



Annual report 2018

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1. ASEED Europe in 2018

1.1. *Legal and general information*

Registered name:

A SEED Europe (Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Diversity Europe). Often, the organisation is simply called ASEED.

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1.2. *History and background*

ASEED Europe (Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment, and Diversity Europe) is an international campaigning organisation, giving importance to involving youth in direct democracy activities. ASEED Europe targets the structural causes of environmental destruction and social injustice.

We do this by campaigning on multinational corporations and their national and international influence spheres and control tools. At the same time, we promote sustainable alternatives. Currently ASEED Europe focuses on issues related to the global food chain: the decline of biodiversity in agriculture and the availability of seeds, genetic engineering and power concentration by global agri/biotech giants. The goal of our Fossil Free Agriculture campaign is to bring together the climate justice movement and the agriculture movement, to build a powerful emancipatory movement from below for a sustainable and just food system. In the recent past, we have been campaigning on the massive production and imports of soy, climate change and international financial and trade institutions.

ASEED 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 each hub has developed in its own way, working independently from each other.

ASEED Europe works with about eight people in the interactive office in Amsterdam, and together with many contacts in the rest of Europe and abroad on the following objectives:

- Initiating and coordinating actions and campaigns on environmental, development and social justice issues;
- Promoting discussion and disseminating information about critical emerging issues;
- 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;
- Preparing projects from the ASEED office and working with local grassroots organisations.

1.3. Mission statement

Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Diversity (ASEED Europe) believes that people have the potential to change their lives and communities for the better and we aim to support and empower both groups and individuals who are striving to do so. We believe that the roots of the ecological destruction and poverty which is ravaging our planet today can be traced back to the colonial and imperialist past when the populations and natural resources of entire continents were ruthlessly exploited.

We see today's profit-obsessed 'free' market globalisation which is fuelled by the increasing mobility of capital as a continuation of this phenomenon. Our campaigns are based on the need to act in solidarity with the millions of people in the Global South whose already precarious livelihoods are being ruined by unfair competition and disastrous privatisation programmes imposed by bodies like the International Financial Institutions and trade agreements in the name of 'free' trade and globalisation.

So far, globalisation has led to more inequality and the concentration of resources into fewer hands. ASEED Europe believes that everybody counts and that decisions that can make or break lives should be taken locally, not on the stock markets of New York and London or behind the closed doors of international financial institutions.

We support the rights of individuals and communities to determine their own lives and so we work with groups which promote local democracy and social justice as well as taking these principles as a starting point in our own campaigns. Our commitment to equality is reflected in our nonhierarchical working practices, whereby decisions are made by consensus.

One of ASEED Europe's most fundamental standpoints is that humans are a part of nature, not apart from it. Modern economic systems, regardless of their political hue, continue to regard nature as a resource to be exploited and recent treaties aimed at slowing down ongoing environmental degradation, climate change and the alarming loss of biodiversity are doomed to failure because short term economic growth is always given precedence over the long-term future of the planet.

It is imperative that we develop new, sustainable alternatives to our current consumption patterns. ASEED Europe's campaigns focus on exploring alternatives and networking with groups working to promote viable alternatives and sustainable development. ASEED Europe strives for the preservation of both cultural and biological diversity. We reject and work towards ending discrimination based on age, class, disability, gender, race, religious beliefs and sexual preference.

Vital tools that we use to realise our aims are the promotion of grassroots organisation, education, mobilisation and non-violent direct action so that people can act to achieve social justice and environmental integrity on both the local and global levels.

1.4. Financial information

As a non-profit organisation, ASEED relies on income from various sources such as project grants (European Voluntary Service, Patagonia, Lush Netherlands, Het X-Y Actiefonds, Alert Funds, Frederik Hendrikschool Actiepot...), contributions from participants at events and donations from private donors.

ASEED's financial overview for 2018 can be found [here](#) on its website.

