

Corbais, the 23 September 2021

Dear members of Agroecology Europe,

I was among the nineteen founding members of Agroecology Europe and I organized the foundation meeting in Belgium in 2016. I have then undertaken the administrative steps for the publication of the statutes in the Belgian Official Journal adopted by the founding members.

Since then, I am the Secretary general of the association, a function that I fulfill on a voluntary basis. I did this job in close partnership with the presidents and vice-presidents. This job has been very demanding for getting the ball rolling and developing our association in all its components. I have dedicated about two full-time months per year to this job.

We developed a very good teamwork within the Executive Committee and the whole board. Trust, loyalty and efficient cooperation were the characteristics of our relationships.

With the strong support of the secretariat team, we organized the finance and personnel management, we planned and managed the numerous internal meetings of the General Assembly, the Board, and the Executive Committee, drafted the Newsletter for our members, we developed contacts with sisters NGO such as IFOAM, IPES Food, the EU Food Policy Coalition, and others, we started the advocacy activities in the EU institutions through policy workshops, publication of position papers, conferences and bilateral contacts with EU decision makers. We applied for a LIFE project (DG ENVI, EC), and we succeeded which makes today possible the financial support to all these activities. As a consequence and with the additional support of Horizon 2020 projects (DG Research, EC), the secretariat team grew up from one to five staff members. We are still a small but a fast-growing organization that is gaining recognition and respect from EU institutions.

On a personal basis, I developed for Agroecology Europe the OASIS assessment system that measure to what extent a farm is agroecological and thus assess the transition levels of farms towards agroecology. This system is also an efficient tool for advising farmers and co-developing with them their agroecological farms in a holistic and participatory way. I also contributed to the mapping of agroecological initiatives in Belgium.

Recently retired but more active than ever, I am ready to continue the support to our organization and to be strongly involved in its development. The secretariat still needs to be reinforced. All activities must be more and more professional. We must increase our impact, develop the Youth Network, stimulate the working groups, provide more services for farmers and other stakeholders, and significantly increase the number of our members. The work is still very important. I am ready to do this with energy and passion for a second and last mandate.



Alain Peeters



Alain PEETERS

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Born: 21 February 1956 in Brussels (Belgium)

Gender: Male. Married

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https://www.facebook.com/alain.peeters.79/?show_switched_toast=1&show_switched_tool_tip=0&show_podcast_settings=0

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES

Expertise

- Extensive **theoretical knowledge and field expertise** in general agronomy, ecology, agroecology, agroforestry, food security, ecosystem services, sustainable management of natural resources, environmental issues in agriculture, biodiversity in agriculture, landscape ecology, farming systems in temperate and tropical regions (Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, South America, Central Asia, Europe), traditional knowledge systems, innovation systems.
- **Large experience in research, education, extension and capacity building.**
- **Practice of sustainable farming systems. Pioneer of organic farming and agroecology in Belgium and Europe.**
- Large experience in international collaborations.
- **Design and assessment of public policies in agricultural, environmental and biodiversity matters (governance).**
- **Experience in negotiations with governments at United Nations level, European Union, and country levels. Experience in governance of NGOs and private companies.**

Skills

- **Excellent drafting and communication skills:** Articles, reports and books; 35-year experience of university teaching and oral presentations in international conferences.
- **Mastery of English and French.**
- **Management experience:** Direction and management of a team of 55 people at UCLouvain; Member of the governing council of several medium-size agricultural and environmental NGOs; Founder and manager of two **private companies**, ECOSEM and RHEA; Direction of an extension service and **laboratories** of soil (10,000 per annum), fodder (10,000 per annum), water (2,000 per annum) and food (500 per annum) analysis; Organization of 9 international conferences; Coordination of **networks of researchers** (FAO) as well as European and national research projects.
- Adaptation to **multicultural environments:** Long and medium duration stays abroad (sub-Saharan and North Africa, South America, East Europe); Supervision of foreign researchers and students; Coordination of international networks; Experience in social aspects of organizations.

Examples of practical experience in agroecology (30 years)

- **Design and development of agroecological systems** adapted to North West Europe conditions in collaboration with farmers, landowners and contractors, in several farms in Belgium and France.
- Implementation and management of **participatory and holistic research in pilot farms** for the development of agroecological systems (since the early 1990s).
- Research on the techniques of **biodiversity restoration and conservation in agriculture.**
- Management of **three experimental farms** in West Africa and Europe.
- Consultancies for the management of rangelands and protected areas in Azerbaijan, Morocco, Serbia, Tajikistan, Kirgizstan, Turkey (World Bank and FAO).
- Contribution to the **transposition** in the regulation of Wallonia (Belgium) of **European Directives and regulations about environment in agriculture:** the Agro-Environmental and Climate Measures (AECM), Nitrate Directive, NATURA 2000. Direction of the negotiations on the implementation of the AECM and the Nitrate Directive for the government of Wallonia.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Education and training

University of Louvain, Belgium (1974 – 1979): Bach. and **M. Sc. in Agricultural Engineering**
University of Louvain, Belgium (1979 – 1980): Bachelor's in sciences (Biology)
University of Louvain, Belgium (1985 – 1989): **PhD in Agricultural Science (Agronomy)**
Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) (United Kingdom) (1990 – 1991):
one-year sabbatical stay (continuous training).
Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) (2003 – 2004):
three-month sabbatical stay (continuous training).
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome (Italy) (2005):
three-month sabbatical stay (continuous training).

