



Annual report 2020

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1 ASEED Europe in 2020

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.

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

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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 agro/biotech giants. Our Fossil Free Agriculture campaign goal 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 an average of seven people in its 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 Solidarity Corps, 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 2020 can be found [here](#) on its website.

1.5 Team composition

In 2020, the international office team consisted in: a core group of 'permanent' staff members; volunteers who joined ASEED for a one-year period through the [European Solidarity Corps](#), as part of the Erasmus+ program; and interns who joined for a period of six months each.

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:

- Elizabeth Knight, coordinator, fundraiser
- Eduard Hernández Nualart, coordinator, campaigner
- Nikolay Nikolov, financial administrator

Volunteers list – European Solidarity Corps	
September 2019 – September 2020	September 2020 – September 2021
Oscar (Ireland) Sarah (Denmark) Toby (UK) Livia (Germany)	Clara (Germany) Marco (Italy) Paula (Romania)



Interns who joined the team in 2020: Berend (student in humanities, Netherlands), Robbie (student in history of international relations, Netherlands), and Isabella (student in geoscience, Italy/Netherlands).

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

ASEED's employees get a minimum hourly wage according to the 'CAO Welzijn en Maatschappelijke Dienstverlening'. European volunteers are compensated for their contribution following the rules of the European Solidarity Corps programme. While we would love to be able to offer compensation to the interns for their work, we are financially not able to do so.

1.6 Board composition

Our board consists of the following persons:

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

The board members do not get paid for their activities, although their 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 was started in 2018, on the basis of the following considerations.

The industrial food system heavily relies on fossil fuels: from chemical fertilisers for large-scale monocultures to farm machinery, food processing and long-distance transport. 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!

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

3 Campaigning in times of Covid-19

Before the pandemic hit, we were on track with our agenda for 2020 with an Open Strategy Meeting that attracted around 30 participants, the planning of which included collaborations with folks from the [Transnational Institute](#) (TNI), [Code Rood](#), and Fossil Free Netherlands, to name a few. In February 2020, the coronavirus reached the country while spreading in the rest of the world. Very quickly, it became clear that our activities and our functioning would be severely impacted by pandemic.

ASEED took the Covid-19 issue very seriously and never chose risk over safety. Protecting the most vulnerable people is part of ASEED's core values. As a consequence, and like many organisations, we had to cancel most events and become more creative with formats. Despite the uncertainty and the feeling of helplessness that marked the beginning of the year, we had to be resourceful in order to continue ASEED's work. Whenever possible, activities took place online and their format was adapted in order to remain captivating and interactive. We organised other activities such as gardening sessions in a safe way, respecting the rules regarding the number of participants and the distance between them. We participated in online conferences and focused more on trainings and coalition work than we did in other years.

In addition, we worked on reorganising the way we functioned as a team and as a structure. This year we had the chance to test our resilience as a team. We dedicated ourselves to taking care of each other and vulnerable people in our communities and abroad. We also dug deep into learning about the roots of the crises we face. This meant a tangible commitment to making intersectionality a key component of how we approach the Fossil Free Agriculture campaign, as well as the other work we do and other campaigns we put our time and energy into supporting.

In 2020, ASEED's office could not function anymore as a base for its team members, but also for other collectives who regularly held meetings there in the evenings or in the weekends. We suddenly had to rely on online communication tools and facilitation techniques for our regular office meetings, and to train ourselves to do so properly. We did this with the help of other collectives from our network who are more used to online meetings – we wish to thank especially the [Gastivists](#) for their support.

Sadly, no more public events also meant less income for the organisation, since we lacked vital financial support from participants and from project funding.

