



Knowledge sharing for  
sustainable agricultural  
development

# Annual Report 2015



---

AGROMISA FOUNDATION

---

Publication date:

May 2016

Institutional information

Name:	Agromisa Foundation	
Website:	www.agromisa.org	
Address:	Postal address:	Visiting address:
	Agromisa Foundation P.O. Box 41 6700 AA Wageningen The Netherlands	Gebouw met de Klok Generaal Foulkesweg 37 6703 BL Wageningen The Netherlands
Telephone:	+ 31 (0) 317 483151	
E-mail:	agromisa@wur.nl	
Bank details:	IBAN/ bank account: NL 03 INGB 0001 1727 93	
	BIC or SWIFT code: INGBNL2A	
RSIN/fiscaal nummer	002972451	

## *Table of contents*

Who we are.....	4
Mission and ambitions.....	4
Our perspective on development cooperation.....	4
Knowledge sharing for practical application.....	4
Objectives .....	5
Retrospect 2015 .....	5
Agromisa publishing.....	6
Agrodok series.....	6
New and revised Agrodok publications in 2015.....	7
Distribution of Agrodoks.....	8
Agricultural education.....	8
Curriculum development Afghanistan.....	8
Connect2Uganda.....	9
SILC.....	9
Student activities and the 'Agromisa Young Ambassador and Student Organiser'.....	10
Question & Answer Service .....	11
Internal organisation.....	12
The Agromisa team and board.....	12
Remuneration policy.....	12
Financial Report 2015.....	13

## Who we are

### *Mission and ambitions*

Agromisa is a non-profit organisation and volunteer network that supports smallholder farmers, agricultural service providers and development practitioners in the South by providing them with practical information on sustainable agriculture. Founded in Wageningen in 1934, Agromisa works closely with experts, volunteers and partner organisations to develop knowledge and information for improving the productivity and income of small farmers. Agromisa's approach is context specific and emphasizes the productive and sustainable use of local resources.

Agromisa relies on donations and its services and products to finance its work. Apart from two staff members, Agromisa works with experts, volunteers and students, and sometimes with free-lancers. Through active and committed cooperation, it translates academic knowledge into practical information for its publications.



### *Our perspective on development cooperation*

Agromisa believes that the introduction and practical application of agricultural knowledge and technology has great potential to improve the lives of smallholder farmers in the South. Agromisa aims to make agricultural knowledge and technology accessible for smallholders, by taking local conditions into account and making it readily available for use. Hereby, we understand, for technical advice to be effective, that it has to answer to new livelihood opportunities for farmers and also, to a more sustainable management and use of locally available natural resources.

Agromisa also believes that the translation of agricultural knowledge and technology into practical advice for smallholder farmers requires expertise and commitment. Therefore, Agromisa aims to engage with researchers, scientists and agricultural specialists, and work with students and young professionals, to sustain a network of knowledgeable and devoted development practitioners and volunteers. We believe, for technical advice to be cost effectively created, that it is pertinent to foster commitment and cooperation between experts, (new) volunteers and students.

### *Knowledge sharing for practical application*

Agromisa is ideally placed to stimulate an active exchange of agricultural knowledge for practical application, having a large network of partners in the North and South. We regularly extend our ongoing series of publications. We also receive frequent requests from partners for support in local publications, many of which lead to formal co-publishing agreements. Our work includes the development of new publications, the reworking of information for specific target groups and the support of translations in local languages. We also make use of other media and information carriers such as DVDs, a quarterly digital bulletin, online videos, posters and integrated multimedia kits. These resources facilitate an increasingly interactive and dynamic exchange of information in our network.

## Objectives

Agromisa aims to contribute to an improvement of the livelihoods of poor household who depend on smallholder agriculture in Africa, Asia and Latin America by providing access to practical and sustainable agricultural knowledge. Agromisa seeks to facilitate knowledge development and knowledge sharing for counterparts in the South who are active in the field of smallholder agriculture, poverty alleviation and sustainable rural development.