1.5. Team and functioning

In 2018, 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 Voluntary Service (EVS), as part of the Erasmus+ programme; and interns who joined for a period ranging from four to seven months.

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.

'Permanent' staff list:

- Alex Reuter: financial administrator
- Philip Schols: campaigner & fundraiser
- Sonia Conchon: communication

| EVSers | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| September 2017 – September 2018 | September 2018 – September 2019 |
| Sarah (France) | Dea (Greece) |
| Louis (France) | Mandy (Germany) |
| Eduard (Spain) | Annie (England) |

In January 2018, ASEED welcomed a new team member, Philip Schols, as a new campaign coordinator and fundraiser. Philip has prepared and coordinated the launch of the new ASEED Campaign 'Fossil Free Agriculture' (FFA).

Interns: Mathilde (student in political science, France); Anna (student in Political science, France); Mattias (student in Environmental studies, Sweden); Julia (student in Social sciences, Germany).

Permanent staff members design and run the campaign, ensure continuity in ASEED's work and take care of all financial and administrative matters. EVS volunteers and interns all bring ideas, perspectives and working methods influenced by their diverse backgrounds. Their contribution to ASEED is invaluable, both on professional and personal levels.

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 EVS 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.

1.6. Board composition

The board members are the following:

- Anne Jessica Assehn – Chairperson – in the board since 04/07/2007
- Johanna Katharina Jager – Treasurer – in the board since 31/10/2006
- Tjerk Dalhuisen – Secretary – in the board since 27/10/2014

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

2. ASEED's campaign: Fossil Free Agriculture (FFA)

2.1. Background: why this campaign?

The FFA campaign 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. All of this contributes to a speculative global commodity market dominated by a small group of very powerful corporations.

The devastating consequences cannot be ignored any longer: runaway climate change, ecological collapse, impoverishment of farmers and the destruction of rural communities. While it claims the opposite, it is clear that fossil fuel-based industrial agriculture cannot feed the world, because it relies on a variety of finite resources and is destroying the very foundations of life itself: healthy soils, biodiversity, agricultural diversity, and a stable climate.

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. We need to unite and organise against these structures that lie at the root of our

problems! Our actions 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. Our goal is to help build a powerful emancipatory movement from below for a sustainable and just food system.

2.2. *Why the focus on Fossil Fuel Free Agriculture?*

By focusing on the use of fossil fuels in the corporate controlled industrial food system, we aim to expand the concept of climate justice to include agricultural justice. We do this by connecting the fossil fuel focused climate movement and the food sovereignty movements, while opening a conversation about the structural links between the agro-industry and the fossil fuel industry, and the major role it plays in the escalating climate, ecological and social crises.

What role does the Netherlands play in this? The Netherlands 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. To make things worse, this country is hosting a huge and ruthless industrial livestock industry and performs as a European hub for the distribution of genetically modified soy imports. On the political level, the Dutch government is enthusiastically promoting the intensification of industrial food production, harmful and undemocratic trade agreements and risky new GMO techniques. Taking action here, in our own back yards, is clearly both urgently necessary and of strategic importance.

Fortunately, the real solutions are already all around us: food sovereignty, agro-ecology and peasant agriculture, which feed the planet and cool the earth. Agro-ecological farms that produce local and seasonal food can promote biodiversity and soil health, use less water resources, are resilient for the shocks of a changing climate, offer the possibility to capture carbon in the living soil and can provide dignified compensation to farmers. We urgently need to dismantle the fossil fuel powered industrial food system.

We should also nurture people's connection with the food they consume, for example through food cooperatives and community-supported-agriculture projects. People that want to stay on the land or go back to the countryside should be encouraged and supported. Working alternatives to capitalism through cooperative, collective, autonomous, real-needs-oriented and small-scale production initiatives already exist and have to be expanded further. Industrial scale meat and dairy production have to be eliminated.

