

## **Letter of application**

Herewith I apply for being a member of the Board of Agroecology Europe. I think I could be a useful member of the Board. I have a long experience in the Netherlands working with farmers' associations as the *Northern Frisian Woodlands* (a territorial cooperative strongly committed to nature and landscape management), *Waddenproduct* (a regional association producing regional specialties) and *Streek Product Nederland* (a national organization engaged in the building of new markets). All these associations excel in one or more features of agro-ecology. I worked with the European Commission (and several national governments) in shaping rural development policies and with FAO for the promotion of family farming. I have strong international linkages with agro-ecological movements. I was, amongst others, keynote speaker at the recently held SOCLA Conference in Brasilia.

Currently I am emeritus professor of Wageningen University (which renders me at least some free time to be used for useful scopes) and still acting as Adjunct Professor in China Agricultural University.

Jan Douwe van der Ploeg