



## Annual report 2024



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# 1 General Information

## 1.1 Legal information and contact details

Registered name:

A SEED Europe (Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Diversity Europe).

Often, the organisation is simply called ASEED.

Inschrijvingsnummer Kamer van Koophandel / Registration number Chamber of commerce: 41212969

RSIN (Legal Entities & Partnerships Identification Number)/Tax number: 803284342

Contact details:

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1018 CM Amsterdam

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Email: [info@aseed.net](mailto:info@aseed.net)

Website: <https://aseed.net/>

Social media etc:

- Facebook @aseedeurope – <https://www.facebook.com/aseedeurope/>
- Twitter @AseedEurope – <https://twitter.com/aseedeurope>
- Instagram – @aseed.europe – <https://www.instagram.com/aseed.europe/>
- Flickr – <https://www.flickr.com/photos/161799872@N05/albums>

## 1.2 Vision and Mission Statement

Our vision is the following:

*ASEED strives for a world where people feel empowered to take action to achieve social justice and environmental integrity on both the local and global levels.*

Our Mission Statement is the following:

*ASEED aims to support and empower groups and individuals (especially youth) who are striving for fair and sustainable food systems. We do so through grassroots organisation, mobilising people to take action, and supporting the non-formal exchange of skills and knowledge around social issues, climate change, farming, food, resilience and resistance. Overall, we support (young) people to grow capacities to take action to change their communities for the better.*

## 1.3 History and background

### From 1991...

Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Diversity (ASEED Europe) was established by young engaged people in 1991 in response to the UNCED Earth Summit proceedings in Rio de Janeiro and aimed to forge alliances among young people committed to social and environmental justice. Since 1992, the ASEED decentralised network grew and regional hubs were created in

Europe, Asia, North America, Africa, Latin America and Japan. Each hub had its own level of activity, linking youth groups and individuals in their region. By now some hubs developed in their own way, working independently from each other, while others have ceased to exist.

### ... to 2024

Presently, ASEED Europe is a small non-profit organisation (ANBI) based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Our core team consists of 7–10 people and collaborates with many volunteers and allies at the local, regional, and European level. ASEED's team usually counts three part-time coordinators, one financial administrator, four volunteers (financed by the Erasmus + European Solidarity Corps programme), as well as interns in the spring semester. Since 2017, ASEED's main campaign "Fossil Free Agriculture" has centred our work around opposing the use of fossil fuels and corporate control in industrial agriculture, with a special focus on fighting fossil fertilisers.

## 1.4 Objectives, Tools and Values

ASEED supports the rights of individuals and communities to determine their own lives. Our campaigns focus on exploring alternatives to the industrial food system, and networking with groups that promote viable alternatives and sustainable development.

Our objectives are the following:

- Initiating and coordinating actions and campaigns on environmental, food and social justice issues;
- Promoting discussions and disseminating information about the topics we work with;
- Empowering local youth groups and grassroots organisations via trainings, joint projects, and knowledge sharing;
- Establishing partnerships between various organisations and groups worldwide and facilitating international cooperation and networking.

To realise our aims, we use the following tools: the promotion of grassroots organisation, education, mobilisation and nonviolent direct action so that people can act to achieve social justice and environmental integrity on both the local and global levels. Examples of activities we are involved in are the annual [Food Autonomy Festival](#), [reading groups](#), [debates](#) and [awareness-raising events](#), [trainings](#), [action camps](#), [alternative climate summits](#), [nonviolent direct actions](#), [farming days](#) and more.

### What are our values?

ASEED works towards an autonomous food system where:

- (Neo) colonial power structures and supply chains where especially corporations in the Global North control resources that allow the production of food such as land, water, seeds, are exposed and disposed of.
- Communities have the power to choose their food, where it comes from, and how it is produced.
- Farming practices work in harmony with local ecosystems, complementing natural processes rather than fighting them. This includes discontinuing the use of pesticides, synthetic fertilisers, and other poisons – as is practised in for instance agroecological farming.
- Distribution chains are shortened, and communities are directly connected to where the

food is grown.

- Everyone in the food production system is treated and compensated fairly.

We believe that complete structural change is necessary to achieve fair and sustainable food systems, but of course, these are lofty ambitions. We strive to challenge power structures at ASEED. To do so, we use nonhierarchical working practices, follow team trainings and we continuously work on our [Safer Space Policy](#) and [Intersectionality Statement](#).

