



Annual report 2021

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1 ASEED Europe in 2021

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

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

Contact details:

Plantage Doklaan 12a

1018 CM Amsterdam

The Netherlands

Tel: +31-638366748

Email: info@aseed.net

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

Social media and Flickr:

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

1.2 Vision and Mission Statement

Our vision is the following:

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

Our Mission Statement is the following:

ASEED aims to support and empower groups and individuals (especially youth) who are striving for fair and sustainable food systems. We do so by promoting grassroots organisation, mobilising people to take action, and supporting the non-formal exchange of skills and knowledge around social issues, climate change, farming, food, resilience and resistance. Thanks to a strong and diverse network of collectives from the local to the European level, our activities include: the organisation and participation in discussions, festivals, trainings, activist gatherings and much more. Overall, we support (young) people to grow capacities in order to take action to change their lives and communities for the better.

1.3 History and background

From 1991...

Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Diversity (ASEED Europe) was established by

young engaged people in 1991 in response to the UNCED Earth Summit proceedings in Rio de Janeiro and aimed to forge alliances among young people committed to social and environmental justice. Since 1992, the ASEED decentralised network grew and regional hubs were created in Europe, Asia, North America, Africa, Latin America and Japan. Each hub had its own level of activity, linking youth groups and individuals in their region. By now some hubs developed in their own way, working independently from each other, while others have ceased to exist.

... to 2021

Presently, ASEED Europe is a small non-profit organisation (ANBI) based in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Our core team comprises between 7 and 10 people, and works together with many volunteers and contacts at the local, regional, and European levels. ASEED's team usually counts two part-time coordinators, one financial administrator, four European volunteers (Erasmus + European Solidarity Corps programme) as well as interns. In addition, many volunteers support us with specific projects and events. We strive to challenge power structures at ASEED. To do so, we use non-hierarchical working practices, follow team trainings and we continuously work on our [Safer Space Policy](#) and [Intersectionality Statement](#).

1.4 Objectives, Tools and Values

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

Our objectives are the following:

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

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

What are our values?

One of ASEED'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. Recent treaties that are aimed at slowing down ongoing environmental degradation, climate change and the loss of biodiversity are doomed to fail. Indeed, because short term economic growth is always given precedence over the long-term future of the planet.

ASEED Europe strives for the preservation of bio-cultural diversity. Doing this, we reject and work towards ending discrimination based on age, class, disability, gender, race, religious beliefs and sexual preference/identity. We support the rights of individuals and communities to determine their own lives. Therefore, 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.

Within these campaigns, we fight against the industrial agricultural model and for agricultural justice, climate justice, food autonomy and overall systemic justice. In doing so, we strive both in our perspectives and practices to challenge racism, sexism, coloniality, and oppression in all its forms. We believe that a just food system can only be created if different levels of oppression and inequalities are fought simultaneously.

1.5 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 2021 can be found [here](#) on its website.

1.6 Team composition

In 2021, 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. European volunteers benefited from the support of a dedicated mentor, not involved in ASEED’s daily office work.

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 2020 – September 2021	September 2021 – September 2022
Clara (Germany) Marco (Italy) Paula (Romania)	Augi (Germany) Paulina (Belgium) Gea (Italy) Justine (France)



Interns who joined the team in 2021: Rebeca helped greatly with the Food Autonomy Festival #4 and many other daily tasks, and Joelle joined the action and research working group.

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

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

1.7 Board composition

Our board consists of the following 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

Like many organisations across the world, ASEED was seriously impacted by the restrictions around the Covid-19 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, we had to cancel most events in 2020 and become more creative with formats. The lessons learned on that year helped us move forward in 2021.

Despite the uncertainty and the feeling of helplessness that marked winter and spring, 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 coalition work and network development than we did in other years.

In addition, we worked on reorganising the way we functioned as a team and as a structure. In 2020 and 2021, 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.