Main jobs – 40 years of experience

Director of the RHEA Research Centre (since 2007).
Collaborator of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Science (RBINS) (since 2007).
University Professor, University of Louvain (Belgium) (1990 – 2007).
Assistant at the University, University of Louvain (Belgium) (1984 – 1990).
Technical assistant in development cooperation in Africa (European Cooperation Agency,
Commission of the European Communities) (1981 – 1984).

Responsibilities in professional organizations

Agroecology Europe, the European Association for Agroecology, Co-Founder and Secretary General since 2016 (www.agroecology-europe.org);
Member of the Scientific Council of the French Association “Pour une Agriculture du Vivant” (<https://agricultureduvivant.org/>);
Inter-regional and cooperative network of research and development (FAO/CIHEAM) for pasture and fodder crops in mountain and Mediterranean areas, Coordinator (between 1996 and 2018). This network includes members from Europe, North Africa, Middle East, Australia, South Africa, Chile, California working on the management of dryland and mountain rangelands;
World Association of Grassland Scientists (International Grassland Congress, IGC), Representative of West Europe in the Board (Continuing Committee) (1997 – 2005);
European Grassland Federation (EGF), Representative of West Europe and Member of the Steering Committee, Representative of Belgium (2014-2016);
WWF – Belgium, Member of the Board (since 2014), President of the Conservation Committee, President of the French Community section;
Scientific Council of the DIVA program 'Public Action, Agriculture and Biodiversity' of the French Ministry of Ecology, President (2005 – 2016);
French Association of Forage Production, Member of the editorial board of the Journal « Fourrages (Forages) » (since 1999);
Club of Rome, Full Member of the EU-Chapter (since 2012);
European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (EFNCP);
Founder and Member of the Governing Council of the NGO NITRAWAL (in charge of the implementation of the Nitrate Directive in Wallonia) (2001 – 2007);
Founder and Member of the Board of the NGO AGRENWAL (in charge of the implementation of the agri-environment measures in Wallonia) (2000 – 2004);
Active Member of the "Working group on Integrated Arable Farming Systems for EC- and associated countries" (1993 – 1999);
Walloon Higher Council of Nature Conservation, Vice-President (1995-2002);
Walloon Council of Environment and Sustainable Development, Member (1995-2002);
Co-foundation of the Biodiversity Research Centre (BDIV) of the University of Louvain (UCL) (1999);
Foundation of the Belgian association ‘Young Nature Conservationists’ (1970).

POSITIONS

Since October 2007 – Research Centre ‘RHEA’ (natural Resources, Human Environment and Agronomy). Foundation and Direction.

Director of a Research Centre for a Sustainable Rural Development and the Management of Ecosystems. Research, research-development and consultancies on: **Agroecology; Pastoralism; Food security; Grassland management and Forage production; Farming systems; Plant and livestock productions; Organic farming; Biodiversity and agriculture; Soil management and conservation; Impact of climate change on farming systems.**

1984 to 1990 then 1990 to 2007 – University of Louvain, Faculty of Agronomy (Belgium). Assistant and then Professor.

Teaching of Agroecology; Farming systems in temperate and tropical areas; Crop and livestock productions in temperate and tropical regions; Pastoralism, rangeland management; Grassland management and Forage production; Organic and ecological farming; Biodiversity and agriculture; Ecology; Environmental sciences.

Research and research-development in agroecology and farming systems; grassland production and ecology; agriculture and environment (biodiversity, air and water pollutions); development and evaluation of sustainable farming systems including definition of indicators and research in pilot farms. Involvement and/or foundation of several research and extension structures in Belgium and in the World.

Services. (i) **Direction of an extension service:** organization of applied and demonstration experiments in experimental and commercial farms, visits of farms and experiments, publication of papers in farmer’s newspapers and of booklets, conferences, individual extension, development of pilot-farms. (ii) **Direction of laboratories** of soil, fodder, water and food analysis for farmers and small/medium-sized companies. (iii) **Development and direction of a ‘design office’ in environment** for private companies and public authorities.

Management of people and finance. Head of a team of 50-55 people including 10-15 researchers (about 50 people appointed on contracts negotiated with funding agencies).

1981 to 1984 – International consultant (head of project) in Guinea-Conakry for the European Association for Cooperation – EAC (European Development Fund, Commission of European Communities). Development of research-development laboratories in the three main Faculties of Agronomy of the country. Contribution to the definition of a research-development strategy for the Guinean Faculties. Training of the Professors of the Faculties of Agronomy. Reform and management of an experimental farm. Also mission in Guinea-Conakry for the World Bank on the description of the agricultural sector and farming systems.