3.1.1 Activities cancelled and/or postponed

Reclaim the Seeds

Reclaim the Seeds (RtS) started in 2012 as a protest against the new EU seed legislation. It is an annual seed fair held over a weekend in the start of the spring. RtS combines the exchange of seeds and information 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 2020, RtS was planned to take place in Amsterdam at the [Fruittuin van West](#), a biodynamic orchard and home for the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm [Pluk!](#) The event was planned and mobilised for before the pandemic started. Before the government announced a ban on gatherings, we decided to cancel the event. The risk of spreading the virus was then too high and other countries already took restrictive measures – we knew we had to make this difficult decision.



Alternatively, we joined the Amsterdam coalition [Farmsterdammers](#) to support a seed swapping event that occurred on May 16 in around 20 spaces around Amsterdam – in community gardens, in front of neighbourhood centres, and even on individuals' front porches. Everyone could participate and organise a swap station! The idea was to help connecting people in a similar way to RtS, and to create convivial (yet safe) spaces throughout the city for the time of an afternoon. This way, people of all ages and backgrounds with an interest in growing their own food could meet outside, exchange seedlings and seeds and have a chat in these difficult times. We held our information and seedling swap point at the Mahatma Ghandi Garden, a small occupied garden located just a hundred metres away from the ASEED office. ASEED has been contributing to the running of this community garden since 2018, where neighbours and members of our collective organise and facilitate gardening days, small skill shares, and other events.

Info nights

Vokus, or community dinners in autonomous, volunteer-run spaces, have always been part of ASEED's activities. Also called 'info nights', they are a fantastic way to gather people for an evening around a delicious meal, a discussion, a movie, a presentation of an action or of a topic from our campaign. Vokus also bring ASEED team members together with regular or occasional volunteers and always succeed in attracting new people. In 2020, it was almost impossible to organise vokus after the first two gatherings of the year. From July on, only four of them could take place from, including two as part of ASEED's Community Food Solidarity project (see 3.1.3 for more information).

3.1.2 Activities rethought and redesigned

Behoud Lutkemeer

In 2020, we intended to continue to contribute to the [Behoud Lutkemeer](#) platform and campaign. The aim of the Behoud Lutkemeer campaign is to protect Amsterdam's last fertile and organic farmlands, the Lutkemeerpolder in Nieuw West. This local struggle has been going on for many years, but the threat of eviction came closer in 2019. The transformation of peri-urban organic farmland into a 'circular economy' distribution centre in a city with a Council led by a Green-Left majority is a perfect example of greenwashing and lack of transparency. It shows that the climate crisis is not seriously acknowledged in Amsterdam, a city that tries to present itself in a very progressive and green way. Behoud Lutkemeer is a very important campaign for ASEED because it shows at a local level what is happening in countless places around the world.

Plans were made by activists to reoccupy the community gardens 'Tuinen van Lutkemeer', but while trying to limit contact and not gather in large crowds, this task became quite impossible. Indeed, an occupation like this requires a critical mass to keep everyone safe. But that did not stop Behoud Lutkemeer from continuing to take action, and ASEED supported at every opportunity. Among them were the Behoud Lutkemeer Block within the Amsterdam Climate Coalition Bike demonstration, the Lutkemeerborrel at de Stopera, the Polderpleinen action as well as other smaller-scale demonstrations.

In order to better explain the stakes around the Lutkemeerpolder, ASEED wrote and published several articles on its website: '[The Lutkemeer Polder and Boterbloem Farm – A Space for Urban Food Autonomy?](#)'; '[The Behoud Lutkemeer Campaign](#)' and '[Reflections on action in the Lutkemeerpolder – Mowing grass and arresting activists](#)'

Last but not least, during her time at ASEED, intern Isabella de Judicibus conducted an [in-depth study](#) on the history of the Lutkemeerpolder as a Master Thesis research for the programme of Sustainable Development at Utrecht University (Faculty of Geosciences). The study explores the history of land use in a sub-area of the Lutkemeerpolder, where De Boterbloem farm is located, and the interests and claims of the actors involved in the development/protection of the land. The focus is on the power dynamics between the different groups and how it influenced the land use.