During this period, ASEED's office could not fully normally 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, or less public events also meant less income for the organisation, since we lacked vital financial support from participants and from project funding.

3.1 Activities cancelled and/or postponed

Transport for activists to Ende Gelände

Unfortunately, some activities had to be cancelled at the very last-minute due to Covid-19 regulations and a higher risk of spreading the virus. ASEED was involved in organising transport for activists from the Netherlands to the Ende Gelände action camp in Germany. Since the Netherlands was classified as a 'red' country shortly before the camp, the organisation asked ASEED to cancel their participation as well as the bus. This felt like a big disappointment because a lot of time and energy had already been spent on coalition work, both online and offline. ASEED was planning to give a workshop, to spread materials (brochures, stickers...) and, of course, to participate in the action alongside many other collectives and individuals.

Info Nights

Vokus, or community/benefit 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.

In 2021, the first voku could only take place on July 13. We seized every opportunity to safely organise them when it was possible, especially to communicate and mobilise around the campaigns Behoud Lutkemeer and 'AH Must Go!' (see 3.2 for more information).

3.2 Activities rethought and/or redesigned

Movie screenings and discussions

ASEED used to organise regular movie nights, usually together with a voku. In 2021, we continued to do so online, instead of meeting up in social centres. For example, we screened '[Wild Relatives](#)' followed by a discussion round. We shared [thoughts](#) and elements of analysis around various seed banks models.

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. In 2021, it happened entirely online, limiting therefore organic opportunities for networking. On February 27, an ASEED member was invited to the online panel discussion [Educate, Agitate, Organise – reevaluating the balance](#). Due to technical issues with Zoom, her participation was very limited.

Reclaim the Seeds

The iconic annual [event](#) around seeds, agroecology and food sovereignty took place entirely online in March 2021. ASEED team members are no longer taking central organising roles any more since 2019, and the RtS events are now coordinated by motivated groups of volunteers in a decentralised way. However, ASEED contributed to the event in terms of facilitation, networking and outreach. Three team members gave a workshop on the theme ‘Growing resistance against corporate control of agriculture: The Case of Seed Packages and the Indian Farmer’s Protests’. In connection with the festival, ASEED published several [articles](#) on seed sovereignty in the Global South.

Behoud Lutkemeer

‘Behoud Lutkemeer’ and ‘AH must go!’ campaigns focus on direct action to protect the Lutkemeerpolder, the last organic fertile space within Amsterdam city limits, from being destroyed only to be replaced by a distribution centre. The Lutkemeerpolder is the perfect place for ASEED to support small-scale farmers and localised food production, as this is an enormous part of the solution to the ecological and climate crises. The ‘AH Must Go!’ campaign was developed to expose the role of Ahold (the parent company of Albert Heijn) in the destruction of the polder. In November 2021, after many months of actions targeting AH, Ahold pulled back from building on the Lutkemeerpolder. Besides contributing to coalition work, strategy meetings, actions and communication, ASEED has supported this struggle by hosting numbers of meetings in its office. Our donors and funders’ support with rent is not only helping ASEED, but it also backs numbers of other organisations and collectives of our network who can use our office space to organise themselves – when the circumstances around Covid-19 allowed it.



Food Autonomy Festival #5

Every year since 2017, ASEED has been organising the Food Autonomy Festival (FAF). Over the years this event has grown from a one-day festival to a 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. For the fifth year in a row, ASEED organised the FAF in June.

This horizontally organised festival provides a platform for knowledge exchange, inspiration and mobilisation in forms of workshops, discussions, visits in various local projects and joint action. Once again, it gave voice to a variety of actors, groups, initiatives and organisations that fight for food justice and food sovereignty. In 2020, the FAF#4 took place online due to the pandemic. In 2021, the FAF became a decentralised event and was held in three different locations. Some sessions were also held online, which allowed speakers and participants from abroad to easily join.



