres at night to a couple of kilometres by day. In the night, says Theeuwes, the boundary layer is thinner over the countryside than it is over the city. 'That is because the heat that builds up during the day is released at night.'

This difference in the extent of the boundary layer explains the different degree of warming between the city and the countryside. 'The thinner boundary layer over the countryside warms up faster than the thicker layer over the city,' says Theeuwes. The result is a negative heat island effect, or a cool island effect. In Theeuwes's model calculations, this difference can be up to two degrees and reaches its 'peak' about two or three hours after dawn. The coolness lasts until noon, after which the city becomes

a heat island again.

Theeuwes thought up a useful formula for calculating the maximum heat island effect. 'The idea was to find a formula which is easy to use and which contains simple measurable variables,' she explains. She succeeded. The Theeuwes formula calculates the maximum heat island effect using just three variables (wind speed, incoming solar radiation and the diurnal temperature cycle). A constant is used to adjust for the amount of vegetation and the degree of openness to the sky.

The PhD candidate also studied the influence of urban architecture on the heat. Ponds, for instance, have a cooling effect by day but cause warming by night. The role of the street and of buildings is much more complex. Tall buildings and narrow streets trap the heat. But they also shut out the sun and create shade. These processes have the

opposite impact on the heat island effect. But which one dominates?

The answer is that it depends on the season. Theeuwes demonstrated this by linking air and street models with temperature measurements in Rotterdam. Theeuwes: 'The assumption was always that tall buildings cause more of a heat island effect. I have shown that that is not always the case. In the summer, when there is a lot of solar radiation and the days are long, the shade effect dominates. So then the heat island effect drops in proportion to the height of the buildings and the width of the streets.' A principle that has always been applied in hot countries. In the winter it is completely the other way round. 'When there is little solar radiation you see that retaining the heat is the most important effect. Then the heat island effect goes up when there are tall buildings and narrow streets.' **✎ RK**

REDUCING METHANE PRODUCTION THROUGH BREEDING

- **Correlation with composition of milk fat**

Breeding can help reduce levels of methane production by Dutch dairy herds, according to research by PhD candidate Sabine Van Engelen. Now she has to find the genes that influence the production of this powerful green-

house gas.

Van Engelen studied the genetic variation in the methane production of dairy cows. This methane is a residual product in the fermentation of animal feed. It appears that the composition of the cow's milk fat is correlated with the amount of methane produced. Using the milk fat composition of 1900 Holstein cows, she calculated that 12 to 44 percent

of methane production is due to heritable traits. Those percentages are large enough to be able to reduce methane production by cows through breeding, says Van Engelen in the *Journal of Dairy Science*. In her research, she used a prediction formula from animal feed researcher Jan Dijkstra.

The PhD candidate does not yet know which genes influence

the production of the greenhouse gas. She is currently investigating that in a project for the Top Institute Food and Nutrition (TIFN), in which she is measuring the methane concentration in the breath of more than 1000 dairy cows and relating that to their genetic passports. 'You need a lot of cows if you want to find the genetic parameters for methane production.' **✎ AS**

HEART PILLS DON'T MAKE HEALTHY DIET REDUNDANT

- Fewer deaths among cardiac patients on healthy diets
- Difference strikingly large

The healthier their diet the smaller the risk of dying cardiac patients run, even if they are receiving the best medicinal cocktail, posits Femke Sijtsma in her PhD thesis.

According to Sijtsma these results show that healthy nutrition continues to make a difference, even alongside the best treatment with, for instance, blood pressure-lowering drugs, cholesterol-reducing drugs, and anticoagulants. She hopes that this message will resonate in hospitals. 'Doctors currently don't often know much about nutrition and think that medication is enough.'

Sijtsma uses data from the 4307 people in the data she bases her study on who had already had a heart attack. These people were between 60 and 80 years old, and were tracked for ten years. The PhD candidate examined how much the participants ate of 24 food categories – from lean meat to ready meals. They got points for each category: 4 if they ate a lot of it, 3, 2, 1 or 0 if it was served up less frequently. This score was added up to a 'health score' for all the healthy products such as vegetables. The same was done for unhealthy products such as

sugary drinks.

Sijtsma subsequently compared the group with the highest health score to the least healthy participants. Of the people with the best eating habits 13 out of 100 passed away during the study. In the group with the least healthy diet, 24 out of 100 participants died. A considerable effect, particularly in nutritional science. 'The big difference did surprise me', says Sijtsma. She points out that this is a very specific group of people. 'You can't just extrapolate from these results to other groups.'

Actually every cardiac patient should already get dietary advice and be referred to a dietician, says Irene van Dis, policy officer with the Heart Foundation. It's not known how many people actually get that advice and referral. An evaluation does show that eating habits are at least reviewed with 40 percent of patients.

Sijtsma's research is not the first to study nutrition in cardiac patients. But much of that research happened in the time that modern medicines – especially statins that lower cholesterol – were not yet being prescribed for most patients, according to the researcher. The effect of nutrition alongside drugs had still not been sufficiently studied.

Sijtsma hopes that her results will be easy to translate to the public because she researched actual foods and not nutrients like saturated fats and salt. **RR**



VISION <<

Ban not just ritual slaughter, but all slaughter.

The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) has advised the government to ban the ritual slaughter of animals without prior stunning. Wageningen's animal ethicist Bernice Bovenkerk thinks that is a step in the right direction. Which direction? The abolition of the bio-industry.



Three years ago the First Chamber, the upper house of the Dutch parliament, rejected a ban on ritual slaughter, based on freedom of religion.

'According to the well-known animal ethicist Peter Singer a ban of ritual slaughter isn't in conflict with religious freedom. It's not stated anywhere in the Koran or Torah that you should eat meat, argues Singer, so you're not violating religious law if you ban ritual slaughter. I think that's rather too simplistic. It does say that you have the right to eat meat, and ritual slaughter is a manifestation of your religious beliefs. Opposed to those religious values is the ideal that you cannot violate the wellbeing of animals. These values are not absolute. If they collide, you have to weigh them up against each other.'

What are the considerations for you?

'Ritual slaughter came about from empathy with the animal. The Torah and the Hadith state: animals must not suffer. Ritual slaughter used to be more animal friendly than other methods. In the spirit of the law you could change slaughter regulations now as well, in favour of animal welfare. That's why I think that the Dutch government should consult with Jewish and Islamic organizations: can you slaughter in an animal friendly way while retaining religious values?'

Why not just ban it?

'That's possible, but then you should ban all slaughter. Because to my mind animals have a moral status. If we kill them, we deprive them of the chance to ever have pleasant experiences again. That makes the killing as such, with or without stunning, an animal welfare issue, just like the suffering of animals in the bio-industry. So I think a ban on ritual slaughter is a good first step in the direction of abolishing the bio-industry.' **AS**



PHOTO: DUBOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

WAGENINGEN TO BECOME SYNTH CITY

- **Pioneering role in synthetic biology possible**
- **Research proposals welcome soon**

More than 100 researchers at Wageningen UR got together on 29 October for a brainstorming symposium about synthetic biology. They are welcome now to send in project proposals for this key topic, says initiator Vitor Martins dos Santos.

Wageningen researchers are increasingly able to understand, imitate and design biological systems. Whether they are working on virus-

es, bacteria, plants or algae, they carry on fiddling with the design and production capacity of these biological factories. So Martins dos Santos, professor of Systems and Synthetic Biology, can already see the potential for collaborative research clusters in Wageningen, as became clear after the brainstorm session.

For example: the Central Veterinary Institute is working on viruses for the development of vaccines for livestock, and physical chemist Renko de Vries is working on the mathematical modelling and design of viruses. There are other groups, too, who are working on

photosynthesis and other light-driven processes. One of them wants to build in photosynthesis genes into a bacterium, so that it can convert light into energy; another wants to use light to direct the production of biofuels in algae. Martins dos Santos also sees scope for a special collaboration between the microbiologists who study the microbiota in our bowels and the ecologists who study the microbial communities in the soil around plants.

Researchers can soon submit research proposals for this investment theme. The aim is for about 1.5 to 2 million euros a year to be

made available for the topic in the next few years. The first projects should start at the beginning of 2016. The goal is to accumulate fundamental knowledge and link it with applied research so that new concepts, processes and products emerge.

