

ANNUAL REPORT

2009 – 2010



Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment & Diversity

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INTRODUCTION

About A SEED Europe

A SEED Europe (Action for Solidarity, Environment, Equality and Diversity Europe) is an international campaigning organisation, giving importance to involving youth in direct democracy activities. A SEED Europe targets the structural causes of environmental destruction and social injustice. We do this by campaigning against multinational corporations and their national and international influence spheres and control tools. At the same time we promote sustainable alternatives. A SEED Europe targets the structural causes of environmental destruction and social injustice. Currently A SEED Europe focuses on issues related to the global food chain and climate change: genetic engineering, soy monocultures, power concentration in the hand of global agro/biotech giants, agrofuels and meat consumption.

A SEED was established by young engaged people in 1991, in response to the UNCED Earth Summit proceedings in Rio de Janeiro, with the aim to forge alliances among young people committed to social and environmental justice.

A SEED Europe works from the interactive office in Amsterdam 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 training, joint projects and knowledge sharing;
- Establishing partnerships between various organisations and groups worldwide and facilitating international cooperation and networking;
- Preparing projects from the A SEED Europe office and working with local grassroots organisations.

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A SEED IN 2009 - 2010

Ever since the outset climate change has been a central concern of A SEED campaigns. Where in the past A SEED covered mobility issues and World Bank investment in fossil fuels, the focus has turned to the tremendous impact of industrial agriculture on the climate. The corporate takeover of the food chain, energy-intensive crops, global trade and the meat industry have all added to agriculture becoming a wasteful energy-consuming rather than -producing activity, pushing small farmers off the land and destabilising food security. In 2009 and 2010 A SEED continued campaigning on agriculture and food production as major factors affecting global injustice and climate change. Food sovereignty was set as a long term goal.

The soy to meat production chain combines huge profits for a few in a highly concentrated market, gm crops, toxins, global trading, landgrabbing, deforestation, animal cruelty, GHG emissions and represents an unprecedented waste of resources and energy. This production model is a recurring A SEED action target. In 2009/10 this was manifested in the Pig tour: a tour of sites of future megastables in the Netherlands and the east of Germany, where local communities are resisting the expansion of the meat industry. The heavily industrialised Dutch agriculture environment – major exporter of meat and the world's second largest importer of GM soy for animal feed - adds to the urgency of activity in this area.

A SEED's RTRS – Don't Buy the Lie campaign kicked off in 2010, targeting the system of self-regulation by the soy & meat industry and their greenwashing of unsustainable practices.

2009 was of course the year of the Copenhagen Climate Summit COP 15, and A SEED used this opportunity to place the issue of agriculture on the climate agenda in Copenhagen. System change not climate change is the answer, instead of the technofix solutions and emission rights swindle as proposed by the industry.

Dutch Minister of agriculture Verburg represented a strong lobby for biotechnology and the biotech fairyland referred to as the 'Knowledge Based Bio-Economy' (KBBE), where

progress is fuelled by intellectual property rights and patents. In 2009/10 a conflict of interest developed between the invasive multinational seed companies and Dutch conventional seed breeders, about new European patenting law versus breeders rights (BPR). A SEED stepped in with a project promoting seed independence and biodiversity as the vital alternative to GMOs and industrial seeds, joining the European No Patent on Seeds coalition in their efforts. In spring 2010 A SEED toured around the Netherlands with a presentation about seed monopolies and the central role of the Monsanto corporation.

A SEED CAMPAIGNS

SOY CAMPAIGN

A SEED's soy campaign questions large scale soy production in South America and supports sustainable and local food production in Europe. The campaign has the following goals:

- 1) To inform the general public about the social and ecological effects of the massive soy production in Latin America; land conflicts, violence, rising pesticide use, GMOs, deforestation, erosion and loss of food sovereignty.*
- 2) To link the issue with meat production and consumption in Europe; most of the soy is used as animal feed in Europe (and China). This meat industry creates animal cruelty and pollution by over-fertilisation.*
- 3) To stop the current certification processes; nature conservation organisations and some NGOs, together with companies, are creating criteria for so called 'responsible soy' that are unacceptable for local peasants and don't question the current export-volume neither the use of genetically manipulated seeds.*
- 4) To give direct support to local initiatives which oppose the soy expansion by giving international attention to their struggle, doing solidarity actions in Europe and raising money.*

Linking meat production to climate change

In the running up to the UN Climate Summit in December 2009 in Copenhagen, the attention for climate change grew, both in the media and in the environmental and social justice movements. The effects of meat production on the climate had always been one of the important arguments in our campaign. So far most attention in the climate movement went to coal power plants and emissions from transport. These are indeed important

polluters that need to be opposed, but meat production alone is responsible for at least 18% of global greenhouse gas emissions (2009 figures). This is the message we wanted to include in the climate movement, and we wanted the media to pay attention to this issue. We wanted to link our meat-industry campaign with climate change and the growing climate movement.

During the pig tour of the Netherlands and Germany in May/June 2009 climate change was used as a major argument against the expanding meat industry. The Campaign Project called 'Linking the struggles against new mega pig stables in Germany and the Netherlands' involved a series of meetings with local action groups in both countries, and a street theatre event in the local town followed by a public information event and discussion in the evening.

Von Felt zum Ferkel

Für ein andere Landwirtschaft und Konsumption



soja voor vlees...? ...tijd voor actie!

www.aseed.net

The objective was to connect the struggles of local groups in both countries. A SEED's role was to add to local activist arguments against megastables such as pollution, smells, animal suffering a global dimension. Apart from discussing the impact on climate

caused by the soy- meat production system, we showing filmed footage from the Paraguayan 'soy hell', with local farmers directly addressing Europeans.

Linking climate change to industrial agriculture

Just before the August climate action camp in the Antwerp harbour A SEED published the article “The Climate Problem is a Food Problem” with background information and facts on this issue. During the climate camp A SEED organised workshops informing activists about the strong link between agriculture and climate change.

So far no group or organisation in Europe within the grass roots mobilisation for the UN Climate summit in Copenhagen, had taken on the agriculture issue, and A SEED was to fill the niche. This involved creating and moderating an email list, contacting organisations and volunteers. At the end of October there was a preparation meeting in Copenhagen. A SEED went there to help with the coordination of a full week of events and actions and to make sure the agriculture issue had a prominent place in the protests. All this work resulted in a broad mobilisation and a very active week in Copenhagen. A SEED’s goal was to make agriculture part of the radical climate discourse.

Soy campaign public activities in chronological order

2009

February 21: Amsterdam manifestation:

VEKO climate cafe A SEED info stall and speaker.

March 20, Amsterdam: A SEED's info-event on soy and the pig industry in social centre Molli's.

April 17, De Betuwe: Guerilla gardening on mega-stable building site

On the International day of farmers struggles A SEED Europe and friends descended on the site of one of the most controversial pig farms in the Netherlands, in support of the

locals that have been fighting the project for years. To local objections against animal suffering, smells, air pollution and traffic we added a global dimension. Our message is that pig factories are industries and not farms, and are mainly owned by managers and investors, not farmers. The action day was fully supported by the Via Campesina network.



More info on

http://www.aseed.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=681&Itemid=211

May 19, Zeist: Protest action against greenwashing by World Wildlife Fund



The head office of WWF-Netherlands received some extraordinary visitors, including a weeping panda, a Monsanto circus director, and various people in white overalls spraying "Roundup". The action is a protest on the occasion of the upcoming vote of the Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS), on 28 May in Campinas (Brazil). This forum will allow GM RoundupReady soy to be certified as 'responsible', while in reality, this soy

is responsible for massive use of pesticides as well as deforestation and driving small farmers away.

May/June: The pig tour of the Netherlands and Germany



May 20: Vroomshoop (Overijssel, NL), Problem: plans for three new pig farms (22,000, 19,000 and 24,000 pigs in an agricultural development area (LOG). Meeting with the local citizen group 'Vroomshoop geen Mesthoop'

May 30-31: Appelscha (Fryslân, NL): Presentation and discussion at meeting of environmentalists and activists, info stall

June 1-2: Alt Tellin (Mecklenburg, D): Meeting with the local citizen group. Filming on the spot where a stable for 80,000 pigs had been planned. Preparation of

street theatre and the rest of the tour.

