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Work Package 5: "CSOs' interventions into agri-environmental issues"
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Knowledge for Action

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1 Background

The research project “CSOs’ interventions into agri-environmental issues” studies how Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have been involved with research related to agricultural/environmental and related research in the Netherlands. We are specifically interested in how Dutch CSOs and scientists have cooperated, how CSOs have tried to influence research priorities, and in how these activities have changed over time. This project is part of a larger research programme on co-operative research with CSOs, where new forms of CSO/research cooperation are explored that stress the equal footing of researchers and CSOs. In this context, the role of our project is to provide an overview of past experiences with CSO participation in research for the Netherlands, a country that had a rich tradition in this field, especially with respect to ag/environmental research.

The project focuses on cases where there are extensive experiences, such as Dutch science shops, formal representation of CSOs in research committees and science policy, research commissioned by CSOs, or new forms of network cooperation. Within the process of researching such cases, a workshop was organised to get feedback from CSOs, but also to see if we could cooperate more closely with CSOs. In order to allow CSOs to influence our research, we delayed some of the research activities until after the workshop.

2 Organisation

2.1 *Goals of the workshop*

The stakeholder workshop in work package 5, “CSOs’ interventions into agri-environmental issues”, had the following goals:

1. Present the cases in our project, in order to collect ideas from stakeholders and research colleagues that could improve the case studies.
2. Identify interesting topics in – or related to – the cases, aiming at further exploration and deepening of the case studies.
3. Explore which angles to the case studies could be of particular interest to the stakeholders.
4. Explore how the work package could develop a research plan that could attract more interest from stakeholders, in a co-operative style.
5. Explore whether and how a handbook, guidelines, or some other form of integrated knowledge on experiences with CSOs and science/knowledge could be of use to stakeholders.
6. Strengthen the network of stakeholders and the project and (secondary) with researchers with similar interests.
7. Get a perspective on current shifts in the involvement of CSOs with research/knowledge.

Given these goals, we structured the workshop along short presentations related to the envisaged cases, in order to provide some basic stories to fuel the discussions. Although these presentations pertained to the cases of interest to this work package, only one was actually presented by us. In order to maximise a co-operative setting, we let some of the actors in the cases tell their own story, rather than to impose our interpretation of it. We also tried to combine a presentation of an academic and a CSO on every case, in order to guarantee a combined perspective (generally with the academics taking a somewhat more general, analytic perspective) – although these identities are not always so clear-cut.

We saw these presentations as invitations to share experiences and hence the main question was whether participants recognised these stories, whether they had had similar experiences, or whether they had develop their own particular styles to deal with these issues. With an eye on some degree of generalisation for the ‘handbook’, we also reserved time for specific discussion on this topic towards the end of the workshop.

2.2 Preparation of the workshop

The preparation of the workshop was an integral part of the research process. That is: we requested CSOs and a few sympathetic informants for research interviews, but then also asked them if they would be prepared to engage a little further in the process by participating in a workshop. The main difficulty was that the cases were connected in our minds through the topic of ‘CSOs and research’, but that this was not a main focus for any of the CSOs involved. Therefore, we had to keep specific cases clearly visible in the programme and keep the topic of the workshop as concrete as possible. A similar problem occurred with the use of ‘agriculture and environment’ for the workshop as a way to make the project more concrete: the Dutch consumer organisation did not immediately see this as a central topic to their remit and lost interest.

After we raised interest among CSOs informally, we identified speakers in this network whom we thought could raise further interest, wrote a ‘rallying invitation’ text (see appendix A), and used this to invite more participants. To try and be as appealing as possible, the full title of the workshop was:

“Science for Action: A workshop about how CSOs deal with scientific knowledge and about what we can learn on this from each other.”

With this label, we wanted to stress that this was to be a meeting for mutual learning, not just for us to collect information from the participants.

Initially, we sent out personal invitations among the network of people we had talked to in the context of this project, but eventually also included a wider circle. It struck us that, as soon as the workshop was announced more widely via Dutch e-mail networks, more academics registered than we had expected. Most seemed eager to meet CSOs, were interested in the cases, or were eager to network among the participants to raise interest in their own projects. Some CSOs that had not yet registered on our radar also joined, so we were able to balance CSO and academic participation, as we did not want the academic discourse to become too dominant in the workshop.

The final preparation stage came with the briefing of the presenters. We insisted that they should keep their story short, focus on examples or even anecdotes. We reminded them that the main objective for the presentations was to provide examples and stories to feed the discussion, hopefully experiences other CSOs could relate to. This was done informally, through telephone and e-mail conversations. To keep the participation threshold low, we chose to hold the workshop in Dutch, even though that reduced the use we could make of support from other participants in the Crêpe programme.

Resources were clearly an issue for CSOs, even for a one-day event with relatively short travel (i.e. in the Netherlands, where we intentionally selected a very central location). Some participants wanted to know if there would be a fee for presenting. We had not foreseen fees for participation, but did offer the presenters a small book voucher, as is common practice for presentations in the Netherlands. We also offered lunch and compensation for travel costs (although, in the end, only a few participants actually claimed travel costs). With these measures, we tried to reduce participation costs to just the time investment, which we tried to compensate with an interesting programme.

2.3 Participants

There were twenty participants in the workshop, with one participant unexpectedly absent (see appendix E). The majority of these participants came from Dutch ag-environmental CSOs. Some of these were well-established organisations with large memberships and even some paid staff, while others were small organisations run by a few volunteers only. It was clear that such differences would mean different relations to science and research, but during the workshop there was a cooperative atmosphere. The two groups were only explicitly presented as different, when the Groningen science shop explained that they only worked for CSOs who could not afford to find their own way to expertise. Apart from the CSOs, several

academics participated, typically from ‘science and society’ departments at Dutch universities, or from science shops.

We asked participants what had drawn them to this workshop, during a short introduction round at the beginning of the workshop. The main issues from the CSO side were:

- Find our way in science (“it is very much”)
- Keep in touch with how CSOs can influence research (programming)
- Understand the relation between users and producers of knowledge
- How do you get to science? Who will help? Whom can you trust?
- How to share and generate knowledge, given the big piles of reports and so little time

From the academics:

- How do I approach CSOs?
- I want to involve CSOs in my research.
- See if there are CSOs who might be of interest to us
- How do we involve CSOs in our organisation and research?

We also know some of the reasons some CSOs gave for *not* participating. These mainly involved other priorities and not recognising the issue framing of the workshop as a major concern.

