

Biography Margriet Goris

I am a PhD candidate at the Rural Extension group of the Federal University of Viçosa (UFV), Brazil and the Forest and Nature Conservation Policy group at Wageningen University (WUR), the Netherlands. Until July 2018 I am based in Viçosa after which I will move back to Wageningen. Via an action-research approach, I am analysing how young peasants within the agroecological movement in Brazil counter the hegemonic discourse on peasantry. As an ethnovideographer I work on the interface of research, film and education. I give lectures on the use of video for data collection, education and communication and I have been project leader and researcher at the Science Shop, a community-based research programme of Wageningen University. With the Dutch ngo OtherWise I initiated a research programme based on the knowledge and the demands of peasants in agroecological transition.

Declaration of intent

I am a daughter of a peasant family from the Netherlands and mother of three children. Since the age of fifteen I have been part of the social movement in the Netherlands. Many times I have felt in between two worlds; the world of my family of peasants and the work in and with social movements, which has always been connected to my academic studies and career. With the emergence of agroecology these worlds met. The social movements widened their horizon to include the voices of peasants, while peasants became more aware of the dependencies and land degradation that modern agriculture had created. And scientists are increasingly teaming up with peasants and other actors in society to find solutions for these problems- an approach that is at the heart of the Wageningen Science Shop, as well as of the way scientists connected to the agroecological movement in Brazil are working.

By joining the board of Agroecology Europe I hope to continue to work in this transdisciplinary way, building new collaborations between scientists, peasants and social movements. My goal would be for Agroecology Europe to contribute to more transdisciplinary research, education and knowledge exchange with peasants on agroecology, in order to truly ensure the convergence of agroecology as a science, a practice and a movement.

As a PhD candidate I can bring on board the many lessons learned about amplifying agroecology, by various actors in Brazil.

As a daughter of peasants I wish to enhance the representation of peasants within Agroecology Europe.

As an ethnovideographer I can contribute in building the narrative on agroecology in Europe. And finally, as a feminist, I will plea for diversity in gender, race, sexual orientation, class and religion within the work of Agroecology Europe to embrace human diversity as a principle of agroecology.

As a person I bring joy, enthusiasm, commitment and solidarity to the board.