June 3: Greifswald / Medow (Mecklenburg, D). Presentation and discussion to get people interested in Alt Tellin protests. Street theatre

June 4: Demmin (Mecklenburg, D). Street theatre, presentation and discussion to get people interested in Alt Tellin protests

June 5: Neubrandenburg (Mecklenburg, D). Street theater, presentation and discussion mobilising locals for Alt Tellin protests

June 7-8: Berlijn (D). Presentation and discussion. Street theatre at huge Environmental festival

June 9-10: Templin/Hassleben (Brandenburg, D). Plans for reusing old DDR stable (67,000 pigs). Street theatre, presentation and discussion with citizen group

June 11-12: Immenrode (Thüringen, D) Problem: already 60,000 pigs, plans for new stable with 20,000 more. Street theatre, presentation and discussion with citizen group.
Street theatre

June 13-14: Alkersleben (Thüringen, D) Problem: building works for stable for 22,500 pigs had just started. |Street theatre, presentation and discussion with citizen group. Street theatre

June 19-20: Grubbenvorst (Limburg, NL) Problem: plans for new stable for 35,000 pigs + plus a plan for 1,3000,000 chicken. Presentation and discussion with citizen group.
Street theatre

June 24-25: Sterksel (Noord-Brabant, NL) Problem: plans for two stables for 6,000 pigs each next to each other. Street theatre, presentation and discussion with citizen group

Full report can be found on

http://www.aseed.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=692&Itemid=211

May 28, Amsterdam

A SEED was invited to speak on GM-soy expansion in Latin America during a land occupation protest in Amsterdam, next to the famous Paradiso venue. The A SEED/Sojamata photo-exhibition, featuring peasant protest, repression and children with Roundup-related birth defects, was on display. The photos were made by an A SEED intern investigating the impact of GM soy expansion in Paraguay. The event was co-organised by the Dutch/Latin-American youth and solidarity organisation Ojala.

May 30, Pinksterlanddagen, Appelscha

At the traditional annual resistance gathering in the Northern countryside A SEED had an info-stall and hosted a film and a debate session about the soy and pig industry, mobilising people for the pig tour.

August

For the climate action camp in the Antwerp harbour A SEED published the article “The Climate Problem is a Food Problem” with background information and facts on this issue.

During the climate action camp in the Harbour of Antwerp A SEED organised workshops about aspects of the agriculture-climate issue and initiated and coordinated a public info action at a big supermarket in the Antwerp city centre, where the meat department was symbolically closed down and leaflets were handed out. Outside tasty climate friendly food was offered to shoppers.



Read more on

http://www.aseed.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=698&Itemid=117

October 12: Amsterdam protest

A SEED joined Ojala on the Day of Indigenous Resistance in Latin America (a.k.a. Columbus Day). International solidarity with the indigenous people resisting the soy invasion was expressed in the embassy quarter of Amsterdam, where the A SEED photo exhibition on Paraguay formed a visual presentation of the protest against modern day colonialism.

Oct 17, Utrecht

On international World Food Day A SEED and the toxic soy campaign held a protest action at the office of Schuttelaer & Partners. This communication agency organised a debate called 'Goed te eten in 2050' on food security. A SEED protested with flyers against the

infamous PR-company that paved the way for the introduction of RoundupReady GM soy in The Netherlands.

October 28, Brussels: International climate protest in Brussels at the Business Europe Conference

Business Europe is the largest industrial lobby group in Brussels, and includes heavy climate offenders like Shell and BASF. A SEED supported the protest organised by the Climate Alarm Action Group (from France, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands) by supplying information and participating. Dozens of costumed activists have blocked all access to the Charlemagne Building in Brussels, next to the Commission's HQ, where Business Europe, the EU lobby of bosses and industrialists, were to hold their conference on Copenhagen and climate change and to hear Barroso self-congratulate himself on green capitalism. Belgian activists retort: Our Climate Ain't None of Your Business! Activists held the building for two hours.

Read more on <http://www.climate-justice-action.org/news/2009/10/28/breaking-news-from-european-quarter-in-brussels-our-climate-not-your-business/>

October - November 25: Petition and email action against GM soy greenwash

In response to a joint call by the toxicsoy.nl action group and A SEED the Dutch government received more than 10.000 protest emails against greenwashing GM soy. The petition asking the Dutch government, the World Wildlife Fund and Solidaridad to stop their support for the Round Table for 'Responsible' Soy was presented to the Dutch Minister of Agriculture Verburg at the international conference on social economic aspects of GMOs in The Hague on November 25. Activists outside of the conference venue were dressed up as circus artists. Conference goers had to jump through the hoop held by a minister Verburg look alike, in order to enter the venue.

November 25 and December 1, Amsterdam: Soy film viewing

Video letters from Soy Hell Central a.k.a. Paraguay was shown along with the documentaries Mother Earth and Killing Fields (see www.feedingfactoryfarms.org) and live reports of the latest updates on the soy struggle. The screening took place in the film

evening on Wednesday in Joe's Garage and at Earth First! night in Cafe Molli Chaoot.

COPENHAGEN COP 15 Climate Summit and international protests

December 11: Don't

Buy the Lie.

Day of street actions in front of company office buildings in Copenhagen, where companies were presenting their greenwash activities. Agro-companies got special attention, Monsanto in particular.

December 12: The Big Demo

Within the anti-capitalist "System Change, not Climate Change" block

there was a sub-block from international peasant organisation La Via Campesina and friends.

December 13: 'Mistica' organised by La Via Campesina

Street protest in front of the offices of the Danish intensive meat industry organisation. Small farmers and peasants oppose the big European pig- cow- and poultry industry. It is not only disastrous for the climate, the huge imports of animal feed are ruining small farmers.

The solutions being discussed by the UN Climate Conference continue to allow big energy consumers to pollute with impunity while paying others to implement projects supposed to capture carbon. They do not address the huge social and ecological depth owed by the industrialized countries to the countries of the Global South. The current food system is responsible for over 32% of the greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time the practices of agri-businesses make millions of small farmers loose their land and livelihood. It is unfair to use the benefits that small farmers provide to the environment as an excuse to keep polluting as usual.

CLIMATE JUSTICE NOW
In the South forests are cut down and peasants are cleared from their lands so vast monocultures can be planted in order to produce soy, maize and palm to feed European livestock. In factory farms in Europe, overfed animals produce methane and waste, using huge amounts of energy.

INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE IS HEATING UP THE EARTH
The key issue is the concentration of power into the hands of a few powerful profit-driven corporations which are trying to dominate the world's food production and distribution systems. This imbalance has been created through food and agriculture policies which promote trade liberalisation and the globalisation of the food economy for the profit of the few.

TRANSNATIONAL AGRIBUSINESSES HAVE NO PLACE IN OUR FUTURE!
We want to transform the current damaging and highly exploitative food system, and create a pattern of food production based on the needs and rights of local communities rather than exploitation and greed.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY NOW
Small scale (sustainable) farming remains the best way to combat hunger, malnutrition and the current food and climate crises, while native seeds provide the capacity to adapt to the climatic changes already upon us

SUSTAINABLE PEASANT FARMING COOLS THE PLANET
The UNFCCC has failed to question the current economic model based on infinite growth on a finite planet - We do not expect solutions from those who created the problems in the first place.

SYSTEM CHANGE, NOT CLIMATE CHANGE!
WWW.CLIMATE-JUSTICE-ACTION.ORG
MORE INFO: CLIMATE-ACTION@RSEED.NET

December 15, Agriculture Action Day: a demonstration of about 1000 people in the centre of Copenhagen



A nice flyer had been printed in Danish and English to explain the issues to the people in the streets. On the route some actions took place. The first one at Danisco, a large Danish food processor, aimed to criticise the way they greenwash their activities. The second stop was at a Netto supermarket, pointing out their bad labour conditions and unsustainably produced products. The next target on the route was a Shell station. Just like other oil companies Shell is adding agrofuels/biofuels to their petrol, a fake green solution that does not reduce the emission of greenhouse gasses. The demonstration ended at the square in front of the same building where the Via Campesina action took place on the 13th. With 20 million pigs Denmark is Europe's second producer of pork. Banners were hung on the building and Killing Fields, a short movie about the production of soy, was screened on the square.

After the demonstration there was the Angry Mermaid Award ceremony at the KlimaForum. The 'worst climate lobby award' went to Monsanto for greenwashing their gm-soy and for presenting monocultures dependent on a huge pesticide use as a climate friendly alternative that should deserve carbon credits. A SEED participated in the other climate protest activities during COP15.

December 23, Amsterdam: Copenhagen protest evaluation organised by A SEED in Joe's garage Amsterdam about the action days, agriculture action and Danish repression.

GMOS AND SEED DIVERSITY

The A SEED GMO-network includes action groups, citizen's initiatives, politicians and policy makers, farmers, and farmers-, youth- , student - and environmental organisations in the Netherlands and in Europe. Some are active on local or regional level, others on national or international level. A SEED's sees its role to attract public attention to controversial issues outside the public discourse. Over ten years now we have campaigned on GMOs and the controversial GMO mono-crops in the global South in relation to sustainable alternatives. A SEED organises film nights and debates, presentations, on- and offline publications (www.aseed.net, www.gentech.nl, www.gentechvrijezones.nl, www.lasojamata.net, by distributing news and updates through mailing lists as well as organising public demonstrations and actions. We have succeeded to encourage local debates on GMOs in agriculture. The site gentech.nl was initiated by a broad coalition of NGOs including the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals, Greenpeace, ICCO, Oxfam Novib and Friends of the Earth Europe. The site is hosted by A SEED and has between five and nine thousand visitors a month. A SEED is a member of the European network of GMO-critical organisations GENET, using and exchanging news and information on GMOs in Europe.