Food Autonomy Festival

Every year since 2017, ASEED has been organising the Food Autonomy Festival (FAF). Over the years this event has grown from a day festival to a weekend action camp, always with the goal of bringing together people from different backgrounds and struggles to foster and grow alternatives and resistance to industrial agriculture.

In 2019, it covered three main themes, explored within three panel discussions with speakers from local and international organisations or movements. The FAF also featured a rich array of presentations and many hands-on workshops to choose from. It was a beautiful showcase of inspiring struggles and alternatives, as well as a hub to connect, to collectively reflect on food autonomy and to take action! After this very successful edition, we intended to sustain the momentum in 2020 – before we realised it would not be possible to follow the same format on that year.

Since we could not plan an action camp for the FAF #4, we changed our plans swiftly and moved the festival online, on June 6. [The FAF#4 homemade](#) comprised two sessions: two parallel ‘living libraries’ in the morning where we invited knowledgeable folks in small-scale agriculture, off-grid living, and other subjects to share their stories, then a panel discussion in the afternoon. These sessions explored the three themes of ‘Food Autonomy in Practice’, ‘Dismantling Oppression in the Food Systems’ and ‘Local Agricultural Struggles’ with guest speakers from [Extinction Rebellion Netherlands](#), the European campaign [Good Food Good Farming](#) and the [Aarde Boer Consument](#) platform. Participants could choose which sessions they wanted to follow. In between sessions, we kept some space so people could ‘meet’ in an open Zoom room to discuss on the topics that were covered, or leave thoughts or resources on a virtual whiteboard. In keeping with the usual warm and cosy atmosphere we try to bring to our events, we had a shared online space for lunch and sent out vegan, seasonal recipes the week before to foster a communal feeling.



On the following day, a seed-bombing action took place in the Lutkemeerpolder as well as a trek around the Amsterdam calling for an end to the plans to build a distribution centre there. ‘Niet te Koop’ (‘Not for sale’) banners were hung at several organic shops and social centres, giving visibility to the Behoud Lutkemeer struggle.



Reading groups

Another activity ASEED had to rethink and adapt in the context of the pandemic is its regular reading groups. In 2019, ASEED started to experiment with this new format and physically gathered between 10 and 20 people at each session. Reading groups are a social, interactive and creative way of learning, exchanging ideas and thoughts, rising awareness and coming together. The reading groups are usually organised and facilitated by two or three members or volunteers from ASEED who choose literature, think of some stimulating questions and facilitate the discussion process. There is ample space and time to express and exchange various perspectives. Afterwards, the discussion is reflected in form of a report and uploaded to our website. The readings are chosen based on the topics we discuss surrounding our campaign, current interests and passions connected to our campaign and often entail anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-capitalist and decolonial approaches.

Because of the restrictions due to Covid-19, we moved the reading groups online. In 2020, we covered a variety of topics such as 'Veganism & Organic Farming', 'Degrowth', or 'Decolonising Degrowth'. One advantage of having the reading groups taking place online is that former ASEED members and volunteers could join us from as far away as Hong Kong, the UK, or as close by as Germany. We also welcomed people from various places in the Netherlands, who could not have joined an offline session in Amsterdam.

In the summer, when the weather permitted it, the reading groups took place at the Mahatma Gandhi garden: a safe way to gather, while introducing the neighbourhood garden to those who did not know it.

Demonstrations

ASEED usually joins a number of demonstrations every year around the topics of climate justice, human rights, anti-racism, feminism and so on. In 2020, many demonstrations could not take place or were transformed into online events. While we were not able to attend in person, we still helped to mobilise for online actions like [Block Bayer](#).