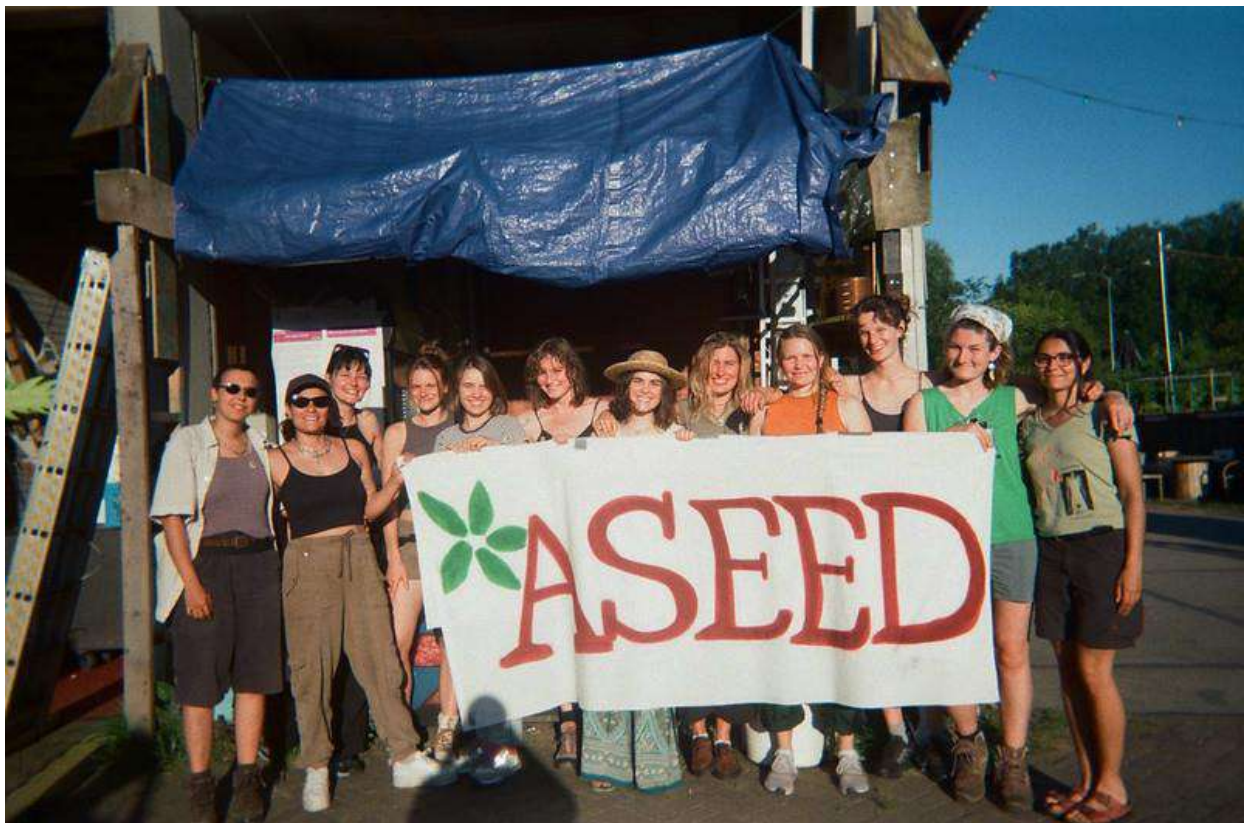
## **1.5 Financial Information**

As a non-profit organisation, ASEED relies on income from various sources such as project grants (Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps, Patagonia, Lush Netherlands, WECF, Het Actiefonds, Alert Funds, Frederik Hendrikschool Actiepot, RSF...), contributions from participants at events, including benefit dinners, and donations from small private donors. Although we have received funding this year from the Gemeente Amsterdam, we do not receive any funds from the Dutch government.

ASEED's financial overview for 2024 can be found [here](#) and [here](#) on our website.

## **1.6 Team composition**

In 2024, the international office team consisted in: a core group of “permanent” staff members; volunteers who joined ASEED for a one-year period through the [European Solidarity Corps](#), as part of the Erasmus+ programme; interns who joined specifically to help with the Food Autonomy Festival. European volunteers benefited from the support of a dedicated mentor.



Permanent staff members design and coordinate the campaign, ensure continuity in ASEED's

work and take care of all financial and administrative matters. ESC volunteers and interns all bring ideas, perspectives and working methods influenced by their diverse background. Their contribution to ASEED is invaluable, both on professional and personal levels. During their internship, interns may carry on a research project focused on an area of ASEED's work. The ESC mentor is not involved in ASEED's daily office work. However, her work benefits the entire team as she organises regular team meetings with a focus on communication, well-being, workload management and emotional awareness.

In addition, other volunteers regularly or punctually contribute to ASEED's activities in the fields of research, event organisation, fundraising and actions. Many of them are students, farmers, former ASEED staff members and experienced activists.

We greatly value the diversity of backgrounds, experiences, knowledge and skills present at ASEED, and our group has predominantly consisted of women and non-binary people for the past years. This makes ASEED a space which provides gender-oppressed people and people with fewer opportunities to push for intersectional action. Every year, ASEED is (re) shaped by young voices, including in coordination positions.

In 2024, the “Permanent” staff consisted in a Financial Administrator and three coordinators (campaign, fundraising and general coordination).

- Campaign Coordinator: Paulina Solis until December 2024, then, Pia Winkler.
- Fundraising Coordinator: Teresa Geerten as a Fundraising coordinator.
- General Coordinator: Anna Saltel until September 2024, then Alexia Thomlinson-Blount.
- Nikolay Nikolov, financial administrator.

Volunteers list – European Solidarity Corps	
September 2023 – September 2024	September 2024 – September 2025
Amaia (Spain)	Eva (Ireland)
Siri (Norway)	Annachiara (Italy)
Pia (Germany)	Elena (France)
June (Belgium)	Sage (Germany)



Interns who joined the team in 2024 to help with the Food Autonomy festival:

- Alexia – communication
- Imke – fundraising, logistics
- Rosa – logistics
- Yoeke – awareness

ASEED's employees get a minimum hourly wage according to the “CAO Welzijn en Maatschappelijke Dienstverlening”. European volunteers are compensated for their contribution

following the rules of the European Solidarity Corps programme. While we would love to be able to offer compensation to the interns for their work, we are financially not able to do so.

## **1.7 Board composition**

Our board consists of the following people:

- Anne Jessica Assehn – Chairperson – in the board since 04/07/2007;
- Philip Schols – Treasurer – in the board since 25/11/2019;
- Tjerk Dalhuisen – Secretary – in the board since 27/10/2014.

The board members do not get paid for their activities, although their travel expenses to join our office-council meetings (twice a year) are reimbursed.

## **2 ASEED's Campaign: Fossil Free Agriculture (FFA)**

### **2.1 Background of the campaign**

The FFA campaign was started in 2018, on the basis of the following considerations.

#### **The industrial food system heavily relies on fossil fuels**

From chemical fertilisers for large-scale monocultures to farm machinery, food processing and long-distance transport. The fossil fuel industry and corporate agribusiness are not there to provide people with healthy and sustainable food or to protect our climate, but to make profit and to increase their domination over the food chain. As in other areas, agriculture is clearly showing a recurring pattern: people and nature are exploited for profit and power is concentrated in the hands of a few powerful corporations.

Throughout the first five years of ASEED's Fossil Free Agriculture campaign, ASEED has identified synthetic nitrogen fertilisers, or fossil fertilisers, as a crucial point of attack to shift away from the current, destructive, and fossil-fuel intensive food system.

Fossil fertilisers are a key component of the industrial agricultural model that:

- contributes to 20% of emissions in this sector,
- is entirely dependent on fossil gas for production,
- depletes the soil,
- hinders carbon sequestration,
- harms local biodiversity,
- and traps farmers into dependence on continuous chemical input.

European fossil fertiliser companies are the largest corporate buyers of gas in Europe, and as such hold immense power over how our energy system will develop over the next decades. This industry spends a staggering amount of money on corporate lobbying (Norwegian Yara International spent €11.8 Bn between 2011–2019), and they are truly the “[The Exxons of Agriculture](#)” as the organisation GRAIN labelled them – yet are largely unknown and go under the radar of social movements and civil society. While the multi-crises of increasing food and energy prices continue to spread economic uncertainty for marginalised groups, fossil fertiliser companies are more than doubling their profit margins. Hand in hand, the fertiliser and gas industry are lobbying governments to respond to these crises by deepening Europe's addiction to imported fossil fuels and the geopolitical volatility they bring. 3–5 percent of the entire production

of European fossil gas is used to produce fossil fertilisers.

### The Netherlands plays a central role in the industrial, fossil fuel-based food system

The country functions as Europe's most important distribution centre for both fossil fuels and industrial agriculture. The largest factory of the biggest nitrogen fertiliser company in the world (Yara) is located in Sluiskil, Zeeland. It is one of the largest users of gas in the country, consuming about 2 billion cubic metres of gas annually.

We at ASEED believe this is the perfect moment to increasingly focus our campaign on fostering collective action and gathering power from below to instigate meaningful change. We see confronting the use and expansion of fossil fertilisers as a crucial arena to break the power of the industrial agricultural sector, take away its social licence, shake investor confidence, and open the space for more decentralised and democratic food systems.