A SEED's GMO campaign goal was to unite Dutch activists and other concerned citizens in a grass roots action movement against GMOs which helps to prevent weakening of the EU restrictions on GMOs. The project included:

- 1. Grass roots movement building*
- 2. Linking up with international activists*
- 3. Spreading the message from the Global South*
- 4. Political alliance building*

Actions against revision of the GMO approval procedures, of which the Dutch are a firm proponent, were not our direct first priority, as it would be hard to motivate and mobilise enough people for effective action at this level. Most activists are convinced actions against the government are rather pointless and it is more effective to turn to the companies involved directly. Hence the initial focus on Monsanto and other seed giants

consolidating their hold on the Dutch (vegetable) seed sector.

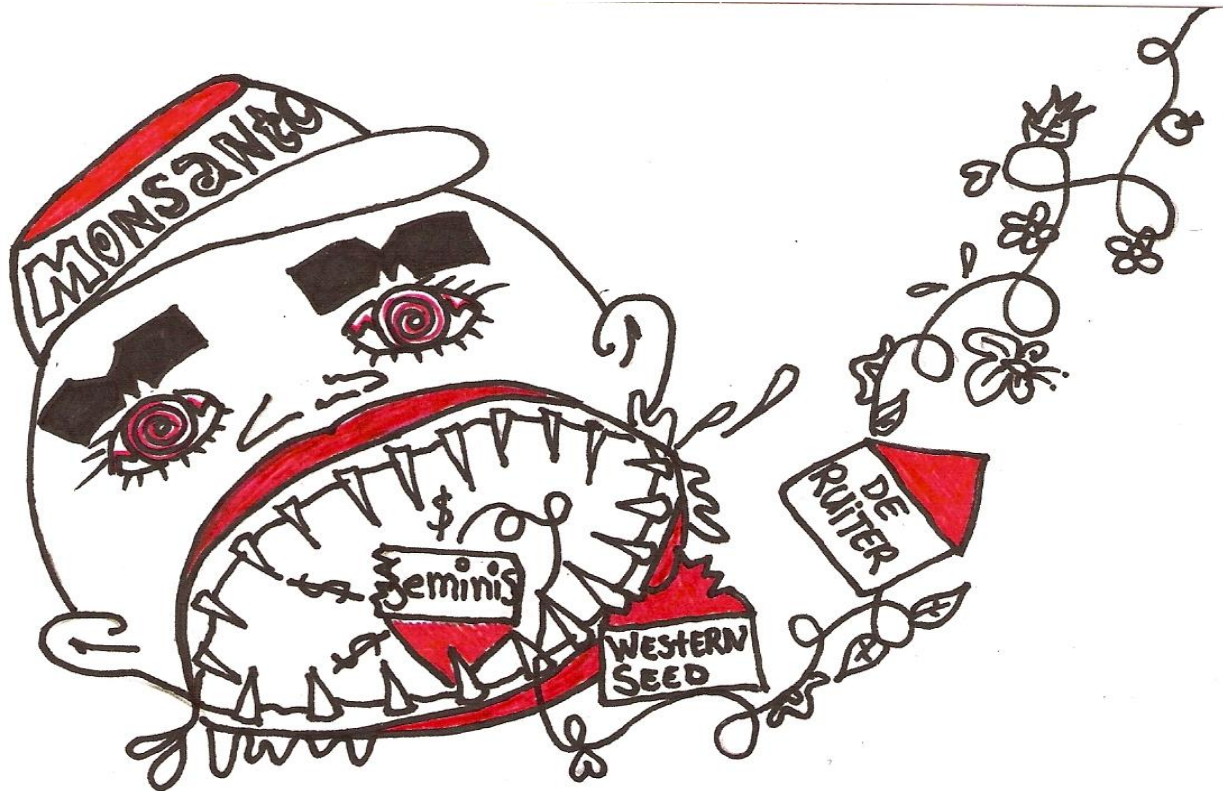
Throughout the project we have actively supported and advised the Nijmegen GMO-free zone group. We also advised the Friesian Greens on their proposal for a GMO-free Friesland. We continued to support the efforts of the group 'Social Initiative' to unite Dutch and European anti-GMO citizen network. A SEED also continued to host the Dutch GMO-critical website www.gentech.nl and the GMO-free zone section on our website, and distribute regular newsletters with compilations of the latest Dutch and international GMO news.

*In order to spread the message from the global South, in particular from the communities that suffer from the GM soy invasion of South America, we organised viewings of *The Killing Fields*, *The World According to Monsanto* and *LaSojamata* interview videos. We also distributed the *Toxicsoy* newsletter and several documentary DVDs (*LaSojamata*, *Future of Food*, *Gen Zoekt Boer*).*

*Campaign information and protest events addressed the consolidation of the Dutch agriculture seed sector, targeting the global agro-corporation Monsanto and the issue of patents versus breeders rights. One reason is that in 2009 an interesting rift developed between pro-patent multinational companies and the Dutch breeders sector that favour breeders' rights. IPRs are a crucial vehicle for neoliberal trade monopolisation. Another reason for picking this issue was that in The Netherlands – a major global vegetable seed producer – there is still little public awareness of the consequences of the privatisation of seeds. And although seeds are the very source of our food supply, no other Dutch NGOs are active on addressing this topic or publicly campaigning on seed issues. Important was the opportunity to hook up with two international seed campaigns, *No Patents on Seeds* and the *Liberate Diversity* coalition.*

The influence of multinationals on worldwide food production is on the rise, and the seed trade is a clear example. A handful of mega-corporations - with Monsanto way ahead of the others - is monopolising the global seed market. At the same time the European government is working on new legislation concerning intellectual property rights on food, plants and animals and on the introduction of new GMO crops into Europe. In spring 2010 the A SEED Seedy Business info-tour toured the Netherlands and Belgium. The programme combined food, film, a presentation and debate on the rapid expansions of seed multinationals, local alternatives and the growing seed diversity movement in Europe. We covered the new EU policies and proposals and the consequences for the food we eat, and gave an impression of the emerging local and international movements that are

organising independent food production and distribution: from urban gardeners and local food coops to action groups.



A 16 page brochure titled "You will reap what you sow" on the issue was produced in Dutch and English and is still available in print and online. Brochure can be found on http://www.aseed.net/pdfs/Monsantosizing_brochure_nl.pdf

A scientific report on the subject of seed monopolisation and legislation was commissioned by the Dutch government. Early in 2010 the Dutch parliament discussed this report "Veredelde zaken", and the situation of the seed industry in the Netherlands, as major global supplier of vegetable seed. The report focuses on two protection methods for intellectual property used in the plant breeding sector, patenting and breeders' rights. The report concludes that patent law not only limits access to genetic resources but also to the market and hence increases power concentrations in the breeding sector. This restricts innovations in plant breeding and supply of (new) varieties and thus constitutes a direct threat to food security.

Resigning Minister of Agriculture Verburg and Minister of Economic Affairs Van der Hoeven propose in their response to the report a tightening of the requirements for patents on plant characteristics. In addition, they want to stimulate discussion on this subject in Europe. Plantum (the Dutch association for seed companies), LTO, Biologica and social organisations such as Greenpeace and A SEED find this proposal inadequate. As a

leading plant breeding country the Netherlands has an important position in this debate and therefore can and should play a leading role within Europe. Plantum advocates a breeders' exemption to be included in the European Biotechnology Patent Directive, and (98 / 44 / EC). Biologica, Greenpeace and A SEED take it a step further and want the European legislation to be adjusted so that no patents on plant traits or genes are possible. A SEED was one of the organisations that was consulted by the Dutch Parliamentary Committee on this issue.

Farmers' organisations from around the world, breeders, UN institutions as well as development and environmental organisations have repeatedly raised concern about the increasing monopolisation of seeds and farm animals via patents over the last few years. The loss of independence and rising indebtedness for farmers, a reduction of plant and animal diversity, and ever higher constraints for breeding and research activities represent some of the most worrying impacts of this trend. But despite these alarming experiences so far no legal measures are in sight to stop this trend. A SEED actively promoted the "Stop Monsantoizing animals and food" petition online and during the 2010 Seedy Business info-tour in response to the Global alert from the No Patents on Seeds! Coalition.

GMO and seed diversity campaign - chronology of public activities

2009

**February 5, Utrecht:
Seminar on GM free Zones
in the Netherlands**

**organised by A SEED, and
Biologica (Dutch organic
producers' organisation)**

Participants included local
policy makers, farmers,
citizens, organisations.