2.3. *Mission of the campaign*

Our goal is to help build a powerful emancipatory movement from below for a sustainable and just food system. By focusing on the use of fossil fuels in the corporate controlled industrial food system, we aim to expand the concept of climate justice to include agricultural justice, connecting the fossil fuel focused climate movement and the food sovereignty movements, while opening a conversation about the structural links between the agro-industry and the fossil fuel industry, and the major role it plays in the escalating climate, ecological and social crises.

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 for a speculative global commodity market dominated by a small group of very powerful corporations. The devastating consequences cannot be ignored any longer: runaway climate change, ecological collapse, impoverishment of farmers and the destruction of rural communities. While it claims the opposite, it is clear that fossil fuel-based industrial agriculture cannot feed the world, because it relies on a variety of finite resources and is destroying the very foundations of life itself: healthy soils, biodiversity, agricultural diversity, and a stable climate.

The impact of what we do here can be felt in many places, since the Netherlands 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, of which a quarter is coming from the Groningen gas field. On top of Yara more synthetic

fertiliser companies are active in the Netherlands. The greenhouse horticulture sector is also a major user of Groningen gas, consuming approximately 3 billion m³ per year to grow and export tropical flowers and tasteless tomatoes in winter. To make things worse, this country is hosting a huge and ruthless industrial livestock industry and performs as a European hub for the distribution of genetically modified soy imports. On the political level, the Dutch government is enthusiastically promoting the intensification of industrial food production, harmful and undemocratic trade agreements and risky new GMO techniques. Taking action here, in our own back yards, is clearly both urgently necessary and of strategic importance.

Fortunately, the real solutions are already all around us: food sovereignty, agro-ecology and peasant agriculture, which feed the planet and cool the earth. While large-scale agricultural production uses 70 percent of the global agricultural resources to produce only 30 percent of the total food supply, peasant-based food systems provide 70 percent of our food while using only 30 percent of agricultural resources. Agro-ecological farms that produce local and seasonal food can promote biodiversity and soil health, use less water resources, are resilient for the shocks of a changing climate, offer the possibility to capture carbon in the living soil and can provide dignified compensation to farmers.

We urgently need to dismantle the fossil fuel powered industrial food system. Instead, we should nurture people's connection with the food they consume, such as through food cooperatives and community-supported-agriculture projects. People that want to stay on the land or go back to the countryside should be encouraged and supported. Working alternatives to capitalism through cooperative, collective, autonomous, real-needs-oriented and small-scale production initiatives already exist and have to be expanded further. Industrial scale meat and dairy production have to be eliminated.

While individual consumer choices and reducing food waste are important, alone they will not be capable to address the problems of industrial agriculture because the causes are systemic. 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. We need to unite and organise against these structures that lie at the root of our problems!

2.4. *Activities under the FFA campaign*

The FFA campaign was crafted after long internal exchanges, research on the topic and discussions of possible collaborations with groups from Germany and Denmark. After that step, we have organised several open campaign meetings in order to present our action plans and to welcome people who wanted to join our team and activities. Short-term and long-term strategic goals were set. Such a process helped to define a clear structure in which ASEED's current and future projects/activities could benefit each other in the framework of FFA. We decided to organise all 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 Reclaim the Seeds and the Food Autonomy Festival fell under the campaign umbrella.

2.4.1. *Main FFA activities and events*

Reclaim the Seeds in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Leuven

Reclaim the Seeds (RtS) started in 2012 as a protest against the new EU seed legislation. It is an annual event where the exchange of seeds and information is combined with discussions on political themes and practical workshops, each time in a different region. The goal is to get more and more people involved in the fight for agricultural biodiversity and a robust, sustainable food production.

In 2018, three decentralised events took part in different cities: Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Leuven (Belgium). In the previous years, RtS was organised in one Dutch city, and since 2016, in Flanders as well. In each city, a local group of motivated volunteers usually gets busy with logistics, communication, fundraising and other important tasks, together with ASEED team members.