It is striking that the CSOs mainly seemed interested in participating in order to learn about the issues involved. Some had insisted beforehand that they would only participate if there was something for them to be gained, given they had to be careful with their organisation’s limited resources. From the academic side, the main interest seemed to be in finding CSOs to involve in research somehow, either because academics had a personal preference to work with CSOs, or because they thought research opportunities could be created through a linkage with CSOs.

2.4 Workshop process

The workshop started with a short introduction by the organisers (see appendix C), followed by an open round of introductions. We then proceed to a fairly traditional format of presentations and discussion (see appendix B). However, we did clearly indicate beforehand that it was our intention to look for patterns in the experiences with CSOs and research. To this purpose, we stuck two sets of post-its on the folders with workshop materials, handed out at the beginning of the workshop: red post-its for problems in the relations between CSOs and research, and green ones for solutions or successful practices. These post-its were used at the end of the workshop to generate a discussion about the general themes, rather than the specific cases. Participants were asked to make notes on the post-its during the day and could suggest the priority ones on their table to submit to a flip-over poster by the end of the afternoon. This general discussion also led us to the question of how the CSOs would like to see our research project proceed, i.e. what would be of most use to CSOs. With this little device of clustered post-its, we were able to have discussions about the cases presented, while at the same time maintaining an interest in our over-arching issues.

3 Proceedings

The workshop was organised around five topics, following the cases we had identified for research, but with some modifications to meet CSO comments. Each of the topics is listed below with participants and some main observations.

3.1 CSOs and research programming

Short presentations by Karin de Feyter (*Natuur&Milieu*) and Bert de Wit (*RMNO*, Advisory Council for Research on Spatial Planning, Nature and the Environment) introduced a discussion about the possibilities for CSOs to participate in research programming. Programming includes the allocation of research funds to priority research issues and fields, the formulation of research priorities and research programmes, potentially reaching down to the level of more specific research questions, or framing of research projects.

Karin de Feyter gave examples of how CSOs have set research agendas in the past, but also on how the access has become harder for CSOs. Wageningen University, originally the ‘agricultural university’, had many forums for negotiating research priorities with stakeholders. These have been replaced with occasional open conferences where consultation occurs with more participants (50-60 people) in a very open convention-style format, in which it is not always clear what happens with the input. Meanwhile, it has also become harder to get direct access to researchers.

She also pointed out that research programming is a difficult route for CSOs because of the large delays. She gave one example of successful research agenda setting, involving the study of health effects of nature and ‘green’ in the living environment. It took almost ten years between her first initiatives and research that could be picked up by policy. For most CSOs, that is too long a trajectory to influence policy.

From the perspective of the ‘sector council’ for environmental and nature conservation research (*RMNO*), Bert de Wit put these developments in a wider context. Expertise for policy is organised more on an ad-hoc basis, while systematic consultation is scaled down. At the same time, the distance between users and producers of policy relevant knowledge is increasing, while national policy turns towards ‘process management’, devoid of substantial knowledge of environmental issues. Both environmental policy and environmental knowledge become more decentralised. These trends create new needs for knowledge intermediaries. While research policy suggests more direct involvement of government to identify public needs in research programmes, government departments no longer have the substantial expertise to steer these programmes effectively.

Bert de Wit suggested the following list of criteria to assess whether or not CSO participation in committees of research programming is meaningful:

- a. Role of CSO must be clear: if it is only consultative, then participation is not very meaningful
- b. Subject must be part of CSOs core business
- c. Participation must include the possibility to learn (reflexivity through argumentation and deliberation)
- d. The deliberation must effectively lead to research
- e. CSO participation is particularly meaningful in complex policy problems (‘wicked’ or ‘unstructured’ problems)
- f. CSO participation is especially meaningful in environmental research that has a regional focus (*gebiedsgericht*)
- g. CSO participation is especially meaningful in problems of sustainability

The generally shared observation was that it is becoming harder and harder for Dutch CSOs to get involved in research programming, due to shifting governance structures. In the past, CSOs had a systematic and guaranteed chair at the table at several research programming organisations and platform, including the *RMNO* or the platform for agricultural research.

Now, CSOs have to wait for an invitation or lobby hard to get involved, which is a long-term strategy that not all CSOs can follow. At best, CSOs get invited to participate in stakeholder consultations, where researchers and/or civil servants are in charge, such as around agricultural research, especially for Wageningen University. Suggestions by CSOs may be taken up, but they no longer have the leverage to insist. (It is symptomatic that the RMNO will cease to exist in January 2010.) CSOs still see possibilities and some of the participants had examples of successful access, such as around nanotechnology, but the style of operation has changed and now relies more on networking and lobbying than guaranteed access through standing committees.

3.2 *Research by CSOs*

This session focused on field biology and the databases run by conservation CSOs, organised around two short presentations by Esther Turnhout (Wageningen University) and Sander Turnhout (Foundation for field research fauna and flora). These organisations collect data from amateur biology enthusiasts and turn them into professionally managed data sets, integrated by a small umbrella organisation (Foundation for field research fauna and flora, VOFF). This data management is financed through projects, in which biodiversity information is made available. This mostly concerns government conservation policy and reporting obligations for international agreements (such as EU biodiversity policies). These resources support 200 professionals, mostly in the member organisations. Project income can partly also be used by participating field biology CSOs for activities or small conservation projects.

The data management organisations are very concerned with the quality of their data. They work with triangulation of field observations, photographs, or automated plausibility checks to generate what they see as sufficiently. Academic values as independence and methodical rigour are considered very important. To maintain this position, these organisations keep their distance from practical involvement in nature conservation or nature conservation policies. To improve validity and reliability, the VOFF umbrella invests in the development of protocols and improved data entry checks. Applications involve nature conservation, reporting for international biodiversity agreements, but also more unexpected applications, such as the reduction of wild fowl hazards to air force jets.

The CSOs present seemed to see this as a special case, but we did find parallels in data collection by other environmental CSOs, although not on an equally systematic basis. A major problem of the financial construction for access to data is that it becomes hard for ordinary citizens or other CSOs to access data. In order to be able to sell the data, ordinary citizens cannot use data, e.g. for nature protection campaigns. Although the model of project-based financing has provided the amateur networks with substantial resources, the involvement with government has also led to some bureaucratisation and standardisation, which creates some tension with the particular interests and motivations of the volunteer observers.