Speakers were policymakers,
political advisors and



campaigners from French, German, Belgian and Basque GM-free zones and the chairman of the European GM Free Regions network.

May 19, Amsterdam: GM info night

Gentech action-info night by A SEED in Moll's neighbourhood centre.

June, Germany and the Netherlands: 'Genfrei gehen'

A SEED participates in and facilitates the Dutch part of a GM-free protest walk from Berlin to Brussels.

GENFREI GEHEN

GENFREI GEHEN

Avondmanifestaties langs de route:

In de steden Leipzig, Weimar, Marburg, Bonn, Maastricht zullen er telkens avondmanifestaties plaatsvinden:

Leipzig: Vrijdag 26.06
 Weimar: Dinsdag 30.06
 Marburg: Zaterdag 11.07
 Bonn: Zaterdag 18.07
 Maastricht: Vrijdag 24.07

Programma van de avondmanifestaties:

Verwelkoming en inleiding door Joseph Wilhelm
 Voordracht met verschillende verantwoordelijke ombudsen
 Vertoning van de film "Uit de hand gelopen leven" van Bertram Verhaag
 Wagenuur met Joseph Wilhelm en gasten

Grote openingsmanifestatie in Berlin op 18.06.09 aan het kasteel Charlottenburg vanaf 11 uur met Vandana Shiva, Percy Schmeisser, Felix Primz zu Löwenstein, Christoph Fischer en vele anderen; daarna start van de eerste etappe om ca. 12.30 uur naar Grunewald.

Grote slotmanifestatie in Brussel op 30.07.

Meer gedetailleerde informatie over de locaties van de manifestaties vindt u op onze website:
www.genfrei-gehen.de of telefonisch: +49 8330 5291408.

Programma- of trajectwijzigingen op korte termijn blijven voorbehouden.
 Actuele info via www.genfrei-gehen.de

Dag	Datum	Etappe	km
Donderdag	18.06	Berlijn - Grunewald	14
Vrijdag	19.06	Grunewald - Templiner See	29
Zaterdag	20.06	Templiner See - Neuendorf/Brück	27
Zondag	21.06	Neuendorf/Brück - Kranepuhl	24
Maandag	22.06	Kranepuhl - Wittenberg	32
Dinsdag	23.06	Pausedag	0
Woensdag	24.06	Wittenberg - Reinharz	24
Donderdag	25.06	Reinharz - Schönwolkau	29
Vrijdag	26.06	Schönwolkau - Leipzig	23
Zaterdag	27.06	Leipzig - Rippach	29
Zondag	28.06	Rippach - Naumburg (Saale)	26
Maandag	29.06	Naumburg (Saale) - Eberstedt	28
Dinsdag	30.06	Eberstedt - Weimar	23
Woensdag	01.07	Pausedag	0
Donderdag	02.07	Weimar - Erfurt	26
Vrijdag	03.07	Erfurt - Gotha	26
Zaterdag	04.07	Gotha - Eisenach	30
Zondag	05.07	Eisenach - Dankmarshausen	28
Maandag	06.07	Dankmarshausen - Oberrode	27
Dinsdag	07.07	Oberrode - Schorbach	28
Woensdag	08.07	Schorbach - Speckswinkel	30
Donderdag	09.07	Pausedag	0
Vrijdag	10.07	Speckswinkel - Amöneburg	25
Zaterdag	11.07	Amöneburg - Marburg	20
Zondag	12.07	Marburg - Hommershausen	26
Maandag	13.07	Hommershausen - Hainchen	26
Dinsdag	14.07	Hainchen - Offhausen	28
Woensdag	15.07	Offhausen - Windeck Hurst	29
Donderdag	16.07	Rosbach - Süchterscheid	26
Vrijdag	17.07	Süchterscheid - Hoholz	25
Zaterdag	18.07	Hoholz - Bonn	12
Zondag	19.07	Pausedag	0
Maandag	20.07	Bonn - Friesheim	28
Dinsdag	21.07	Friesheim - Düren	27
Woensdag	22.07	Düren - Aachen-Brand	29
Donderdag	23.07	Aachen - Gulpen	23
Vrijdag	24.07	Gulpen - Maastricht	18
Zaterdag	25.07	Pausedag	0
Zondag	26.07	Maastricht - Piringen	28
Maandag	27.07	Piringen - Wange	31
Dinsdag	28.07	Wange - Korbeek-Lo	28
Woensdag	29.07	Korbeek-Lo - Tervuren	24
Donderdag	30.07	Tervuren - Brussel	15

Op deze locaties vinden er manifestaties plaats.

Genfrei gehen
 Genvrij wandelen

Geef de genlobby de rode kaart - ga mee!
 Mars voor een gentechniekvrije wereld

1000 km in 38 etappes
 18 juni - 30 juni 2009
 Start Berlin - bestemming Brussel

August 30, Amsterdam: Film night

A SEED shows the film 'The World According to Monsanto' to members of the Vokomokum food cooperative.

November 2, Amersfoort: GMO infonight

Infonight organised by A SEED with films Gen zoekt Boer, Boer Kok and an introduction to the Belgian Food Teams movement.

November 25, Driebergen: Market stall on Food for Life event

Seminar and film viewing ('The Farmer and the Gene') by A SEED on GMOs in Dutch agriculture.

November, Amsterdam: Porto Alegre info+benefit night for Portuguese field liberators Verde Eufemia at Joe's Garage

December 14, Nijmegen: The launch of a new initiative against GE in food

Citizens for GMO free food. This platform for critical consumers (and companies) wants to make a powerful statement towards to municipal council: "We want a GMO free Nijmegen!!" The group set up a petition and organises public actions and information evenings. Read more on <http://gentechvrijvoedsel.nl/> A SEED involvement: advisory, information, strategy.

In **2009** A SEED actively spread the **AVAAZ 'Facts Not Crops'** petition which succeeded in getting one million Europeans to propose a ban on GM food until independent research has been done.

2010

March 27, Almere:

A SEED visualised what the future may look like, when world's largest seed company Monsanto will check growers for the presence of suspicious crops and prevent them from using patented seeds or accuse them of patent breach. A SEED staged a 'patent inspection' by the so-called Monsanto *Crime Seed Investigation Unit*, during the national horticulture promotion day



in Almere, drawing attention to the risks of patents on food crops. The aim of this theatrical action was to draw attention to the international campaign 'No Patents on Seeds' and promoting the 'Stop Monsantoizing Food' petition against applying patent law on seeds and animals in the Netherlands.

The 'Seedy Business' info tour consisted of 12 events in the Netherlands and Belgium, was linked to the European 'No Patents on Seeds' campaign and the European 'Sowing the Future Harvesting Diversity' network.

April 6, Amsterdam- Groenfront Infocafe, De Molli - Seed info night and debate.

April 7, Emmen - Huize spoorloos - Vega info and debate.

April 9, Den Bosch - AktieKantine Knoflook - Organic food, info- en discussion night.

April 11, Groningen - Hunzerheem flat - Vegan food/info cafe and film night.

April 16, Eindhoven - De Omslag, Workshop on sustainable development - info-debate event.

April 17, Gent, Belgium - Annual alternative Book fair – A SEED stand and creative text writing workshop with slogan factory Loesje on the themes of food and manipulation.

April 29, Rotterdam - Transition Town Cafe - organic vegan food and info-event.

May 1, Wapserveen, De Hobbitstee - info-night and presentation of seed project.

May 3, Amsterdam - Joe's Garage vegan benefit - food, seed presentation and debate.

May 11, Den Haag - Gezonde Gronden / Permaculture DH information- and education-centre - info-event.

May 12, Zwolle - Het Zwarte Water– info-event and debate.

May 21-24, Appelscha - Workshop & info stand op Pinksterlanddagen 2010, traditional annual info and activism fair. A SEED contributed to the program of the annual Dutch anarchists gathering Pinksterlanddagen with discussions not only seed monopolisation but putting it a wider perspective of food sovereignty.

June 2, Nijmegen - De Klinker – soup cafe and info-event.

May 17: Successful blockade in The Netherlands

About 40 persons of the action group 'Roundup Monsanto' blocked both gates of the Monsanto seed company in Bergschenhoek (near Rotterdam). 'Roundup Monsanto' wants to call public attention to the dominant position of Monsanto in the seed market, and demands an end to patents on seeds and living organisms. Monsanto and other agro-chemical multinationals are actively lobbying the Dutch government and the EU for legislative changes that would make it easier for large companies to take control of the seed market and food production.



The blockade took place at a department of De Ruiter Seeds - acquired by Monsanto in 2008 - which houses laboratories, offices, greenhouses, and a central storage for seeds and seedlings. An action on this scale in this area of interest is unprecedented in the Netherlands and several participants claimed to have been inspired by the A SEED campaign

on the issue. The event got extensive media coverage*(proof) in the agricultural world. The effect of the action was amplified as it coincided with an occupation of a Monsanto conference in Madrid by Via Campesina sympathisers.

