



Knowledge sharing for  
sustainable agricultural  
development

# Annual Report 2014



---

AGROMISA FOUNDATION

---

Publication date:  
October 2015

## Institutional information

Name:	Agromisa Foundation	
Website:	<a href="http://www.agromisa.org">www.agromisa.org</a>	
Address:	<u>Postal address:</u> Agromisa Foundation P.O. Box 41 6700 AA Wageningen The Netherlands	<u>Visiting address:</u> 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 .....	3
Mission and ambitions .....	3
Our perspective on development cooperation .....	4
Knowledge sharing .....	4
Objectives .....	4
Retrospect 2014 .....	5
Agromisa publishing.....	5
Agrodok series.....	5
New and revised Agrodok publications in 2014 .....	6
Distribution of Agrodoks .....	7
Agricultural education .....	8
Curriculum development Afghanistan .....	8
SILC .....	9
Student activities and the 'Agromisa Young Ambassador and Student Organiser' .....	9
Question & Answer Service .....	11
Internal organisation.....	11
The Agromisa team and board .....	11
Remuneration policy .....	12
Financial Report 2014 .....	13

## Who we are

### ***Mission and ambitions***

Agromisa is a non-profit organisation that supports small-scale farmers, agricultural service providers and development workers by providing them with practical information on sustainable agriculture. Founded in 1934, Agromisa works closely with a wide network of partner organisations to develop and share knowledge and information relevant to improving productivity, income and welfare in the small-scale agricultural sector worldwide.

Agromisa's approach is context specific with a strong emphasis on securing the productivity and sustainability of local resources.

Agromisa finances its work through donations and through its own services. Agromisa works with volunteers and students, in doing so it translates academic knowledge into practical information for its publications.



## ***Our perspective on development cooperation***

Agromisa believes that structural improvement of living conditions in the South can only take place through the initiatives and ideas of the local population. Agromisa wants to contribute to indigenous development by making agricultural knowledge readily available. We understand that, to be effective, technological advice must be appropriate to the local context and must not lead to the depletion of locally available natural resources.

## ***Knowledge sharing***

As part of a large network of partners in the North and South, Agromisa is ideally placed to stimulate an active exchange of agricultural knowledge. We regularly extend our own ongoing series of publications, but 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, adaptation of information for specific target groups and support for translations in local languages. We are developing the use of other information carriers like DVDs, a quarterly digital bulletin, online videos, posters and more integrated multimedia kits, which facilitate an increasingly interactive and dynamic exchange of information within our network.

## ***Objectives***

By providing access to practical, sustainable agricultural knowledge, Agromisa aims to contribute to

improving the livelihoods of those who depend on small-scale agriculture in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Agromisa contributes to knowledge development, knowledge production and knowledge sharing for counterparts in small scale and sustainable agriculture, poverty alleviation and small scale entrepreneurial activities in developing countries.

It does this through:

- The development, publication and distribution of practical manuals in the Agrodok series and the more theoretical AgroSpecials and AgroSources.
- Publishing of information and news material in our network through the Agrodok Bulletin and Infoton.
- Contributing to the development of agricultural courses suitable for schools and agricultural colleges as well as educational and training materials.
- Developing new ways of disseminating agricultural knowledge and information.
- Strengthen the organisational capacity through stronger ties with our national and international network and deploying more employees in the core activities (volunteers and part timers).

## Retrospect 2014

2014 has been a truly 'lively' year. A year in which Agromisa started to get used to the new location on the Generaal Foulkesweg. A year in which we entered the final phase of our project with the Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) from WUR, a project that has been important for Agromisa in the past few years. A year in which we welcomed Erni van Wingerden and Marg Leijdens (a – not so - old acquaintance) as new board members. And also a year in which we have said goodbye to dedicated volunteers, but also greeted new enthusiastic volunteers (especially, but not exclusively, from the student population of Wageningen).

Since our move to the 'Gebouw met de Klok' (the Clockhouse building) , WUR has contributed to the aims of Agromisa by charging a non-commercial housing and WUR-account fee (that is accounted for in the financial report). Agromisa used the opportunities of the new location and contacts by linking up with other WUR-related groups (such as Otherwis, 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 2014, Agromisa actively worked with 24 - both Dutch and international - students. For the coming year Agromisa seeks to further strengthen student roles in our organisation by institutionalising the function of 'young student ambassador' at Agromisa, by a continuation of commissioning and supervising students as part of their course work, and by approaching specialists of the WUR chair groups and attending WUR expert meetings in order to update existing publication material and Agrodoks for small scale farmers and entrepreneurs in developing countries. In that sense, Agromisa is looking for a role to bridge the vast and internationally well respected academic knowledge that is available in Wageningen, and the need for practical information at small farmers, households and schools in developing countries. Something that we aim to build on in the years to come.

With regard to publication and information dissemination, 2014 has been a relative stable year. Two new Agrodoks have been published: Improving lowland rice cultivation, and Backyard grasscutter keeping. The production of new titles and a revision have started, that will hopefully yield in 2015. With the help of volunteers Liesbeth and Marylin, Agromisa flyers and documentation have been updated and developed, and the Agromisa Bulletin and Infoton are now regularly distributed. Financially we managed to counter the negative result of 2013, however, we face a serious challenge in continuing to finance our ongoing activities for the coming year.

