

**Report:**

## **Symposium The World on Your Plate Livestock in a Global perspective**

**Celebrated at the Veterinary Faculty of Utrecht,  
The Netherlands, 7 November 2007**

Europe is not an island; the European veterinary and agricultural policy influence farmers in developing countries, as well as their colleagues in the North. To address this issue, a one-day symposium was organized by Veterinary Medicine in Development Cooperation (DIO), together with the global Endogenous Livestock Development network (ELD).

### **Programme**

#### **Morning**

After key-note addresses by representatives from DIO and the ELD network, the adverse effects of globalization in livestock development were discussed, with the following examples:

- the effects of dairy subsidies
- the effects of free trade in frozen poultry, and
- the effects of control strategies of Avian Flu

#### **Afternoon**

In parallel workshops initiatives that strengthen local potential and North-South exchange were presented and discussed:

- innovative experiences in Dutch dairy farming
- potential of local initiatives in Mexico and Ethiopia
- linking North-South exchange

Moreover, a photo-exhibition showed the potential of traditional pig breeding practices in Corsica, southern Italy.

**For more information and follow-up activities, please contact:**

**DIO Foundation:** Foundation for veterinary medicine in development cooperation. Our primary activity is our question- and answering service, the Veterinary Information Service. We provide farmers and extension workers in developing countries with information regarding animal health, infectious diseases and veterinary medicine. Website: [www.dio.nl](http://www.dio.nl). Contact: [dio@dio.nl](mailto:dio@dio.nl)

**ELD-network:** Endogenous Livestock Development is a concept - that puts livestock keepers at the center of development efforts. The ELD network is an exchange and learning network, of organisations that are applying that into their livestock- and development related work. Website: [www.eldev.net](http://www.eldev.net) Contact: katrien van't Hooft ([katrien.hooft@etcnl.nl](mailto:katrien.hooft@etcnl.nl)), Evelyn Mathias ([evelyn@mamud.com](mailto:evelyn@mamud.com)) or Getachew Gebru ([g.gebru@cgiar.org](mailto:g.gebru@cgiar.org))

**VSF-Europa:** Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Europa – an association of which the members are all working towards reducing poverty and increasing food sovereignty. Their focus is on livestock and veterinary medicine. Website: [www.vsf.org](http://www.vsf.org).



Press release:

## **Sustainable livestock keeping is a worldwide must**

### **The unexplored potential of local marketing and endogenous livestock development**

There is an unexplored potential to be tapped for poverty alleviation and sustainable agricultural development: initiatives based on local marketing and endogenous livestock production systems. Southern countries need not simply follow the path of industrialised livestock production for the world market, as the northern countries decided to do several decades ago. North and South can learn from each other, as numerous options towards sustainable agricultural development - based on local initiatives and marketing - can be found in all continents.

These were some of the conclusions drawn at the symposium "*The World on your Plate – livestock in a global perspective*", which was held on Wednesday November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at the veterinary faculty in Utrecht, The Netherlands. The symposium was organised in honour of the twentieth anniversary of DIO Foundation together with the global Endogenous Livestock Development network. It brought together around 100 professionals of veterinary and agricultural development organisations, from some 20 countries in the North as well as the South.

The Dutch government decided after the famine of the second world war, that there should never be hunger again. This led in the 1960's to intensification of agriculture, a development that continually accelerated and turned to numerous environmental problems, subsidised overproduction, and dumping of products on the markets of developing countries. The EU Milk Quota system was one of the measures taken in the eighties to limit the milk production and reduce surpluses. The EU want to stop the quota system now, but the attendants to this symposium believe that there is a need for market protection in order to achieve sustainable agriculture in both North and South. Other presentations also showed the devastating effects of trade liberalisation, for example on the Indian dairy market and on the poultry market in various African countries. The basic problem is that there is pressure to open up the markets, while the southern countries have not had the time to build up their own agricultural system. In the process the cultural heritage is trampled.