July 20, Munich: Burning patent issues - protest at the European Patent Office

On Tuesday the 20th of July 2010 patents and patent applications on sunflowers, melons, broccoli, cows and pigs went up in smoke as demonstrators outside the European Patent Office (EPO) in Munich used their truly innovative Patent Burner. Several hundred individuals and representatives of farmers' organisations and NGOs from around the world gathered to protest against the EPO and against the patents the EPO are issuing on plants and animals. That day was the start of the hearing by the highest EPO Board of Appeal against controversial patents on conventionally bred broccoli and wrinkled tomatoes. A SEED participated and reported on the protests and the European conference 'Patente auf Saatgut – am Wendepunkt?' on July 19th.

The petition "Stop 'Monsantosizing' food, seeds & animals", against patents on food, seeds and animals was signed by tens of thousands of people throughout Europe. A SEED actively promoted the petition in the Netherlands.

August, Liege (Belgium)

A SEED gave workshops and participated in discussions at the Climate Action Camp in Liege, Belgium. A SEED also helped organise a public action blockading an airport where fresh food is normally flown in from warm countries. The camp served to expand the cooperation between A SEED, the Climate Justice Action movement and the European Reclaim the Fields Movement.

August, Groen Front Summer Gathering

Biotechnology and agriculture workshop by A SEED.

16.-18. September 2010, Brussels and Ghent: International GMO-free Conference and demonstration

During the opening of the Conference on European GMO-free regions at the EU parliament, an instructional workshop by the Faucheurs Volontaires (Voluntary Field Liberators) took place on the Place du Luxembourg, under the watchful eye of the police. A SEED initiated and co-organised this international Field Liberation demonstration, where farmers and activists from several countries liberated a 'cornfield' that had been erected on the green outside the EP building. The Brussels environmental minister was one of the

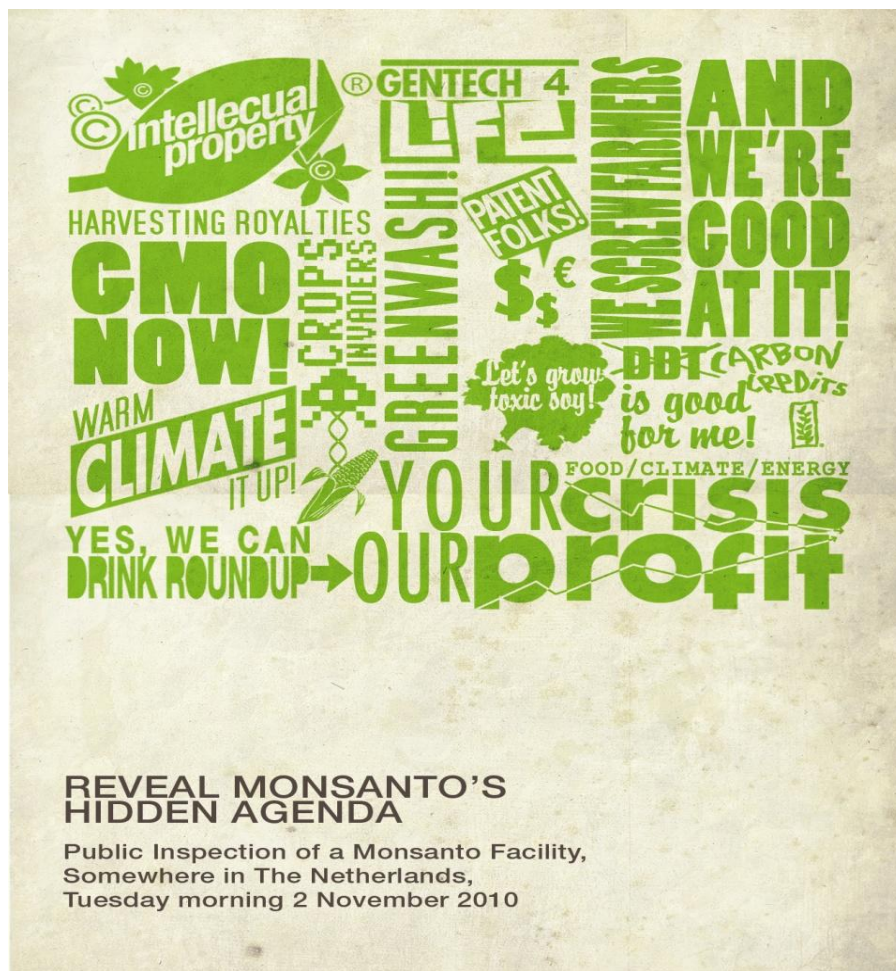
prominent participants that advocated cutting out GM corn, and afterwards officially declared the Brussels region a GMO-free zone.

The Conference of GMO-Free Regions included 300 representatives from 37 countries, representing formal and informal GMO-free regions, GMO-free initiatives and activists on related issues from all over Europe. Breeders and seed exchangers, farmers, bee-keepers, GMO-free traders, processors and retailers as well as consumers, critical scientists and environmental activists met during the conference. The participants critically discussed the new GMO policy of the European Union, which was presented to them by EU Commissioner John Dalli. A SEED along with activists from all over Europe discussed how to best support each other and arranged to meet during the winter and again at a spring 2011 action in Belgium.



November 2 – Enkhuizen: Seed Valley infonight and citizens' inspection

Around thirty climate conscious citizens paid a visit to the main premises of international agri-chemical giant Monsanto in the Netherlands. The aim was to find clues about the company's hidden agenda. The inspection was prompted by suspicions about the company's new claims to feed and fuel the world, which somehow do not match Monsanto's current atrocious human rights and environmental record. Regional papers and radio stations and several agriculture magazines reported extensively on the public inspection.



The action was a response to the "It's down 2 Earth" international summit in The Hague'. During this summit international politicians meet with the leading agri-businesses, in a blatant promotional event for bio-technological corporate 'solutions' to climate change. Instead of going to The Hague to protest, A SEED decided to draw attention to the real but hidden agenda of biotech-giants in Enkhuizen, the heart of the Dutch 'Seed Valley'. We organised a lively local debate evening in the centre of Enkhuizen, attended by many (former) workers from the seed industry, the biggest employer in the region. The event centred on the developments and take-overs in the seed industry, the implications for agrodiversity and the relation between industrial farming seeds and climate.

November 23, Amsterdam: Biodiversity protest

The conference 'Biodiversity: Opportunities for a new economy' took place at Artis in Amsterdam. A SEED Europe made a line to protest against biopiracy and patenting parts

of nature. "Big multinationals that make business with biodiversity, that always boils down to privatising parts of it, for profit," says Linda Coenen of A SEED. "But the conference does not question the idea of reducing nature to a commodity and the societal consequences that this has." A SEED



handed out a pamphlet with this message to the 100 conference participants. Many expressed understanding for the criticism and shared our concerns; one of the keynote speakers even used our leaflet's content in his speech.