### Fortunately, the real solutions are already all around us!

Food sovereignty, agroecology, and peasant agriculture are all approaches that feed the planet and cool the earth. While large-scale agricultural production uses 70% of the global agricultural resources to produce only 30% of the total food supply, peasant-based food systems provide 70% of our food while using only 30% of agricultural resources.

Agroecological farms that produce local and seasonal food:

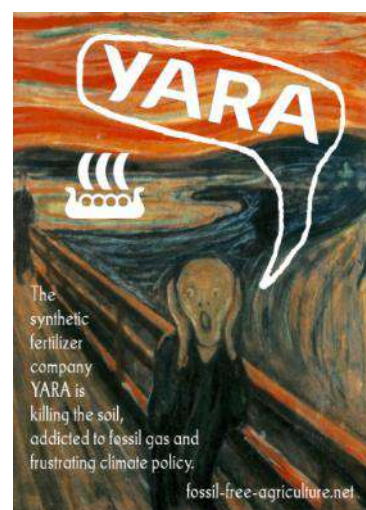
- promote biodiversity and soil health,
- use less water resources,
- are resilient towards the shocks of a changing climate,
- offer the possibility to capture carbon in the living soil,
- and provide dignified compensation to farmers.

## 2.2 Over time, an increased focus on Synthetic Fertilisers

The FFA campaign was launched in 2018. We then decided to organise all or most of the ASEED projects under the FFA campaign umbrella, creating or underlying direct links between the topic of fossil fuels (and synthetic fertilisers) and our ongoing activities. This means that FFA became the main ASEED campaign, and recurring events such as the Food Autonomy Festival fell under the campaign umbrella.

In 2019, ASEED participated in the [Free the Soil](#) campaign which led to a mass civil disobedience action (blockade) against a [Yara facility](#) in Brunsbüttel, Germany. In parallel, hundreds of activists gathered at the Agriculture & Climate Justice camp action camp that took place there. With highlights on the role of Yara in industrial agriculture and therefore in [climate chaos](#), this was a key moment to connect the climate movement and the food sovereignty movement around a target and a topic that few people were familiar with.

Since then, we have put a lot of time and efforts into strategic networking with movements and organisations across Europe. The topic of synthetic fertilisers gained momentum over the years, culminating in August 2023 with a "Strategy Meeting on Agrochemicals and Fossil Fuels" in Amsterdam. This pan-European meeting, facilitated by ASEED, gathered 20 NGOs, grassroots



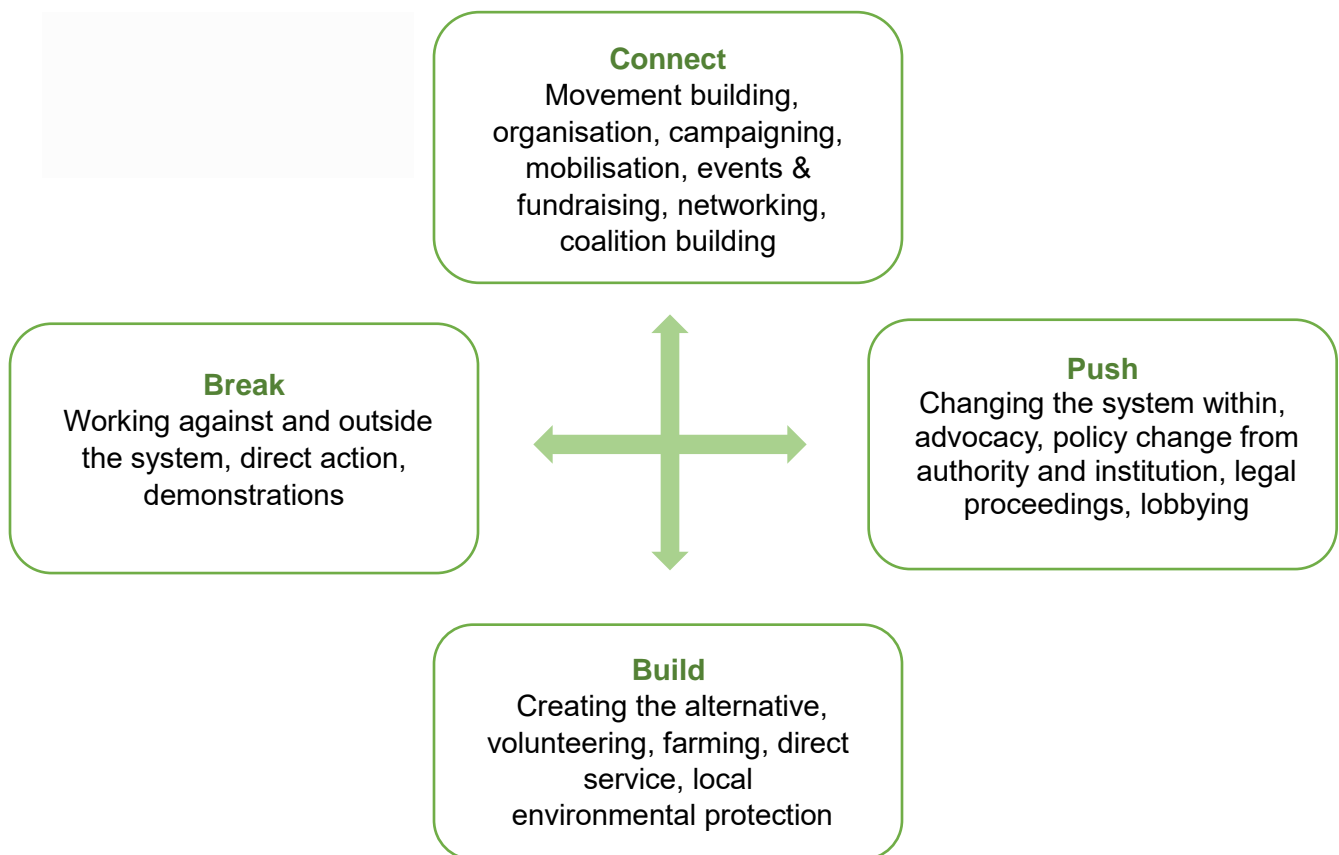
groups, activists, and researchers.

This increase in interest around synthetic fertilisers within international movements is both a sign that ASEED's intuition in 2018 was good, and that our collective efforts to put the question on the agenda paid. A lot more is to be done and is on the way!

## 2.3 Our Theory of Change

We believe that grassroots power leads to social change, and that fossil fertilisers are a key, untapped battleground where fights for food justice, energy justice and land justice converge. We believe that a well-connected, resilient movement with strong narratives that places farmers' concrete solutions at the forefront can lead to powerful social change. Our goal is to help build a powerful emancipatory movement from below for a sustainable and just food system. While individual consumer choices and reducing food waste are important, alone they will not adequately address the systemic root causes of unequal power relations in industrial agriculture.