These critical issues related to globalisation and livestock were directly linked to possible alternatives based on local organisation and marketing. Discussions between professionals from both South and North revealed differences, but also striking similarities. It became clear that farmers in both North and South are actively engaged in local initiatives, which indicates the wealth of opportunities that exist. It is a myth that local communities are resistant to change. There is an urgent need to re-think the conventional approach towards agricultural productivity, and emphasise the potential of a people-centred livestock development approach.

Today the symposium 'The world on your plate: Livestock in a global perspective' has given us 'some food' to reflect on. Some conclusions:

- technical background info has been given of the topics at hand;
- North-South contradictions and similarities have been discussed;
- The potential of local and endogenous initiatives was highlighted;
- New insights have emerged. For instance I quote David Millar from Ghana: '*It is a myth to think that the West is feeding the rest of the world; we can do that very well ourselves!*' Or Huib Bor, Dutch dairy farmer: '*Nature is always right: we cannot fight or cheat nature*';
- Endogenous livestock development has tremendous opportunities, also for solving the poverty problem, but trust is required to profit from this empowerment
- 'North' and 'South' can learn a lot from each other!

A number of serious questions that still need to be discussed and solved. We can use them for your agenda setting for the next period: they are worth being dealt with. The 'menu' we could consume today was developed by DIO Foundation and the international ELD-network; I would like to say: '*you cooks prepared us a remarkable meal!*'.

## Morning programme

### Introductions – Key note address



#### **Mariska Leeflang – DIO Foundation, Netherlands**

As former president of Veterinary Medicine in Development Cooperation (DIO), Mariska briefly introduced the goals and strategies of this foundation. DIO is part of VSF-Europe. Mariska gave an overview of European agricultural policies over the past 60 years. After the World War 2, there was the policy of ‘hunger never again’. So large schemes were introduced to intensify agriculture. This was very successful and Europe became self-sufficient in agricultural production. But gradually the prices went down due to high production, and farmers had to produce more and more to earn a decent income. This was supported by subsidies, which facilitated cheap export of agricultural products outside Europe. Since 1992 there have been reforms of the EU policy, and prices were lowered and adapted to world-market prices. Farmers were compensated by EU subsidies, but only larger farmers have been able to survive, after further intensification and large-scale production.

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#### **Prof. David Millar - Centre for Cosmvision and Indigenous Knowledge (CECIK), and vice-chancellor of UDS university, Bolgotanga, Ghana**

David Millar explained his past as an Animal science student, when doing a research projects about the effect of different feeds on the quality of protein in cow milk. Although this was academically fascinating, it did not address the real problem of Ghana: the lack of fresh milk in supermarkets in the cities and in the diets of rural people. He felt that the research was ill-conceived; a simple project of increasing yields of milk would have been sufficient. Later on he coordinated a cross breed project between Friesian bulls imported from Holland and local breeds of the West Africa Shorthorn. It did not take long to realize that the Friesian Bull was too heavy to be carried by the small females of the local breed. This was 30 years ago. The so-called advanced livestock industries of Europe were seen as the best also for Africa and the University was the advocate of the replacement of local breeds with foreign ones. In recent times the same drive to homogenize agricultural productivity is apparent under the guise of globalization, such as in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This is done, for example, through importation of poultry and poultry products, animal feed and medication made in large doses (for 1.000 animals), Bird Flu destructions and replacement schemes, provision of financial support to large scale animal production investments, as well as schools and researches emphasizing homogenous production systems rather than heterogeneous and indigenous systems of production.

Recent events are challenging this globalisation approach. For example during the Bird-flu outbreak the survival rate of the local breeds was much higher than of the imported breeds. The recovery rate of indigenous animals and flocks is much faster and does not require recapitalisation. During recent floods in northern Ghana the resilience of indigenous breeds (cattle, sheep, goats, poultry) was also illustrated. All external breeds were wiped out but local breeds survived and are recovering. It became clear that farmers actively chose to rescue their local breeds, as they form the backbone of the mixed farming eco-system.