Martins dos Santos has also managed to attract a film festival about synthetic biology to Wageningen. This will take place in a year and a half. 'Linking art and science gives you the space to dream about synthetic biology's potential.' With its many biology research groups, he believes Wageningen could develop into Synth City. **AS**

MORE BANANAS WITH DITCHES AND MULCH

- **PhD candidate models crop growth**
- **Matooke important for combatting poverty**

With simple means such as ditches and mulch, Ugandan farmers can double their banana production. This finding comes from PhD research by Godfrey Taulya of Uganda.

Taulya did research on matooke, the green banana which, boiled or steamed, forms the staple food of Uganda and surrounding countries. This East African highland banana, which produces fruit all year round, is mainly grown on small plantations and around houses. It is an important crop for combatting poverty but yields are low. Small-scale farmers typically get a yield of 20 tonnes per hectare, while a 70 tonne yield is possible. Meanwhile, population growth is causing an increase in demand for bananas. So the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), where Taulya works

as a consultant, is looking for ways to boost production.

Taulya conducted trials on research stations in central and southern Uganda to measure the effect of drought stress. Large areas of Uganda get no more than 1000 millimetres of rain, while the crop needs 1400 millimetres. The availability of potassium in the soil plays a role too, Taulya discovered. The water shortfall is not easy to solve. Small-scale farmers cannot afford irrigation systems, although some use a five litre water bottle by a tree trunk for a kind of drip irrigation. They could keep more water in the soil by digging ditches in the rainy season, advises Taulya. And they can plough plant waste back in so as to improve the level of organic matter in the soil, covering it with a layer of rotting banana leaves. This mulch helps reduce drought stress by 10 percent in places with low rainfall, concludes the researcher.

Taulya uses these field data to make a crop growth model for the banana. In dry regions extra



PHOTO: BIOVERSITY INTERNATIONAL/A. VEZINA

water can boost production by 65 percent, and adding potassium to the soil can improve production by 88 percent. If all the water and soil management measures are introduced integrally, Taulya's estimate is that banana production in Uganda

could be doubled to 40 tonnes per year. **AS**

Catch up on the latest science news at resource-online.nl.

The Student Council is at loggerheads with the executive board on the size of the board year grant, and sent a letter to the editor about this. On the site there was a lot of to-do about free wifi and dirty laundry. Got an opinion too? Join in the discussion online or email resource@wur.nl

REACTIONS ON...



RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL

370 OR 320 EUROS

The Student Council wants the grant awarded to those taking time out of their studies for board work (FOS) set at a minimum of 370 euros a month and rejected the executive board's offer of 320 a month. This caused a conflict which will go before the National Arbitration Committee. In a letter to resource-online.nl the Student Council explains why 50 euros makes such a difference. Here is a shortened version.

'What was not always clear in previous articles is that the executive board wants to make use of a single set amount from now on. This means that no supplementary board work grant will be awarded in future (...) The SC is concerned that the proposed set monthly amount of 320 euros is too low. The SC is afraid that students on a supplementary student grant will find it too expensive to embark on a board year.

(...) The figure of 320 is the average FOS awarded during the past five years. Now that there is a student loan system, the way the

FOS is set should be reexamined. To base the amount on the old system is not justifiable, in our view.

(...) The SC argues that during a year in which a student stops (partially) with his/her studies in order to serve the university (and city), the university should shoulder one third of the costs. On the basis of calculations by Nibud we arrive at a set monthly sum of 370.66 euros.

YOUR OWN HOUSE...

The first period of the academic year is over. Those first few weeks are quite a challenge for first-years, writes blogger Carina Nieuwenweg.

'Nice blog,' writes Bram. 'But what do you mean by a back-up plan? Does that just mean you just give up and go home to your parents?' Nobody online thinks that's a good idea; a brief visit to the home front should suffice. And that is what she means, writes Carina. So don't give up but cherish the thought that you can always go home for some R&R at your parents. 'Whether it's because you've dyed all your laundry or just because you're homesick.' And if you do take the train home, Buurman van de Haarweg has a suggestion. 'If you are at Ede-Wageningen station and you don't like cooking, the kapsalon [fries and kebab] there isn't bad at all.'

HACKER

Digital safety week has come around again on campus. An 'ethical hacker showed how vulnerable you are when you log in on public wifi networks.

His main advice is not to use free networks. And if you have no alternative, like when you are abroad, always use the least sensitive options such as nu.nl. Otherwise there is a chance your communication will be tapped and data stolen. The advice irritated Verdwaalde fietser. 'This turns the world upside down: he tells the staff they can't do their work anymore (a researcher has to spend a lot of time abroad) because ICT is not capable of protecting information adequately.' He thinks it's high time data transfer was protected on foreign networks as well. Good idea. Your contact details have been stored and we'll get in touch soon. RR



I eat fruit
every day.
And you?'



GOLDEN RULES OF DIET GET A MAKEOVER

Dutch government dietary guidelines have long been presented as a pie chart showing five food groups essential for health. The '*Schijf van Vijf*' or 'Disc of Five'. Now the trendy food blogs, glossy cookbooks and charismatic food gurus of today are making this icon look outdated. How do we bring it up to date?

text: Rob Ramaker / **photo:** Voedingscentrum

1953. Zeeland is struck by disastrous flooding. The Dutch population – 10.5 million – is segregated by religious denomination and goes to church on Sundays. Scientists unravel the structure of DNA and develop a vaccine against polio. Stalin dies, Mount Everest is conquered for the first time and the first James Bond book, *Casino Royale*, comes out. And in the Netherlands the 'Disc of Five' first sees the light of day, the brainchild of the information office of the Dutch Nutrition Council.

Ever since, generations of Dutch people have grown up with the *Schijf van Vijf*, an image used on posters and fliers in a communication strategy for making clear to people what makes for a healthy diet. The pie chart has been adjusted regularly but in essence it has stayed the same. The most recent update was about 10 years ago. That period saw the rise of the social media and of diet gurus, bloggers and salespeople, with a cacophony of different ideas about diet, most of them more colourful and varied than the restrained disc.

If it is to stay relevant, then, the disc needs an update, agrees Gerda Feunekes, director of the Netherlands Nutrition Centre (Voedingscentrum.nl). And the time is ripe following last week's publication of the new official dietary guidelines, based on the current scientific consensus on what constitutes a healthy diet. In the coming months the Nutrition Centre will be translating these guidelines into a brand new disc, to be presented in March.

HIPSTERS

The new version needs to appeal to a broader segment of the Dutch population, says Feunekes. Fewer and fewer people identify with a diet of 'meat, potatoes and veg'; nor are dairy produce and bread so automatically part of many people's diets as they used to be. The Netherlands has become

more multicultural and even among the native Dutch, Mediterranean, Asian and other formerly exotic cuisines are now perfectly normal. 'So we want people with a variety of diets to see their eating habits reflected in the new disc. Whether their diet is vegetarian, Turkish or Moroccan.'

Not every group will be easy to appeal to, says Noelle Aarts, personal professor in the Strategic Communication chair group at Wageningen University. Take hipsters, for whom food is a big part of their identity. Aarts sees big differences here between herself and her daughter, for instance. 'I eat quite a varied, healthy diet, pretty much the *Schijf van Vijf*,' she says, 'whereas my daughter eats probiotic yoghurt and quinoa.' Hipsters talk about food a lot and love certain food products. The Nutrition Centre should not underestimate how deep those differences go, says Aarts. Powerful norms are at work in subcultures of that kind. 'In those circles you can hardly eat a sandwich anymore.'

So it is better not to approach people who are so preoccupied with food with generalized advice. Marijke Berkenpas, dietician and a blogger at iamafoodie.nl, agrees. She says we should not underestimate people's interest. Her readers do not want to be told that eating a handful of nuts a day is healthy; they want to know what kinds of nuts there are, what the differences between them are and why one of them is the healthiest. So be specific and give details. Another point Berkenpas makes is that positive communication works best. No wagging of fingers but appealing examples, preferably with glamorous photos. 'So don't tell people to avoid jars of pasta sauce so as to reduce their salt consumption, but show them how you make your own delicious pasta sauce.'