3.3 *CSOs commissioning research*

We discussed the possibilities for CSOs to commission research based on a case presented by Mieke van Hemert (Twente Univ. and researcher on this project). (The original plan was to match an academic with a CSO on this topic as well, but the CSO representative was unable to attend.) The case was a study ordered by the Dutch consumer organisation and an environmental CSO (*Consumentenbod* and *Natuur en Milieu*), questioning the assumptions in the way health risks of pesticides in food are assessed. The study, executed by a Wageningen research institute, studied combined exposure of children to a group of pesticides with a similar physiological effect, instead of the substance-by-substance approach that is still the backbone of chemical risk assessment.

The case shows how CSOs get drawn into fierce attacks on independence of the study, methodological soundness and validity of a diverging approach. An accusation was that the study did not follow appropriate protocols, whereas the purpose of the study was to

challenge the dominant protocol or risk assessment. The challenges to the study, as well as extensive media attention (spun in contrasting ways depending on media involved), put the issue on the agenda. The study later even appeared in reports of the very authoritative Health Council of the Netherlands.

CSOs present clearly recognised these patterns and they pointed out the typical objectives of CSOs to commission research. One is to challenge a dominant approach, typically in the assumptions of framing of public policy. A second (and often combined) one is to put issues on the policy agenda. They pointed out that raising controversy or doubt can be part of their strategy to get issues on the agenda. Some claimed this is the case irrespective of the quality of the report, but this was challenged, claiming a CSO would lose all credibility if they would manipulate or spin research reports too far. This led to a debate about the possibility of objectivity and the specific responsibility of CSOs: act 'responsibly' from the perspective of the collective, or campaign to 'redress the balance'. This tension between CSOs as opposition and CSOs as cooperative partners in policy resurfaced in the closing discussion (see below).

3.4 CSOs and science shops

The topic of science shops was introduced by explanations of their operation and potential by Henk Mulder (Science Shop Univ. Groningen) and Gerard Straver (Science Shop Wageningen). Science shops are units at universities that provide research and knowledge support in response to civil society concerns. This can be in the form of directly providing expertise, or of helping civil society organisations to find expertise within the organisation, as a mediator. Mediating can involve helping civil society organisations to define problems or to translate their problems into research(able) questions. Inversely, this contact with CSOs can lead to new research lines in the university.

In their original format, as public service units, science shops are under threat. Several Dutch universities have abolished them or have transformed them into a 'transfer point' for commercially interesting contract research. Currently, only a limited number of academic organisations still have science shops: the universities of Groningen, Twente, Wageningen, Eindhoven, Tilburg, Rotterdam, and the Roosevelt Academy (i.e. about half of the universities in the country). Some have one central address at the university, some have a series of science shops at lower organisational levels. Variety of the format of the science shops also increases as they are under pressure of their universities, in many cases with severe budget cuts and in some cases even complete change-over to contract research units, working for a commercial tariff only.

Mulder and Straver explained the principles used in working with CSOs and shared some examples of projects that helped CSOs with their campaigns. Common principles are:

- a. the project needs to have a scientific/research element
- b. the project must have public results
- c. it has to be relevant to more than just one person
- d. the client must be able to use the results
- e. the question is not of a commercial nature
- f. the client does not have the full financial means to carry it out

Although this is a family of principles that Dutch science shops use to interact with CSOs, not all science shops use the exact same set. For example, Groningen will only work with small CSOs that do not have resources to access research (criterion 6, which clearly excluded some of the CSOs present at our workshop). Some science shops will also allow cooperation with small and medium enterprises.

One of the interesting lines in the discussion was to what extent CSOs can actually help science shops survive, for example through letters of support, but potentially also with more pro-active political action. This was one of the occasions during the day where it became clear that access points of CSOs to research erode under pressure of academic

performance or economic returns, if they are not defended through political action. Since so many university administrators no longer see science shops as part of their ‘core business’, but use marketised research as an indicator of relevance, the specific needs of CSOs may no longer be articulated in university management. Some science shops are now turning to international research resources to develop their activities, e.g. EU research programmes, because there is no significant support for them in the national context. Success in this ‘market’ may then raise their legitimacy within universities that now see money-raising as an important sign of success.

Another element that was picked up in the discussion was science shop projects that produced ‘unexpected results’ for CSOs. Wageningen provided an example of a traffic study that did not produce results that supported the case of the civil society partner, but that did lead to a break-through in a local policy dead-lock over traffic re-routing. This returned the discussion to the meaning of independence and the advocacy role of CSOs.

3.5 CSOs and research networking

If institutional access to research is indeed eroding, except for the handful of CSOs with sufficient resources to commission research, then ‘networking’ could be the alternative mode of action. This was discussed around the case of the Wadden Sea, where a management plan is being drawn up in combination with research projects. This has the structure of a network organisation, with heavy government investment, in which CSOs have an important role. It is not quite clear to what extent the characteristically open structure of the network will remain, or whether it will institutionalise in a more bounded participation organisation, especially as agreements are made to keep partners ‘on board’, but for the time being this is an example of a more ad-hoc network, rather than an closed standing committee.

From the part of the Waddenvereniging (Society for the Wadden Sea, CSO), Maria van Leeuwe explained the unexpected possibilities this presents for CSOs to really push for a better management plan for the Wadden Sea, especially with respect to alternatives for mussel fishing. This includes an extensive research project that is to provide knowledge for the management plan, under the direction of the various partners in the “Wadden Academy”. So far, it seems there is a productive agreement around general principles, but there have been tensions, as opposing uses of the Wadden Sea are not easy to reconcile. The problem of cooperation with some of the scientists (ecologists, marine scientists) is that they find the work involved too normative, e.g. in trying to define target ecological conditions for the Wadden Sea, or in finding appropriate historic references for ecological restoration.

Jacques Swart (Groningen University) presented his analysis of what goes on in the Wadden Sea from the perspective of the controversy over cockle fisheries. This shell fishing reduces food supplies for birds and affects the structure of the sand banks in the shallow sea. Government attempted to regulate the fishery, while scientific knowledge about precise consequences was contested and while the issue received a lot of media attention. Questions involved concerned the precise damage caused by the fishery, whether and to what extent human activities can be combined with nature, the definition of ‘sustainable nature’, or who has the burden of proof. All of these characteristics point to an unstructured policy problem.