The Endogenous Livestock Development (ELD) network aims to strengthen the local approaches of livestock keeping, and stimulates institutions to support these. This is resulting in a lively exchange of experiences. There is a great potential of local livestock keeping for poverty alleviation that has not been exploited thus far. Local breeds produce better under local circumstances than improved breeds, which require special feeding and care. There is great potential for optimising local animal production systems, within the context of people's own criteria and strategies.

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## **Session 1 The effect of avian Influenza control strategies**



### **Prof. dr. Arjan Stegeman Dept. of Epidemiology, veterinary faculty, Utrecht, Netherlands**

Arjan Stegeman first explains briefly the epidemiology of Avian Influenza, as well as the various control measures and their effects. The control measures at two levels: (1) prevention (here it is mainly bio security: hygiene etc); (2) control of an existing outbreak (isolation of infected farms, kill and destroy infected animals). These

control measures did work well in countries with a low poultry-density (UK, Germany: small outbreaks), but in countries with a large poultry density, large numbers of animals had to be killed before the epidemic could be put to halt (Netherlands 30 million animals were killed and in Italy 13 million). The amount of resources had no effect: even with enough resources, the Netherlands had difficulties controlling the outbreak.

In Asia, where AI occurs regularly, controlling the disease is difficult because of the different systems of poultry production. This was shown with two examples: Thailand and Indonesia. In Thailand 70% of the poultry production is in large scale, industrial systems and meant for export. This means they can have a stringent control policy with culling of AI infected flocks. Indonesia, with 63.5% of the poultry production in backyards, has much more problems with controlling it. The occurrence of AI in poultry is measured by the number of humans infected and control is done by vaccination. In such a country it is not possible to stop AI outbreaks, and maybe we all need to learn to live with AI.

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### **Atomba Titus Tegwi – NOWEPIFAC, Cameroon**

As a representative of the farmers' organisation NOWEPIFAC (North West Pig Farmers Cooperative Society), Atomba Titus gives an overview of the situation in Cameroon, starting with an outbreak of AI in Nigeria. This outbreak caused panic in the government of Cameroon. Big measures were taken to prevent the virus from causing an epidemic. Farmers were obliged to report sick chickens, for example. And then the whole flock was destroyed without any form of compensation for the farmer. This increased the gap and the suspicion that existed between government and

farmers. Farmers already protested against the government who accepted European cheap poultry on the Cameroonian markets. There was, after the Nigerian AI outbreak, also fear among the people: many people believed that you would get sick from eating chickens. So the poultry market collapsed. It is now slowly recovering.

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## **Discussion and conclusions on effects of Avian Influenza control**

### **1. Compensation: for who and from who?**

The issue of compensations was discussed. Arjan Stegeman mentioned that compensation in cash did not help restocking and did not really help the farmers. Someone proposed to let the consumer pay for the losses. But in Cameroon, consumers stopped eating chicken. Dutch poultry farmers only get money from the government in case of major losses; for minor losses they can compensate themselves from a fund that they put together from their own savings.

### **2. Cause of AI: due to production systems?**

Another issue was the influence of production systems. Why not only promote backyard poultry instead of building large stables? With lower animal density and higher resistance of indigenous chickens, there may be less problems. But according to Arjan Stegeman, there is no clear evidence to support this idea.

### **3. Blessing in disguise?**

David Millar indicates that AI can be seen as blessing: if you restock with indigenous breeds, that may be better for the community. At the same time Titus argues that commercial farmers require imported, fast growing breeds to guarantee income. There may be a need for an integrated approach that implies both systems.

### **4. People more afraid of culling than of AI?**

More people may be dying as a result of the lack of food due to culling than of the AI in humans itself. This is a serious issue, which hampers AI control, as the example in Indonesia indicates. We need to learn to live with AI, instead of trying to cull all animals in infected zones.