Berkenpas is therefore not in



GERDA FEUNEKES DIRECTOR OF THE NETHERLANDS NUTRITION CENTRE



NOELLE AARTS PERSONAL PROFESSOR IN THE STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION CHAIR GROUP



'I DRINK IN MODERATION'



MARIJKE BERKENPAS
DIETICIAN AND A BLOGGER AT IAMAFOODIE.NL

favour of immediately shooting down every food hype. She thinks the Nutrition Centre would do better to embrace healthy trends. She didn't understand, for example, why the centre dismissed superfoods in such strong terms. That caused a lot of irritation among foodies, whereas superfoods – all the hoo-hah aside – are healthy in themselves. Feunekes of the Nutrition Centre begs to differ. Superfoods such as goji berries and chia seeds are harmful because an obsession with them can create the impression that a healthy diet is impossible without very expensive exotic products. And she believes the centre's strong stand has worked. 'It has gone a lot quieter around superfoods.' The Nutrition Centre will therefore continue to oppose hypes which go too far.

DIGITAL TOOLS

The enthusiasm is shared, however, when it comes to digital media. Through the interactivity of social media and her blog, Berkenpas sees straightaway what catches on and what doesn't. There can be surprises. 'A fellow blogger wrote a piece about ten healthy snacks. That is quite simple but it was read and googled a lot.' That is how you find out what the issues are for people. Feunekes too thinks the Nutrition Centre should make intensive use of digital media to get involved in ongoing discussions, amongst other reasons.

And that is already happening. There is no action on Instagram yet but on Facebook the centre has a community of nearly 30,000 followers. Individual members of the centre tweet and engage with the press. In June diet and health expert Astrid Postma-Smeets joined RLT's Late Night show to refute the claims of Canadian author Alissa Hamilton in *Got Milked?* The Nutrition Centre also launched a range of tools and apps with which people can, for example, assess

their eating habits and get feedback. With success. The Eet-meter (Eat Meter) has 700,000 active visitors. Feunekes has every intention of taking these developments further. Digital tools are the way to go so that everyone gets access to much more personalized dietary advice.

BEHAVIOUR

Feunekes' main ambition with the new version of the disc is to ensure people adopt healthier behaviour. That is more ambitious than it sounds, as human behaviour is habit-driven and very difficult to steer. So something has to be done with the *Schijf van Vijf*, says professor of Strategic Communication Noelle Aarts. She feels the Nutrition Centre currently focusses too much on providing factual information. 'That needs to be done but the problem is that lack of information is rarely the stumbling block for behavioural change.'

The provision of information targets our cognition while much of our behaviour is socially determined. We are well aware that something is fattening or unhealthy but we don't manage to stay away from it, especially in an environment in which we are constantly tempted to eat unhealthy products. 'That is why fat children often come from fat families.' The main group you reach with more information are motivated professionals, says Aarts. And all they get out of it is the confirmation that they are on the right track. You cannot change human behaviour directly, says Aarts. At the most you can motivate people in the hope that they will decide for themselves to change their diets. To do this you have to go to the people. Aarts: 'You have to find out what motivates people to behave the way they do.'

NUDGES

Feunekes is well aware of the limitations of providing information. When it comes to dietary choices the crucial factors are taste, price and convenience. 'Health and sustainability are important on a different level.' So behavioural scientists and consumers are intensively involved in the development of the new *Schijf van Vijf*. Feunekes wants to try and combine long-term goals such as health with immediate motivators such as taste and convenience. Making sure the healthy choice is the easiest choice. This can be done in a variety of ways. One way is to remove unhealthy or unsustainable choices, or at least to make them more difficult. She gives the example of supermarkets which only sell sustainable bananas. That forces consumers to make a sustainable choice. Decisions can be steered more subtly through nudges in the right direction. These are small changes which have an influence without limiting choice. For example, you can place fruit instead of sweets near the till at the supermarket. Or you can make sure most of the products in school canteens are healthy. The Nutrition Centre

A sensation

Experience it!

tre is collaborating with companies on this. Not that it receives any money from the companies, but supermarkets receive advice on how to help consumers make healthy choices. The Nutrition Centre is also trying to motivate food producers and up-and-coming food professionals to make healthier and more sustainable products. And that is something the centre will continue to do, says Feunekes, even if it is sometimes criticized for listening to the food industry too much. This criticism comes from a small group of very vocal critics and Feunekes sees no future in responding to this group's demands with a more activist approach. 'We are not a lobby and naming and shaming is not our way of doing things.' Nevertheless, claims Feunekes, the Nutrition Centre is not afraid of condemning unhealthy initiatives. It spoke out publically against sweets dispensers in places like hospitals and buses, for instance.

OBESOGENIC ENVIRONMENT


The biggest health gains can be made with the *Schijf van Vijf* in the group that is least exposed to health messages at present: people with low levels of education and those on low incomes. According to Aarts it is precisely here that you need to look for the networks and the community.

You cannot decide what is good for a group anymore. You have to involve people so that they can tell you what they need in order to make the right choices.' Edith Feskens, Wageningen professor of Nutrition and Health over the Lifecourse, has a lot of experience with interventions in this group. She notices that people are eager for practical guidelines. 'You must not just show them the *Schijf van Vijf* but really get to work with it.' This could mean very basic things like guiding people around the supermarket, pointing out the best things to buy and telling them how to prepare them.

Yet Feskens thinks you can please people most by changing their social environment. 'Research shows that we are exposed to food temptations 70 to 100 times a day. You can resist that for a long time but at some point you give in.' Feskens thinks the Nutrition Centre should campaign for a less 'obe-

sogenic' environment. 'Restrictions on food advertising, for instance, or even a ban on advertisements targeting children.'

NO REVOLUTION

Yet the new *Schijf van Vijf* will not preach revolution, says Feskens. And that may be for the best. The Nutrition Centre is proud of its record of not getting caught up in hypes and that reserve is one of its strengths. 'In a world full of confusion about diet, you can trust that what the Nutrition Centre publishes makes sense.' Recent research by market research company GfK shows that the majority of the Dutch agree with this. The vast majority see the *Schijf van Vijf* as their main source of nutritional information and are not interested in dietary hypes and gurus. So don't expect a dramatic transformation of the *Schijf van Vijf* next March, says Feunekes. Our country may be becoming more diverse, more digital and more 'hip' but we'll always have the good old *Schijf van Vijf*. 

DIET GUIDELINES

The government in The Hague published its new Guidelines for a healthy diet on 4 November. These rules were drawn up under the leadership of Daan Kromhout, emeritus professor of Public Health Research at Wageningen University.

On resource-online.nl you can read all about these new rules and about Daan Kromhout's life's work.

GET ENOUGH EXERCISE




EDITH FESKENS WAGENINGEN PROFESSOR OF NUTRITION AND HEALTH OVER THE LIFECOURSE

PHOTO: HURIO GOUDSWAARD





DIWALI

The Hindu festival of light, Diwali, was celebrated by the International Student Organization Wageningen (ISOW) on Saturday 7 November. The ceremony started with men and women in threes lighting candles on an altar. Then they went around the room with a flame and guests put their hands over the flame and then on their heads. After a ceremony involving rice and red spots on the forehead, there was food, performances and partying. These women are watching a dance performance. There is a whole series of photos of the Diwali celebration on resource-online.nl.  KG / photo Sven Menschel



World trade needs uniform GM rules

The European Union and the United States want free trade with each other. The big question is how you can prevent genetically modified food and livestock feeds coming in contact with GM-free goods. The thinking is that uniform rules would help, but they still seem a long way off.

text: Albert Sikkema

Just as the negotiations on the free trade treaty TTIP between the EU and the US are in full swing, Wageningen UR is hosting a conference about a potential spanner in the works: the coexistence of food chains with and without genetic modification (GM). The key question is how economic superpowers can harmonize their policies on this point within the trade treaty. A thorny question because opinion is divided when it comes to GM. Not only between the US and Europe but also within the EU.

Two weeks ago the European parliament rejected another proposal from the European Commission to start allowing EU countries to decide for themselves whether to authorize imports of GM food and livestock feeds. Ruud Tijssens, director of the Agrifirm group and chair of the European federation of livestock feed producers FEFAC, is pleased with the rejection. Agrifirm has several livestock feed factories in the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium and would hate to see each country introducing its own rules for the import of animal feeds. The rejection has also saved the common European market for the present.

MARKET DISRUPTION

Tijssens is not sanguine about how this will end, however, because the EU countries are still deeply divided on the acceptance of GM crops. The political debate on genetic modification has been at an impasse for years. One result of this is that the EU cannot complete the authorization procedures for various new genetic varieties, leading to a huge backlog of applications and disruption of the world market.