Decentralisation is a very welcome development: the attendance was high everywhere, confirming that events and spaces to discuss and practise food sovereignty and seed saving are very much needed! In addition, and just like the previous years, these events contributed to the development of seeds saving networks in the Netherlands and Belgium.

ASEED took a major coordination role for the events held in Amsterdam and Rotterdam, and helped with the coordination of RtS in Leuven. As usual, visitors could access RtS for free or for a tiny fee (€3 in Leuven), but they gladly contributed with a donation when they could.



On Saturday February 24th, RtS took place in Rotterdam. This edition was organised together with ERGRoeit, an annual festival about urban agriculture, in the BlueCity building. It used to host the 'subtropical swimming paradise' Tropicana. Now, BlueCity welcomes various circular and sustainable initiatives: visitors had the opportunity to take a tour in the building to discover them.

As usual, RtS boasted a rich workshops and lectures programme – for example about participative breeding, composting and off-grid living. 'The 15th Garden' lecture made a deep impression on the audience: Ansar Hevi presented a network of urban farms and community gardens in bombed Syrian cities. RtS Rotterdam attracted about 1500 visitors and 60 stall holders, thanks to a well-coordinated team of 30 volunteers.

On March 3rd and 4th, the second RtS event took place at the Fruittuin van West, a biodynamic orchard, café and organic store located in the west of Amsterdam. Just like RtS Rotterdam, the Amsterdam edition included a seeds market, a seeds exchange table, lectures and workshops (on industrial agriculture and big seeds corporations, alternative food systems, patenting...), as well as hands-on activities. Visitors could join one of the tours around the orchard and the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm Pluk!

On Sunday, a bike demonstration left the Fruittuin van West to reach De Boterbloem, another organic farm situated nearby on the Lutkemeer polder. De Boterbloem is threatened of eviction for the construction of a distribution centre. This protest was an opportunity to inform participants about the history of the Lutkemeer polder, which is home to the last arable organic land within the city limits of Amsterdam. More information on this struggle and on the Behoud Lutkemeer platform follows below.

Finally, on Saturday March 10th, Velt held RtS in Leuven as part of its Velt-Markt. It was the third time that RtS took place in Flanders. Before 2016, Velt was already a loyal participant in RtS events in the Netherlands. More than 1000 people came to get and swap seeds among a huge array of heirloom varieties!

After these three events, the ASEED members who have been involved in organising RtS for the past six years decided to stop. Therefore, it is not clear if there will be a large RtS in the spring of 2019. The good news though is that we received positive and constructive reactions from other people we have been working with in the past years. A quite concrete plan for at least one future RtS emerged, and there may be more regional seed fairs. In Flanders, people had already decided to work on a next RtS.



Free the Soil international campaign preparation

'Free the Soil' (FtS) is a campaign to expose the devastating practices and impacts of industrial agriculture and the major role this industry plays in the escalating climate crisis. FtS provides information, calls to action and aims at organising a mass civil disobedience action and camp to denounce industrial agriculture and the synthetic fertilisers industry. The action and camp are planned in 2019.

The Danish collective KlimaKollektivet launched and started promoting FtS in 2017. ASEED members spotted flyers in Bonn during the People's summit organised in parallel of the COP 23. It was then busy and difficult to meet the people who were spreading them, but we got in touch and started exchanging in the first part of 2018. The Code Rood action camp and mass action 'Genoeg is Genoeg' organised at the end of August in Farmsum, Groningen, was the perfect opportunity to connect more with KlimaKollektivet and other activists interested in joining FtS.