It does this through:

- The development, publication and distribution of practical manuals in the Agrodok series and the more theoretical AgroSpecials and AgroSources.
- Contributing to the development of courses, and educational and training material for agricultural schools and colleges.
- Developing and exploring new ways of disseminating agricultural knowledge.
- Fostering the expert-volunteer network and strengthening the institutional capacity of the organisation by cooperation with partners, employment of (part time) staff and interaction with volunteers and students.

## Retrospect 2015

In 2015, we finalised our work on one of the larger projects in the past few years in which Agromisa participated; the ATVET project. This resulted in interactive lessons and materials for more than 100 agricultural high schools throughout Afghanistan. We'd like to thank our project partners for the collaboration: the National Agricultural Education College (NAEC) in Kabul, the Afghan Deputy Ministry of TVET, the Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) from WUR, the students from WUR, VHL and STOAS that contributed, and the subject matter specialists and free lancers that contributed to the project outcomes.

The ATVET project has been important for Agromisa, however, drew also heavily on our resources to start new publications. With the finalisation of the project in 2015, two new Agrodok titles could be published (Edible insects, and Crop residues for Animal feed), one revision was realised (Goat keeping), and one new title was started (Beef production). That is again an increase in the yearly production of publication materials, over the past four years.

The academic environment in Wageningen becomes increasingly intertwined with our activities. Agromisa has been seeking cooperation with other WUR-related groups (such as Otherwise, Boerengroep) where possible, and looking for closer ties with WUR chair groups (notably Education and Competence Studies). In doing so, Agromisa offered students and young alumnae an opportunity to employ and translate academic knowledge and experience in the practice of development cooperation, hence increasing their working experience in sustainable development cooperation and related subjects (such as the development of teaching materials). In 2015, Agromisa actively worked with 25 - both Dutch and international - students. Through *Academic Consultancy Training* student groups and other student activities new contacts were established with chair groups from WUR, and experts from other knowledge institutions in the educational sector, notably, STOAS and OAC Oost.

For the coming year Agromisa seeks to further strengthen student roles in our organisation. We thank Antonia Dimou for her pioneering role as our first 'Agromisa young student ambassador' in 2014 and 2015. Her work is being continued and further developed by Emmanouil Tsaksakis (Manus), an MSc Urban Environmental Management graduate.

In 2015 we have said goodbye to some committed volunteers, but also greeted new enthusiastic volunteers (especially from the student population of Wageningen and alumni). We thank these dedicated volunteers, who form an important corner stone of our organisation.

With the help of volunteers Liesbeth, Marilyn and Violette, Agromisa flyers and documentation have been updated and developed, and the Agromisa Bulletin and Infoton are regularly distributed. Finances remain a continuous challenge; as Agromisa is a not for profit organisation, every euro income has to be spent on production of publications and education modules and keeping the office running. On several service activities we managed to realise a cut down in running costs. Our treasurer Erni Wingerden has developed much needed financial policy measures regarding internal costs. 2015 resulted in a small positive financial result; however, financing our ongoing activities continuous to remain a serious challenge for the coming years.

## Agromisa publishing

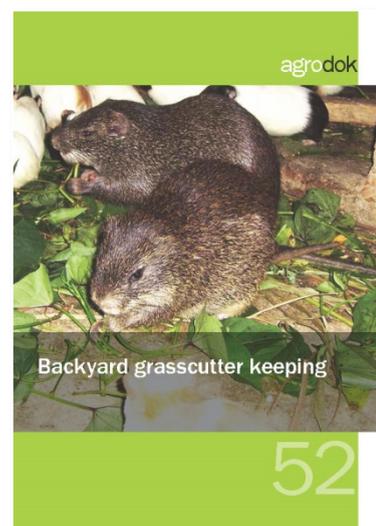
### *Agrodok series*

Agrodoks are practical, easy-to-read publications and deal with issues affecting the small-scale agricultural sector. The manuals provide relevant theoretical background on a particular topic together with a careful explanation of the practical steps that need to be taken. Most manuals deal with plant and animal production but there are also Agrodoks that deal with closely related subjects such as soil and water conservation, food storage, processing, marketing and other socio-economic subjects critical for the development of the small-scale farming sector. All Agrodoks are published in English and French; most Agrodoks are available in Portuguese; and some are also translated into Spanish or other languages (Kiswahili, Hindi).