### **5. More and more organizations take advantage of the fear for AI and use it to change poultry systems worldwide into more intensive systems (SAFE-initiative e.g.).**

## **Session 2: Effects of subsidized dairy products**



### **Harm Schelhaas - former director of Dutch Dairy Board**

Harm Schelhaas starts with an in memoriam for the EU Milk Quota System. The EU wants to get rid of the quota system, because of (1) the upcoming neoliberalism; (2) the recent boom in milk price (due to worldwide shortage). But Harm does not welcome the end of the system... It worked excellent: surpluses in Europe disappeared and there was more room for social values for the farmers. And Harm does not believe that the milk price will keep increasing. And the influence of China in making the milk price rise, is not as big as believed: there is a severe draught in Australia and a lack of stock in Europe and America. These factors have a bigger influence. Ending the milk quota system will lead to instability of the milk price, and instability is bad for the farmers, both in developed as developing countries. There may be short price peaks, but overall the price will be lower. And agriculture is depending on nature, so adaptation to market demands will take 1 to 3 years. Furthermore, each farmer will try to produce as much as they technically can. That will lead again to surpluses and to drops in the milk price. Harm ends with the conclusion that ending the Milk Quota system is NOT good for developing countries, and that developing countries should be given the opportunity to protect their markets too. Finally, third world countries will be more helped by education. And in that respect he praises the Veterinary Information Service of DIO.

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### **Mrs. Ashalata - ANTHRA, NGO in Andhra Pradesh, India**

Mrs. Ashalata argues that trade liberalization on the Indian Dairy Sector may mean the end of the smallholder dairy farmer. India is the biggest milk producer, and 70% of the Indian milk comes from small farmers. Mrs. Ashalata begins with a brief overview of the history of Indian milk production. She starts with the 'green revolution' and 'operation flood' (1960's). Until 1991 the Indian market was protected and India had a good cooperative system in which small farmers directly profited from their sales. But in 1994 the restrictions for imports and foreign businesses were lifted, by signing the WTO-AOA agreements. And in 2002 there were no more limits for private dairies. The co-operations went down, private businesses grew bigger and bigger. And their influence on the Indian dairy market increased. And the EU dumped highly subsidized skimmed milk powder and butter oil from 2001 on. Private dairies prosper from the free market: they make the decisions, they decide on the choices. Freedom of choice, does not benefit (small) farmers! Besides, it lead to destruction of mixed cropping systems and thus forced farmers to rely on the market for feed and fodder: import of feed/fodder increased 3000%. Anthra has been engaged in studying, critically analyzing and unraveling the linkages and the forces behind the collapse of milk prices and the replacement of local bovine breeds with exotic breeds. The research findings have been used to inform farmers about such policies, and motivate them to challenge government policies pro-actively using strategies that will enable them to regain control over their own food and animal farming processes.

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## Discussion and conclusions

### 1. Cooperativism

Interesting contrasts between Netherlands and India (small versus big country; big farms vs small farms; no cooperative systems vs cooperative systems). Nowadays, NGOs in India try to organize farmers more and more into co-operation. But 65% of the farmers is not organized. Mrs. Ashalata explains that the co-operations went down from the early nineties on and that it will take much time and effort before the proportion organized farmers really increases.

### 2. Open markets or protection?

Do open markets only destroy or do they make room for creative solutions? It was interesting to see that during the workshop people actually agreed with each other on this point. At least some degree of protection is needed, both in the north and in the south. Agribusiness is no car business!

### 3. Is it a question of quota or not - or is there a solution in the middle?

There are many solutions in the middle and many types of quota systems. The audience is not convinced that milk prices will not increase. But Harm stays to that: even if demands increases, the milk price will go up and down, with periods of low prices and short peaks of high prices. And if we let go the quota system, the growth in demand will not exceed the growth in production.