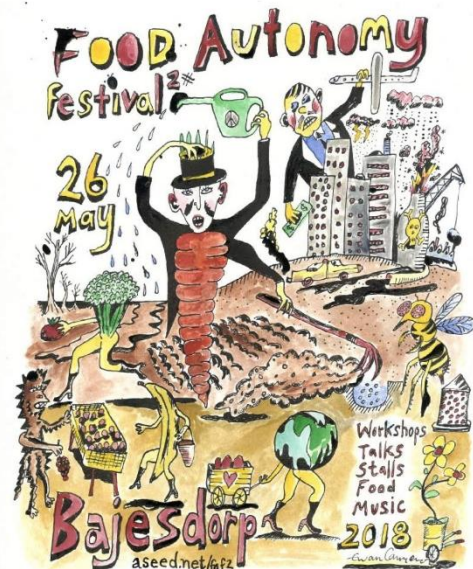
From this point, the FtS Coalition gathered Danish, German and Dutch organisations and started to organise international plenary meetings. ASEED members took an important role in coordination, as well as in several working groups.



All grassroots organisations and collectives involved sent representatives to meetings every two months in different locations in Germany. In the course of this preparation period, it was decided to set the target of the mass action on Yara, a Norwegian fertiliser company with facilities in the north of Germany. At the end of 2018, the FtS coalition was already a well-structured community. Individuals and groups then felt empowered to continue organising working groups and plenary meetings – using an intersectional approach – towards the mass action and camp in 2019.

Food Autonomy Festival #2

On May 26, the second Food Autonomy Festival (FAF) took place again in the Bajesdorp community, in Amsterdam. The FAF is about presenting and celebrating alternatives and resistance to the state and corporate-controlled industrial food system. The theme for this second edition was 'Grassroots alternatives for a fossil-free food system'. Three panel discussions gathered speakers from various local and European collectives or initiatives, while hands-on workshops allowed participants to directly practise different activities related to food autonomy.



The first panel discussion was about 'Food Sovereignty & Agroecology', with speakers from Italy (CISVTO), Spain (Revista Soberanía Alimentaria) and Amsterdam (De Stadsgroenteboer). A second discussion took place under the theme 'Supporting autonomous spaces' with comrades from the ZAD Notre-Dame-des-Landes (France), ADM (Amsterdam) and farmers from the organic farm De Boterbloem. The third panel discussion was about 'Agriculture & Climate Change': it included speakers from KlimaKollektivet and ASEED, who presented both campaigns Fossil Free Agriculture and Free the Soil. Together with the audience, they discussed alternatives to the massive use of synthetic fertilisers, as well as means to address an issue relatively unknown for the general public.



In addition, several practical workshops took place around food autonomy themes: agroforestry, mushroom cultivation, rocket-stove building, edible garden planning and more...

Throughout the day, different collectives and individuals hold stands to provide information, seeds, food and drinks... Contributors were Paper Jam, de Vrije Bond, Kokke-Rellen, Sexy Seitan, Code Rood, CityPlot, ASEED, Food Cycle, ADM, Healthy and Affordable, Persvrijheid, in

addition to a collective seed and seedlings swap table. Lunch was served by Taste Before You Waste!, and dinner by Guerrilla Kitchen. Both collectives are collecting and cooking food that would be otherwise wasted. Because they use meals and social activities to raise awareness on food waste and solidarity, ASEED has often been joining their activities and inviting them to its events.

ASEED wants to thank all participants: speakers, stall holders, workshop facilitators, cooks, vegetable choppers, bar folks, seed swappers, musicians, funders (Alert!, Frederik Hendrikschool and WG) and everyone else who participated in this edition of the FAF! And of course, we warmly thank all volunteers as well as the people living in Bajesdorp for hosting us and making this event possible.



Participation in Code Rood action camp in Groningen

ASEED has supported the Code Rood camp and action against gas extraction in Groningen, which took place in the last week of August. More than 700 people blocked the entrance of the NAM tank park in Farmsum (municipality of Delfzijl), disrupting the gas extraction in Europe's largest gas field. Together with the Klimakollektivet, ASEED also organised a presentation about agriculture and climate change as part of the programme at the camp.

Save De Boterbloem and the Lutkemeer polder

The Lutkemeer polder is located on the western edge of Amsterdam: it is a gorgeous green area, sandwiched between company terrains and Schiphol airport. In this important ecological place, sits the farm De Boterbloem. It is the only remaining organic farm on arable land within city limits. For generations, the Hoogendam family has taken care of the fertile clay soil and produced a variety of food crops.