Agromisa co-publishes the Agrodok series with The Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA).

Agrodoks can be ordered from Agromisa and CTA. A sample of each Agrodok showing cover, table of content and introduction can be downloaded in PDF format from the Agromisa website, the full PDF can also be ordered online.

As from Agrodok 51 onward, Agrodoks now have a full colour cover and a modern and reader friendly layout.



## New and revised Agrodok publications in 2015

All new and revised Agrodoks will be published in English and French. The following titles have been worked on in 2015:

### Agrodok 53 – Edible insects in Africa

The Agrodok publication *Edible insects in the Africa: where to find them and how to use them* has been compiled by Josianne Cloutier. It draws on information collected from the field and further developed by local researchers working on insects as part of the human diet. The Agrodok shows how smallholders and those involved in food security projects can identify, collect and process insects and insect larvae. It deals with the main insects groups found in Africa: caterpillars, beetle (larvae), termites, grasshoppers and crickets. Insect characteristics, the way they develop, where they can be found and the times when they can best be collected are all clearly described and well-illustrated. Instructions for preparing meals using these insects have also been included.

Agrodok 53 – Edible insects in Africa – was published early 2015.

### Agrodok 54 – Crop residues for animal feed

Around the world straw has been used for feed and other purposes for as long as humans have kept animals and grown crops. Straw is still important for many farmers, especially the ones poor in resources. At the same time the growing urban demand for raw materials and fuel is putting pressure on the demand for straw and the various ways it is used in rural areas. The Agrodok *Crop residues for animal feed* is intended for extension workers, advisors and farmers who want to know more about the different ways in which straw can be used for sustainable farming and rural development, especially as feed for ruminants. It reviews experiences from around the world and it discusses in depth the way straws can continue to play an important role in livestock feeding and sustainable farming.

*Crop residues for animal feed* is meant for farmers working with ruminants and/or cropping systems where straw is important. No specific knowledge of animal nutrition is assumed. Scientific terminology on nutritive value is condensed into farmers' notions of 'sweetness' and 'greenness'.

Agrodok 54 – Crop residues for animal feed– was published in November 2015.

### Agrodok 7 – Goat keeping in the tropics (revision)

Three animal husbandry experts from the Agromisa network that have worked on an Agrodok before, have taken up the challenge to revise the 2000 edition of the Agrodok on Goat keeping. In the opinion of the authors the emphasis of the revision should go more to the keeping of dairy goats and goats for dual purpose: milk and meat. Going for a practical approach to feeding, housing and management justifies an overhaul of the present Agrodok. Attention will be paid to the systems within which goats are kept, the variety of goat products and the sustainability of such systems. Practical aspects of nutrition will emphasize on feed requirements, feeding and feeding systems, feed and fodder production, forage trees and their management.

The revision of Agrodok 7 – Goat keeping in the tropics – was finalised by the end of 2015.



## Agrodok 55 – Beef production in the tropics

Gijs den Hertog, one of the above mentioned animal husbandry experts, started writing a new Agrodok on Beef production. In all ecological zones in the tropics beef is produced in very many different ways, but often with a low productivity. In this booklet the main characteristic of these systems are discussed and the main production limiting factors identified. It brings forward solutions to the most important limiting factors within these production systems, both on small and medium scale. The main emphasis is on the management on herd and farm level by adjusting them to the physiological aspects of these animals. Understanding their physiology helps to increase production, without increasing undue stress. By providing the optimal farm condition animals perform better and the farmer can get a better income. Most practical publications on cattle, meant for smallholder farmers, focus on dairy production. Publications that deal with beef production are mainly targeting large scale production. With this handbook Agromisa also addresses the needs of small-scale cattle farmers.