From the beginning of April, ASEED supported the 'Leave No One Behind' campaign to draw attention to the struggle of migrants in the Moria camp on Lesbos. While we believe that we must respect the rules of staying home in order to protect those most vulnerable, we also believe that we cannot stay silent while human lives are being sacrificed. We demonstrated to demand that our governments, even our local governments, take action to protect not just us, but all those who need shelter. We organised five demonstrations, all very conscientious of social distancing and



other safety measures at the City Hall of Amsterdam and on the Dam square. The largest of them counted 40 people who stood silently for 10 minutes on the Dam in solidarity with the fight to have migrants moved as quickly as possible from the overcrowded camp. We also helped fundraise money for the [No Border Kitchen](#) which provided occupants of the camp with hygiene products to try to keep them safe, as well as continued to make food accessible to those trapped there.

3.1.3 Activities relatively unaffected

First info nights and discussions of the year

On January 9, ASEED organised a workshop on ancestral ecofeminism at De Fabriek's Volkskamer, in Amsterdam. Our guest was Amanda Luna Tacunan, teacher, activist, indigenous leader and project manager for [MamaKiya](#) in Germany and Peru. This event took place in the frame of ASEED's bimonthly theme of Gender & Agriculture. The evening was so popular that the venue could not accommodate everyone, and we had to disappoint some visitors. Over 50 attendants joined the dinner and workshop.

One month later, on February 6, we held what would be the last info night and voku before until July. We screened the documentary 'Seeds: Common Good or Corporate Property' before inviting the participants to reflect on our relationship to seeds, and promoting Reclaim the Seeds – while it was still supposed to take place.

These two events were organised in the frame of the monthly 'Climate Justice Vokus' series at De Fabriek's Volkskamer, in cooperation with Code Rood and its [Shell must Fall!](#) campaign. At both evenings, volunteers held a table to spread information about the upcoming actions and find new supporters.

Participation in 2.Dh5 and promotion of the FFA campaign

[2.Dh5](#) is a yearly 'festival where various groups, campaigns and individuals come together to discuss grass-roots campaigns, tactics and methods that move us closer towards our ideal of a society based on freedom and solidarity'. It is an ideal event to learn from each other, to meet other groups and to present the FFA campaign. Since it took place on February 1st and 2nd in Utrecht, the event was not (yet) affected by the pandemic. To match the 2.Dh5 theme 'Defeating Dystopia?' ASEED held a workshop on Fossil Free Agriculture and focused on solutions, while facilitating discussions among the 35 participants.

Community Food Solidarity Project

In 2019, ASEED had successfully presented its Community Food Solidarity Project to the [Nederlands Jeugdinstituut](#), the Dutch national agency in charge of EU-funded youth projects. The Community Food Solidarity Project (CFSP) aimed at connecting migrants, students, local farmers, and free open cultural spaces around the themes of agroecology, community and solidarity. Funded by the European Commission under the European Solidarity Corps programme, the CFSP was one of the most successful activities we organised in 2020. Some of the most beneficial activities we carried out were farming days at De Kweeper, a community garden located in Oudekerk, south of Amsterdam. There, participants shared stories, communal time and farming skills and they harvested delicious fresh vegetables and herbs.

When possible, the harvesting was followed by an afternoon of cooking together at the Dokhuis and serving a delicious meal to the public.



Ongoing Content Production

In November 2019, ASEED launched an interview podcast. After a first [episode](#) on the theme of 'Violence vs. Non-violence through Frantz Fanon and Albert Camus', ASEED continued in 2020 with episodes on '[Gender & Agriculture](#)', with Ann and Annie from Pluk! CSA, [Degrowth](#) with Giuseppe from the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development (Utrecht University) and the [Common Agriculture Policy](#) with Verena and Stanka from the European Campaign [Good Food Good Farming](#).

For ASEED, this podcast serves several objectives: to raise awareness around the topics we work on; to attract new participants into our group activities such as discussions and reading groups; and to develop our capacities by learning new skills and new ways to reach our audience. Of course, in the times of Covid-19, our podcast was an ideal format to reach people safely.