Swart pointed at Esther Turnhout’s analysis of this case as a matter of two competing knowledge coalitions, where fishery organizations and nature organizations had both formed coalitions with their own favoured sources of expertise. The pacification strategy of government to settle the issue via more research had failed and so now the Wadden Academy appeared as an interesting alternative route. This route looks for coalitions among societal actors, rather than to try and generate consensus among the experts only. The current approach tries to construct a learning network. He pointed out that the present format seems to be raising enthusiasm, but that the conditions are rather exceptional: there is a covenant, involving a threat from government to impose a solution if actors cannot find one themselves, as well as a large amount of resources for this project, allowing participants to cover up conflicts with money. While sceptical, Swart does believe the network is able to fulfil some of

the institutional conditions for cooperation, such as attention for management of the process of cooperation, for monitoring of progress, for transparency, and mutual trust.

4 Results of the workshop

At the end of the day, we brought together the most important problems and solutions in the relation between CSOs and science/knowledge, as based on the cases or the discussions that followed them. These were divided in problems and solutions in the research system and problems with CSOs, in order to try and identify possible matches.¹ The various statements were discussed collectively, as they were submitted by participants as priority issues, and organised on a flip-over. At the end of the session, statements that were not submitted (either because they were not seen as priorities, or because they repeated points already made) were also collected, for closer inspection after the event. This collection-and-organisation exercise is represented in the table below (see table 1). The table follows the general structure of the issues as they were posted, but develops and refines this structure more than the clustering during the final session. Statements that were not raised as priorities, but that were collected afterwards, are included in italics.

The analysis of the statements collected from participants is the main result of the workshop and we will discuss them in more detail below. Most problems were put on the side of the research system, rather than the CSO side – perhaps not unexpectedly, given the composition of the participants. While we suggested identifying problems and solutions as either for CSOs or researchers, it was clear that some fell in between and were to be seen as joint issues. It also became clear that the issues clustered around some four over-arching themes: public availability of research/knowledge, the uses of knowledge in advocacy, cooperation between researchers and CSOs, and priorities in research (and the ‘undemocratic’ nature of Dutch science policy). Some of these issues clearly appealed to an (intentionally) absent ‘third party: government and public policy makers (both in ag-environmental policy and research policy).

4.1 Availability of information

Several problems and solutions were identified with respect to access to information (research results, data, reports), some of which with interesting matches. First, there was the principled position that public research should be publicly available. Scientific information is now sometimes unavailable or hard to access because of the high access costs in the scientific publication system. It was clear that a lot of participants saw a role for government, to make sure that scientific knowledge is a public good. (This was also suggested for the CSO biodiversity data, which can now only be financed because they are sold, restricting access to protect data as assets.)

Second, CSOs can find it hard to get access, because of difficulty in finding the right source of expertise, or a mismatch between CSOs’ questions and the available information, requiring interpretation, mediation, or help with the technical nature of the knowledge. On the solutions side, there were clearly high expectations from science shops, but also the observation that science shops are under pressure. An interesting potential problem/solution match is that CSOs put more effort in safeguarding the weakening position of science shops with legitimating support or campaigning. It was suggested that civil society managed to conquer access to the universities in the 1970s, for example through science shops, but that such a door only stays open if constantly defended. Another type of solution suggests other ways of knowledge brokerage, such as networks or ‘knowledge centres’ (organisations that make knowledge available, ranging from a web page to an agricultural extension network).

¹ This approach was roughly based on a garbage-can model of policy making: policy innovations occur when entrepreneurs see an opportunity to combine a lingering problem with an un-used solution, at the occasion of a suitable political event (Kingdon, J. W. (1984). *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., and further elaborations). We focused on solutions and problems, ignoring policy events in this context, but with the hope that at least some of the participants might act as policy entrepreneurs.

In sum, for CSOs that have the capacity to find and access science, the access costs are a problem. For CSOs that need to find their way or translate issues to research terms, brokerage is needed that is only partially provided by science shops and knowledge centres. CSOs themselves could provide some support here.

4.2 Science as argument

There were two sides on the issue of using science in advocacy, that is: science as argument to support a CSO case. The one side saw the use of counter-expertise to undermine projects as a good thing, in order for CSOs to ‘redress the balance’. The other side saw deconstruction through counter-expertise mainly as a problem, as it undermined collective reasoning. These relate to different styles of operation of CSOs, the first more oppositional and focused on contestation, the second more oriented towards integration and cooperation (with government or public opponents). This was seen as a difficult tension for CSOs. Solutions were identified in more (public) debate between experts to make value contrasts more explicit, or support for more independence (in government through more expertise, in more integrity for scientists). Although a set of problems was identified here, these did not lead to new, concrete recommendations or suggestions for improvement.

4.3 Cooperation with CSOs

Although some problems were identified in the cooperation between science and NGOs, most of the statements here qualified as solutions or at least opportunities in cooperation. On the problem side, only lack of resources for CSOs and the hesitation among scientists to work with CSOs (for fear of not keeping their status/position) were signalled as problems. (Although some of the problems in the other clusters would qualify here too – perhaps the cluster is framed too much in the direction of solutions.)

On the solution side, there were four themes:

- a. the creation of networks, conventions, or other formats for researchers and CSOs to meet and/or share information (‘community of practice’ was mentioned)
- b. joint research applications, or programmes to accommodate such applications
- c. projects or programmes with CSOs in charge
- d. consultation of CSOs for public research (linking to the next cluster)

In addition, there was the suggestion that more research is required. Mainly, the solutions revolve around joint projects, with CSOs as partners or even CSOs in charge, or the organisation of networks.

These findings perhaps do not suggest new forms, but do indicate that there is a clear need in the Netherlands to revitalise the CSO-science connection. As the institutional access points to science for CSOs seem to be under pressure, the participants saw a need to revitalise cooperation and contact. Not all CSO participants seemed very much aware that their participation provides important support to researchers, as cooperation with CSOs can be a strong advantage for research applications.

4.4 Research priorities

For research priorities, the focus was clearly on all that goes wrong in the research system at the moment. Research was generally seen as either narrowly focused on peer review, or too focused on commercial interests where problem-oriented. Participants felt that universities were ignoring their ‘third task’, i.e. societal relevance – beyond just academic or commercial tasks. Some found the research policy that produces these priorities insufficiently transparent or too far removed from citizens. One of the consequences for research that was mentioned was a low priority for environmental effects of new products or production processes. Meanwhile, most CSOs seem to lack resources to actually participate in the process of setting research priorities.