ASEED has developed a ToC that, we believe, complements and strengthens connections in the wider climate justice movement. A useful tool has guided our planning, allowing us to better navigate and categorise the ecology of social movements:



*Drawing inspiration from George Lakey's "How We Win", 2018.*

Using primarily the "connect" and "break" strategies, our aim is to focus our work on filling an

existing gap between anti-gas, climate, social justice, and food systems movements. It is vital to support and amplify those that already practise these solutions, as they are marginalised and oppressed by the agro-industry and governments. This is why ASEED increasingly collaborates with those that work concretely to build the change that we want to see in our collective food systems.

Within this framework, our campaign follows two complementary axes.

### Fighting corporations

To combat fossil fertilisers and Yara International at this pivotal moment, ASEED has three core strategies in this part of the campaign:

- **Shaping the narrative** through social media campaigns and non-formal education.
- **Coordinating and engaging in direct action** aiming to disrupt business-as-usual and spark public debate.
- **Building and coordinating national and international grassroots networks** to create opportunities of convergence on the topic of fossil fertilisers.

### Supporting solutions

To connect, strengthen, and promote existing fair and sustainable food system alternatives, ASEED works to:

- **Amplify** pre-existing local solutions to the general public.
- **Connect** city dwellers with semi-urban and rural projects and farmers.
- **Create more connections** between Dutch agricultural and agroecological contexts and the climate movement.
- **Be a radical voice** within alternative farming spaces, politicising conversations and bringing in systemic thinking.

ASEED's goal with the Fossil Free Agriculture Campaign is to challenge fossil fertilisers and be part of a growing agroecological movement. We work towards this goal through **informal education**, **movement building**, and **direct action**. We have decided to present you our campaign activities through the prism of these broad categories. Of course, there is always overlap between these categories. For example, contributing to the disruption of an industry event (direct action) also helps raising awareness around an issue (informal education) and connecting people from various groups (movement building).

On top of this, we organise our yearly Food Autonomy Festival which deserves an entire section of this annual report. Ready? Let's go!

## 3 Informal Education: Continuous Learning and Sharing

One of our strongest suits at ASEED is raising awareness and stimulating critical thinking. Ongoing content and material production such as articles on our website, informative flyers, social media posts, stickers on the theme of our campaign is one aspect of this work.

In addition, ASEED is regularly solicited to speak at conferences and grassroots gatherings, to welcome students groups, to hold an info table at festivals and to generally participate in and co-organise a vast array of events with diverse audiences. This includes organising solidarity events with groups from different intersections with agriculture. Sometimes, ASEED is present at events that are not directly connected to food or agriculture: this allows us to reach a diverse audience who is not necessarily familiar with our topics.

It is not our goal to educate others top-down, but to facilitate a convivial space where we can learn

from each other and engage with these topics together. Most of the activities we organise, host or contribute to are free or on donation.

In the same informal way, ASEED joins trainings that benefit individual team members as well as the collective.

### 3.1 Material and content production

#### #YaraFertilizesChaos: a collaborative social media campaign



ASEED actively campaigns against misinformation about sustainable agriculture spread by corporations, especially Yara International. In May, in the days leading to Yara's Annual General Meeting in Norway, we ran a social media campaign in collaboration with [Les Amis de la Terre France](#), [Soulèvements de Saint-Nazaire et estuaire](#) and [Spire](#). With a series of daily social media posts supported by strong evidence on various topics such as greenwashing, neo-colonial business in Africa or pollution, [#YaraFertilizesChaos](#) dismantled one by one the corporate lies of Yara.

#### Global Fertilizer Day

Every year, on October 13th, the fertiliser industry, represented by the IFA (International Fertilizer Association), celebrates the [Global Fertilizer Day](#).

Once again, we worked hand in hand with the above-mentioned organisations from the coalition



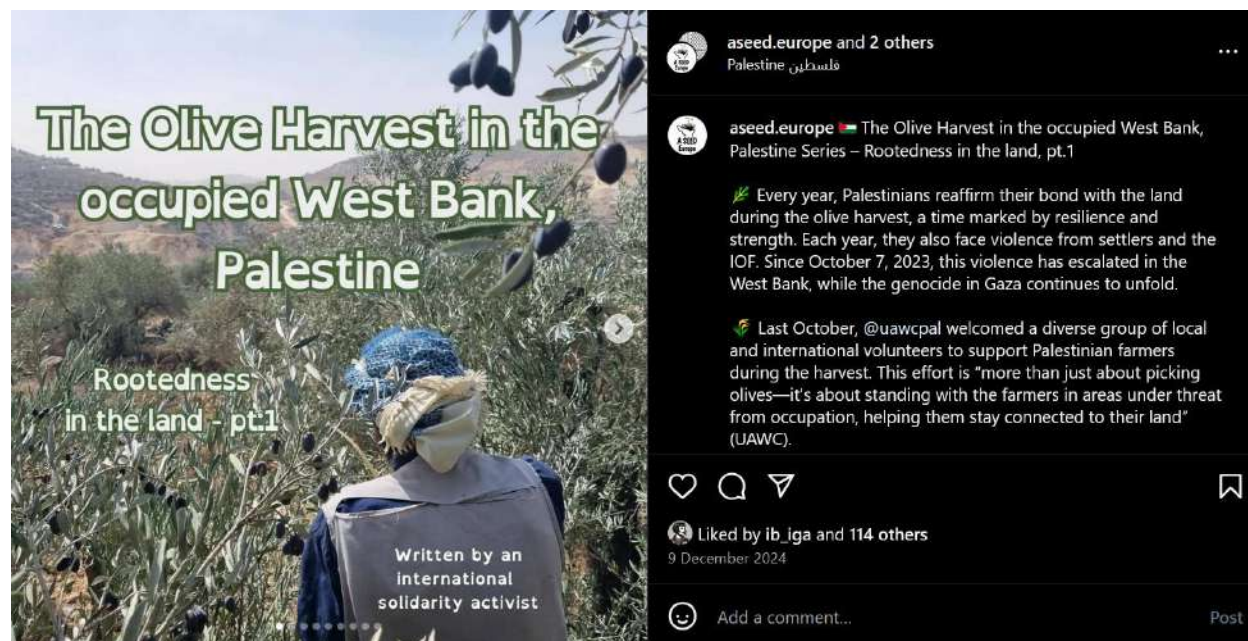
against agrochemicals on a social media pack. Our goal was to disrupt the industry’s narrative on its frequently used hashtags, and tell the real story of the impacts and risks connected to chemical fertilisers. This social media post focused on the full impacts of chemical nitrogen fertilisers, from their production process to their application to soils and their waste material.

### In Solidarity: Highlight on Palestine

After creating a brochure on [Israeli Agritech](#) in 2023, we kept on spreading it in 2024, while making new content on food and agriculture issues surrounding the occupation of Palestine.

Our website article “[Colonial Occupation & Food Sovereignty in Palestine – Food is the first frontier!](#)” gives an overview of Israel’s Food warfare techniques. It is accompanied by beautiful illustrations (Ilya).