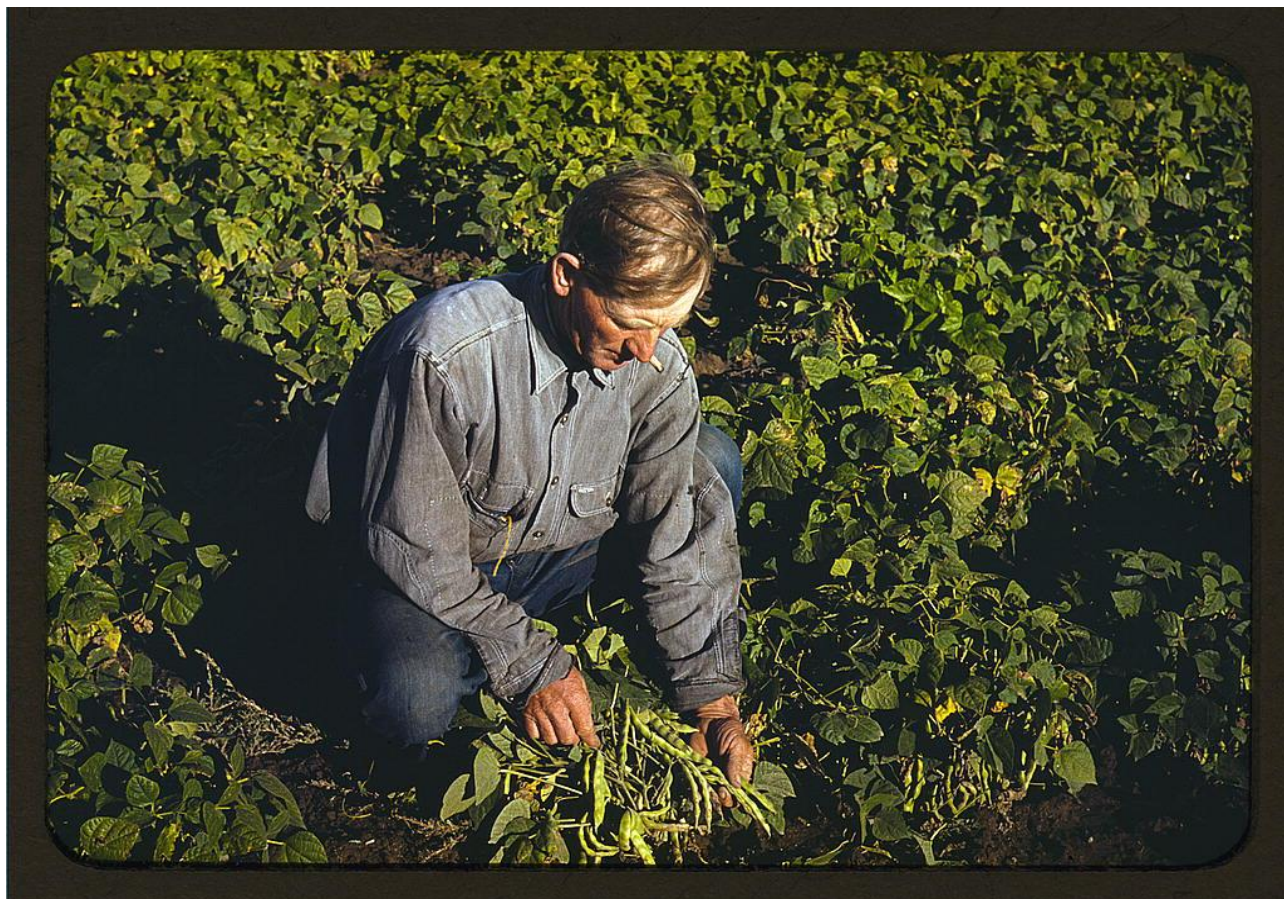


November, Zwolle

The discussion in agricultural area round Zwolle restarted after the Gen zoek Boer tour and campaign activities leading to an attempt by farmers to organise debate on GMOs, with A SEED participation but proponents cancelled.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND THE VERSVOKO PROJECT

A SEED actively participated in creating alliances and co-organising a Dutch food sovereignty platform of around 40 organisations including farmers, NGOs, agriculture students, independent journalists, experts and researchers called Platform Andere Landbouw PAL. Aim is to formulate our common goals and combine forces to influence the process and direction of the new European Common Agriculture Policy. The long-term goal is to replace global agro trading with regional markets, to replace the agro-industrial model with sustainable agriculture. A SEED's role in this platform is to stress the importance of creating local food sovereignty on grassroots level, independent from governmental policies. National meetings took place in October 2010 and February 2011. Strategic visits of potential local action groups and local campaigners took place throughout the summer of 2010. In 2010 A SEED started the Versvoko project, which sets out to make food sovereignty possible by establishing consumer groups in the Netherlands that buy their vegetables and fruit directly from nearby farmers. Official website of the project: www.versvoko.nl.



The Versvoko Project

Introduction

A growing number of people are aware of the downside of the current industrialised food system in the West: climate change, pollution and soil erosion through monoculture agriculture. Many experts have claimed that this system of food production is vulnerable to the negative impact of climate change and dependent on fossil fuels. Related to climate change are crop diseases and pests, lack of diversity, crop failure due to extreme weather, drought, and floods. The system mainly benefits large corporations, while smallholder farmers are losing in the extremely competitive global market. Farmers' incomes have decreased, while costs keep rising and increasing amounts of farmers can no longer make a living from what they produce.



In many developing countries agricultural land is now used for export crops, which has a negative effect on local food provisions, while the push for more land leads to deforestation. These are problems that are caused by the modern food system, which is increasingly complex and global. Food miles push up the price of food, the price consumers pay goes mainly to processing and retail industry instead of to the farmer that produces the food. Many consumers recognize these problems and are prepared to change their consumption patterns. The market share of organic produce is growing. But the majority of people are ignorant of where their food comes from or which food is in season.

Aim and means

The aim of the Versvoko project is to start at least ten self-organised consumer groups that regularly supply the members of the group with locally produced, sustainable fresh food.

The aim is that these initiatives are at the forefront of a national network of such 'food teams' and will function as a pilot or model for expansion of the network, so that eventually the project can make a substantial contribution to solving climate change, environmental and social-economic problems described.

Transition Town de Pijp was at the end of the project period the first new group that started buying food straight from farmers around Amsterdam. A small group of five people made a start: they arranged contact with farmers, a location for the food initiative, created a task division and then sent around news releases and flyers to invite more people to join the initiative. The group started with 23 participants and has since had a bi-weekly distribution of local fresh food. Several other groups were in the process of finding members and sustainable farmers by the end of 2010. The project will finish in March 2011. Project involves setting up a step by step guide to starting your own Versvoko.

Versvoko preparations: *listing of alternative food projects in the Netherlands and keeping contact with Belgian Food Teams network and alternative Dutch food distributors.*

Contacting potentially interested groups:

Transition Town groups, food coops, urban gardeners or short chain food. A versvoko website, flyer, posters and brochures were produced. To promote the initiative, A SEED participated in third party events on food and organised info-events at primary and secondary schools in Amsterdam and Rotterdam.

National Versvoko exchange days had been scheduled to take place in 2011, offering the possibility to meet, exchange opinions and experiences, evaluate the A SEED versvoko-project and the future of Versvoko's in the Netherlands.

Food sovereignty and the Versvoko project - chronology of events

A SEED organised 16 information nights in different regions of the Netherlands and informed interested groups about the possibilities of Versvoko, encouraging them to start their own groups on the following dates:

21 June, 2010, Gezonde Gronden, Den Haag

28 August, 2010, Omslag, Eindhoven

5 September, 2010, Boerenstadswens, Amsterdam

6 September, 2010, Plantage Doklaan, Amsterdam
13 September, 2010, Gemeentehuis, Broek en waterland
17 September, 2010, Transition Town Rotterdam,
21 September, 2010, Transition Town de Pijp, Amsterdam
30 September, 2010, Montessori Lyceum, Amsterdam
2 October, 2010, Hobbitstee, Wapserveen
3 October, 2010, Transition Town, Tilburg
18 October, 2010, ACU, Utrecht
16 November, 2010, OT301/De Peper, Amsterdam
20 December, 2010, Joe's Garage, Amsterdam Oost
6 January, 2011, Vrouw en Vaart, Amsterdam Nieuw-West
15 January, 2011, Transition Towns NL meeting, Utrecht
28 January, 2011, Transition Towns Groningen, Groningen
17 February, 2011, Vrije School, Den Haag



August 6, 2010, Amsterdam / Quincy Massachusetts: Attacking Ahold squeezing tomato pickers

The internationally famous Church of Stop Shopping held a service in the centre of Amsterdam together with Supermacht.nl (an action group against supermarket monopolies), IOKA (labour rights of migrant workers) and A SEED. From the steps in front of the Albert Heijn supermarket Reverend Billy's words thundered with hope and inspiration, as he spoke of salvation from Albert Heijn's greed and exploitation. Stop Shopping, his eternal message resounded, Stop buying the fruits of slavery. Amen. Shoppers and tourists reacted with disbelief to the spiritual enlightenment on offer during the Friday afternoon rush hour.

WISE Food project

Two young international volunteers join the ranks of A SEED for one year and get a chance to get the know all they want to about the issues we deal with, about community organising and working and living in an international environment. They develop work experience and practical skills and finding out which kind of work and which content suits them best. The WISE food project involves cooking and eating together, combined with presentations on where our food comes from. Events happen in Amsterdam neighbourhood centres – getting to know the local community, as well as in other parts of the country. The food info events are incorporated into our campaign work and also include information about past and present A SEED campaign issues.

WRAPPING UP THE A SEED WORLD BANK DISINVESTMENT CAMPAIGN 2000 – 2009

A SEED Europe has been after the World Bank for more than ten years now. It all started with the preparation for the World Bank summit in Prague 2000, evolved in the World Bank Bonds Boycott campaign Europe (www.wbbeurope.org) and peaked in the ‘Stop-DUTCH-Taxpayers'-money going to IDA’ initiative.

The Disinvestment campaign

The World Bank Bonds Boycott campaign, originally part of a global initiative with groups in the US and Global South, and later named “the Disinvestment Campaign”, was resumed early in 2008. Its strategy is based on the notion that the incomes of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Finance Corporation, part of the World Bank, depend for 100% on the sale of bonds on the international financial markets. The institutions which purchase them should be therefore aware of the Bank's enormous footprint on the world environment and poor countries' economies.