Despite the pressure of big money, the Lutkemeer polder has been kept as it is for the span of decennia. However, the pressure is increasing rapidly. Schiphol Area Development Company (SADC) would like to start the construction of a business park there, despite the fact that maintaining the Lutkemeer polder is still on the agenda of the municipal council. If this happens, then SADC would cause irreparable damage.





In July, owner Trijntje Hoogendam received a message from the SADC: the land had to be delivered clean as of November 1st in order to begin the construction of phase 2 of the Lutkemeer III business park. This, while the area dedicated to the first phase of this site is far from full! In addition, the Osdorp district had announced in 2009 that it did not want to start the construction of phase 2 before phase 1 was fully completed. The problem is that most of the arable land has been owned by the municipality of Amsterdam since 1953, and that a few years ago in the Lutkemeer zoning plan, the use of the arable fields was changed into an industrial estate. SADC says it is still

sitting around the table with De Boterbloem. They still see a future for De Boterbloem: the yard can be preserved and given an urban agriculture function. But it would be agriculture without land to grow food.

Urban agriculture and locally produced food are more than ever before in the spotlight. At the Fruittuin van West, just north of De Boterbloem, anything is possible: organic orchards and garden houses have been created and the municipality is very proud of this. It is a shame that a family farm – very popular in the neighbourhood – that has been producing local food for over a century is being swept aside by the same municipality. The municipalities of Amsterdam and Haarlemmermeer, the province of Noord-Holland and Schiphol are the shareholders of SADC in equal parts. This means that maintaining the polder is a matter of political willpower.



Naturally, ASEED supports this local struggle and got involved in the Behoud Lutkemeer platform since the issues of access to land, land grabbing and farmland destruction are at the core of what we do. It is not only in the Global South that farmers are pushed away from fertile land for short-term profit! As long as the fields are not destroyed, the battle is not lost and ASEED will fight along farmers and other activist groups.

Between 14 and 16 September, the action camp 'Kampeer in de Lutkemeer' took place on the threatened area to highlight the struggle, and to share information on sustainable alternatives for the Lutkemeer polder. ASEED members contributed to organisational tasks, and gave a workshop on the relationship between agriculture and climate change.

2.4.2. Other activities related to the FFA campaign

Ongoing contribution to the Monsanto Tribunal

In 2016 and 2017, ASEED actively participated in the organisation of the [Monsanto Tribunal](#). The panel of international judges delivered a legal opinion on the environmental and health damage caused by the multinational. This contributed to the international debate to include the crime of ecocide into international criminal law. It also gave people all over the world, especially victims, a well-documented legal file to be used in lawsuits against Monsanto and similar chemical companies. In 2018, several ASEED team members and volunteers kept on producing regular newsletters and social media content in English, French, Spanish, German and Dutch for the MT supporters.

STOP NIEUWE GENTECH



NET'S of Nieuwe GOED!
Het is niet alleen de kwaliteit van de producten die belangrijk is, maar ook de manier waarop ze worden geproduceerd. Het is belangrijk dat we weten waar onze voedsel vandaan komt en hoe het is geproduceerd. Dit is de reden waarom we ons inzetten voor een beter voedselstelsel. We willen dat de productie van voedsel eerlijk, gezond en duurzaam is. We willen dat de boeren een goede prijs krijgen voor hun producten en dat de consumenten weten waar hun voedsel vandaan komt. We willen dat de natuur beschermd wordt en dat de dieren goed worden behandeld. We willen dat de voedsel veilig is en dat er geen schadelijke stoffen in zitten. We willen dat de voedsel lekker is en dat we er plezier in hebben om te eten. We willen dat de voedsel gezond is en dat het ons helpt om fit te blijven. We willen dat de voedsel betaalbaar is en dat iedereen er toegang toe heeft. We willen dat de voedsel duurzaam is en dat het de aarde niet schade aanricht. We willen dat de voedsel eerlijk is en dat iedereen er een beetje van krijgt. We willen dat de voedsel gezond is en dat het ons helpt om fit te blijven. We willen dat de voedsel lekker is en dat we er plezier in hebben om te eten. We willen dat de voedsel gezond is en dat het ons helpt om fit te blijven. We willen dat de voedsel lekker is en dat we er plezier in hebben om te eten. We willen dat de voedsel gezond is en dat het ons helpt om fit te blijven. We willen dat de voedsel lekker is en dat we er plezier in hebben om te eten.