Organising the FAF#5 in three cities was a way to broaden and spread out the audience, while enhancing exchanges across cities/regions: [Amsterdam](#) (June 4–6), [Utrecht](#) (June 11–12) and [Wageningen](#) (June 13–14). In Amsterdam and Wageningen, some participants also chose to join an action, either to occupy the festival terrain on the Lutkemeerpolder, or to denounce the impact of big agro-food companies on the education and research at Wageningen University.

The FAF#5 was articulated around three themes:

1. Decolonising food systems
2. Regenerative agriculture through practices

3. Roots and fruits of resistance

We focused on decolonisation of oppressive food systems by talking about practices like land-grabbing, monocultures, GMOs, commodification of food, industrial agriculture, animal farming and modern slavery as well as the revolutions and resistance that has been led by the Native, indigenous people, people of colour, and women, to regenerate our relationship with food and ecosystems. Thanks to the intersectionality training followed by the team in 2020, we felt better equipped to tackle these topics.

Sunday 6th of June
16:30 – 17:30
**Food & Fossil Fuels
Human Map
by Gastivists**
The fossil fuel industry and industrial food system are deeply connected, and more and more international in our globalized world.
Find out about these links, using the example of Brunsbuttel; where a planned gas terminal will face thousands of activists blockading it this summer.
Expect a human map, interactive chats, and good vibes. For more detail on joining the action, check out the Ende Geloende talk. From your friends at ASEED & The Gastivists.

Sunday 6th of June
15:15 – 16:15
**Urban Agroecology and Transformation of Social Relations
by João Portella
(Heinrich Bull Foundation Brazil) (online)**
In this talk, João will share his experience with working with urban agroecology in Brazil.
We will have an overview of the experience of implementing projects in the favelas in cities like Rio, and see how Agroecology opened up space for the transformation and resignification of social relations in different communities in cities like Belo Horizonte and Rio de Janeiro.

Saturday 5th of June
15:15 – 16:15
**CSA tour:
PLUK and SGB
comparison**
A tour through the SGB and PLUK CSA's; two small-scale vegetable farms that run on the CSA model (Community Supported Agriculture).
We'll be comparing one on no-dig practices, soil health, crop diversity, inter-planting, and the community aspects of running a CSA.

Sunday 6th of June
11:00 – 12:00
**#How to slay a
Multinational**
With the experiences of the radical international anti-shell campaign of the 1980s as background, we ask ourselves: how to bring a multinational to its knees. Are there any examples of 'total victory' in struggles against multinationals?
Or are there examples that got far? And if so, what were the elements of the campaign, and under which circumstances did that happen?
Of course, we will not want to exclude Ahold (mother holding of Albert Heijn) from this discussion.

The three editions of the FAF#5 gave us the opportunity: to foster alliances at local, national and international levels; to give support and visibility to small-scale farmers and to their struggles; and to share inspiration among farmers, students, activists ... in order to take action. In total, an estimated 250 people joined the events.

Community Food Solidarity Project

For the second year in a row, a group of young people belonging to ASEED's network set up a Solidarity Project with the support of Erasmus +. Among them was a former ASEED intern, as well as people who met while volunteering or participating in ASEED's events, mostly at the FAF.

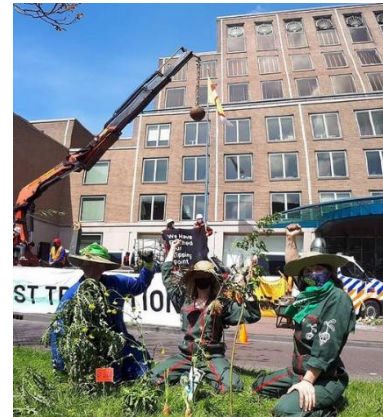
Being involved in different community gardens in Amsterdam, they saw that there is huge potential for groups from community food gardens to share their successes and challenges to meet and learn from each other. They were inspired by the solidarity that these gardens give to their surroundings; being places of social cohesion for vulnerable people and refuges for biodiversity as well as centres for the growing sharing economy. Community gardens are some of the only open places in public space where citizens self-organise and support each other by growing and sharing food, and providing emotional and social support in uncertain and isolating times.