Hand in hand with an international solidarity activist who joined the 2024 Sumud and Solidarity Olive Harvest campaign, organised by the [Union of Agricultural Work Committees \(UAWC\)](#), we also published an [article](#) and a series of social media posts titled “The Olive Harvest in the Occupied West Bank, Palestine”. These posts shed the light on the daily realities of Palestinian farmers, and shared resources to support them.



### 3.2 Reading Groups

ASEED holds regular reading groups on topics related to our campaign. We provide a list of materials in different formats, so attendants can engage with the topic according to their capacities and interests. In order to keep the reading groups as inclusive as possible, there are no requirements to attend (such as reading all materials beforehand). Our goal is simply to facilitate the opportunity to learn about these important topics together.



In 2024, we explored the topic of Green Colonialism, a concept that can be used to identify patterns in international relations that follow the colonial logic of (economical) domination, forced dependencies and extraction. The word “green” signifies the focus on projects that are called sustainable, climate change mitigation, adaptation or green transition. With these arguments or buzzwords, systems of exploitation and skewed relations are justified – yet again “for the greater good”. Given the situation in Palestine and the intense repression faced by pro-Palestine students and demonstrators in the Netherlands, we chose to dedicate a reading group to Green Colonialism in Palestine.

### 3.3 Info-Nights

Vokus, or community/benefit dinners in autonomous, volunteer-run spaces, had always been part of ASEED’s activities. In the last couple of years and since the Covid-19 pandemic, the number of annual vokus has decreased: we slowly acknowledged that vokus were sometimes too energy-consuming for the team. Instead, we partnered up with groups or venues willing to prepare dinner while we would only focus on information-sharing.

#### Documentary Films Screenings

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, just before the 2.Dh5 and Reclaim the Seeds festivals, ASEED organised together with both groups a screening of the documentary “Wild Relatives”.

#### Hosting the Soulèvements de la Terre / Bassines Non Merci tour

On February 29, representatives from the French movement [Soulèvements de la Terre](#) (SdIT) (“Uprisings of the Earth”) and [Bassines Non Merci](#) stopped in Amsterdam, at the Dokhuis, as part of their tour across the Netherlands, Germany, and Czech Republic. As they contacted ASEED to host the evening, we spent the day with our guests. This was a great opportunity to learn from the experiences of this strong grassroots alliance, and to discuss and connect with activists across borders in the struggle for land & water justice. In the evening, SdIT provided insights into their experiences, strategies and forms of organisation. In France, they are successfully fighting against destructive industrial infrastructure and social justice. Despite the extreme state repression against them, SdIT are an inspiring example of collective resistance, as they are supported by a strong base of over 100,000 small farmers, trade unionists, activists and residents of contested



territories.

This tour was also aimed at mobilising for a summer action camp in Poitou, France: The International Village for Water and Land Defence, against “mega-basins”. Mega-basins are large, artificial water reservoirs that represent the privatisation of water and the power of agro-industrial giants over peasants and rural communities, and they exacerbate water scarcity and biodiversity loss.

As a result of this collaboration, ASEED helped mobilising activists in the Netherlands to join the Village de l’Eau. To do so, we organised an info night at [De Sering](#) in May, during which we shared all relevant information around the struggle for land and water in France, and well as practical details related to travelling there.

### **3.4 Contribution to yearly events for grassroots groups & campaigns**

#### **2. Dh5**

[2. Dh5](#) is a yearly “*festival where various groups, campaigns and individuals come together to discuss grass-roots campaigns, tactics and methods that move us closer towards our ideal of a society based on freedom and solidarity*”. It takes place in February, and is an ideal event to learn from each other’s campaigns, to meet other groups and to present our activities.

In 2024, ASEED held an info stall all weekend and gave an interactive workshop about the intersections between neighbourhood solidarity and alternatives to the industrial-capitalist food system.

### **3.5 Capacity-Building and Knowledge-Sharing**

ASEED’s internal processes reflect our wish to facilitate spaces where we can learn from each other and share experiences, skills and knowledge. We strive to continuously improve as individuals and as a team. To do so, we join workshops, participate in trainings and organise regular skill shares among ourselves.

#### **ASEED Retreat**

In October 2023 ASEED organised for the first time a “training retreat” in the countryside to onboard new team members. Since it was a success, it became instant tradition and was reiterated in 2024. During this retreat, we had several skill shares in which more experienced team members passed on knowledge from previous trainings by replicating them and fitting them to ASEED’s strategic direction as well as organisational composition. This included sessions on decision-making and facilitation, radical agroecology, conflict resolution and nonviolent communication, as well as emotional support and recovery in relationship to activism. New team members also shared skills within these sessions, and around other non-work-related topics.

In addition to circulating skills and knowledge, the ASEED retreat is a fun and caring way to integrate new team members and get to know each other in a different environment.

#### **Team Trainings and Skill Shares**

In 2024, several team members joined trainings and workshops on the themes of awareness in the context of a big event, and emotional support and recovery for activists who faced high stress events. They later organised sessions with the rest of the team to pass on what they learned. Over the past years, ASEED has been integrating more elements of somatics and emotional

awareness into its daily functioning thanks to these types of trainings and to the work of the ESC mentor.

### Research on ASEED's Internal Processes

For several years, ASEED has been welcoming interns or volunteers whose research themes were close to ASEED's campaign topics. This type of exchange is usually fruitful and supports both ASEED and the students involved. This year, we welcomed Yoeke who did an internship as part of her Master's degree in Organising Social Impact (Utrecht University).

Part of her internship consisted in engaged fieldwork research. Her thesis, titled "Reimagining hierarchy: Prefigurative Horizontality in Activist Organisation" gave ASEED deep insights into its organisational practices.

## 4 Movement Building: We Are Stronger Together

ASEED sees movement building as a core part of our work. As a small non-profit organisation with long roots, ASEED has created over time a far reach, and our network is still growing steadily. Together we are stronger, and we believe that we can raise grassroots power by joining forces in complementary struggles. We currently focus on two complementary goals: to connect the Dutch agroecological farming movement with other (activist) groups doing similar work; to bring the topic of food systems onto the agenda of the anti-gas and climate movement.

### 4.1 *Bringing a critical approach to food justice within the Dutch agroecological movement*

#### Reclaim the Seeds

The Reclaim the Seeds weekend was created by ASEED in 2012, in order to gather seed enthusiasts, farmers, students, gardeners, and anyone interested in growing food. RtS usually comprises a seed fair where professionals and amateurs can find and offer seeds and seedlings, hands-on workshops, lectures and panel discussions from a political perspective, as well as excursions to local farms/community projects. Participating organisations also have the opportunity to hold an info stall. ASEED team members are no longer taking central organising roles since 2019, and the RtS events are now coordinated by motivated groups of volunteers in a decentralised way.

