

Country report Demeter The Netherlands/ 2019

- Together with Warmonderhof and the Biodynamic Association we organized as every year a special Demeter square on the yearly organic exhibition in Zwolle (January)
- We co-organized – as every year - a course for farmers who showed interest for Demeter.(February- April)
- We hosted and participated in the ‘last’ Demeter International Members Assembly in Kaap Doorn, and organized excursions and lectures (June)
- We continued this year with ‘trade-talks’ with processors and traders to work on the socio-economic challenges. And worked further on distribution standards (now implemented) We also worked on a new course on foodquality for processors and traders
- The number of farmers and processors is growing again. Some 150 farmers and 110 traders and processors are now registered. The number of hectares is still increasing with 7581 ha in total now. The average Demeter farm counts almost 53 ha
- In agriculture we continued with sector meetings, they are available now for Fruit, Goats and Greenhouses and starting up for dairy farms. In these meetings we work on compliance with the standards and investigating where we can go further.
- More and more farmers have joined days where farmers make the preparates together. We have made this an obligation for new farmers. These days become a true event with also lectures on spiritual issues.
- Acquisition of Natudis and Biofresh (Belgium) by Udea completed. Also the merger between De Nieuwe Band and Odin is completed. So fewer- but larger- retail partners (only 2) with organic stores that are Demeter license-holder
- We organized a Demeter safari for children during a Demeter –week available for all organic shops, but although it was a co-production with the shops, it was not the success we hoped for.
- Also we saw the continuation of ‘sowing the future’ on several farms and the introduction of a new project on a special variety of pumpkin with strong interaction with consumers of Odin and Hofwebshop
- For the sixth time we organized a congress (December last year) in close cooperation with the biodynamic movement. Theme: Inclusive agriculture as a source for well-being’. Key-note speakers were Meino Smit a biodynamic farmer who promoted on Wageningen University on energy efficiency of our agricultural system, This is with 170 participants also a good yearly meeting for workshops, discussions and exchange.
- Our yearly Demeter Monitor has been produced and spread among our licensees and to policy-makers (government) financiers and NGO’s.

- We produced a special Demeter magazine newspaper in and around specialized shops and farms and continued our cooperation with several 'green' newspapers' to publish columns.

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