The European political debate on genetic modification has been at an impasse for years

European livestock feed products are affected by this, as became clear a few years ago when the European livestock feed sector showed an interest in the ingredient DDGS, a protein-rich waste product of bio-ethanol production, mainly from GM maize. That maize was not authorized by the EU. The GM feed was already being shipped to other parts of the world but within the EU there was a zero toler-





ance policy. This was a headache for traders because a little feed always got left behind in the cargo ships. When a batch of DDGS was rejected for that reason, the traders considered it too risky to import DDGS to Europe. They were forced to buy expensive wheat instead. Tijssens: 'The manufacturers recouped the extra costs by charging livestock farmers more for feed.'

For the sake of clarity: FEFAC is not against genetic modification. Tijssens: 'We supply the market. There are consumers in the EU who are against GM and there are consumers who don't see any problem with GM. There are commercial feed chains available for both groups of consumers. These market segments exist.'

LABELS

The coexistence of these GM and traditional food chains are the centre of attention at the international conference on 'Coexistence in International trade', to be held in Amsterdam between 17 and 20 November. At the conference international researchers and business managers will discuss how you can streamline regulations in food chains. The issue is not so much one of reducing the number of rules, says Wageningen economist Justus Wesseler, co-organizer of the conference, as one of harmonization. Because if there is one thing that hampers international trade, it is the different regulations in every country.

Those differences show up very clearly for GM food. Food producers in the EU must indicate with labels on the packaging if there is GM food in the product; in the US they don't have to. But the European companies don't have to state that milk, cheese or meat comes from GM sources. Under pressure from campaigners this is becoming an issue and you can see European food producers showing their true colours, says Wesseler. The British supermarkets Tesco and Sainsbury's, for instance, bought exclusively GM-free chicken for a while. But they changed their minds when they found they could not recoup the higher costs of the non-GM feed.

This demonstrates that in practice European supermarkets often call the tune on the supply of GM products. That is different in the US. It is commonly thought that the US is pro-GM but the reality is more complex. Almost all livestock feed is GM and there is a lot of GM maize in foods, but no GM wheat is grown. A GM potato has been developed but is not yet being grown, partly because the market leader McDonald's is worried that consumers don't want GM fries. What is more, the American rules for testing the safety of GM crops for humans and for the environment are just as extensive as the European rules.

HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING

So the TTIP agreement with the US is not likely to lead to lower standards of food safety, reckons Wesseler. But it would be nice to have uniform standards. Wesseler: 'Agreeing with the US to test GM food and measure things like CO₂ emissions from cars in the same way will raise standards of living, even if you opt for the most stringent test. A German study showed that harmonizing the regulations with the US would raise the standard of living in Germany by five percent.'

European livestock feed manufacturers are eager for clear regulations too. Tijssens: 'Currently, if we launch a new premix on the American market, we must go through a different regional distributor in each American state. We want to get rid of those kinds of transaction costs.'

International conference 'Coexistence in International Trade', 17-20 November in Amsterdam. See www.wageningenur.nl/gmcc2015.



Market leader McDonald's is worried that consumers don't want GM fries.



A hub of enterprise

There is a corner of the campus where enterprising students and fresh graduates gather every day. For a year now StartHub Wageningen has provided them with a place where they can launch their startups. With all the ups and downs that that entails. 'You don't suddenly turn into Bill Gates.'

text: Ton van den Born / **photo:** Sven Menschel

Sanne is taking a photo of a boxful of healthy snacks. Sander is packing seeds for posting and Jacob is taking a little timeout in an armchair, eyes closed and earplugs in. We are at the StartHub, a building with 20 small offices and a communal space where the companies of students and fresh graduates can get off the ground. Companies with names like Bio Innovations, BoxBites,

Quente and OnsZaden.

'You reinforce each other here,' says Master's student Management, Economics and Consumer Studies Thomas van den Boezem. He was in at the start of BoxBites, a company that puts together healthy snack selections and was the first resident of StartHub one year ago. 'Now I help StartHub with arranging the programming and I help students find their way around.'

Thomas has loads of plans for new businesses or for expanding existing businesses. 'Once you get the StartHub bug, there is no stopping it. My ideas generator is always switched on.' Not that all of his innovative ideas lead to profitable new businesses. One of StartHub's big plusses is precisely the way it enables starters to learn to evaluate their ideas well, says Thomas. 'Is it feasible, workable affordable? At least 90 percent of the ideas are never put into practice, perhaps because they already exist or just because you never get round to them.'

SUCCESS STORY

'It is nice to have some sort-of colleagues,' says Sander Onsman, carrying on packing seeds. He is the owner of OnsZaden, a company that sells seeds of tropical garden and houseplants. 'You can link up with others. Because entrepreneurship is a continuous quest, he says. 'Who

are your clients? What is your approach?’

StartHub does not have readymade answers to these questions, but can offer support and help.

Besides their fellow-entrepreneurs, help can be obtained from ‘incubation manager’ Jannet de Jong. She shows us the communal space, a kind of village square for everyone involved in StartHub. Workshops are held here every three weeks, on topics such as negotiation skills or drawing up a business plan.

This evening there is a presentation by United Wardrobe. This is a success story about Wageningen students who set up a flourishing online secondhand clothing shop. All those curious about their approach – their ‘secret’ – are welcome to come along and listen. ‘Everything is very low-threshold,’ says De Jong. ‘We want students to drop in and to know where we are. We want them to think: that building there at the end of the campus, that is entrepreneurship.’

‘In StartHub we are all embarking on similar adventures’

Getting startup companies out of their attic rooms and giving them more opportunities: that is StartHub’s mission in a nutshell, says De Jong. ‘It’s not easy to do it all on your own. Look for a partner, is our advice. That might be the most important thing I do: linking people up with each other. Someone might be looking for a partner with a truck, for instance, or for a marine biology specialist.’ StartHub is also keen for people to work ‘open source’. ‘Not to keep everything to yourself but to involve other people in the process.’

ALL EQUAL

Sanne Vreede tries out another perspective for the photo of the BoxBites snacks. After she graduated from Avans Hogeschool in Breda she

wanted to do something related to healthy eating habits and she heard about a young company. ‘Could you by any chance use someone for the marketing?’ she asked the entrepreneurs, just the two of them at that point.


‘We are a very flexible small company,’ she says. ‘All we really need is a place for storage and packing.’ That place is the StartHub. Sanne is there every day from 9 to 5 and she loves it. ‘A nice atmosphere with young people.’ All of them embarking on similar adventures. ‘We are all equal. It felt like becoming part of a family.’

And the orders are coming in, she says. The boxes full of goodies like fruit and nut bars which make it easier to snack healthily are obviously appealing. ‘The RTL programme *Goede Tijden Slechte Tijden* called recently. They wanted the snacks as a morale booster for the actors.’

MAKING MISTAKES

Jacob Paul Bussmann, who is emerging from his armchair, is in another stage of the startup process. He is setting up a business related to the social impact of climate change, which will soon take him to South Africa. He is preparing a pitch to get a loan. ‘And I talk to everybody here. We give each other feedback on ideas.’ Because that is what goes on here: exchanging information, brainstorming, asking critical questions. Jacob: ‘There is a businesslike, entrepreneurial atmosphere and yet it is calm and peaceful. It’s the perfect workplace for me. The most important thing, perhaps, is that you have all sorts of people here who are moving in the same direction, single-minded people. That generates

energy. You learn from successes and from mistakes. Both your own and other people’s.’

‘You don’t suddenly turn into Bill Gates, you need to realize that,’ says incubation manager De Jong. ‘Starting up a business often means making lots of mistakes. And then picking yourself up and carrying on. That is a business skill in itself.’ 



Sander Onsman, owner of the seed company OnsZaden: ‘It is nice to have some sort-of colleagues.’



Sanne Vreede of BoxBites: ‘The TV programme *GTST* called recently, wanting the snacks as morale boosters for the actors.’

STARHUB’S FIRST YEAR

StartHub Wageningen celebrates its first birthday on 18 November. This student incubator at Wageningen UR offers space, coaching, training, financial advice and above all, a network of enterprising students and alumni (up to three years after graduation). Six young companies are already renting a room in the building opposite Rikilt. And there are four partners involved, including a technical laboratory and a financial advisor. StartHub also has members, 70 at present, who pay 15 euros a year and can

then participate in workshops, use a hot desk or talk to a business coach. You don’t have to have an idea for a business, just an interest in entrepreneurship.