Agrodok 55 – Beef production in the tropics – will be available by the end of 2016.

## Distribution of Agrodoks

In 2015, the distribution through CTA saw a substantial increase. The Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA) distributed 13,615 Agrodok hard copies (being an increase of 40% compared to 2014) and 10,424 PDF's (more than threefold the number of 2014) in various languages. Agromisa itself sold some 280 hard copies and 100 PDF's of the Agrodok series.

There was also a demand for Agrodoks from local NGOs, CSOs and training institutes who used them as a basis for developing training material.

## Agricultural education

### Curriculum development Afghanistan

In 2015 most of the work on Curriculum Development for the Afghan-Dutch Agricultural Technical and Vocational Educational Training (ATVET), was finalised. The aim of the project is to improve the Agriculture education in high schools in Afghanistan. A teacher training centre is being established in Kabul, and lesson materials are being developed for teachers-in-service in 130 Agriculture high schools throughout the country.

Since 2011 Agromisa has been subcontracted to develop curricula and interactive lessons for several topics (see the overview in the box for the activities in 2015). Apart from Agromisa contributors, two free-lancers were hired to develop the materials, students from WUR and VHL were involved and contributed, and subject matter specialists from institutes such as STOAS, VHL and a secondary school teacher were consulted for technical input and reviewing.

#### Lesson modules finalised in 2015:

Farm management  
Agri economics  
Marketing  
Tools and machinery  
Zoology  
Rural development

#### Other activities in 2015:

Quality Control Checks on modules developed by the Kabul author

By the end of 2015 all of the assigned lesson modules have been completed. For the year to follow some final quality checks will be done once the modules have been written by authors in Afghanistan (and back-translated into English).



Agricultural high school in Afghanistan (source: ATVET project)

## **SILC**

Agromisa, AOC Oost and Windesheim Honours College continued as an informal consortium with the development a concept of the Sustainable International Learning Community. This SILC will be a community around Agriculture Education, in which (international) education institutes, the local government and local Agribusiness, develop a community in which students are enthused, educated and skilled for income generation in the food- and agribusiness.

On June 26, Marg Leijdens and Cris de Klein together with partners from Windesheim Honours College and AOC Oost, organised a MasterClass on 'Sustainable International Learning Communities' at Radboud University Nijmegen. Around 15 students, teachers and policy makers from different universities in the Netherlands participated in this interactive MasterClass.

Agromisa and AOC Oost had a meeting with Young Africa at its head office in Apeldoorn to discuss possibilities for future collaboration, as YA is also involved in vocational training in Africa and as of recently also in the field of agriculture. The SILC-consortium could offer services such as talent development among the students, standardization of curricula and interactive teaching methods, theoretical knowledge through Agrodoks and an extra dimension to the learning environment through involvement of students and experts from different levels, cultures and backgrounds.

## **Connect2Uganda**

Agromisa continued to be involved Connect2Uganda (C2U) - a collaboration with AOC–Oost Twello, Windesheim Honours College and the municipality of Deventer in the Netherlands and the two NGO's that are active in Uganda: 'Up4S' and 'Kinderen voor Uganda'.

From February till June, a 4th year student from Stoas, through Agromisa and in close collaboration with AOC Oost to conduct an internship at Hoy's College in Bukomansimbi, Uganda. Together with the school staff she designed an extra-curricular course on beekeeping, to be used to make secondary school pupils aware of and enthuse them about beekeeping, so as to motivate them to choose for a vocation training on beekeeping after graduation.

A project proposal to seek finances to develop and implement a tailor-made training to train teachers in the area to conduct these extra-curricular courses was submitted to EP-Nuffic and might be approved early 2016.

Agromisa was present at a Food First dinner in Deventer, hosted by Rabobank Salland.

Through active participation in a WhatsApp-group, throughout 2015 Agromisa provided technical and educational input to the implementation of the school farm plan and introducing agriculture in the lessons of Kids Gear and Hoy's College in Bukomansimbi.