Latest research suggests that 38% of World Bank bonds end up in Europe, 26% in the Americas, 18% in Asia and 18% in the Middle East. On average central banks purchase about 64% of the Bank bonds, followed by fund managers (18%), corporate banks and pension funds¹. The Toolkit includes schemes illustrating that most of the World Bank bonds are actually bought with public money or peoples' pension savings.

An important Bank innovation is the so-called green and climate bonds. The so-called “certified emission reduction (CER) linked bond” came on the market in 2008, enjoying a huge demand among investors. Return on the CER bond, released in September 2008, for example, is linked to the future volume and market prices of certified emission reductions issued by a “bio-energy project in Malaysia”². Another example is the “green bond”, issued by the Bank in November 2008 in response to the increasing investor demand. The “green bond”, released with the aim of gathering funds for climate change mitigation and adaptation in poor countries has been already purchased by the UN and Swedish pension funds³.

Finally, using the disinvestment campaign amidst the roaring financial crisis will not

¹<http://treasury.worldbank.org/Services/Capital%2bMarkets/News+for+Investors/October12008.html>

²<http://treasury.worldbank.org/Services/Capital%2bMarkets/News+for+Investors/CO2LBond2nd.html>

³<http://treasury.worldbank.org/Services/Capital%2bMarkets/News+for+Investors/GreenBondsIncrease.html>

be an easy exercise. IFI bonds are among the few remaining safe, or 'triple A' rated, financial products which pension funds and banks can put their money into, while alternative investment opportunities with the same level of risk and return do not abound.

Nevertheless, the divestment strategy achieved a lot (see <http://wbbeurope.org/disinvestors.php>) and should be considered as a direct and influential tool for putting direct pressure on the World Bank for radically changing its policies. A detailed description of it can be found in the Divestment TOOLKIT (<http://wbbeurope.org/downloads/world%20bank-toolkit-en.pdf>)

The IDA campaign

The last year and a half the World Bank campaign at A SEED Europe focused entirely on getting the Dutch government out of 'producing' conditionality dependent development aid. The campaign involved supporting a World Bank Hearing in Den Haag and submitting a petition calling for redirecting Dutch development aid from the World Bank until economic conditionalities are thrown out the door. The campaign concluded with a report, making a critical assessment of the World Bank's use and definition of 'economic conditionalities'. (http://www.aseed.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=604&Itemid=235)

A long way still to go

The termination of the World Bank campaign at A SEED Europe in no way implies that the global all-embracing mother of all public banks, overseeing and leading the policies of all development banks and institutions in the world has been neutralized. The Bank is playing a major and dubious role in climate change debates, emissions trading and reduction, while pouring billions into oil multinationals.

Most importantly, while many would say that the world financial crisis was a surprise, it must be made clear that the Bank pushed HARD for the deregulation of the financial sector worldwide, making the potential gaps in the financial regulation of one country contagious for all emerging markets.

CONCLUSIONS

Impacts

- on grassroots level: sensitising Dutch and European activists to the issues of GMOs, seed monopolisation; building food consumer-producer coops that make the link with seed saving, food sovereignty and climate; strengthen bands amongst European anti-GMO activists.
- on economic level: directly stimulating local economics instead of global
- on Dutch politics concerning EU politics on Breeders Rights versus Patents: strengthen the position within the seed sector for maximum breeder exemptions and against patenting.
- on local/regional government: GMO free zones in Friesland province, Nijmegen in development
- on European food sovereignty and the CAP through national Dutch platform
- on media: GMOs and seed patents issues slowly breaking through wall of silence
- on NGOs: keeping them alert on the issue, and aware of the risk of being used as green props by commercial parties.
- some impact on the public image of agrimultinationals, Monsanto in particular
- on international Climate Justice Movement: including industrial agriculture and the global market as a major cause of climate change, and organic agriculture as a key to stabilising the climate

Successes

- A SEED was invited to answer questions by Dutch Parliamentary Commission researching Breeder's Exemptions on EU patent directive. The commission concluded that the minister's proposal needed to be reviewed and extended research on the issue was needed.
- Inspired and supported the birth of a new anti GMO action group in Belgium
- Province of Friesland introduced a GMO cultivation moratorium: A SEED had organised a GM free tour and advised Green party on GMO-free proposal
- Council of Nijmegen in advanced stage of declaring GMO-free municipality.
- Seed monopolisation and GMO issues emerged in public and political debate in NL.
- Breaking through the media-silence surrounding the subject of GMOs and seed diversity.

First, in local and agriculture press, now also in national newspapers.

- Helping the AVAAZ petition for the EU GMO moratorium to reach one million.
- Forming or extending alliances with European GMO-free and seed diversity movement, European Field Liberation movement, European Climate Justice Movement, Dutch farmers organisations, breeders organisation rejecting patents, Dutch NGOs, local Dutch citizens' initiatives and food co-ops.
- Growing response in Holland to participate in a agriculture action camp and GMO field protest in 2011.
- Vervoko project succeeded in forming a network of some 15 local groups that intend to set up a Versvoko and over 100 individuals. Two groups have started ordering local food. Some groups have started a different initiative around local food production and distribution.

Challenges

- Economic crisis

Even applying all our expertise in dealing with economic restrictions, we need to adjust to neo-liberal economic policies and cutbacks in government spending with ever increasing intensity. A SEED's staff and interns are facing rising costs of living and cuts in student grants and subsidies, while experiencing increased competition applying for the limited resources of private funds. It means that our work has become more precarious than ever before. Part of 2010 was used to design and implement an emergency scenario to make the organisation even more crisis-proof and able to maintain a basic structure capable of facilitating future projects and campaign work.

- Difficulty reaching a critical mass that will overcome passivity on the issue: premature.
- Media coverage of GMOs dominated by biotech lobby, relative public ignorance.
- Suspected hidden agenda of agriculture minister making deals with US authorities on slackening EU restrictions. (as exposed by Wikileaks in 2011)
- Local authorities largely ignore GMO issue, claiming decisions are made on higher level. It takes persistence and long term commitment from an experienced local campaign group to reach local results.
- The interest in our strategy workshops and offer of help in starting a local food action group was disappointing. The threshold to actively organise a group was too high.

Lessons learned

- Seed/ patent issue complex message to communicate to (urbanised) Dutch population:
- Radical determination and perseverance does inspire and encourage NGOs and professionals operating in mainstream channels and media to speak out, but continuity of the work around this issue is necessary to gather local momentum.
- After consulting the Belgian Vredesactie we realised we should focus more on local empowerment through training. More ready-made information materials and active coaching are needed to help to establish local citizens' initiatives. We decided to prepare for an action which combined experienced activists with people with little action experience. Secondly we decided to organise a spring agriculture camp in 2011 for alliance building, training, skill sharing and preparing future actions. A manual for building local food action groups was included in the camp reader.
- The AVAAZ petition inspired us to make better use of digital social media.

A SEED ORGANISATION

Staff

A SEED works with a small core of experienced staff coordinating and facilitating campaign administration. The campaign work is shared with interns, international volunteers and trainees. Everyone here take turns in doing the office chores and all of us together carry responsibility for running a horizontal organisation. The office offers a solid base to work from, as well as a valuable breeding and training ground for interaction, cooperation and developing grass roots organisational skills.

A SEED employs several people on job schemes and offers positions for students on an internship.

A SEED is an official European Voluntary Service(EVS) host organisation. Throughout the years A SEED has been working with EVS volunteers, offering training and support in every area of settling in Amsterdam. A SEED is host to two European volunteers who work on a youth project which combines vegan food and information about our campaign issues in social and neighbourhood centres in and outside of Amsterdam. The objective is:

- to raise awareness of global challenges like sustainable development of agriculture in relation to climate change;
- to empower youth and increase its involvement in critically and creatively thinking about solutions;
- to facilitate intercultural dialogue.

Office and building

The A SEED office is situated in a green area in the old centre of Amsterdam. We are integrated into the Plantage Dok project: a former school building which was transformed into a creative and cultural centre. It is a collective project with several functions, involving artists, actors, designers, media projects and public spaces. All tenants in the building participate in monthly house meetings and the necessary organisational and maintenance jobs that are part of running this big project. It is also the base of Vokomokum, the large food coop which serves as a pilot for A SEED's Versvoko project. We share our office with All Included, a small organisation offering support to refugees and the Uitvalsbasis, an organisation that provides technical support for non-profit events.

Statutory

A SEED is a Foundation with a Board and a Council. The Council has an advisory function and monitors A SEED's functioning. Council and office meet to discuss functioning and future strategies of the organisation during a spring and autumn weekend meeting.

A SEED reference library

The office houses a library of books, magazines, audiovisual material with relevant background information about the topics at hand. It is a challenge to keep the resources we have brought together over the years accessible to other parties, and providing new A SEED workers, trainees and volunteers with solid basic information about the issues we deal with.