### 4. Bigger role needed for consumers

## Session 3 *Effect of trade in frozen chicken*



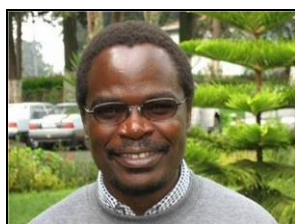
### **Stefan Verwer - Lokaal-Mondiaal**

In Burkina Faso the government has to provide cheap milk to urban consumers based on dairy imports, without looking at the reasons why people are moving to towns in the first place. In Cameroon there was pressure from local poultry producers and as a result import tariffs were raised. In Ghana this was not possible due to

IMF pressure. In Senegal the storage facilities for onions were improved, which supported local onion producers.

Conclusions: There is an uneven playing field between the international government systems and the local production systems. The basic problem is that there is pressure to open up the markets, while the southern countries have not had the time to build up their own agricultural system. In the process the cultural heritage is trampled. It is not the subsidies that harm, but the fact that countries have not been able to control their imports, for example by putting import tariffs. Every country has the right to give subsidies to its farmers.

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### **Jacob Wanyama - VET-AID Mozambique**

Mozambique economic development is heavily based on agriculture with livestock and crop production considered to be the cornerstone of poverty alleviation. Although ranked among the poorest countries

in the world, the subsequent political stability after of the signing of peace accord in 1992 and continuous economic reforms, has contributed to a very high economic growth rate. Poultry production is one of the main agricultural production activities in Mozambique at family level contributing to household protein diet and economy. However, the growth of this sector greatly being affected by imports of frozen chickens from developed countries, especially from Brazil. These also pose a health hazard to the consumers, as chicken near shelf-life expiration and of unknown origin are sold in local super-markets. Poultry producers have demanded protective measures, and since 2004 import regulations are re-enforced. This has resulted in a drop of imports since 2005, but they are on the rise again.

The Mozambican government needs to improve local poultry production, both at family level and in commercial farms, by encouraging production of local grains and use of fish by-products for poultry feed. The sector need to organise itself better. And the government needs to guarantee strict control on imports, and challenge international trade agreements with negative effects for the local population.

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## Discussion and conclusions

### 1. Need for import tariffs

There is an uneven playing field between government and production systems. IMF and Worldbank are insisting on free markets, and that does not leave room for countries to develop their own agriculture. African countries should concentrate more on import tariffs in stead of subsidies. Allow each country to develop their own economies.

### 2. Lobby at two levels

The lobby for change should be done on 2 levels: (1) on the policy level (role of international policy; restrictions on African governments); (2) to improve capacity on local level, research on local knowledge and practices. Researchers need to deal with the real issues.

### 3. EU not only profiting

The EU lobby should protect African countries (so the EU should stop current EPA negotiations) in stead of only profiting from them.

### 4. Cold chain technologies

Poultry producers in South can learn from experiences about cold-chain technologies; it is a question of low capacity within African countries rather than imports.

### 5. Shared feeling?

One third of poultry products in Europe is now imported from Brazil. In a way we share the same feeling as countries from the South.

## **Session 4 Potential of innovative experiences in Dutch dairy farming** (Organised by ETC-Netherlands)



### **Willem van Weperen – Consultant sustainable dairy farming, ETC-Netherlands**

Willem first puts the Dutch dairy industry in historical context: Since the 1960's Dutch dairy cattle system was using increasing quantities of concentrates, fertiliser, and mechanisation. Due to all these changes, the production of milk per cow increased. But at the same time the efficiency of the average dairy farm (measured as nitrogen usage) decreased significantly, from 50% to 20%. This means that around 80% of the nitrogen in the feed or fertiliser is not used within the animal, but excreted and removed from the farm. This has led to tremendous ecological problems, especially in the soil. If you can lower this percentage, you can optimise the system again, work more efficiently and save money. This is implemented in projects with dairy farmers based on 'natural cycle thinking': less nitrogen input, healthier soil, and more diverse nature. Profits remain the same. Approximately 10 to 20% of the farmers is presently farming through 'natural cycle thinking'.