In 2024, the Amsterdam edition of RtS took place on March 16–17, in Fruittuin van West. ASEED spread some info materials and facilitated a two-part workshop, titled "*If we don't talk about food, it's not my revolution!*" The first half explored the intersections of capitalism, colonialism, and the food industry, to see how they impact our communities. It showed why taking back control of our food systems is essential for building a more equitable society. Participants then joined a brainstorm on neighbourhood-level food solutions.

#### Supporting a Radical Farming Initiative on April 17<sup>th</sup>

On April 17, the International Day of Peasant Struggles, we travelled to Gorssel, Gelderland, to directly support with our working hands the farming initiative and post-capitalist experiment [Tuinen van de Egel](#). This is the first piece of land "liberated" by [Stichting Kapitalocean](#). ASEED has closely followed the development of this radical project since its beginning.

#### The Dutch Agroecology Network & Mycelia of Hope

Within the Netherlands, ASEED participated in the formation of the [Dutch Agroecology Network](#),

a network that aims to build connections between small-scale farmers and activists. Small-scale farmers form the heart of this network and decide the direction, while other groups, such as ASEED, take a more supportive role. Other groups involved in the DAE are [Transnational Institute \(TNI\)](#), [Toekomstboeren](#), [Stichting Boerengroep](#), [Greenpeace NL](#), [Federatie van Agro-ecologische Boeren](#), [CSA Netwerk Nederland](#), [Rural Sociology Group Wageningen University](#), [Cultivate](#), [Extinction Rebellion Landbouw \(XR Landbouw\)](#), [Ontgroeij](#), [Stichting Kapitalocean](#), [Stichting In Goede Aarde](#), [Stichting Aralez](#).

ASEED tends to bring a radical voice to the network, politicise conversations further and bring in systemic thinking. The DAE usually meets four times per year to discuss topics relevant to the movement. Each of these meetings takes place on a farm in different parts of the Netherlands to get to know the various farmers in the network.

ASEED joins all meetings, in addition to organising one each year. This is the opportunity to push the network to explore and discuss social justice topics such as migrant workers' rights or colonial practices in agriculture, with an intersectional lens. Without our advocacy, these topics would not always be a priority.



Within the DAE, ASEED is an active member of the “[Mycelia of Hope](#)” working group, which works with themes of regeneration and mutual aid. It aims to link rural and urban realities by organising working days at different farms during which farmers, city-dwelling activists and other allies can meet each other. Our direct connection with farmers keeps us updated on what is important to them, and how we can continue to centre their needs in our fight against fossil fertilisers.

The activities are shaped according to the needs of the farmers, actively supporting them during busy periods and/or collaborating on projects that have been put on the back burner due to a lack of time. For activists, connecting with the land and agroecological farming can be an experience of regeneration, positive

activism, or active hope.

ASEED has been co-organising MoH farming days and communicating about them across its wider network. In 2024, farming days took place at the food forest [Voedselbos Voedselrijk](#) (Ede-Wageningen), at Boerderij [De Meent](#) (Amstelveen) and Tuinderij [de Volle Grond](#) (Utrecht).

Between MoH Farming days and quarterly meetings, ASEED has been spending an increasing amount of time with farmers, sharing their daily realities and collaborating on the development of the DAE. This is a very positive development in the frame of our Fossil Free Agriculture Campaign.

### Contribution to the Farm Experience Internship

The Farm Experience Internship is a summer course for Wageningen University students, coordinated by Stichting Boerengroep. The course explores agroecology through various pedagogies and stimulates knowledge co-creation and horizontal learning between students,

farmers, activists, scientists, NGOs and other agroecological organisations. In August 2024 ASEED facilitated a workshop on Radical Agroecology as part of the FEI. This session aimed at motivating participants to think about agroecology in abstract as well as very practical terms; highlighting the transformative and political nature of agroecology; practising how to see through corporate co-optation of agroecological concepts and debunking them.

This collaboration with Stichting Boerengroep, a member of the DAE, is a great opportunity to reach young students in agriculture and plant the seeds of critical thinking towards corporate-controlled agriculture and greenwashing.

## **4.2 Bridging the gap between the food justice and the anti-gas movements**

### **People's Summit, Vienna**

Just like previous years, the European Gas Conference took place in Vienna (Austria) in March. While the EGC brought together big corporations and politicians to give continuity to the gas industry, we have met with international grassroots groups to explore alternatives, strategise, and mobilise for change at the [People's Summit](#). This conference is organised by an international alliance of NGOs and activist groups. Between March 22 and 24, members of the ASEED team met other activists, made new connections and shared their knowledge in a workshop titled: "*May contain traces of fossil gas and neocolonial dependencies: Unpacking the industrial fossil-fuelled food system.*" In this workshop, we invited participants to detect the traces of fossil gas and neocolonialism in our food, taking a close look at synthetic nitrogen fertilisers and Yara.

Besides joining the People's Summit and the demonstration against the EGC, we partnered with The Transnational Institute, also based in Amsterdam, to invite activists in the Netherlands to travel together to Vienna with our two organisations. Overall, such international events help us connecting and collaborating with groups fighting against gas in Europe and in the Netherlands.

### **Coalition Against Agrochemicals**

In 2023, ASEED participated in an emerging movement of international NGOs wanting to address the social and environmental impact of agrochemicals and fossil fuels. This broad coalition includes various international and local Dutch NGOs, grassroots groups, researchers, activists and farmers. Since the beginning of this network, we have started working more closely with bigger NGOs and facilitating the information flow between them and grassroots groups.

Specific organisations, such as [Spire](#), [Les Amis de la Terre \(Friends of the Earth France\)](#) and [Les Soulèvements de la Terre Saint-Nazaire Estuaire](#), were also interested in directly targeting the main industry actor, Yara. We decided to work together with them on concrete projects such as the #YaraFertilizesChaos social media campaign. Such collaboration allowed us to amplify our voice and expand our outreach.

Since the beginning, ASEED has maintained a leading role to push for a stronger, radical grassroots presence and perspective. Indeed, some actors are more institutional and research-oriented. Currently, we continue to collaborate with key groups to expose the greenwashing of the fertiliser industry and advocate for real solutions in the agricultural sector.

### 4.3 Joining Demonstrations

ASEED usually joins a number of demonstrations every year around the topics of climate justice, human rights, anti-racism, feminism and more. We therefore participate in the drafting of common statements, in discussions about our demands and the forming of blocks within the protests, and in banner-making sessions with other groups. This allows us to maintain or create connections with collectives involved in campaigns or actions on various topics, to highlight the links between issues from an intersectional perspective and to show solidarity with important causes.



In 2024, ASEED joined a number of pro-Palestine demonstrations as well as the Climate March as part of the decolonial block.

## 5 Direct Action

We aim to link local practical action with global political struggles by engaging in spectacular, inspiring, and effective direct actions that build increasing power from below to counter the lobby of the fertiliser industry. The actions we support should educate the public and trigger more and more people to confront those organisations that promote and profit from a food system that serves neither the people nor the planet. We are targeting big business and the politicians that support them, not the farmers that are victims of a corrupted system.

