



Lifelong  
Learning  
Programme

VLAAMSE  
LAND  
MAATSCHAPPIJ

Training VLM (Flemish Land Agency) advisors

Introduction to agroecology in practice for advisors

**Target group:** advisors

**Duration:** 6-8 half days spread over 2 years

**Module 1: Agroecology as an orienting concept**

**Objective:**

- Participants become acquainted with agroecology from various perspectives: the theory and the practical situation (of farmers).
- Participants become acquainted with agroecology as an orienting concept with different levels (ecology, social aspects, politics, ...).
- Participants make critical comments about agroecology in the day-to-day work of an advisor.

**Method:**

- A theoretical presentation by a scientific expert (background, different dimensions: political, social, ecological, holistic and how this fits in within the issue of global hunger,).

The presentation is followed by group discussions in small groups of participants and a plenary feedback of the results.

- A site visit to an agroecological farmer. The farmer gives a guided tour of his farm. This is followed by a group discussion with prepared questions about the working methods of the farmer.

**Duration:** 2 x half day

**Module 2: Agroecology and the role of an advisor**

**Objective:**

- The participants reflect on the role of an advisor
- The participants develop insight into their personal behaviour and attitude vis-à-vis the farmer (or a colleague advisor, or ...)
- The participants investigate what knowledge and which competencies an advisor must have at his disposal



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- The participants study which tools, events or methods they could develop or apply in order to communicate the agroecological knowledge and practical experience of farmers.

**Method:**

- Individual questions concerning the working methods, attitude and behaviour of an advisor. Participants complete a questionnaire individually and anonymously.
- After the question session, there is a general discussion of the anonymous results.
- There is further consideration of the role of the advisor and what he could do, and concerning what knowledge and competencies he should have at his disposal, and the attitude he should adopt.

**Duration:** 3 x half day

**Module 3: The development and application of tools, methods and events that could be used to communicate and disseminate agroecological knowledge and practical experience.**

**Objective:**

- Have the participants make experiments.
- Have the participants develop and apply their own tools for facilitating the communication and exchanging knowledge and practical experience.
- Have the participants organise events designed to communicate and exchange knowledge and practical experience.

**Method:**

- Make a video about agricultural practice based on the *entretien d'autoconfrontation* (self-confrontation) method.  
([http://edutechwiki.unige.ch/fr/Entretien\\_d'autoconfrontation](http://edutechwiki.unige.ch/fr/Entretien_d'autoconfrontation) )
- Organise an event on agroecological knowledge, with an exchange between farmers, citizens, experts, students, policy makers and NGOs.
- Organise a learning network for farmers.

**Duration:** 3 x half day (preparation 2-3 days per tool)