On the solution side, most statements can be grouped around two themes. First, universities should be pointed to their responsibility towards society. In order to do this, the third task should be specified more; could be made measurable in indicators and rankings; should be made ‘more democratic’, either guaranteed by a more participatory science policy, a more decentralised science policy, or more steering by government. A second set of statements focused on what CSOs could do to provide more direction, such as through the formulation of some research priorities (e.g. in cooperation with science shops or more local research programming exercises), or through initiatives by CSOs to lobby for research priorities in their field of action.

4.5 Feedback on the project

At the end of the discussion we raised the issue of our own research plans to the participants. We explained that we had planned to do more research on our cases and would try to generalise our findings into some form of recommendation or support to CSOs (the ‘handbook’). There was little response to our case research as such, but the suggestion that we could come up with a manual or handbook for CSOs trying to engage with science raised more interest. (Although one of the participants worried whether this would generate sufficient scientific interest to be worthwhile for us as researchers.) The stated motivations for wanting to participate in the workshop clearly indicated that CSOs are looking for assistance and guidance in how to interact with research and researchers. Based on the questions motivations and questions raised, also during the informal breaks, we believe we should be able to generate a more specific list of what it is that CSOs need help with.

Table 1: Overview of statements collected from participants at the end of the workshop		
1. Availability of information	Problems	Solutions
For science/research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the value of science for society if results are not available, or only when paid for? - Science shops are under pressure, lose budget - Research results are not publicly available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Science shops - <i>Make research m</i> - <i>More public deba</i>
For both together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mismatch questions and (available) knowledge - Abstraction level among researchers (apply to many cases) while CSO want applied knowledge, specific to one case 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Science shops as - Public availabilit government
For CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a CSO, how do you know where to get information? - <i>Methods get too technical, inaccessible</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support science s - CSOs have know - <i>CSOs can sell da</i> - <i>Knowledge cent</i>
2. Science as argument	Problems	Solutions
For science/research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undermining of knowledge through counter-expertise - <i>Decision makers hide behind scientific knowledge</i> - <i>Research for policy often released too late: no time left for counter-expertise</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undermining of I - More integrity an - More expertise re “process managem - <i>Don’t claim obje</i>
For both together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can we get ahead by fighting each other with reports full of facts? Often, underlying value issues are more important. 	
For CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When government lacks knowledge, the force of the strongest lobby rules, i.e. who puts their view on the matter most clearly and prominently on the table, i.e. who has the most resources - Cooperate and advocate: can you reconcile both roles in 	

	one organisation?	
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3. Cooperation with CSOs	Problems	Solutions
For science/research	- Scientists are afraid to work with or present to CSOs	- More research needed on cooperation CSOs-science, leading to recommendations
For both together		- Joint organisation of internships and graduation projects - research conventions (with users and producers) - a broker network of CSOs and well-intentioned scientists - Do not 'psychologise': no solutions in mind management - <i>Shared research applications, involve CSOs</i> - <i>Programmes for shared applications, as Canadian CURA</i> - <i>Community of practice: how do you organise that?</i>
For CSOs	- lack of professional capacity and money to obtain research or get involved	- let CSOs direct research initiatives - e.g. CSOs manage long-term programme researching ecological monitoring and (distribution of) biodiversity - <i>Vouchers to entitle CSOs to research</i> - <i>Require CSO consultation for public research</i>
4. Research priorities	Problems	Solutions
For science/research	- Universities, the minister of research, and the national research fund are ignoring their "third task" (i.e. societal use of research, not just academic or commercial research) - Peer review narrows the perspective of research - Problem-oriented research is under-valued in the Academy and other official scientific institutions - Relevance of research is too one-sided: focus on commercial relevance - Commercial focus reduces attention (environmental) risks - Science policy is not transparent - <i>Research priorities determined too high level (national)</i>	- Universities, research funds, government need to be urged to fulfil their "third mission" - Create rankings of societal performance - More societal steering of research required - Democratisation of research organisations - <i>More applied masters programmes, combine university and non-university higher education more</i> - <i>Specify 3rd mission more</i> - <i>Value other forms of knowledge more</i> - <i>Always include health/environment effects in applied research</i>
For both together		- Define some national research priorities with science shops - More direction/steering needed - <i>Provincial research programming forums, research institutes</i>
For CSOs	- <i>Not enough resources to do something about research</i>	- CSOs should also influence research priorities, on their specific topics

5 Follow-up

5.1 For the work package goals

Case studies

The workshop offered extra material for the case studies and strengthened contacts that had been made so far. We will use these to deepen the case studies and continue to try and involve CSOs in them in a cooperative way. Some plans for follow-up interviews and more informal talks have already been made.

Handbook

Several issues were raised during the workshop that can feed directly into the handbook part of the project. At the very least, the workshop identified some of the kinds of support CSOs are looking for. For CSOs that have little experience with research, this should include some very basic information, such as on getting access to electronic versions of scientific journals, finding your way to a science shop, or how to negotiate ownership of research results. However, the handbook should also include some of the more ‘advanced’ issues discussed at the workshop, such as how to influence science policy or how to become a partner in research projects.

We are currently trying to find a format for CSOs to get involved in this part of the project. Rather than to involve CSOs in a supervisory committee, in order to report to them during a few meetings over the next half year, we are playing with a wiki format that could involve CSOs directly in the writing of the handbook text. When sufficiently developed, the wiki could then become a more elaborate counter-part of a paper version. While the main work would be done by the project researchers, partner CSOs could contribute directly to the text or raise issues they would like to see addressed in the text (e.g. in a FAQ format).

5.2 Beyond the project

During the workshop, it became clear that there is a need for more debate and initiative around the topic of science and CSOs. This could take the form of a follow-up meeting, perhaps for a wider audience, possibly a conference. The suggestion of a network of CSOs and sympathetic researchers could perhaps come to life with such meetings. The handbook project too, if it does keep its wiki format, could provide a platform from which such initiatives could grow.

6 Goal achievement

Reiterating the goals of the workshop, we can make the following assessment:

1. Present the cases in our project, in order to collect ideas from stakeholders and research colleagues that could improve the case studies.
Result: The presentations did suggest ideas for further research on the cases, as well as detailed suggestions.
2. Identify interesting topics in – or related to – the cases, aiming at further exploration and deepening of the case studies.
Result: The discussion produced lines of research and specific topics that are worth exploring.
3. Explore which angles to the case studies could be of particular interest to the stakeholders.
Result: Stakeholders seemed more interested in overall results, conclusions, and recommendations than in our research on the cases. There might be more interest to know about the outcome of the case studies. Perhaps most revealing where some of the motivations of CSOs to come to this workshop.
4. Explore how the work package could develop a research plan that could attract more interest from stakeholders, in a co-operative style.