## Agromisa publishing

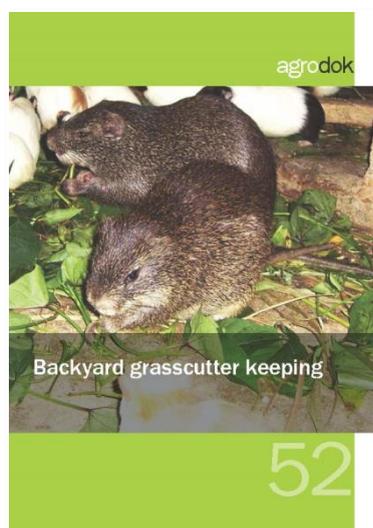
### *Agrodok series*

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 2014***

All new and revised Agrodoks will be published in English and French. Due to some spare capacity and other unforeseen issues, there has been a little delay in the development of some of our new titles. Still we managed to publish two completely new Agrodoks and three others are well on their way to be published in 2015.

The following titles have been worked on in 2014:

#### **Agrodok 51 – Lowland rice cultivation**

Lowland rice cultivation is practised in all countries in tropical Africa and on about half of the total rice area. Although rice is both the main crop and staple food of many farmers in Africa, most sources of information on small-scale rice production are focused on Asia. The aim of this Agrodok is therefore to provide extension workers and smallholder rice farmers in tropical Africa with practical and current information about efficient, profitable and sustainable lowland rice farming and rice processing that is applicable to their local circumstances. Every step in rice production is discussed, showing the importance of each management operation. Sourcing from a large body of scientific knowledge, this Agrodok focusses on the main rice management practices which farmers can adapt to their needs – paying particular attention to water management practices. By applying the clear and concise information provided in this booklet, farmers can improve the quantity and quality of their rice yield.

The Agrodok – Lowland rice cultivation – was published early 2014.

#### **Agrodok 52 – Backyard grasscutter keeping**

In 2012 Agromisa started the development of a new Agrodok title: Backyard grasscutter keeping.

This Agrodok is the outcome of cooperation with authors of earlier grasscutter publications in various African countries. Agromisa believes in the potential of backyard grasscutter rearing. Producing high-quality grasscutter meat for household use and/or for the market is easily integrated into low-input ecological agriculture. Moreover, keeping grasscutters can be profitable: after the initial investments in stable(s) and stock, care and maintenance are relatively easy and feed can be cheap; and grasscutter meat sells at good prices. This Agrodok explains the details and hazards of grasscutter farming. Within Agromisa's overall aim of improving small-scale farming, this booklet offers an approach to make grasscutter farming a successful and rewarding enterprise. Agrodok 52 – Backyard grasscutter keeping – was finalised mid-2014.

#### **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 insect 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 – will be available 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– will be available in 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 – will be available by the end of 2015.

## **Distribution of Agrodoks**

In 2014, the Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA) distributed some 9,724 Agrodoks (hard copies) and 3284 PDF's in various languages. Agromisa distributed some 500 hard copies and 180 PDF's of the Agrodok series.

Because of the growing importance of this distribution channel, at present we are investigating how to keep track of the organisations and individual people who download Agrodok contents and investigate the possibilities to include this growing interest in knowledge building and sharing with new target groups.

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*

2014 showed a continued activity on Curriculum Development for the Afghan-Dutch Agricultural

Technical and Vocational Educational Training (ATVET), implemented by CDI. The aim of the project is to improve the Agriculture education in high schools in Afghanistan. A teacher training center 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 material developed in 2014). 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.

By the end of 2014 most of the assigned lesson modules have been completed. For the year to follow a few lesson modules need finalizing, lesson modules developed by CDI get reviewed by Agromisa (and vice versa) and quality checks will be done once the modules have been written by authors in Afghanistan (and back-translated into English).

#### **Lesson modules developed in 2014**

Genetics  
Plant protection  
Irrigation  
Agricultural Extension  
Farm management  
Agri economics  
Marketing  
Tools and machinery  
Zoology  
Rural development

#### **Other activities in 2014**

Manual Teaching Methods  
Quality Control Checks on modules developed by the Kabul author



Agricultural high school in Afghanistan (source: ATVET project)

### *Connect2Uganda*

In 2013 Agromisa became involved in the Connect2Uganda (C2U) project, 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'. The collaboration focuses at food security for small scale farmer households, of which the agriculture education is an important part, in a secondary school in Bukomansimbi District with outreach to the rural areas.

The role of Agromisa in the collaboration is providing agriculture knowledge. In that role Agromisa initiated an ACT group of the WUR (Academic Consultancy Training). This group of 7 international students developed a plan for the School Farm on permaculture principles, for learning and income generating purposes. The outcome was a comprehensive report, including maps on the permaculture farm-to-be. In 2011, this plan is used as a basic guide for developing the model school farm at Hoy's College, Bukomansimbi.