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### **Huib Bor - Biodynamic dairy farmer, Netherlands**

On an organic, biodynamic dairy farm in Noordeloos (in the province of Utrecht) Huib Bor and his wife Ria van Gils make sure a lot of activities are going on. Farming is one of the core businesses; agro-tourism is the other. The cows are housed in a free roaming cubicle stall with boxes ('ligboxenstal') and a free roaming stall with straw covering ('potstal'). Balance on the farm is important; therefore Huib cooperates with a crop farmer. Besides taking care of the cows, the nature on and around the farm is maintained. The management of the farm is steered to let birds, ditches, and other landscape elements flourish in harmony with the surroundings. Tourists and other interested people can come to the farm for business trips, children's parties, guided tours, cycling routes and to adopt a cow. Ria takes care of most of these people.

He is sure that nature always wins, so you can better adapt your farm to nature than the other way around. And as organic farmer, he earns more than enough to make a living. He is in a cooperation with more organic dairy farmers, and they are able to sell their milk for a good price. Although they rather produce for local consumers, next year they will also export some milk to Belgium and UK. It is continuous learning process, especially when you are transforming the farm from a conventional to an organic or bio-dynamic dairy. The latter systems require more knowledge. You need to be courageous, as you are moving from a high-financial input system to a system with high input of knowledge and experience.

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### **Discussion and conclusions**

The circle is completed: we have started as organic farmers, changed into 'conventional' farmers and go back to organic farming. When organic and alternative farmers want to make claims about the health of their products, they have to make sure that these health claims are trustworthy. Is organic farming a step back or is it modernization? How to take these initiatives further? Via consumers? A new disease outbreak will increase the proportion of organic products that are being bought.

There is a discussion about the way to make more people (farmers, consumers and policy makers) enthusiastic for these dairy systems and products. Where to begin? At the consumers' side or the policy makers' side? Or with the farmer? There is discussion if milk from organic/'natural cycle' cows is healthier than milk from conventional cows. Another strategy would be to explain to farmers that profits don't decrease when you farm organic. And that the cows less health problems – in the case of Huib around 50%. It is a myth that cow under organic productions systems produce less, they can produce as much as conventional cows.

## **Session 5 Potential of local initiatives in Ethiopia and Mexico**

(Organised by the ELD network)

Getachew Gebru (Ethiopia) and Guadalupe Rodrigues Galvan (Mexico) presented case studies about successful local livestock-related initiatives. The case studies with Borana pastoralists in southern Ethiopia and Tsotzil shepherders in Chiapas, Mexico convinced the public that local initiatives can stand at the basis of development.



### **Getachew Gebru – Global Livestock CRSP Pastoral Risk Management program (PARIMA), Ethiopia**

The Borana pastoralists of southern Ethiopia have been traditionally viewed as unwilling or unable to engage in large-scale, commercial livestock trade. Here we report on creation of a livestock marketing chain from the Borana Plateau to export outlets largely serving the Gulf States. Through different training- and exchange programmes the Borana pastoralists, especially the women, were able to re-create an ancient trading route for their livestock to the Gulf Region. As a result 11 pastoral marketing groups were able to trade over 100.000 goats and sheep in the past 3 years. This kind of intervention is now included into government programmes. Livestock development programmes need to include general formation (eg. literacy, group work), diversification of income opportunities, as well as marketing aspects. Preserving local breeds is a tremendous challenge, also against government pressures. But the Borana cattle have a quality name. The pastoralist system is the only system that can survive under the difficult ecological circumstances, and with this kind of support it can remain a viable way of life.

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### **Guadalupe Rodriguez – Institute of Indigenous Studies in Autonomous University of Chiapas (UNACH), Chiapas, Mexico**

Keeping sheep is an ancient way of life of the indigenous Tsotzil women in Chiapas state in southern Mexico, which does not include formal contracts. As a response to globalization and the privatization of extension services, the women have decided to initiate a formal organization, which enabled them to hire an extension officer. Together they have looked at ways to optimize the sheep management, especially in lowering the mortality of the lambs during the winter season. By joint buying of bran and wheat, the sheep mortality was reduced significantly. The government policies are basically aimed at cattle production. Moreover, government services are increasingly privatized. This aspect of own organization and determination is quite new. There was initial resistance of the men, but when they saw the

success of the women they became supportive. In this region most men work are working in the US or cultivate crops.