Examples of mulching; planting seedlings in Bukomansimbi, source: Pascal Kalibolho

### ***Student activities and the 'Agromisa Young Ambassador and Student Organiser'***

With the ambition to increase Wageningen student involvement in its programmes Agromisa continued the successful project of 2014-2015 by recruiting a new 'Agromisa Young Ambassador and Student Organiser' for the year 2015-16. The tasks of the Young Ambassador remained the same as last year with the main goal to act as an ambassador among the student population of Wageningen and enhance Agromisa position towards Wageningen University, Van Hall Larenstein and STOAS Hogeschool.

Agromisa plans to pursue this initiative, and recruit a new Young Ambassador each year. The objective is to make a sustained effort to make new volunteers enthusiastic for Agromisa, and to create a stronger integration of the Wageningen-student and Agromisa (volunteer) network. The first Young Ambassador, Antonia Dimou, a former graduate of Van Hall Larenstein actively participated in various external activities of the organization, by attracting students and at the same time trying to create a potential, future network of student/volunteers.

In doing so, Agromisa offered students and young alumnae an opportunity to employ and translate academic knowledge and experience in the practice of development cooperation, hence increasing their working experience in this field of expertise. Agromisa involved students and recent graduates of Wageningen University, Van Hall Larenstein and STOAS Hogeschool in several of its ongoing projects. Mostly, student participation was organised through regular courses, such as ACT (Academic Consultancy Training - for WUR students), internships and thesis research, and 'teaching as a professional' in the course Didactic Skills (from the Education and Competence Studies Group at the Leeuwenborch). The period from October 2014 until October 2015 was a very productive as Agromisa worked on 4 different project, attracting a total of 23 students. The student projects which took place in the previous year in association with Wageningen University, were one group of 5 students in the contents of a WUR ACT

group on “Leafy vegetables”. As supervisors, Eva Kok and Wilma Smilde coordinated the students which produced a report on the feasibility and desirability of the subject Leafy vegetables for a new Agrodok. Moreover, in the course Didactic Skills (from the Education and Competence Studies) two groups of 8 students in total, produced 8 lesson plans based on Agrodoks’ chapters. Furthermore, for the first time Agromisa took part in the BS7 course (Organise and collaborate on situations) of STOAS Hogeschool, having two groups of 10 students in total. The outcome was a development of lesson material based on several Agrodok chapters.

The second Young Ambassador, Emmanouil M. Tsatsakis, a recent Wageningen University graduate, continued last year’s mission to attract students to Agromisa and become involved in activities in the context of their course work as part of their study programmes. In the context of that mission, on November 18th STOAS-Vilentum organised the ‘werkplekkenmarkt’ for the year 2015-16. Agromisa Foundation participated for the second consecutive year in the werkplekkenmarkt and was the again the receptor of a large number of students revealing their interest on getting involved within the contents of BS7 course (Organise and collaborate on situations). Agromisa was represented by Cris de Klein and Emmanouil M. Tsatsakis and responded to all the questions and concerns of the students but most important, received a positive feedback from last year students as a basis for further development. After the completion of the werkplekkenmarkt, Agromisa Foundation had successfully registered ten first year students for BS7 course and at the same time strengthened its position within the student community of STOAS for the second consecutive year.

## Question & Answer Service

The Question & Answer (Q&A) Service provides information and advice on topics related to small- scale sustainable agriculture.

A network of experienced volunteers who are experts on tropical agriculture, animal husbandry and other related topics help answer the questions Agromisa receives. The coordinator of the Q&A service also draws on relevant and up-to-date information from the internet, libraries and other databases as well as from Agromisa itself, Wageningen University and Research Centre and other institutes and organisations worldwide.

The Q&A service is primarily aimed at small-scale farmers and their intermediaries. NGOs, development workers and extension officers also use this service.

The number of questions that are answered by the Service has decreased compared to previous years. This is probably due to the increasing knowledge sharing through Internet.