Since 2009 Wageningen has also housed a general ‘incubator’ for starting entrepreneurs: StartLife. Participants do not necessarily have to have a link with Wageningen University, although it is fine if they do. Of the 120 starters the foundation has helped, 30 were WU students.



TEACHER OF THE YEAR: EXCLUDE PREVIOUS WINNERS?

The ballot boxes for the Teacher of the Year Award closed on 6 November. Once again, students got the chance to nominate their favourite teachers. A process which generally produces a longlist full of the 'usual suspects'. Should previous winners be excluded to give rising stars more of a chance?

text: Carina Nieuwenweg / illustration: Henk van Ruitenbeek

Mieke Kleijn



Assistant professor

'I think it's good to exclude previous winners but only for a limited period. So a winner cannot join in for the next one or two years.'

That makes the competition more dynamic, with changing odds each year. But

the exclusion shouldn't be for ever. After a while the previous winners should be let in again for the sake of healthy competition. That is nicer for the previous winners themselves too. I am very much in favour of the prize. I think it's good to put teachers who do a good job in the limelight. As a teacher it does provide an extra stimulus to put your best foot forward.'

Teun Fiers



Member of VeSte

'The way I see it, the Teacher of the Year Award is not a popularity prize: the student voting 'only' decides the longlist of 20 teachers. After that, the jury draws up the shortlist of five and picks the winner on

the basis of interviews with the teachers. In fact in these interviews the jury implicitly takes into account the pre-

vious winners, because they already know their profiles well. So if it's just more of the same, a teacher won't impress the jury. **In my view it is very important that it is possible for a teacher to be pronounced Teacher of the Year year after year.** That would only happen in exceptional cases, if a teacher has done something quite extraordinary in the second year. But then the jury can send out a strong message. After all, winning twice is even more special than winning once.'

Martijn van Galen



Third-year student of Molecular Life Sciences

'If the Teacher of the Year Award was only a competition for rewarding the best teachers, I would see no reason to exclude previous winners. In a competition I think it's

only right for the best competitor to win, no matter how many times they have won before. But the aim of the Teacher of the Year Award goes beyond a competition.

The award is intended to improve the quality of the teaching. In the light of that it is better to give new teachers the chance to win this distinction each year.

Since winners often give presentations about their teaching methods, this enables us to evaluate a wider variety of



effective teaching methods. Anyway, teachers who have been Teacher of the Year are already motivated to get the best out of their classes. So they do not need the extra incentive of this award to improve their teaching methods.'

Annemarie Zijlmans



Education advisor

'Teachers should always be able to take part and should not be excluded if they have won once. After all, the award is intended as a motivator. What I do consider important is to take a good look at what kind of subjects a teacher teaches. **I can imagine that a teacher who teaches abstract and difficult subjects is less likely to get high scores in evaluations.** It is a fact that it's harder to use all sorts of different methods for some subjects. It might well be that a teacher works very hard to achieve the learning objectives, but that this is less obvious. A

student in such a class might be more focussed on the subject matter and not on how the course is taught.'

Dolf Weijers



Teacher of the Year 2013

'At first, when I won the prize myself I thought, yes, it would be good to be taken off the list now to give other people more of a chance. But I soon realized it's the students who make the choice. **If it turns out that the same teachers are often at the top of the list, they must be doing something students appreciate.** If you then take those teachers off the list you prevent students from showing which teachers they rate highly. Students should be able to vote for their favourite teacher, it's as simple as that. Winning the award made me much more aware of the role I play as a teacher and of the fact that it really does make a difference to students how you present the material.'

See films of
previous winners

on [resource online.nl](http://resource.online.nl)

Quick search: *Teacher of the Year* and video

Wageningen team wins adventure race

Three Wageningen students and one from Delft won the 21-hour long Battle of the SACs, which took place last weekend around Wageningen. That means that the adventure race for student climbing associations will be held here again next year.

Having the race in Wageningen for two years running will be unique in the 11-year history of the competition. Until now, the race was organized in a different location every year. 'When we heard that we'd got the most points, we did think "Oops" for a moment,' says winner Rony Nedkov, a Geo-information Science Master's student. 'Two of us will be graduating next year and one of us is from Delft so our first thought was how are we going to manage this? But now I can't wait to organize the BOTS.'

BOTS stands for Battle of the SACs, an adventure race lasting 21 hours for members of all Dutch student climbing associations. The race is organized every year by the climbing association that won the previous year's competition. In teams of four, the students have to navigate the countryside by running, cycling, kayaking and thinking about their route.

According to Patrick de Baat of IBEX, which organized the BOTS this year, the participants were enthusiastic about the various race legs. 'People thought it was fantastic that we'd hired a ferry at the furthest point in the race so that they could cross the Rhine.' But spectators also thought it made a good show. For example, one curious forest warden wanted a photo of himself with the students crossing 'his' woods, says Patrick.

The key to the success of Rony's team was their navigation skill. 'It's up to you how you get from one checkpoint to the next. And the long route is not always the slower route. You can move faster along asphalt than along a woodland path and there's less danger of getting lost.' On top of that, his team consisted of 'four fit and incredibly sporty guys', which meant that they could travel fast right up to the end. Although they didn't always have good luck. Rony: 'My bike chain snapped three times and one of my teammates had problems the whole time with his pedal. We kept having to stop during that leg, so I thought then that we would never win.' **R LvdN**



The winning team with (from left to right) Jurjen Kamphuis, Erik Smid, Rony Nedkov and Damiano Luzzi.



During the 21-hour long race, participants had to run, cycle and kayak

PHOTOS: ERIK JAN BUIJVELD

Dropout rates not affected by binding advice

The introduction of the binding study advice (BSA) has had no measurable effect on dropout rates. 10 percent of students stopped after the 2014-2015 academic year, about the same as in the previous year.

Wageningen University has had a

binding study advice for the past year. Study advisers now have a way of dealing with students who are putting in a poor performance that will avoid having them muddling along for years. Students have to obtain at least 36 credits, otherwise they are required to leave the degree programme.

But the fact that dropout rates have remained the same does not mean, says Educational Institute director Tiny van Boekel, that the BSA has not had an effect. 'The BSA worked as an incentive for a number of students. In August the percentage of students dropping out did seem to be higher. So a lot

of students made an effort to catch up.'

Van Boekel therefore sees no reason to tighten up the BSA. 'The idea of the binding study advice is not to punish late developers but to be able to oust students who are clearly not in the right place.'

R LvdN

Student creates basis for cruise ship ecolabel

He made a model for calculating the CO₂ emissions of cruise ships. Now Master's student Jasper Schlamilch meets cruise company managers to explain his model. 'Of course they don't want to find themselves with a red ecolabel.'

The calculation model is the result of an ACT (Academic Consultancy Training) project. A group of students got the assignment to provide insight into how much CO₂ the various types of cruise ships emit. The assignment came from Zee-tours Cruises, the market leader in selling cruises in the Netherlands. The company wants to offer a possibility for compensating for CO₂ emissions, like the systems in place for air travel. 'That kind of system has to be based on something of course,' says Schlamilch.

So together with the other members of his group he calculated the fuel consumption of 180 types of cruise ship. 'Cruise companies are not open about their fuel consumption – they don't want their competitors knowing more than they need to. But on the basis of the year it was built, the engine capacity, the size of the ship and the average number of passengers it carries, you can make a formula for calculating fuel consumption,' explains Schlamilch. 'Of course there are some assumptions in that



formula, but the model has been checked by Green Seats - the company that provides CO₂ compensation systems – and at the moment it is the best there is, they say.'

The students, who did not step on board a cruise ship for the study, based their work on literature studies. They could also make use of similar calculation tools in other countries. To a certain extent. 'Those tools are not at all transparent. We want to be totally transparent.' But as a way of checking whether his calculations are correct, Schlamilch does compare his results with the tools from abroad.

At the end of October the model the students developed was presented to the cruise companies. They now have the chance to respond. 'We ask them to tell us about their actual fuel consumption. Maybe they have solar panels on the roof or they are sailing more economically. That information is not in the model.' So his ACT project has left Schlamilch with a part-time job. Nowadays he meets with the big cruise companies to explain his calculations. 'He does that well. We have every confidence in him,' says Marcel Veenhuizen, director of Zeetours. 'Of course he doesn't have to conduct

negotiations, but he knows the model better than anyone.'