The project created a simple and intuitive platform – the Solidariteitsnetwerk Buurttuinen – a.k.a. [Sonebutu](#) – for community gardens to communicate their needs and ask for support from other community gardens, such as work days or practical advice on how to deal with pests or negotiate with the municipality for longer-term and fairer contracts. The pandemic had an impact on the nature of the community events: instead of real-life workshops and gatherings, online sessions and webinars were organised to share skills and knowledge.

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. In 2021, however, some actions and protests could be organised again taking Covid-related safety measures into account. In March in Amsterdam, ASEED [joined](#) La Bicicleteada Feminista, the Klimaat Alarm and the anti-racism demonstration.

Later in the spring, ASEED participated in several [actions and protests against Shell](#). On March 22nd, we gathered with University Rebellion and Shell Must Fall! to show solidarity with frontline communities who are affected by fracking and environmental pollution by companies like Shell. We stood in front of the Shell centre for research and development in Amsterdam.



On May 18, the day of Shell's annual shareholders' meeting, supporters of Shell Must Fall took action against the fossil fuel multinational in countries including the Netherlands, Nigeria, Ghana, Germany, Sweden and Belgium. Code Rood showed up with construction workers and a wrecking ball to symbolise the dismantling of Shell and ASEED created a garden of resistance in front of Shell's Headquarters, being ready for which comes after the demolition: transformation and regeneration!

Finally, on November 6, ASEED marched with the Agroecological Farmers' Block at the Klimaat Mars in Amsterdam. This last demonstration was the least impacted by Covid regulations.

3.3 Activities relatively unaffected

International Day of Peasants' Struggles: celebration and networking

On April 16, one day before the International Day of Peasants' Struggles, ASEED and a plethora of organisations worked together on a local Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm, [LANDinZICHT](#).



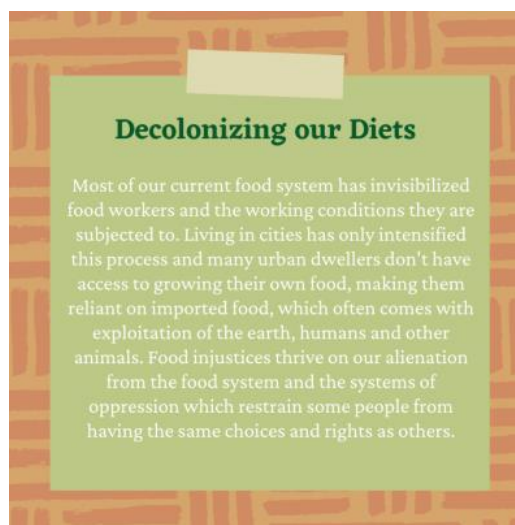
The goal was to directly support a small-scale farm while discussing collectively the rights of peasants and farmers worldwide. These organisations, including [Boerenforum](#), [XR Landbouw NL](#), [PAN Nederland](#), [OtherWise Wageningen](#), [Stichting Boerengroep](#), [European Coordination Via Campesina](#) (ECVC) and [ECVC Youth](#)... all contributed to translate the Declaration of the International Forum for Agroecology (Mali, 2015) into [Dutch](#), and to spread it

through the Dutch context. ASEED produced a short [video](#) to capture the energy of the day and to summarise the key principles and values of agroecology. That day was also part of ASEED's Solidarity farming project 2020-2021, bringing together community gardeners and refugees.

Reading Groups

In 2020, ASEED made a transition and moved its reading groups sessions online. In 2021, we went for a hybrid system and kept on organising online and offline reading groups throughout the year. For example, on the themes of 'Oppression in the Food System & the Struggle for Food Justice' (April) and 'Who owns the land? Land Struggles and Land Grabbing' (November). Reading groups proved to be a fantastic way to engage in fruitful discussions around the themes of our campaign and activities, even when physical gatherings were not allowed. Their setting and format are flexible, therefore more accessible: we even hosted a reading group during the Food Autonomy Festival in Utrecht!