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### **Discussion and conclusions**

Both case-studies were examples of successful local initiatives with two completely different projects: pastoralism and a large market versus one small group of women from one village and a small market. One of the most important lessons was the need for action by local groups. It is of no use to sit and wait for aid to come. In many cases the government is in charge, but when local groups take the initiative they can be more independent. In both case-studies the focus is on women, and on goats and sheep. That does not indicate that we should focus only on women; projects that work with both sexes are most successful. If you want to work with women it is necessary to include the men, and vice-versa. These local initiatives show the wealth of opportunities that exist. Local communities are in constant change. It is a myth that local communities are resistant to change. But change is not always spontaneous. Long-term projects can enhance the local initiatives already existing within the communities.

Conclusions:

- There is tremendous opportunity in local initiatives;
- Long term projects are needed to make a change; changes are not achieved overnight;
- More collaboration is needed, also between NGOs
- Broad focus needed, not only look at animals;
- Empowerment of farmers is central! Not wait for help: act!
- Both projects focused on women and on small ruminants;
- Gender does not work with women! You should focus on men and women;
- Resistance to change is a myth, but it takes time to change.

## **Session 6 Linking local initiatives North-South**

### **Guus Geurts – X-Y Foundation**



EU changed policy from market regulation to neoliberal globalization. Debts of developing countries are relieved, but only if they open their borders for ‘western’ products. The effects of these strategies are devastating: farmers quit, southern resources are used for northern luxury, dumping of products, subsidized exports, only big companies profit and make the decisions. But are there alternatives? In stead of saying that The South should change towards The North, we can better promote sustainable imports.

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### **Lars Keizerwaard - Farmer’s Foundation (Boerengroep)**

Lars shows us the movie “We feed the world” which critically looks into industrialised agriculture, and analyses the consequences for farmers, regions and food-quality. Examples of a wheat farmer who was forced to intensify, an aubergine farmer forced to produce hybrids from a big seed company, and little chicks on a conveyor belt of a factory.

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## **Discussion and conclusions**

There was discussion about the question 'can we impose western way of agriculture onto the South, or can we learn from The South?' Western way of working has also advantages. Can we feed the world if we do it regionally? Another comment: you talk about equal rights for all countries, but that is utopia, not realistic! But there are more solutions: countries need to be able to control their own import; try to be as self-supporting as possible, rather supply management than subsidies; etc. But there is still doubt about the feasibility of these ideas. And again, the discussion focuses on the role of the consumer. But is the consumer indeed the key to change?

The movie was shocking for some, but familiar for others. Depending on their background. Some comments:

- This does look like car-business (see presentation Harm Schelhaas);
- If I do this to my chickens, my ancestors will ask me very critical questions;
- It is not fair to call this western development! The same happens in other countries, like Brazil and Thailand;
- Consumers should see this, then they would all become vegetarians!
- That is not true: similar pictures were shown on the BBC with turkeys, people ate no turkey for almost a week and then everything was back to usual again.
- We are talking about animal welfare, but how's the welfare of the employees?
- Who claims that local products are healthier? And what is regional? Guus sees European also as regional.
- Local products give more room for more diversity.



### ***Photo exhibition by Monica Commandeur***

#### **Pig breeding in Corsica (Italy) - sustainable use of local and natural resources in Europe**

This photo exhibition shows pig breeding in their natural environment, slaughtering in winter, processing meat to dry cured meat products: an interesting activity which is abundantly present in the mountains of Corsica.

The aim of the photo exhibition is to illustrate the diversity of local breeds, the means of production, and the way local resources in the mast forests and scrubland hillsides are utilised. The posters support reflections about the traditions which stand at the basis of these activities, their modern interpretations and future perspectives.

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