Schlamilch sees a lot more potential. As well as an energy label for ships, he would like to develop a label for each cruise. 'You could also look at things like what the company does during a cruise in terms of recycling, on-board water purification and passenger transport from and to the port. Zeetours will not be doing that for the present, says Veenhuizen, but it is certainly something that could be looked into in future, together with the travel agents' association and the cruise companies. **KG**

Autumn beer and Santa hats

Eight goblets of autumn beer in eight different cafés for only 10 euros, with a jolly Santa hat thrown in. Students turned out en masse on Wednesday 4 November for the annual Dobbelpalm procession in Wageningen town centre. A big group descended on the terrace of De Kater café (photo). A bit less than a week before this the beer fans had queued for hours outside De Vlaamsche Reus café, where tickets were sold. Folding chairs, bean bags, chess boards, puzzle books and thermos cans came in handy. **R**



PHOTO: REMO WORMMEESTER

BALLOONOLOGY

If you burst a balloon it tears in two. But if you blow it up until it bursts you get a lot more pieces. French researchers have studied why this is. In the first case the balloon tears, in the second it bursts. The higher pressure causes the tear to spread. They used a high-speed camera to show the difference. Why? Because they could.

**HARSH**

Children from religious families are less generous than those who are not brought up to be religious. They are also harsher in their verdicts on what punishment a wrongdoer deserves. This finding came out of international research by the University of Chicago. It makes no difference whether the upbringing is Christian or Muslim. Love and peace? Actions speak louder than words.

DISTRACTED

You will retain a new telephone number better if an attractive person happens to come into your field of vision. A positive distraction boosts learning capacity, say neuroscientists from the University of Illinois. The effect is visible in brain scans. Positive emotions keep the memory lubricated.

PAINFUL

Most sleepwalkers do not feel any pain, even if they fall downstairs and break an arm or a leg. This was discovered by French doctors in a hospital in Montpellier. Eight out of ten sleepwalkers who injured themselves during their nocturnal wanderings were not woken up by the pain. They did feel it in the morning of course.

Clothing sale for a good cause

Charity Chic: the title of a clothing sale organised in Orion by the Student Council party S&I on 3 November. Around 150 items of clothing changed owners at the sale, which raised over 200 euros for the Wageningen refugee support organization **Vluchtelingen onder Dak**.

As an international student party, S&I wanted to contribute to the reception of refugees. Students could hand over their old clothes and for each item sold 1.5 euros went to the charity. The rest of the money went to the seller. Students handed in more than a thousand items of clothing. Anne Walther of S&I said 'We've understood from refugee aid organizations that they have enough clothes but a



PHOTO: AARTJAN VAN DE GLIND

shortage of other things. So it's all well and good to donate clothes, but it's better to give money.' According to Anne it was 'pleasantly busy'. Reason enough for her to organize a

clothing sale for charity more often. 'The concept clearly appeals to a lot of students, and we can think of more than enough causes the money can go to'. **LvdN**



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER

Belly dancer in your room

Wageningen student rooms were transformed into little theatres on 5 November. It was the ninth edition of Roomservice, organized by Studium Generale. Belly dancer Amarah Ates per-

formed in a small student room, with the audience squashed into the sofa and on the floor. With about 400 spectators, Roomservice was totally sold out. 'People ordered tickets

from abroad. International students were so keen to be part of it that they even went to Dutch-language shows,' says Wiebe Aans of Studium Generale. **TvdS**

EPISODE 60 - MORTIERSTRAAT 14B <<

Text
Astrid
Kruitwagen

The story so far: Vera and her boyfriend Robby are as thick as thieves. He is pretty alternative and his style seem to be rubbing off on her.

The art of baking

‘That smells great,’ shouted Bianca as she entered the kitchen. Vera and her boyfriend Robby looked up from their intimate whisperings in annoyance. ‘What are you guys making?’ asked Bianca, ignoring their blushing faces.

‘Cake,’ said Vera.

Bianca let her glance slide across the work surface, which was piled high with cooking utensils. Her attention was caught by a small plastic bag. She walked over to it and saw it contained quite a lot of green leaves.

‘Aha...,’ said Bianca. ‘I know what sort of cake you’re making!’ She looked at them excitedly. ‘Can I have a piece too when it’s ready?’ ‘Of course,’ cried Robby. ‘We’ll have a relaxed Sunday afternoon,’ he said, winking at Vera. She looked at him in momentary astonishment that turned into a smile. ‘I hope you weren’t planning on studying today?’

‘Who wants to be the first to taste the cake?’ asked Robby a little while later. Bianca looked at Vera. Now that the moment had arrived, she found it a little bit daunting. Apparently Vera saw the hesitation on Bianca’s face and she volunteered to take the first mouthful.

‘Delicious,’ she said. Now Bianca dared to as well. She ate a piece. It tasted just like a normal cake. Nervous and excited, Bianca waited. She had never done this before.

‘Are you guys noticing anything yet?’ she asked out of curiosity a little while later. Vera looked at Bianca, saw her serious expression and started to laugh. ‘Are we noticing anything yet?’ Her unceasing laughter seemed infectious because now Bianca too had got the giggles. Slowly she was starting to



ILLUSTRATIONS: KIM PETERSE

feel different, more relaxed.

‘What is so funny?’ No one had heard Filippo come in. Bianca pointed to the cake. ‘Do you want a piece?’ she asked laughing.

Filippo surveyed the three of them, trying to grasp the situation. Bianca who was slouched on the sofa, Vera who was sitting propped up against Robby and giggling, and Robby who was looking back at him with an extremely serious expression on his face. He grinned and took a piece of cake for himself.

‘Tasty,’ he said and sat down besides Bianca expectantly.

‘But what exactly have you guys put in this cake?’

They all fell silent. Then Vera and Robby looked at each other and started to snigger. ‘Nou, erm...,’ said Vera. ‘Can’t you tell?’ Filippo shook his head. ‘It must have been some really special gear,’ he joked. He stood up and shrugging his shoulders he left the room. Slowly Bianca realized what was going on. ‘But what about that bag then?’ she asked weakly. ‘Did you really believe...?’ laughed Vera. ‘That was just green tea!’

Resource follows events at Mortierstraat 14B

Another top degree programme in Wageningen

As many as 15 of Wageningen’s 19 Bachelor’s degree programmes have been pronounced Top Programmes in the Dutch higher education guide *De Keuzegids*. The BSc programme in Landscape Architecture is now among Wageningen’s best.

Where students on comparable programmes in Nijmegen, Utrecht and Amsterdam grumble about the

facilities, methods and the content of their programmes, Wageningen gets lavish compliments, even from the experts. ‘Fantastic, what good news,’ responds programme director Jan Philipsen. ‘This really is an expression of appreciation for the teachers, who put a lot of effort into creating good courses.’

Compared with last year, Wageningen students are more satisfied with the workload and the provi-

sion of information. According to Philipsen, the latter is related to the degree to which students’ views were taken into account when the programme was restructured. Both the Bachelor’s and the Master’s programmes in Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning have been overhauled recently and the students have been intensively involved in the process.

Philipsen is now looking for-

ward with interest to the publication of the Keuzegids for Master’s programmes, in May. The evaluation of the Master’s in Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning was on the low side, by Wageningen standards, for several years. ‘We’ve put a lot of energy into improving the facilities and the curriculum.’ **R LvdN**

See also the article on page 6

>> PARTIES

The best parties according to Wageningen Uitgaans Promotie. Check www.wageningenup.nl for all parties.

**KSV FRANCISCUS - 7SINS PRESENTS: PUT YOUR MASK ON**

Thursday 12 November from 22:30 to 05:00

A masked ball. Or something like it. Behind your mask you will be unrecognizable. This is the 7Sins party at KSV Franciscus. These open parties are always a success. But we do expect it will be very hot wearing a mask, so keep it small and elegant. Besides, how are you going to drink wearing a big mask? Perhaps you would do well to bring a straw.

HET GAT - SEXY IN BLACK LIGHT

Thursday 19 November from 23:00 to 04:00

Biologica is celebrating its 23rd birthday. Come

along and celebrate at their open party in Het Gat. There will be black lights so wear something that lights up well in the dark. And make it a bit sexy if you want. Free entrance and free gadgets, good reason to go adventuring in the dark!