Rather than writing a report of the reading group, as we have done previously, we decided to share on our website and social media some '[Voices of the Reading Group](#)' instead, with points that people brought up and questions they have raised. We hope that it can inspire people to think about the topic of food justice and maybe bring this discussion to their own circles.



Ongoing Content Production

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](#).

The series was enriched in 2021, with three articles on farmers living in Italy: [Sole and Lingam](#) from Calabria, [Eleonora Capasso](#) in Umbria, and [Giovanni Netto](#), Lazio.

Besides documenting the challenges faced by small-scale farmers, ASEED produced content on themes connected to the FFA campaign, for example on the [global food sovereignty movement](#), or to hot topics such as the [CAP reform](#).

Supporting the European Citizens' Initiative Save Bees and Farmers

ASEED, together with a coalition of 200 organisations across Europe, has supported the call [Save Bees and Farmers](#). A European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) is an EU democratic tool in the form of an official petition.

Save Bees and Farmers core demands are:

1. A phase-out of synthetic pesticides in EU agriculture by 2030
2. Measures to recover biodiversity
3. Support to farmers in the transition to agroecology



ASEED shared the call for signatures online and offline, namely at the Climate Strike organised by Fridays for Future on September 24, in Utrecht. We are proud that Save Bees and Farmers has become one of the seven successful ECI that managed to gather more than one million signatures from citizens across Europe. As a result, representatives from Save Bees and Farmers will be able to present their demands to the EU authorities. The EU Commission will then have to present a formal answer.

Participation in Degrowth Conference

On August 24 and 26, ASEED co-organised two online sessions for the 8th International Degrowth conference.

The first interactive discussion was on the theme of 'Land Struggles and Alternatives in a Degrowth Society'. With people from [Behoud Lutkemeer](#), [Toekomstboeren](#), [Grond van Bestaan](#) and [TNI](#), we brought diverse perspectives on land to an audience who was potentially new to questions of land politics and land struggles. The focus was on: (I) understanding some of the important obstacles to access to land, or drivers of [unjust land distribution](#), today and how these are linked to growth-driven economics; (II) and alternatives to market-based, financialised, or capitalist visions of the management of land, such as commoning practices, and how these might contribute to degrowth.

The second session was a workshop named 'Creating Solidarity Networks in Food and Farming'. We opened the black box of 'solidarity' as one of the key principles of degrowth, and stimulated a conversation on the different meanings and interpretations solidarity can have – between farmers, migrants, researchers, consumers. Projects presented during this session included the [Landbouwbrigades](#) Belgium, the Agroecological Research Collective, the CSA [CitySeeds](#), and a collaborative project between the [Wereldhuis](#) and [De Meentboerderij](#).

Participation in Amsterdam Anarchist Book Fair

Just like every year, ASEED had an info stall at the [Anarchist Book Fair](#), and co-hosted the event at the Dokhuis. The fair is a fantastic opportunity to spread information and materials about our FFA campaign, to get in touch with potential new volunteers, to learn from other movements and collectives and to collect donations.

Participation in People's Summit for Climate Justice

In November 2021, several ASEED team members went to Glasgow during the COP 26. There, they joined actions and marches, and participated in various sessions of the People's Summit for Climate Justice, mostly focusing on agriculture and food justice, fossil capitalism frontline and

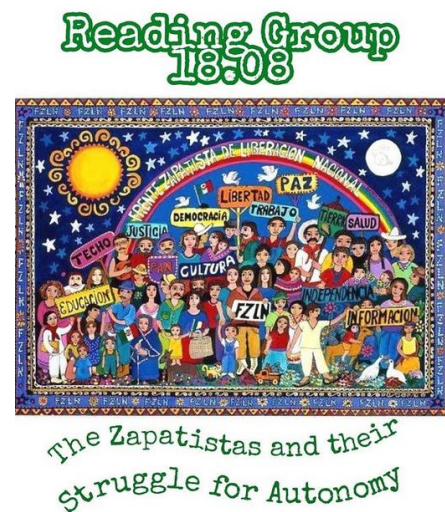
indigenous communities.