Result: Little result here, apart from the suggestion that there could be an advisory committee.

5. Explore whether and how a handbook, guidelines, or some other form of integrated knowledge on experiences with CSOs and science/knowledge could be of use to stakeholders.

Result: Good reactions here, but the format needs to be explored in more detail.

6. Strengthen the network of stakeholders and the project and (secondary) with researchers with similar interests.

Result: Will have to become clear from the follow-up.

7. Get a perspective on current shifts in the involvement of CSOs with research/knowledge.

Result: Clear overview of the general trend (in the Netherlands), which are reduced institutional opportunities for access to research, but opportunities for cooperation with researchers, e.g. in return for legitimating support by CSOs.

Appendices

A. Our 'rallying text' for invitations

(original Dutch, translation below)

Kennis voor actie

Workshop, 21 september 2009, Kontakt der Kontinenten, Soesterberg.

Een workshop over omgang met wetenschappelijk onderzoek bij maatschappelijke organisaties en wat we daarover van elkaar kunnen leren.

In de huidige kennissamenleving moeten maatschappelijke organisaties goed met wetenschappelijk onderzoek kunnen omgaan. Het is niet genoeg om te roepen dat bestrijdingsmiddelen gif zijn en dus slecht voor mens en milieu. De besluitvorming wordt vaak uitgevochten met onderzoeksrapporten en testresultaten: specialistische en vaak erg dure kennis. Hetzelfde geldt voor discussies rond bouw- en infrastructuurprojecten als de Betuwelijn, de kokkelvisserij en gasboringen in de Waddenzee, de geluidsoverlast rond Schiphol, enzovoort. Steeds vaker verloopt het publieke debat in termen van kosten/batenanalyses, risico-analyses, modelberekeningen of complexe toekomstscenario's.

Om in deze discussies mee te kunnen praten, moeten maatschappelijke organisaties gebruik kunnen maken van wetenschappelijk onderzoek en specialistische kennis. Ze moeten toegang zien te krijgen tot onderzoeksresultaten, zelf onderzoek instigeren, of mee praten in het formuleren van onderzoeksprojecten en –programma's. Meestal zijn hiervoor weinig middelen beschikbaar. Er moet vaak creatief worden gezocht naar de meest effectieve en goedkoopste manier om expertise te genereren, terwijl allerlei valkuilen in de lastige samenwerking moeten worden vermeden.

Gelukkig hebben Nederlandse maatschappelijke organisaties al heel wat ervaring met wetenschappelijk onderzoek. Natuur- en milieuorganisaties laten zich vertegenwoordigen in programma commissies of begeleidingscommissies van wetenschappelijke projecten. Soms zetten ze zelf onderzoek uit, bijvoorbeeld bij TNO, Alterra, een gespecialiseerd bureau, of een wetenschapswinkel. Er zelfs een heel scala van vrijwilligersorganisaties ontstaan die gegevens over fauna en flora verzamelen, met het oog op natuurbeheer. Tenslotte werken maatschappelijke organisaties al lang samen met onderzoekers in informele netwerken, bijvoorbeeld rond de bescherming van de Waddenzee.

Al deze vormen van samenwerking hebben zo hun eigen mogelijkheden en spanningen. Bij overlegcommissies is het vaak moeilijk om niet te worden meegezogen in het technisch vertoog van de specialisten, waardoor alternatieve wereldbeelden uit zicht raken. Er is ook wel eens wantrouwen tussen onderzoekers en maatschappelijke organisaties, bijvoorbeeld uit vrees over misbruik van resultaten of door conflicterende prioriteiten. Ook is samenwerking met wetenschappers voor maatschappelijke organisaties een onzekere langetermijninvestering die het vaak moet afleggen tegen de tijdsdruk van campagnes. Bovendien is er een trend naar verzakelijking van onderzoek en wetenschap. Kennis wordt steeds vaker opgevat als een hulpbron, waarvoor de regels van de markt gelden, en niet al een publiek goed.

Tijdens deze workshop willen we, samen met maatschappelijke organisaties, ervaringen uitwisselen en zicht krijgen op ontwikkelingen. We zullen speciaal aandacht besteden aan belemmeringen en mogelijkheden voor maatschappelijke organisaties om zich te mengen in onderzoeksbeleid en programmering van onderzoek, om opdrachtgeverschap van onderzoek te organiseren, om zelf onderzoek te doen en om samen te werken met wetenschappers in (informele) netwerken. De workshop gaat daarbij uit van ervaringen uit de praktijk van maatschappelijke organisaties, gecombineerd met inzichten verzameld door sociaal-wetenschappelijke specialisten op dit terrein, bijvoorbeeld rond het verloop van samenwerkingsprojecten en 'grenzenwerk' in wetenschappelijke beleidsadviesing.

Vragen die aan bod zullen komen:

- Wanneer heeft het zin om in programmacommissies voor wetenschappelijk onderzoek plaats te nemen?
- Wat zijn de belangrijkste aandachtspunten bij onderzoek in opdracht?
- Hoe kunnen maatschappelijke organisaties en onderzoekers vruchtbaar samenwerken?
- Hoe genereren maatschappelijke organisaties zelf kennis en expertise?
- Waar kan een maatschappelijke organisatie terecht voor samenwerking met onderzoekers?

Behalve voor uitwisseling en gezamenlijke reflectie, is de workshop bedoeld om kwesties en problemen aan de orde te stellen die kunnen bijdragen aan het versterken van de toegang van maatschappelijke organisaties tot wetenschappelijk onderzoek. Deze kwesties zullen nader worden uitgewerkt in enkele case studies, die uiteindelijk zullen resulteren in een handleiding voor het omgaan met onderzoek, en in beleidsaanbevelingen. Het project wordt gefinancierd door het kaderprogramma voor wetenschappelijk onderzoek van de Europese Commissie en is onderdeel van een Europees onderzoek over wetenschappelijke samenwerking met maatschappelijke organisaties. (Co-operative Research on Environmental Problems in Europe, CR&PE, <http://crepeweb.net>)

Translation:

6.1.1.1.1 Knowledge for Action

Workshop, 21 September 2009, Kontakt der Kontinenten, Soesterberg

A workshop about how CSOs deal with scientific knowledge and about what we can learn on this from each other.