### Village de l'Eau



In July, part of the ASEED team travelled to France to the Poitou region to attend the Village de l'Eau. This International Village for Water and Land Defence was co-organised by les Soulèvements de la Terre, a successful activist grassroots alliance we've been collaborating with for two years. After hosting them on their European tour and working together on social media campaigns, joining le Village de l'Eau was only logical for us. This event gathered around 10 000 people. It was a week of meetings, communal living, political discussions, and preparation for action

against giant artificial water reservoirs supporting industrial farming at the expense of the environment and small-scale farmers. ASEED published an [article](#) with reflections and learnings from our participation.

## Against the Regenerative Agriculture & Food Systems Summit

For the third time, the [Regenerative Agriculture & Food Systems Summit](#) took place early September in Amsterdam. Once again, ASEED took action to denounce this Summit's attempt to greenwash participating corporations' devastating ecocidal and neocolonial practices. Indeed, *"participating agro-food corporations and allied research institutions, consultancy and marketing businesses are fuelling human rights violations, structural poverty, unhealthy diets, and destructive agricultural methods*



*while co-opting the language of regenerative agriculture".*

Together with [Agroecology Network NL](#), [XR Landbouw](#), [Toekomstboeren](#) and with the support of [Boerengroep](#), [Voedselpark Amsterdam](#) and [Aralez](#), we produced a [public statement](#) that we distributed to passers-by and participants of the summit.

By standing at the entrance during arrival hours in the morning, we engaged in many interesting conversations with attendants such as researchers, farmers, third-sector workers and small businesses.



## EU Hydrogen Week

In November 2023, we co-created a successful disruptive action with the activist group [We Smell Gas](#) at the EU Hydrogen Conference in Brussels. This collaboration stemmed from our participation in the coalition to fight agrochemicals and fossil fuels. In 2024, we collaborated once again to hit the hydrogen industry during the same summit.

Together with [Fossil Free London](#) and with the support from the [BDS Movement](#), [Don't Gas Africa](#) and [Modatima Chile](#), we intervened in a creative manner to denounce Green Colonialism loud and clear. Activists "vomited" green liquid in the Conference venue, while informing participants on the ravages caused by export-oriented "green" hydrogen projects carried by European companies and backed by EU funding. Spokespersons were invited on stage and delivered a powerful speech, including statements from Palestinian and Chilean activists. This type of recurring international collaboration around a European gas event is a real pride for ASEED, as we are managing to successfully disrupt a large event, reach thousands of people through social media coverage (a video of the action reached 35,000 likes on Instagram) and work hand in hand with gas activists – bringing to light the topics of agriculture and synthetic fertilisers.

## Geef Tegengas camp & Action

In August 2024, ASEED played a key role in the [Geef Tegengas](#) action camp in Rotterdam. Just like the EU hydrogen week, this was the opportunity to bridge the gap between the anti-gas movement and food justice movements. On August 30, Yara was targeted by activists with a blockade at the production site in Vlaardingen. ASEED, [XR Zorgprofessionals](#), [Scientists Rebellion](#)

[NL](#) and Geef Tegengas combined forces to protest against them benefiting from fossil fuel subsidies, while [not paying any tax](#).



## 6 Food Autonomy Festival #8

Every year since 2017, ASEED has been organising the Food Autonomy Festival (FAF). Over the years, this event has grown from a one-day festival to a full weekend, with a decentralised event in Utrecht. During FAF, we gather to address the political struggles related to food and agriculture and strengthen our resistance to the corporate-controlled industrial food system.

*In 2024, as people across the world fought for their right to live, work and grow on their lands, for their liberation from oppressive and colonial entities, we found it particularly important to highlight the political nature of food and agriculture.*

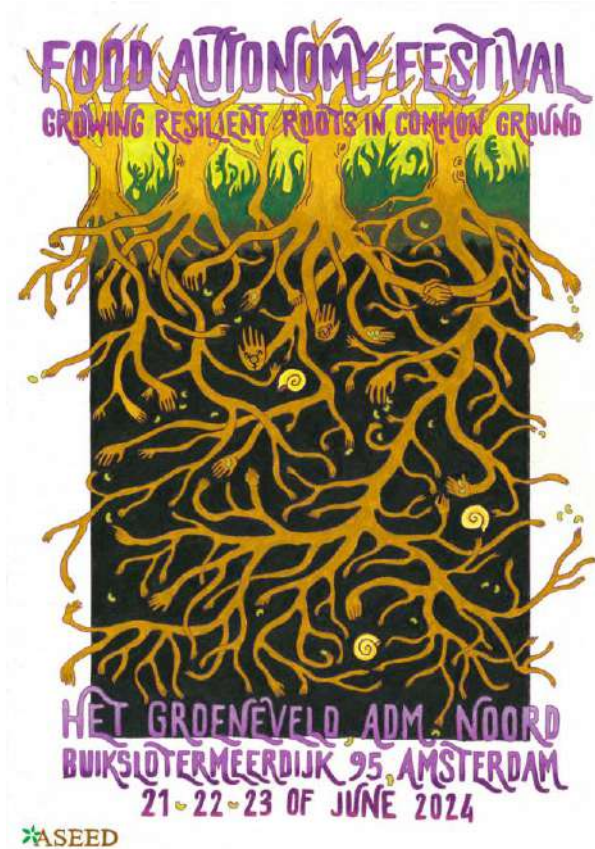
*With FAF, we want to create an open and accessible space for collectives, organisations, farmers, activists, artists, (young) academics, and anyone fighting for social and ecological justice. The FAF is designed as a space to share ideas, perspectives, knowledge and skills related to food, agriculture and social justice, and a moment to create new relationships and strengthen existing ones. The FAF is a space to share and learn from each other's struggles for autonomy as well as the struggles we face within our movements. A site of resistance, solidarity, and autonomy, where we challenge racism, sexism, coloniality, and oppression in all its forms.*

In 2024, FAF#8 took place on June 21–23 in ADM Noord/[Het Groene Veld](#), in Amsterdam.

### 6.1 Growing Resilient Roots in Common Ground

Under the main theme of “Growing resilient roots in common ground!”, FAF#8 explored three intersecting themes through open discussions, workshops, hands-on farming activities and cultural events: Strengthening social justice in our food systems, Building food autonomy in practice and Fighting agrochemicals, fossil fuels and corporate control.

In addition, FAF#8 offered an International Solidarity Space, presented in a [statement](#).



### Strengthening Social justice in our Food Systems

This first theme invited us to take a deep look at our food systems and movements with an intersectional lens, in order to answer together some questions: what does neocolonial agribusiness look like, who does it affect and what are its impact? How do various struggles for land, liberation, and self-determination connect and how can we support that? What space do marginalised populations and people most affected by climate change, industrial agriculture and systemic injustices have in our movement?