At the People's Summit, ASEED gave a workshop on Fossil Free Agriculture. Overall, the COP26 was a very effective way to connect with collectives from all around the world, while spreading two brochures that were reprinted in 2021: [Industrial Agriculture and Climate Chaos](#) and [The Climate Crisis is a Food System Crisis](#). Shortly after these events, ASEED published three articles on its website: [COP26 – What happened? FAQ](#); [COP26 – What happened on a grassroots level?](#); and [Who are the activists fighting for system change around COP26?](#) A voku was organised at the end of the November, back in Amsterdam, to share impressions about the COP26, and to showcase portraits and worldviews of activists that gathered in Glasgow.



La Gira por la Vida

Over the course of 2021, several organisations throughout Europe established contact and united within in order to receive a delegation from the EZLN (Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional) in their journey, '[La Gira por La Vida](#)'. ASEED was part of the Dutch coordination – Gira Holanda – that coordinated the trip in the Netherlands in October, and one member of the team also joined the European coordination. In the framework of La Gira por la Vida, ASEED: organised a dedicated [reading group](#) and two vokus; contributed to fundraising for the Zapatistas' journey; joined a gathering in France at la ZAD Notre-Dame-des-Landes (July 30–31) with other members of the coordination to reflect on the role of solidarity networks; organised visits of local small-scale organic farms for the delegation, including De Boterbloem on the Lutkemeerpolder, as well as supporting the delegations in moving around the city and translations at events.



Contributing to the Zapatistas' journey in the Netherlands was highly inspiring for ASEED, and it connected us to wider international solidarity networks, especially connected to Central and South America.

Ongoing Networking and Coalition work

We have also been participating in various (online) gatherings in the course of the year, for

example within the Dutch Climate Coalition or the Dutch Agroecology Network. In addition, one ASEED member went to Copenhagen to meet up with members of [KlimaKollektivet](#), a Danish collective with whom we have been closely working since the start of the campaign Free the Soil, in 2018. This was the opportunity to discuss future plans, as well as to meet other groups collaborating with KlimaKollektivet. Though online meetings are very convenient and can save a lot of time, we are glad that we have been able to meet up offline with people and groups again. We value real-life interactions in networking, brainstorming and maintaining long-term, fruitful relationships.

4 Looking back, looking forward

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, when most public events got cancelled or postponed due to the pandemic, ASEED took more ample time to reflect on its organisational culture and practises. We then attended to several (online) trainings and workshops in order to fill knowledge gaps, and to grow as individuals and as a collective. In 2021, events and physical gatherings could gradually be organised again. This brought a gasp of fresh air to the team, despite some uncertainties and difficulties around Covid-19.

Overall, 2021 was a challenging year for ASEED on a financial level. However, we managed to keep on organising ourselves and our activities in a safe way, while reaching out to our audience and expanding our network. We are proud to have provided spaces for activists and members of the community to educate themselves and participate in a wide variety of important actions.

We would like to thank all the people, organisations and groups who have contributed to ASEED's activities in 2021: volunteers, participants, donors, funders and enthusiastic partners!

Towards 2022

In 2022, we plan to go further with our FFA campaign. Within this frame, we want to attend the Ecosocialist Encounters in Lisbon, to continue to support the organisation of Reclaim the Seeds, to make the Food Autonomy Festival happen again, to keep going with Solidarity Projects, as well as to prepare an Erasmus + Youth Workers training around intersectionality, food justice and food sovereignty... Of course, our awareness-raising activities, actions and social gatherings (such as movie-screening nights and farming sessions) will remain at the core of our grassroots work.

See you in 2022!