HET GAT - SINTEGRAND

Thursday 26 November from 23:00 to 04:00

Integrand throws an open party just once a year, but then they make it a good one! Sintegrand has become a phenomenon in Wageningen and it will be crowded again this year. Enjoy throwing gingernut biscuits and doing mad things in your Gold, Rainbow or Black Pete outfit. **R**

>> THE WORKS

'THEY DIDN'T COME TO THE CONSULTATION MEETINGS'

Who? Ineke van Kapel, Master's student of Landscape Architecture

What? Thesis on sustainable tourism

Where? Sint Eustatius

Sint Eustatius has been a special municipality of the Netherlands since 2010 and aims to develop more sustainable tourism. My thesis was part of a big masterplan and had two objectives. My first task was to develop a coastal plan for the biggest beach on the island, where tourism is possible. This design had to take into account the ongoing erosion of the coast and the cliff, the shortage of space and the fact that Oranjestad can contribute to this tourism itself, as well as making money from it. Secondly, I was supposed to help involve the local people in establishing sustainable tourism on their island. That was very difficult because they didn't come to the consultation meetings.

The island is quite American. Since they got TV and airco most islanders prefer to stay indoors. Everyone gets around by car. When I was out walking with friends we were often offered a lift on the assumption that we didn't have transport.

On one of those walks with a couple of other students I climbed a dormant volcano. That was really awesome and there was something a bit thrilling about standing on a volcano. We could even go down into the crater, which was overgrown with banana trees and other tropical plants. Nothing like the bare rocks you would normally expect in a crater.



Everyone greets everyone on Sint Eustatius and that positive atmosphere sticks, so you start doing the same. A few people invited me to go out for karaoke on a Friday evening. That is a very popular activity; the whole village gets together for a singsong. Suddenly I heard a familiar tune. It turned out they were singing André Hazes full pelt. When I got back to Holland I did miss the friendliness and the laid-back attitude. A lot of Dutch people are always grumbling about everything being so slow, and there is no need for that at all! **R AJ**




PHOTO: CIFOR

MEANWHILE IN... <<

Meanwhile in... Indonesia

In the news: Forest fires have been raging for months in Indonesia. The situation is hard to get under control due to extreme drought. Major damage to ecosystems and public health can no longer be prevented by the rain that is falling now.

Commentary by Windy Mulia Liem, Master's student Nutrition and Health.

"There are forest fires in my country every year during the dry summer. They happen because the farmers set forested areas alight to create more arable land. This year the summer is extremely dry. The forest fires have free reign and the authorities cannot control them. Even the peatlands are catching fire. This causes a lot of smoke. Luckily it rained last week, but the damage is enormous. Half a million Indonesians have respiratory problems and two million hectares of forest burned down on Borneo, Sumatra, and the Papua Islands. This is the habitat of the orangutan and other threatened species. Children couldn't go to school for months because of the smoke, and now have some catching up to do. I have never experienced forest fires up close myself. When I saw the heart-breaking images on television, I had to try to help the victims of this disaster. Especially the children, because they are the most vulnerable group. Without good medical help smoke inhalation can lead to stunted growth and other health problems. Last week I set up a fundraising appeal for the victims together with several other students. The lunch concert with which we raised money took place in Forum. I really appreciate how much everybody sympathises with the victims. During the concert there were people of different nationalities who all wanted to do something to help. Some of them hadn't even heard of the disaster before. I hope that in situations like this in the future people will not just ask themselves why but also how. How would it feel to be a victim of this myself, and how can we help these people?" 

Film of lunchtime concert
Go to resource-online.nl.

Search terms: Indonesian students

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(QUICK SEARCH TERM: VLOG)

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classifieds

WU'R going to Paris

In December 2015, the global climate summit (COP 21) will take place in Paris. On November 29th, people from around the world will gather in Paris to march and raise their voices to ask for climate justice. 'WUR going to Paris', a student initiative, is joining this historic event for the weekend. They are organizing transportation and accommodation. Join them on Facebook.

Wanted: Student assistants

We are researching the motivation of members of the public for spending time in The Hague Forest. Does participating sound like fun and are you keen on nature? This promises to be an enjoyable experience and what is more you will be paid 15 euros an hour. Info: andries.richter@wur.nl.

Want to sing? The Bells of Rachmaninoff!

Have you heard? The Wageningen Symphony Orchestra & *Het Andere Koor* (The Other Choir) will be performing The Bells. This magnificent

work for choir and orchestra is rarely performed so this is a unique opportunity to participate. There are still places available for tenors and basses. You only live once, so why not join in? Concerts on 15 and 17 April 2016. Rehearsals on average once every three weeks on a Saturday or Sunday. Contact: info@hwsolahak.nl.

WWW.HWSOLAHAK.NL

Invitation to the crash course on WU Education: Governance, Policy and Organization

Lecturer: prof. Tiny van Boekel, Director of the Education Institute (OWI) and Dean of Education. The course (one evening) addresses four issues. The first one is on governance and organization of WU, the second one on funding of courses and other financial issues, the third one on main agenda items of Programme Committees (the annual Education Modification Cycle, the Education and Examination Regulations and the accreditation of study programmes, including the internal quality assurance system) and the fourth one is on tasks, responsibilities and authorities of a Programme

Committee and its members. Date and venue: 18 November, 19.30-22.00., VIP rooms 031-034, Forum building. Next courses are scheduled on January 20 and April 20. Subscribe: Marita.Klefken@wur.nl

Meet Showband Irene in Ede

Are you a brass player or percussionist and do you love showbands? If so, then join the 45 enthusiastic members of Showband Irene for an evening's high-quality music at the play-in on Wednesday 25 November from 19.45 to 22.00, Peppelensteeg 12, Ede. Enrol via play-in@irene.nl and receive the music via the email. A limited number of instruments are available for loan.

WWW.IRENE.NL

Hibhoppers Wageningen

Exercise is healthy, even for people with heart problems. Specially for them, Wageningen has the sports and games group run by the Hibhoppers Foundation, which provides a responsible and varied programme. On both Monday mornings and Wednesday evenings, the sports hall in Nude is the venue for enthusiastic sporting activity and

keep fit exercises. Residents of neighbouring municipalities are also very welcome.

WWW.HIBHOPPERS.NL

Johanna Naber Award 2016

This award is given to the most original and innovative MSc graduation thesis in the area of women's and/or gender history. The winner receives the sum of 500 euros and has the opportunity to write an article for the journal *Historica*. Will your thesis be completed between 1 December 2014 and 1 December 2015? If so, submit your thesis before 6 January 2016.

WWW.ATRIA.NL

Sheet music / musical instruments for loan

The music library of the Van Ulven Foundation offers sheet music, musical scores and music literature. These very special documents can be inspected and copied by students, or taken out on loan. You can also loan them via the internet. In addition, the foundation also loans out musical instruments. Library opening times: every third Thursday of the month from 20.00 to 22.00.

Location: Generaal Foulkesweg 1A, Wageningen.

WWW.VANUVEN.NL

agenda

Thursday 12 to Wednesday 25 November

FILMS FOR STUDENTS

At Movie W arts cinema you can enjoy the following films: Mia Madre, a drama involving humour and sorrow about the loss of a mother; Victoria, an adventure in Berlin that becomes a nightmare; The Wolf-pack, the story of six brothers who grow up in isolation and see only movies; Slow West, an innovative western in which a young man searches for his beloved in the Wild West; and lastly Inhabit, a documentary about permaculture, an ecological vision of the global food problem. Venue: Movie W, Wilhelminalweg 3A.

WWW.MOVIE-W.NL

Thursday 12 November, 19.00-22.00 (NL)

YOUNG KLV TRAINING: ARE YOU DAUNTED BY THE PROSPECT OF WRITING YOUR THESIS?

You wouldn't be the only one, according to the student counselling service. The experienced trainer Geraldine Sinnema and a study advisor will be giving genuinely helpful information that will enable you to make progress. Once the extensive project has been broken down into an easy-to-grasp, comprehensive structure, you will be halfway there. So if you have become bogged down or you feel overwhelmed, enrol via www.klv.nl and come to Impulse, Wageningen.

Thursday 19 November, 19.45
LIVE STAGE MARNIX PRESENTS... GORDIE TENTREES & JAXON HALDANE (CAN)

Cordie is a singer-songwriter and Jaxon is a composer, singer songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. Both are from Canada. At first a short intro by Jaxon and then they play as a duo. Admission 12 euros. Booking in advance through mail: reservering@lifestagemarnix.com. Venue: Café de Bospoort, Bospoort 1, Ede.