Translation and distribution of the ‘Stop New GMOs’ brochure for the Dutch audience

The international farmers’ movement La Via Campesina released a [brochure](#) about new genetic engineering technics. It explains 12 reasons why new GMOs must be stopped. New GMOs are currently developed by the big agro-industry seeds companies and framed in a smart way to avoid falling under the existing European and national GMO regulations. Together with Toekomstboeren, ASEED translated and distributed the brochure to other Dutch-speaking collectives and organisations for dissemination in the Netherlands and Belgium. We also presented and distributed the brochure in events like Reclaim the Seeds, the Food Autonomy Festival and action camps.

Nieuwland info-night series

Starting in September 2018, the ASEED team launched a series of info-night events at the social-political centre Nieuwland, in Amsterdam East. Each night started with a solidarity meal cooked by the ASEED team and volunteers. It was followed by a discussion, a workshop or a movie screening on the theme of seeds, food sovereignty and agroecology. These events were also good opportunities to present our FFA campaign and activities, and to attract new participants from various backgrounds – especially students.

Climate Justice Action network meeting in Amsterdam

In February 2018, the international Climate Justice Action (CJA) network meeting took place in Amsterdam, precisely in the building where our office is located. ASEED helped with hosting the meeting during the whole weekend and participated in all the activities that took place. The CJA network meeting was the chance to start presenting our new FFA campaign as well as Free the Soil. As always, it was a weekend filled with fruitful discussions with other grassroots groups focusing on environmental and social justice: a perfect opportunity to create and strengthen connections and coalitions across Europe.

Mahatma Gandhi Plantsoen: a blooming neighbourhood garden

Just a hundred metres away from ASEED’s office, a small garden has been started thanks to an active inhabitant of the neighbourhood and some motivated ASEED team members. The ‘Mahatma Gandhi Plantsoen’ has been equipped with a large ‘worm hotel’ after discussions with the municipality, while volunteers prepared the plot and created vegetable beds. ASEED started organising a weekly gardening day open to everyone. Over time, it attracted regular volunteers who greatly contributed to transforming a somewhat neglected green plot into a lush vegetable garden and a pleasant meeting point.



Coordination of a Dutch delegation to join Ende Gelände

ASEED coordinated transport by bus for Dutch activists to join the international Ende Gelände camp and series of actions in Rhineland, Germany, against lignite extraction. In October, a group left the Netherlands to participate in the annual actions and protests alongside 5,000 people. Over the course of the years, Ende Gelände grew to become a landmark action and gathering for European climate activists. It is also the perfect place to spread information about the links between climate

change and agriculture (through workshops, discussions, materials...).

Towards 2019

In 2019, ASEED will continue to maintain and develop fruitful relationships with various collectives and organisations from the Netherlands and Europe who value solidarity, grassroots empowerment and true sustainability. The FFA campaign will remain ASEED's priority, with a focus on the Free the Soil mass action and camp in Germany, the Boterbloem/Lutkemeer polder struggle and the third Food Autonomy Festival. ASEED also plans to emphasise the issues of land grabbing, direct action and intersectionality in the food system in all its future activities.

We would like to thank all the people, organisations and groups who have contributed to ASEED's activities in 2018: volunteers, participants, donors, funders and enthusiastic partners. See you in 2019!