In 2020, ASEED also started a new article series of Farmers' portraits from Costa Rica, Italy and the Netherlands. The goal was to delve into different ways in which the coronavirus has affected farmers in places around the world. Several team members conducted qualitative interviews with farmers and shared their findings [online](#).

Diving in the CAP reform

2020 was a critical year for the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union. For ASEED, it was extremely important to highlight the process, the stakes and the possible outcomes of such reform – especially for small-scale farmers. Research and discussions within the team, with reading groups attendants and with people from various organisations and collectives such as [Boerengroep](#), La Via Campesina and Good Food Good Farming, led to the publication of two articles on our website.

After [ASEED analysis of the CAP 2020 proposed reforms](#), a second article titled [Land Concentration In the EU and the Role of the 2023 CAP Reform](#) linked the CAP reform to the local Lutkemeer struggle, highlighting problematic trends such as land artificialisation, land grabbing and land concentration.

4 A year of reflecting, training and networking

Most public events got cancelled or postponed due to the pandemic. This gave ASEED more ample time to reflect on its organisational culture and practises. We attended to several (online)

trainings and workshops in order to fill knowledge gaps, and to grow as individuals and as a collective.

Strategy training with Stroomversnellers

In the spring the ASEED team followed a Strategy training given by [Stroomversnellers](#), a long-time partner that supported our team and our events many times in the past. Reflecting on our role and place in the activist movement as well as on the meaning of 'winning' helped us to set clearer and more measurable goals. In addition, we looked into the issues of continuity and financial stability. This training gave the team a stronger sense of direction and new energy, despite the challenges brought by the pandemic.

Focus on intersectionality with Community-Centred Knowledge

In 2020, ASEED decided to invest time, energy and funds into a deeper understanding of the social and ecological repercussions of centuries of colonial practices and how to dismantle them in order to build a more just world – environmentally, agriculturally, and socially.

After her well-received interventions at the FAF #3 (in The Food Journey workshop and in the panel discussion on intersectionality), ASEED was eager to continue the collaboration with [Mama D](#), from [Community-Centred Knowledge](#). Mama D is a UK-based, thought-provoking food activist and community organiser. We decided to follow a training on intersectionality with her and two organisations from our network: [Fossil Free Culture](#) and [Taste Before You Waste](#). The training took place over three weeks, with a total of 15 participants, and included plenty of reading, discussing, and challenging ourselves to think about intersectionality and how to address structural racism in our practices. It was a truly enlightening experience and learning opportunity: in collaboration with Mama D ASEED wrote a [statement about intersectionality](#). It has become a resource for planning events and actions with the intention to dismantle racism within our own organising structures.

Ongoing networking and coalition work

As part of the FFA campaign, we strive to strengthen networks and build alliances with other groups in the Netherlands and abroad that work towards climate justice and food autonomy. In 2020, we took the opportunity to be connected with groups from all over the world via online events, seminars, and discussions. We also decided to get involved online with international campaigns, like Good Food Good Farming, and the Netherlands and Amsterdam Climate Coalitions. Concretely, members of the core ASEED team spent many hours in online meetings, co-writing campaign strategies and statements.

Overall we feel we took the opportunities this year to expand our coalition work and provide spaces for activists and members of the community to educate themselves and participate in a wide variety of important actions.

5 Towards 2021

Despite the uncertainties and the difficulties brought by the Covid-19 crisis and its regulations in ASEED's work, we look forward to continuing the Fossil Free Agriculture campaign in 2021, as well as to finding new and creative ways to adapt to such changes.

We will, of course, remain involved in the struggle to save the Lutkemeerpolder in Amsterdam, while working on organising Reclaim the Seeds and the Food Autonomy Festival: thanks to the experience we gained this year, we will be ready to make the transition and organise these events online in 2021 if physical gatherings are not allowed or too risky.

We would like to thank all the people, organisations and groups who have contributed to

ASEED's activities in 2020 despite all odds: volunteers, participants, donors, funders and enthusiastic partners.

See you in 2021!