WWW.LIFESTAGEMARNIX.COM

Wednesday 18 November, 20.00-22.00

DOCUMENTARY 'THE GARDEN' & AFRICAN DINNER (PART OF GRASSROOTS SCIENCE)

From the ashes of the L.A. riots arose a lush, 14-acre community garden, the largest of its kind in the United States. Now bulldozers threaten its future. 'The Garden' is a three-times Best Documentary Award winner! Afterwards there is time for discussion. Venue: Building with the Clock, Generaal Foulkesweg 37, Wageningen. If you'd like to join the African Dinner, sign up before 15 November at ruw@wur.nl. Grassroots Science Wageningen is a collaboration between RUW Foundation, OtherWise and Boerengroep. Four times a year we organize a series of activities about socially driven initiatives that tackle global problems. The November's theme is activism.

WWW.STICHTINGRUW.NL

Sunday 22 November, 15.00
BLUESBAND FLAVIUM IN LOBURG LIVE

This band really needs no introduction; they received this year's Dutch Blues Award. With Blues classics 'Nightlife' and 'Nobody knows you when you're down and out' the band scored positions in the hit parade. Anyone who thinks Blues is pretty static will be surprised by this afternoon's performance because the band swings like no other. Smashing solos, pleasant Blue(s) notes, fanatical Train Blues, you will see it all during the performance. Venue: Café Loburg, Molenstraat Wageningen.

WWW.FLAVIUM.NL

Monday 23 – 26 November
FOOD4ALL FESTIVAL, 4TH EDITION

Join us for an interesting selection of documentaries, inspiring lectures and a delicious FoodWaste dinner. Different events, at various locations in Wageningen, such as the lecture on restoration agroforestry by permaculture expert Mark Shepard. Shepard runs New Forest Farm, which is considered to be one of the most ambitious sustainable agriculture projects in the USA. The Food4All festival aims to highlight the problems of our food system

from a human- rights-based perspective, while at the same time promoting hopeful alternatives. Organized by: OtherWise, together with FIAN Netherlands, ILEIA, RUW Foundation and Toekomstboeren.

WWW.ST-OTHERWISE.ORG

Wednesday 25 November 12.30 – 17.15

VHL: AFTERNOON SYMPOSIUM 'RESILIENT FOOD LANDSCAPES'

With speakers Paul Opdam, Willem Ferwerda and Wouter van Eck, workshops and poster presentation. Venue: Hogeschool Van Hall Larenstein, Larensteinselaan 26a in Velp.

WWW.HOGESCHOOLVHL.NL/AGENDA

Thursday 26 November, 19.00-22.00
YOUNG KLV LECTURE: TO DO A PHD, PLEASURE OR BURDEN? (EN)

A PhD programme will take up to four years. Many students doubt whether they should do a PhD. For those in doubt join the lecture and learn about the basic requirements, selection procedures and the common career path of a PhD candidate. Arthur Mol, rector magnificus, will tell you all the ins and outs of doing a PhD. Furthermore, the rector and two current PhD students will share their experiences and view of the trajectory. Venue: Triton – StartHub, building 119.

WWW.KLV.NL

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

Nu in de boekhandel en webshops:
(ook als eBook)

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?

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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Design

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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

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>>TYPICAL DUTCH

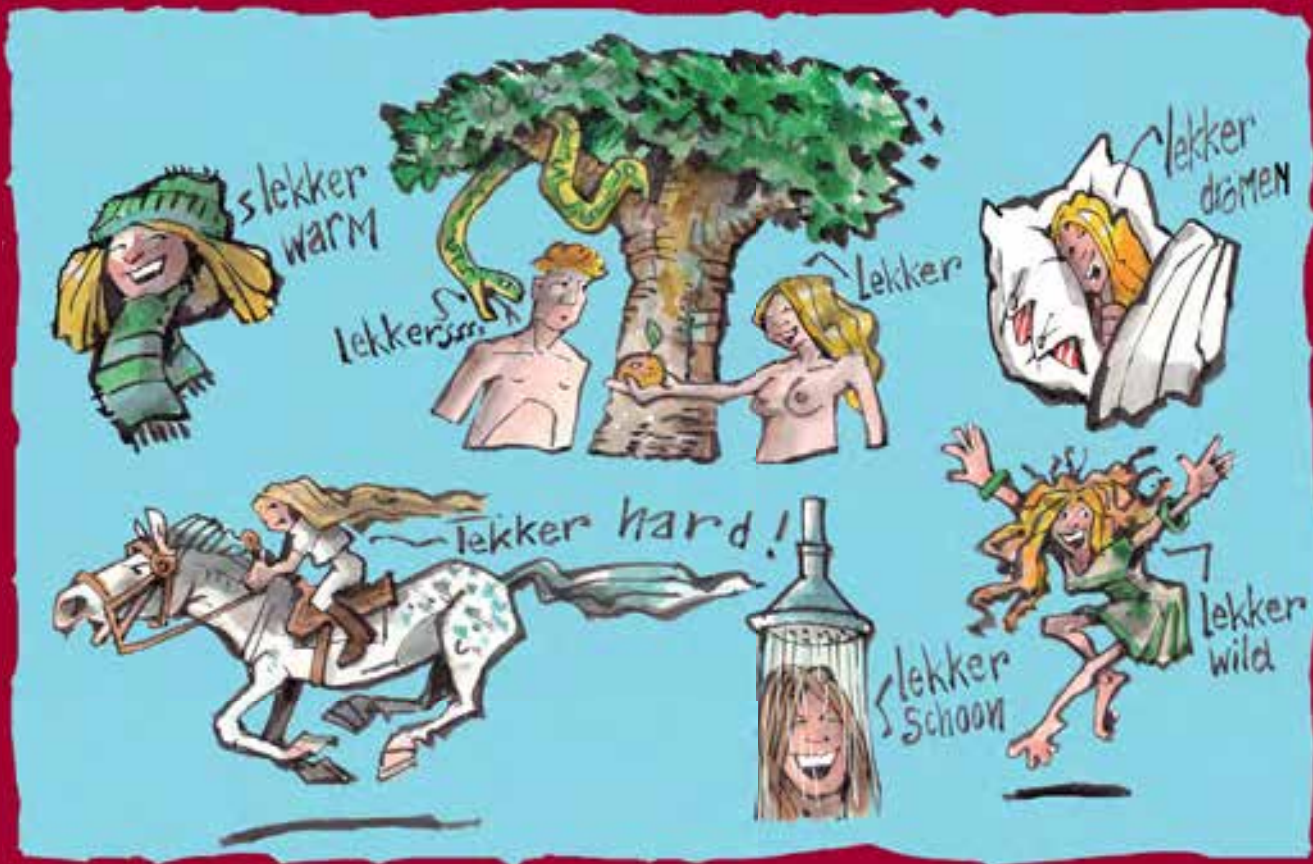


ILLUSTRATION: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK


Everything is 'lekker'!

Lekker eten, lekker weer, slaap lekker, ga lekker zitten, lekker ding, mmmm lekker. Whether it refers to food, the weather, how you slept, a nice sit-down, someone you fancy... 'Lekker' is everywhere and everything.

'Lekker' was one of the first words I learned when I first arrived in the Netherlands. 'Lekker' is a special word that can be used in many instances. It means tasty, yummy, delicious, but also nice, good, comfortable, attractive etcetera.

The Dutch language is really interesting. It is a unique language with a great history. When you hear how many dialects it has in proportion to the size of the country, you realize how amazing it is. Dutch is also spoken all over the world. In Europe, Asia, Oceania, America and Africa. If you don't believe me, just ask a Dutch person or Google it.

Dutch is also quite a hard language to learn, but the use of 'lekker' is pretty easy. You can use this word to describe almost anything you like. The Dutch themselves love this word and they use it quite a lot.

There is a catch, though. I thought you couldn't go wrong with using 'lekker' but trust me, you can. Don't tell a friendly Dutch person you just met: 'Ik vind je lekker.' He or she might think you are a bit weird. But to people you know you can safely say 'lekker!' on many different occasions. Now go and try it out!  Maja Tišma, MSc student of Leisure, Tourism and Environment, from Serbia.

Don't tell a friendly Dutch person you just met: 'Ik vind je lekker'

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 and earn 25 euros and Dutch candy.