In 2015, the Q&A service received by mail or website about 20 questions. Mostly from West and East Africa with the remainder coming from South America and Asia. The most popular queries were in the fields of animal husbandry, snail farming, mushroom production, fish farming and horticulture. There was also a substantial demand for information about Agromisa’s publications and partnerships and requests for funds.

## Internal organisation

### *The Agromisa team and board*

Agromisa's work is coordinated by two staff members and is carried out with the assistance of many volunteers and free-lancers coming from many different backgrounds.

It is not possible to mention everyone here by name, as at least 50 people have contributed to the work of Agromisa in 2015. Authors, editors, illustrators and peer-reviewers have done a great job on the development of new Agrodok titles. Several experts and university students have contributed to curriculum development for international cooperation. For the supervision of students, the Library, Q&A, administration and Board, Agromisa relied on a steady group of volunteers. We thank all these people for their commitment to Agromisa in 2015!

#### **Active team members (December 2015):**

Eva Kok | Team Coordinator & Publisher  
Lineke van Dongen | PR, Office Management  
Liesbeth Dirks | PR, Editing  
Marilyn Minderhoud | PR, Editing  
Cris de Klein | Projects, Editing  
Violette Brand | PR, Design  
Emmanouil Tsatsakis | Student Ambassador

#### **Board members (December 2015):**

Ton van Schie | Chairman  
Peter Holen | Secretary  
Erni van Wingerden | Treasurer  
Janwillem Liebrand | Board member (focus student affairs)  
Marg Leijdens | Board member

### *Remuneration policy*

The two (part time) staff members and the Student Ambassador account for the salaries in the financial report. The board members received no payment (as stipulated for a foundation as legal entity).

Front of 'Gebouw met de Klok', the residing location of Agromisa



## Financial Report 2015

Balance sheet ( <i>in euros</i> )	31 dec. 2014	31 dec. 2015
<b>Assets</b>		
Inventory	0	0
Stock	35,954	14,178
Claims	4,205	7,264
Liquid Assets	11,275	25,393
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>51,434</b>	<b>46,835</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Capital	5,498	6,389
Reservations	24,504	19,069
Debts (short time)	21,432	21,377
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>51,434</b>	<b>46,835</b>

### Notes to the balance sheet

#### Assets

Stocks: Previous year the stocks were valued at € 35.954, in 2015 a new methodology for valuing stocks was applied i.e. out dated publications with very limited sales value have been depreciated, with this new method of depreciation the stocks more than halved in value, which gives a far more realistic picture of the current stocks value.

Claims: debtors consist largely of unpaid invoices send to clients for developing educational materials, we have sent various invoices by the end of 2015 of which most will be paid early 2016.

Liquidity: cash liquidity at year end increased, however it remains low considering the short term obligations (debts).

#### Liabilities

Reservations: refer to the Agrodok development fund € 19,069, in fact this fund does not exists as a cash reserve, the fund is basically consisting of the organizations stocks, stocks were depreciated against this fund.

Debts (short term): totalling € 21.377; these are current liabilities mostly boarded out work (a.o. translations of Agrodoks) and reservations for housing costs.

Profit and Loss statement ( <i>in euros</i> )	2014	2015
<b>Turnover</b>	<b>129,640</b>	<b>129,252</b>
Boarded out work	47,824	18,168
Direct costs	6,737	30,146
<b>Net turnover</b>	<b>75,078</b>	<b>80,938</b>
Housing costs	6,076	6,904
Salaries	60,371	60,152
General costs	8,113	8,608
Sales costs	364	308
Depreciations	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,924</b>	<b>75,973</b>
<b>Result</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>891</b>

### **Notes to the profit and loss statement**

The turnover decreased slightly meanwhile the total costs remained almost equal. Direct costs involve printing costs of new and revised Agrodoks. The year 2015 was closed with a positive balance. The long term financial situation of Agromisa is still precarious. The prospects for 2016 are relatively good, we do face however serious challenges for the short term liquidity.