In order to reflect and allow us to share knowledge on this broad theme, the FAF#8 programme team has invited representatives from different collectives. Here are a few examples of sessions:



Info talk: **Boycott is Resistance – BDS Movement** and **Sit in 4 Palestine** presented the new boycott campaign against “Israeli” fruits and vegetables sold in the Netherlands.

**Panel: Weaving solidarity with land and liberation struggles** – representatives from different diaspora organisations and solidarity campaigns (**Utrecht4Palestine**, **FreeCongoNow**, **Avcollectief**, Sudanese Refugees Collective and Kurdistan Ecology Platform) gathered and exchanged around their work and their means of action. Together with the

audience, they explored how food, agriculture and land are issues are interwoven in every fight and every context.

Intersectionality in the farming world and the food sovereignty movement – [La Via Campesina](#) and [De Tuinen van de Egel](#) facilitated an interactive workshop to reflect on questions of access, privilege, discrimination and oppression (with a focus on gender and sexual diversity), within the farming world and the food sovereignty movement.

### Building Food Autonomy in Practice

Talking about food autonomy is a great thing, building it is even greater! In order to get more concrete, FAF#8 offered several workshops and sessions on the practical aspects of food autonomy. Here are some examples:

**How to organise agricultural land and farms as commons without private property?** —After some explanations on commoning lands with [Ackersyndikat](#), the facilitator answered questions and invited the participants to share their knowledge on the topic. This session also served as a networking place for people who wanted to start communing land

**Roundtable with young framers: collective farming projects and pathways to becoming a land worker** – Farmers from [CSA Tuinen van de Egel](#), [CSA Pluk!](#)) and [CSA Eetmeerbosch](#) joined a discussion partly guided by the questions from the audience. They presented their respective CSA projects and explored the shapes that concepts such as agroecology and economic solidarity can take when put into practice.

### Fighting Agrochemicals, Fossil Fuels & Corporate Control

Agrochemicals are a key element for corporations to control agriculture worldwide. By investigating this central issue and sharing information, NGOs and civil society actors are providing important tools to understand what is at stake for the future of our food systems. Besides agrochemicals, this FAF#8 theme allowed us to look at fossil fuels from a broader perspective and hear from struggles and questions of the anti-gas movement. Here are examples of sessions hosted at FAF#8.



**Agrochemicals: Perpetuators of the Fossil Economy** – by Lisa Tostado from [Center for International Environmental Law \(CIEL\)](#). After a detailed presentation on agrochemicals, their roles in the climate crisis and the so-called “green new solutions” marketed by big corporations, this session developed into an interactive activity with tasks participants could work together on.

**Geef Tegengas; Palestine solidarity & fighting gas in Rotterdam** – by [Geef Tegengas](#). This session was the opportunity to mobilise for the upcoming action camp against the liquid gas industry (LNG) in Rotterdam and highlight the connections between the gas industry and the genocide in Palestine.

## **6.2 Solidarity, Culture and Entertainment**

### **International Solidarity Space**

For ASEED, fighting for a just food system means fighting against all forms of oppression and domination. The organisation of FAF#8 has been greatly affected by the ongoing genocide in Gaza and developments of Palestinian solidarity efforts in Amsterdam. This is why we have decided to dedicate a space to support Palestinian resistance and solidarity, in which comrades and allies had the opportunity to go to talk, plan, think, and relax. Despite inviting people to organising their own trainings and discussions, or use the space in another way, we noticed that it did not happen. Instead, people participated in sessions tackling the situation in Palestine and highlighting corporations' role in the genocide. In hindsight, a separate space was not needed as many attendants were involved in the pro-Palestine struggle in the Netherlands or abroad.

### **Celebrating Togetherness**

In addition to the rich workshops and panel discussions programme, FAF#8 gave space to activism, music, storytelling and other activities for people to be together, create meaning, get inspired or just rest and regenerate. Among such activities, we can mention gardening with our hosts at the Green Ass Garden, and a solstice ritual with stinging nettles.

Like all previous editions, FAF#8 also invited groups to hold stalls with books, zines, seeds or information over their activities.



## **6.3 Continuously Striving for a Safer, More Accessible Event**

In 2022 ASEED started to set a stronger focus on accessibility by engaging in collective reflection and creation time on the topic of ableism; setting up a low-sensory area; having an appropriate children-designated area; providing detailed information on physical accessibility, language and translation, food allergens; gathering an awareness team. Two years later, we have learned a lot and educated ourselves further on conflict management, disability justice and economic accessibility. We built upon and improved systems and guidelines from previous years, paving the way for the next editions. Overall, our goal is to make the FAF – as much as possible – a positive and accessible experience for all participants.

For example, we worked on our Safer Space Guidelines together with our hosts. All people willing to take on an awareness role were invited to a day-long training, where participants learned tools to deal with difficult or delicate situations. Speakers and workshop givers were offered financial

compensation, with the option to redirect it to people who needed it the most in order to be able to share their knowledge. This Solidarity fund is the result of many years of experience, trying to find the fairest system to compensate FAF#8 contributors.

## 7 Looking Back, Looking Forward

*We would like to thank all the people, organisations and groups who have contributed to ASEED's activities in 2024: volunteers, participants, donors, funders and enthusiastic partners! This year, we would like to give special thanks to Lava for her graphic design work – also featured on the first page of this report. [Lava](#) has provided all the illustrations for the social media campaigns against Yara and the Global Fertilisers day, and once more created the FAF poster this year, giving ASEED both a unique and familiar graphic identity.*

### Towards 2025

In the last few years, we continuously collaborated with anti-gas activists and repeatedly joined international events in order to make industrial agriculture a key element in the conversation. This long-term commitment has proved to be fruitful and there is no reason to slow down in 2025. We will also continue to be a radical voice in the Dutch Agroecology Network, while getting our hands dirty, directly support small-scale farmers in the fields.

Our sustained efforts for structural funding lead to obtaining a grant from Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) for our “Towards Feminist Futures” project. Therefore, we will carry out activities supporting feminist grassroots organising within the movement for better food systems. The team has already deep dived into preparing a series of exciting events to equip and support young activists of marginalised genders with skills, knowledge and a solid network.

Given our fundraising coordinator's dedication to network with many foundations and apply to various grants, we have good hopes to obtain more grants in 2025 and therefore make our work more sustainable. While it is incredibly difficult to raise funds to compensate our staff and interns for their long hours of work, we believe it is possible and we'll keep on knocking at every door!

At the same time, ASEED will continue to welcome European volunteers in its team. For almost two decades now, people from all over Europe have joined ASEED for an official period of one year. Many of them have decided to stay connected to ASEED in one way or another. Some of them have become part of the staff, others still organise projects with us on a regular basis from the NGOs or the collectives they belong to. We have learned a lot from our volunteers, and we are proud of having introduced many people to (food) activism through volunteering at ASEED.

See you in 2025!