In the current knowledge society, civil society organisations must be able to handle scientific knowledge well. It is not enough to claim that pesticides are poison and hence bad for the environment. Policy decisions are often resolved with research reports and test results: specialist and often very expensive knowledge. The same holds for debates around building and infrastructure projects, such as the Betuwe railroad line, cockle fishing and gas drilling in the Wadden Sea, noise pollution around Schiphol airport, etc. More and more, the public debate is cast in terms of cost/benefit analyses, risk analyses, model calculations, or complex future scenarios.

In order to be able to participate in these debates, CSOs must be able to use scientific and specialised knowledge. They have to get access to research results, set up research themselves, or participate in the formation of research projects and programmes. Usually, the resources to do so are very limited. CSOs often have to look creatively for effective and cheap ways to generate expertise, while avoiding all kinds of pitfalls in the collaboration with experts.

Fortunately, Dutch CSOs already have quite a bit of experience with scientific research. Nature conservation and environmental organisations have been represented in programming committees, or supervisory committees of research projects. Sometimes, they initiated their own research, such as via TNO (Dutch technological research agency), Alterra (Dutch environmental research institute for the 'green living environment'), a specialised bureau, or a science shop. There is even a wide range of volunteer organisations who gather their own data on flora and fauna, of use in nature conservation. In addition, CSOs have cooperated with researchers in informal networks for a long time, for example around the protection of the Wadden Sea.

All these forms of cooperation offer their own specific possibilities and tensions. In consultation committees it is often difficult not to be sucked into the technical discourse of specialists, pushing alternative world views out of perspective. There also can be distrust between researchers and CSOs, for example out of fear for abuse of results or conflicting

priorities. Also, for CSOs cooperation with researchers can be a long-term investment with considerable uncertainties; an investment that has to compete with the immediacy of campaigning goals. In addition, there is a tendency towards marketisation of knowledge, where knowledge is ever more seen as a resource mediated via the market, rather than a public good.

During this workshop we want to exchange experiences with CSOs and get a better perspective on current developments. We will pay special attention to limitations and possibilities for CSOs to get involved in research policy and research programming, to organise the commissioning of research, to set up research themselves, and to cooperate with researchers in networks. The workshop starts from practical experiences of CSOs, combined with insights from social science experts in this field, for example around the development of cooperative processes and boundary work in scientific policy advice.

Questions that will be raised:

- When does it make sense to participate in a programme committee for research?
- What are the key issues in commissioning research?
- How can CSOs and researchers cooperate fruitfully?
- How do CSOs generate their own knowledge?
- How can a CSO set up cooperation with researchers?

Apart from exchange and joint reflection, this workshop is also intended to raise issues that can strengthen the access of CSOs to scientific research. These issues will be developed in a few case studies, that should result in a manual for dealing with research and in policy recommendations. The project is financed by the Framework Programme for Research of the European Commission and is part of a European research project on scientific cooperation with CSOs. (Co-operative Research on Environmental Problems in Europe, CRêPE, <http://crepeweb.net>)

B. Programme and timetable

- 9.45 **Welcome**
- 10.00 **Introduction**
 Willem Halfman (Universiteit Twente)
- 10.45 break
- 11.00 **CSOs and research programming**
 Karin de Feijter (Stichting Natuur & Milieu)
 Bert de Wit (Raad voor Natuur en Milieu Onderzoek)
- 11.45 **Research b CSOs**
 Sander Turnhout (Veldonderzoek Flora & Fauna)
 Esther Turnhout (Wageningen Universiteit)
- 12.30 lunch
- 13.30 **CSOs commissioning research**
 Wouter van Eck (Vereniging Milieudefensie)
 Mieke van Hemert (Universiteit Twente)
- 14.15 **CSOs and science shops**
 Henk Mulder (Bèta Wetenschapswinkel Universiteit Groningen)
 Gerard Straver (Wetenschapswinkel Wageningen Universiteit)
- 15.00 break
- 15.30 **CSOs and cooperation/networks with researchers**
 Maria van Leeuwe (Waddenvereniging)
 Jacques Swart (Universiteit Groningen)
- 16.15 closing debate
- 17.00 u closing

C. Presentation by Willem Halfman

Kennis voor actie

Inleiding tot de workshop

Dr. Willem Halfman
Fac. Management en Beleid, Universiteit Twente
Science, Technology, and Policy Studies (STePS)
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NGOs en kennis: bv water

- zelf kennis verzamelen:
"alle omwonenden zeggen dat het stinkt"
- een professional zoeken
"de deskundige weet waarom het stinkt"
- onderzoek laten doen
"de wateranalyse laat zien dat..."
- onderzoek begeleiden
"we willen toch echt dat u ook het water test"
- onderzoek programmeren
"er moet meer onderzoek naar stinken water"

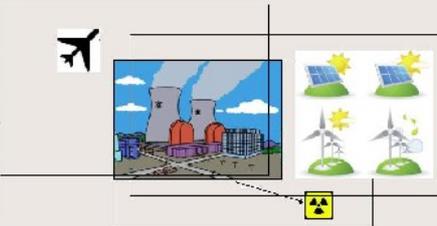
Kernvragen

- Wat zijn de valkuilen bij deze verschillende vormen van omgang met kennis?
- Wat kunnen NGOs doen om problemen in omgang met kennis te voorkomen?

Kennis voor campagnes

- Bv. Betuweroute:
verzet met acties + kennis
- Napluizen van rapporten op aannames, inconsistenties
 - Inzetten tegen-expertise (kosten alternatieven)
 - Twijfel over kwaliteit of beïnvloeding

feiten en relevante feiten



CRÊPE

- Co-operative Research on Environmental Problems in Europe (EU, 7de Kaderprogramma: als het voor MKB kan, dan ook NGOs)
- = NGOs en wetenschappers die samen naar milieukwesties kijken

CRÊPE onderdelen

- Biobrandstoffen (Transnational Institute)
- Biotech (Consiglio dei Diritti Genetici)
- Waterschaarste en water-export (Food Ethics Council)
- Voedingsnetwerken in Bretagne (Federation Regionale des Centres d'Initiatives pour Valoriser l'Agriculture)
- EU onderzoeksprioriteiten (Fondation Sciences Citoyennes)
- Innovatie-narratieven (Les Levidow, OU)

Coöperatief onderzoek

- NGOs nauw betrokken bij zowel planning als uitvoering onderzoek
- Niet als legitimerend publiek aan het eind van de rit

Ons probleem

"Wetenschap en NGOs" is niet meteen een thema dat NGOs aanspreekt

- onder druk van de actie
- focus anders gedefinieerd
- maar weinig NGOs die wetenschap zelf als focus hebben (Sciences Cityonnes, EU Science Social Forum)

Tegelijkertijd zijn NGOs hard nodig!