ENDORSEMENTS

Among countless others, in 2009 and 2010 A SEED supported the following initiatives and calls:

ONE MILLION FOR GM FACTS NOT CROPS AVAAZ: Cyberaction against the introduction of GMO crops in Europe

cyberaction petition https://secure.avaaz.org/en/eu_gmo/

<http://www.gmo-free-regions.org/stop-the-crop-action.html>

www.no-patents-on-seeds.org: Stop Monsantoizing Food! Petition against patenting broccoli and tomatoes. http://www.no-patents-on-seeds.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=93&Itemid=56&lang=en

www.forestcoalition.org 'Stop the Destruction of Forests and Lands for Wood-based Bio-energy' calling on the EU and member states to halt and reverse the expansion of large-scale wood based bioenergy and wood-based agrofuels.

<http://www.europeanfooddeclaration.org> The European Food declaration: towards a healthy, sustainable, fair and mutually supportive Common Agriculture and Food policy,

<http://www.rainforest-rescue.org> Protest petition against palm oil investments by the World Bank.

<http://www.foeeurope.org>/ Memorandum to the European Commission on National Decision-Making on GMO Cultivation

<http://www.twinside.org.sg>/ US financing for actions to battle climate change is being channeled particularly to the World Bank. Below is an NGO initiative to call on the Obama Administration to desist from this and support instead a financial mechanism under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Third World Network

<http://www.lasojamata.net/en/node/406> Freedom for Pascual Pichún Collonao, political Mapuche Prisoner

APREBES and Via Campesina Europe: Letter to request observer status in the UPOV.

OVERVIEW OF MOST A SEED PUBLICATIONS 2009/2010

online:

www.aseed.net

www.gentech.nl

www.versvoko.nl

SEEDmail: A SEED's digital newsletter covering A SEED activities. 450 subscriptions – bi-monthly

Soy/Meat

- “The Pix-files - Dutch pig farmers and their expansion plans”

This document researches the general situation of the pig-farming sector in Europe, particularly Germany and the Netherlands. Who are the owners of largest pig stables in the Netherlands and Germany? Which plans for new expansions exist and what is the state of those plans? Which local citizens' groups are trying to stop those planned expansions? The research resulted in a working document: the Pix-files. The document was regularly updated throughout the tour.

- Flyer on pig mega-farmer Straathof, handout for mega-stable action in the Netherlands on Via Campesina Day, press release. (April 2009)

- “Paraguan Video Letters” special edit and translated for Dutch and German viewers (Summer 2009, A SEED production)

- “Meer dan Mega” (in Dutch and German), 6 page introductory brochure with general info on local and global implications of the soy and meat industry. (Spring 2009, 5000 copies each)

– Flyer for supermarket action in Antwerpen during Climate Camp explaining the link between meat consumption and climate. (Dutch, August 2009)

– “Climate is a food issue” agro-climate flyer in EN en DK. (August 2009)

– “Agriculture Action Day” Poster for international agri-climate action day in Copenhagen
December 2009

Agriculture action day handouts in Danish and English – December 2009

- Article on agriculture and climate for EYFA brochure on climate and social justice ” Why climate change is not an environmental issue” <http://www.mediafire.com/?ytk1nlr001j>

GMO/Seeds

- Gentech infodigest: periodical digital newsletter containing a selection of news from science and international media on GMOs in Europe.

- “GMO free zones in the Netherlands “ reader and seminar report. Feb 2009

- various info and fact sheets on GMOs : truths and myths.

- CSI Crime Seed Investigation date: leaflet informing public of patent breaches and Monsanto control over seeds. Handed out at street theater at greenhouse open day Almere. 250 copies, March 2010
- 'You Reap What You Sow', 16 pp booklet in Dutch and English on seed monopolisation and independent seeds initiatives and campaigns. April 2010. Also online available. http://www.aseed.net/pdfs/Monsantosizing_brochure_EN.pdf regular reprints and available online

– Seed tour flyers announcing different seed info nights around the country. Spring 2010

– Seed monopolies powerpoint presentation 'You reap what you sow' [Spring 2010 + updates]

- Reveal the Hidden Agenda leaflets and poster on Enkhuizen 'Seed Valley info night and inspection, (in Dutch) November 2010

Food sovereignty/Versvoko

- Full-colour Versvoko promotional flyer, poster, 4 page introduction brochure
- powerpoint presentation [spring 2010]
- Versvoko newsletters: May, September, December 2010
- Contribution to the Verklaring van Utrecht of Dutch farmer/ngo coalition on Food Sovereignty with proposals for a better European Agricultural Policy (CAP)

INCOMPLETE LIST OF OTHER MEDIA ON A SEED

- Pig tour coverage in local German and Dutch papers

-<http://www.climate-justice-action.org> and Indymedia: pictures and reports of climate summit COP 15 in Copenhagen - december 2009

- Enkhuizen local newspapers, radio report, november 2010.

- ZOZ magazine, p.13-16, "Van voedselmonopolies naar VersVoko's" (juli/aug.2010)
- Buurkrant Amsterdam de Pijp, "Proef-dag VersVoko de Pijp" (sept.2010)
- Dagblad de Pers, p.13, katern Weet wat je eet, "Eten is niet langer een pakje openen" (2 sept.2010)
- Dagblad de Volkskrant, "Stadsboer oogst op het balkon" (15 sept.2010)
- Eigentijds Magazine, "VersVoko" (22 sept.2010) <http://eigentijds magazine.nl>
- Buurkrant Eindhoven, Transitie Café over VersVoko door Transition Towns Eindhoven (22sept.2010)
- Dagblad Het Parool, p.19, "Alternatieve voedingszaak de Pijp" (22 sept.2010)
- ZOZ magazine, p. 7, "Infodag over Versvoko's bij de Hobbitstee" (sept./okt.2010)
- websites zoals Nudge, Duurzaam Nieuws.

-Interview with Linda from A SEED on Brabant regional radio on GMOs in Dutch agriculture

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Patagonia

European Community – Youth in Action

European Community – DG Youth

Amsterdam City Council

X min Y Solidarity Fund

SMOM

ICCO

HIVOS

Oxfam Novib

Isvara AVA fund

Haella

donors

all the volunteers that have supported us

Financial Overview **A SEED Europe 31 December 2009**

Profit and Loss

COSTS

Personnel	Office staff & project employees & volunteers		72,053
Running Costs			11,920
	Rental and associated costs	7,050	
	Communication	1,377	
	Office supplies & equipment	738	
	Statutory meeting	225	
	Publications	221	
	Travel costs staff & volunteers	126	
	Other costs <i>(bank charges, money transfers depreciations, accountant, misc.)</i>	2,183	
Project Costs			21,787
	GMO & SOY food campaigns & EVS	21,539	
	Old Projects: Balkan Youth & World Bank	248	

Costs:	105,760
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INCOME

Income Core		11,062
Project grants		33,297
European Voluntary Service Program (EVS)		2,179
Dutch employment schemes		50,349
Other income <i>(donations, rent contribution, interest, sale of publications)</i>		13,561

Income:	110,448
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<u>Net Result 2009</u>	4,688
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Balance

ASSETS	FIXED	Inventory & Computers	228
	TANGIBLE	Accounts Receivable	8,514
		Liquid Capital	73,887

Assets:	82,629
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LIABILITIES	EQUITY		67,911
		Foundation capital	59,933
		Net result	4,688
		Reservation	3,290
	CREDITORS		14,718
		Prepaid grants	7,712
		Other	7,007

Liabilities:	82,629
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Profit and Loss**COSTS**

Personnel	ID job employees (Pantar – govt. subsidized jobs)	57,542	96,982
	Campaign & project staff	20,812	
	Office / administrative staff	9,543	
	Volunteers	9,085	
Running Costs	Rent & insurance	5,630	9,445
	Communications	1,203	
	Office supplies & equipment	994	
	Statutory meetings	285	
	Other costs (depreciations, accountant, bank, etc.)	1,332	
Project Costs	AGRO-action movement building	4,538	21,162
	VERSVOKO	4,517	
	GENTECH.NL	10,908	
	WISE Food (EVS)	1,200	

Costs: 127,589**INCOME**

Administrative subsidies & income to core	13,725
Project grants	38,288
European Voluntary Service Program (EVS)	10,991
Pantar - Dutch employment subsidy (ID jobs)	51,962
Other income (donations, rent contributions, interest, sale of publications)	11,781

Income: 126,747Net Result 2010: -842**Balance**

ASSETS	FIXED	Inventory & Computers	410
	TANGIBLE	Accounts Receivable	13,944
		Liquid Capital	97,380

Assets: 111,734

LIABILITIES	EQUITY	Foundation capital	64,539	68,005
		Net result	-842	
		Reservation	4,307	
	CREDITORS	Prepaid grants	34,111	43,729
		Other (open bills etc.)	9,619	

Liabilities: 111,734