

Alain Peeters



I am an agronomist and an agro-ecologist (Master and PhD) trained at the University of Louvain (Belgium) (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/alain-peeters-1b6b3039/>). I have an extensive theoretical and ground knowledge in general agronomy and ecology in temperate and tropical areas. I have 35 years of experience in agricultural and environmental research as well as environmental protection and management. I got my PhD on farming systems and became Professor in general agronomy for 20 years (Head of the Grassland and Arable Crop Ecology Department). I am a pioneer of organic farming in Belgium (teaching, research) and Europe (research). I have been involved in the management of several Belgian, European and global NGOs aiming at creating research networks or related with environmental protection and nature conservation.

I created a private company that multiplies indigenous wild species for the development of ecological infrastructures. I wrote several books of international significance. I am the author of many 'invited papers' at European and international scientific meetings as well as about 450 papers published in scientific journals. I am Director of the RHEA Research Centre. I recently founded AGROTOPIA, a Research and Training Centre on Agroecology (www.agrotopia.eu). In the last few years, I initiated an action-research programme for developing very concretely agroecological systems in several farms in Belgium and France. Although a scientist, I am almost every day on the field working on very practical aspects of farm management. I am proud to be one of the 19 founders of 'Agroecology Europe', the European association on Agroecology, and organizer of the founding meeting in Belgium in 2016. I served in the Board as Secretary which gave me the opportunity to help in defining the strategy, promoting the association, developing the web site, preparing funding requests, drafting and publishing the statutes, working on a diversity of administrative aspects, contacting people and answering to many requests from members and non-members.

My declaration of intention

In the current board, we had mainly to implement the structures of our associations, to find financial means, to develop collaborations. If elected in the new Agroecology Europe board, I will engage myself in new activities and consolidate the first achievements:

- Answering to member expectations through a participatory approach by organising surveys, taking personal contacts and reorienting the association activities in accordance;
- Paying attention to the diversity of sensitivities and points of views of the members on agroecology;
- Strengthening the relationships between NGOs, practitioners, and scientists within the association;
- Developing collaborations with other NGOS and groups through contacts and dialogue;
- Strengthening the representation and the influence of youths;
- Stimulating the activities of working groups on several important projects for preparing action and associating a large number people beyond the board to the governance of the association;
- Finding financial resources for professionalizing the functioning of the association;
- Better organizing the association structures (web site, payment system, bank account and book keeping, financial reporting system, etc.);
- Developing an efficient communication system for promoting agroecology in the whole society and notably by initiating advocacy activities towards decision makers.