Picture: Many schools in Africa have a school garden (source: Pieter Temminck)

## **SILC**

Based on the lessons learned in C2U, Agromisa, AOC-Oost and Windesheim Honours College started 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 agribusiness. The agriculture education is wider than the field of production: students are stimulated to find their talents in the different parts of the chain. SILC is still in concept phase, and the coming years have to show if Agromisa can link up with other partners such as WUR to further build this concept and create a project around SILC.

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

With the ambition to increase Wageningen student involvement in its programmes, Agromisa launched a new initiative in 2014: the recruitment of an 'Agromisa Young Ambassador and Student Organiser'. The task of the Young Ambassador is to act as an ambassador among the student population of Wageningen University, Van Hall Larenstein and STOAS Hogeschool, and for that reason, it is envisioned that he/she will be a Wageningen-based student or recent graduate. Agromisa anticipates that this will increase the visibility of the organisation among students, and also, create a potential, future network of volunteers.

The first Young Ambassador, Antonia Dimou (Greek nationality), a recent graduate of Van Hall Larenstein, was recruited for the academic year 2014-2015. Her first task was to create an overview of possibilities for Wageningen student involvement in Agromisa activities. This required the necessary initial exploratory work in the organisation, taking some start-up time, but the result was there: students soon came to Agromisa to become involved in activities in the context of their course work as part of their study programmes.

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.

In doing so, Agromisa offers 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 involves students and recent graduates of Wageningen University, Van Hall Larenstein and STOAS Hogeschool in several of its ongoing projects. Mostly, student participation is 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). One such example of student work in Agromisa is the Bachelor Thesis of Timm Schemeit, a Van Hall Larenstein student, on 'Additional material for Agromisa's Agrodok on goat keeping: Making knowledge more accessible to the final target group'. In this case Agromisa acted as the commissioner of the study and he completed his thesis in August 2014. His involvement illustrates how student work contributes to the mission of Agromisa to make scientific knowledge available for actual use in agricultural development, producing new ideas for Agromisa. This gives students a first and unique work experience. In total, Agromisa actively worked with 24 students in its activities in 2014, and these concerned both Dutch and international students.

## 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 2014, the Q&A service received by mail or website about 30 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.

## 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 30 people have contributed to the work of Agromisa in 2014. 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 ACT students from Wageningen University, the Library, Q&A, administration, maintenance, the relocation to Agromisa's new office and Board, Agromisa relied on a steady group of volunteers. We thank all these people for their commitment to Agromisa in 2014!

### **Active team members (December 2014):**

Eva Kok | Team Coordinator & Publisher  
Lineke van Dongen | PR, Office Management  
Liesbeth Dirks | PR, Editing  
Marilyn Minderhoud | PR, Editing  
Cris de Klein | Projects, Editing  
Marg Leijdens | Projects, Editing  
Antonia Dimou | Student Ambassador

### **Board members (December 2014):**

Ton van Schie | Chairman

Peter Hoen | Secretary

Erni van Wingerden | Treasurer

Janwillem Liebrand | Board member (focus student affairs)

Marg Leijdens | Board member

Eva Kok | Board member (representative staff and volunteers)

### ***Remuneration policy***

The two (part time) staff members account for the salaries in the financial report.

The board members received no payment (as stipulated for a foundation as legal entity)



# Financial Report 2014

Balance sheet ( <i>in euros</i> )	31 dec. 2013	31 dec. 2014
<b>Assets</b>		
Inventory	0	0
Stock	34,368	35,954
Claims	2,574	4,205
Liquid Assets	11,552	11,275
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>48,495</b>	<b>51,434</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Capital	5,344	5,498
Reservations	30,400	24,504
Debts (short time)	12,751	21,432
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>48,495</b>	<b>51,434</b>

## Notes to the balance sheet

### Assets:

Stocks: These are valued at € 35.954, the stock value is based on standard validation criteria. In 2015 a new methodology for valuing stocks will be applied i.e. out dated publications will be written of sooner.

Claims: debtors consist largely of unpaid invoices send to clients for developing educational materials.

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

### Liabilities:

Reservations: refer to the Agrodok development fund € 24.504, in fact this fund does not exists as a cash reserve, the fund is basically consisting of the organizations stocks.

Debts (short term): totalling € 21.432; these are current liabilities mostly boarded out work. (a.o. translations of Agrodoks, Crop residues English and French, Edible insects, French) and a reservation for expected Agromisa housing costs over 2014.

Profit and Loss statement ( <i>in euros</i> )	2013	2014
Turnover	86,022	129,640
Boarded out work	32,231	47,824
Direct costs	4,816	6,737
<b>Net turnover</b>	<b>48,975</b>	<b>75,078</b>
Housing costs	4,573	6,076
Salaries	59,218	60,371
Running costs	0	0
General costs	14,924	8,113
Sales costs	714	364
Depreciations	804	0
<b>Result</b>	<b>- 31,284</b>	<b>154</b>

## Notes to the profit and loss statement

As a result of an increased turnover and cost reductions in 2014 the closing accounts show a positive balance. The long term financial situation of Agromisa is still precarious even though for 2015 the prospects are relatively good.