8

Kennis, actie en tijd

Campagne NGO: timing is alles

- media-moment
 - de cruciale vergadering,...
- Kennis voor actie moet snel

Kennis heeft doorgaans tijd nodig

11

Dit project

Hoe kunnen we NGOs ondersteunen in de omgang met kennis?

- a) welke ervaringen zijn er?
- b) vallen er vuistregels te formuleren?

Zelf ook zoveel mogelijk co-operatief onderzoek

11

Agenda

1. Inventariseren van kennis, ervaringen

- problemen
- oplossingen

2. Agenderen: wat te doen?

- voor ons
- voor u?

12

D. Presentation by Mieke van Hemert

maatschappelijke organisaties en onderzoek in opdracht

spanningsvelden in geloofwaardigheid
en onafhankelijkheid

Mieke van Hemert, Universiteit Twente

Verliezen we het verstand?

*Restanten zenuwgif schadelijk voor de
hersenenontwikkeling van onze kinderen*

- Onderzoek door Alterra in opdracht van Consumentenbond en Natuur & Milieu (2000)
- Onderzoeksvraag: hoe verhoudt de blootstelling van consumenten aan neurotoxische pesticide-residuen via het Nederlandse voedsel zich tot gezondheidsnormen (die in de VS in de jaren 90 zijn ontwikkeld)?
- Methode: probabilistische benadering van inname 40 zenuwgiften en chloorpyrifos als modelstof voor toxiciteit
- Conclusie: per dag krijgt 1 op de 20 kinderen in Nederland een dosis zenuwgif binnen die de Amerikaanse normen overschrijft.

Advies Gezondheidsraad 2004

"Inmiddels heeft het EPA deze methode [voor cumulatieve effecten] verder ontwikkeld en de risico's beoordeeld van cumulatieve blootstelling aan organofosfaten (EPA01a, EPA02b). Andere instanties in de VS, Denemarken en Nederland hebben soortgelijke berekeningen uitgevoerd voor deze groep van bestrijdingsmiddelen, hetzij op basis van voedselanalyses, hetzij op basis van urineonderzoek (Boo03b, Cas03, Coc02, Jen03, Lef00, Luij00, NRC93, Wil98, Wil99). De berekeningen laten een wisselend beeld zien."

onafhankelijkheid



geloofwaardigheid



Reacties op *Verliezen we het verstand?*

Min. van VWS, geadviseerd door RIKILT, RIVM, KVV:

'Uw onderzoek gaat uit van een opeenstapeling van 'worst case'-benaderingen. ... Uw onderzoek is sterk afhankelijk van de door u gekozen referentiestof. ... Daarnaast maakt u gebruik van een nog in ontwikkeling zijnde onderzoeksmethode waarover nog geen wetenschappelijke consensus bestaat.'

contextafhankelijkheid

- onderzoeksmethode wordt door VWS in eerste instantie in twijfel getrokken en weggezet als 'worst case' scenario
- later onderzoek van het RIKILT gaat uit van eenzelfde opzet en een andere modelstof
- beide studies belanden in het advies van de Gezondheidsraad tussen de referenties naar wetenschappelijke studies

geloofwaardigheid

spanningsveld:

- geloofwaardigheid hangt deels af van het gebruik van gangbare onderzoeksmethoden en protocollen ('wetenschappelijke consensus')
- het doel van het onderzoek kan zijn om gangbare protocollen ter discussie te stellen

Wetenschap op bestelling

Uit checklist voor onafhankelijk opdrachtonderzoek (KNAW, 2005, p. 20):

"De keuze van methoden en criteria is uitsluitend afgestemd op het doel van waarheidvinding en niet op externe doelen als commercieel succes of politieke invloed."

Wetenschap op bestelling.

Over de omgang tussen wetenschappelijk onderzoekers en hun opdrachtgevers.

- Rapport KNAW uit 2005 dat ingaat op praktijken rond opdrachtonderzoek en richtlijnen geeft.
- Definitie onafhankelijk onderzoek: 'onafhankelijkheid bij opdrachtonderzoek betekent dat onderwerp, methode en rapportage van onderzoek zijn gericht op het vergroten van kennis en inzicht, ongeacht of deze kennis en inzichten en de openbaarmaking gunstig of ongunstig zijn voor de opdrachtgever en/of opdrachtnemer.'

onafhankelijkheid

spanningsveld:

- normativiteit onderzoeksopzet (aannames, methoden, 'framing')
- onderhandelingssituatie
- mate van 'openheid' (in de zin van ongewisse, en mogelijk ongewenste uitkomsten)

E. List of participants

1. Sonja Borsboom, Burgerinitiatief Megastallen-Nee (Noord-Brabant) (Countryside citizen initiative, started from mega-stables for pigs)
2. Douwe Bouma, Stichting leefbaar buitengebied (Foundation for a liveable countryside)
3. Alois Clemens, WNF (World-Wide Fund for Nature)
4. Wouter van Eck, Milieudefensie (Dutch branch of Friends of the Earth) (missed the workshop)
5. Karin de Feijter, Stichting Natuur en Milieu (Foundation for nature and environment)
6. Willem Halffman, Universiteit Twente
7. Mieke van Hemert, Universiteit Twente
8. Anne-Charlotte Hoes, Free University
9. Marga Jacobs, Stichting Leefmilieu (Foundation for the environment)
10. Wil Janssen, Stichting Leefmilieu (Foundation for the environment)
11. Maria van Leeuwe, Waddenvereniging (Wadden Sea organisation)
12. Henk Mulder, Science shop Univ. Groningen
13. Meggie Pijnappel, Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen
14. Ruud Pleune, Gelderse Milieufederatie (Environmental federation of CSOs in Gelderland)
15. Claudia van Steen, Stichting Leefmilieu (Foundation for the environment)
16. Gerard Straver, Science Shop Wageningen Univ.
17. Jacques Swart, Univ. Groningen, Biology and Society
18. Esther Turnhout, Wageningen UR
19. Sander Turnhout, Stichting Veldonderzoek Flora en Fauna (Foundation for field research fauna and flora)
20. Victor Winter, Steunpunt Bètawetenschappen Universiteit Utrecht (Science shop Utrecht Univ.)
21. Bert de Wit, Raad voor Milieu en Natuuronderzoek (RMNO, Advisory Council for Research on Spatial Planning, Nature and the Environment)