EXAMPLES OF RESEARCH AND RESEARCH-DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

- AGROECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS. Action-research project on the design and holistic development of agroecological systems in several farms in Belgium and France (10 farms in total). Private financing. Period: since 2013.
- DEVELOPMENT OF THE AGROECOLOGICAL INDICATOR SYSTEM “OASIS”. Funded by FAO and Agroecology Europe since 2018.
- MAPPING OF AGROECOLOGICAL INITIATIVES IN BELGIUM AND IN EUROPE. Funded by “Fondation de France” and European Commission, DG ENVI, LIFE project since 2018.
- FOREST ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE. Biodiversity and close-to-nature forestry as a key to forest adaptation to climate change. "The Climate Forest Project". A privately funded project since 2018.
- INNO4GRASS, 2017-2019. Shared Innovation Space for Sustainable Productivity of Grasslands in Europe (innovation systems). EU-DG Research – H2020-RUR-2016-1. RUR-10-2016-2017. Thematic Networks compiling knowledge ready for practice. Contract CE FP7-244983. Period: 01/01/2017-31/12/2019.
- MULTISWARD, 2010-2014. Multi-species swards and multi scale strategies for multifunctional grassland-based ruminant production systems. EU-DG Research – Seventh framework programme. Contract CE FP7-244983. Period: 01/03/2010-28/02/2014.
- AGRO-CARBURANTS ET ENVIRONNEMENT : Biodiversité, pollution de l'eau, bilan énergétique et émissions de gaz à effet de serre. Service Public de Wallonie (Belgique), DGARNE. Période : 01/09/2010-31/08/2012.
- BELGIAN ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (2009-2011) Impact of global trade on biodiversity. Federal Research Office (Belgium).
- NATURA 2000, 2010-2011. Cahiers scientifiques descriptifs des habitats d'intérêt communautaire NATURA 2000. Service Public de Wallonie (Belgique), DEMNA.
- IMPACTS OF EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAMS (FP5 to 7) (2000-2010) and Prospects for Research and Innovation in Agriculture. Union Européenne, DG Recherche. Period: 10/2010-02/2011.
- EOLIENNES ET BIODIVERSITE (2011-2015) Précautions et mesures à prendre en faveur de la biodiversité dans le cadre des projets éoliens: mesures d'évitement, d'atténuation et de compensation. Electrabel. Période : 08/2011-05/2015.
- SAFE (SUSTAINABILITY INDICATOR SYSTEM) 2001-2004. 'Framework for assessing sustainability levels in Belgian agricultural systems (SAFE 2)' Federal Research Office (Belgium).
- TEMPORARY GRASSLANDS, 1999-2004. 'Temporary grasslands for sustainable systems adapted to mixed farms in Central Belgium' Federal Ministry of Agriculture (Belgium).
- NITROGEN MINERALIZATION AND GRASS GROWTH MODELLING, 1995-2000. 'Study of nitrogen mineralization in temporary grasslands, development of a model of grass growth' Federal Ministry of Agriculture (Belgium).
- LEGUME-BASED SET-ASIDE, 1992-1996 'Studies on legume-based set-asides and evaluation of their after-effects on the following crops of the rotation' Federal Ministry of Agriculture (Belgium).
- ECOFARM (Ecological farming), 1993-1997. 'Advanced ecological farming systems (EFS) based on best practices with organic farmers pilot-groups: ECOFARM' contract CEE AIR 3 CT 92 0051.
- EGRO, 1993-1995. 'Extensive management of grassland, impact on conservation of biological resources and farm output: EGRO' contract CEE AIR 3 CT 92 0079
- ORGANIC FARMING, 1991-1993. 'Study of the potential and the limits of systems and technics of integrated and alternative agriculture: BIO-CAMAR' contrat CEE CAMAR 8001-CT90-00034

EXAMPLES OF CONSULTANCY ACTIVITIES

2018 International consultant and leader of the project ‘Identification of agroecological initiatives and activities in Kyrgyzstan’. Funding agency: UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Budapest, Hungary.

2017 International consultant in Sustainable Grazing and Grassland Biodiversity in Turkey. Contribution to the definition of Grazing and Livestock management Action Plans. Funding agency: UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Ankara, Turkey.

2016 International consultant in conservation tillage, pastoralism and biodiversity in Tajikistan. On-farm technology Validation and Demonstration (OTVD) under Khatlon Livelihoods Support Project. Funding agency: UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Ankara, Turkey.

2011 – 2015 International consultant in pastoralism and biodiversity in Azerbaijan. Sustainable Management of Pastures Project. The project led to the definition and implementation of **Grazing Land Action Plans** and to **the design of the agri-environmental program of the Republic of Azerbaijan**. Funding agency: UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome, Italy.

2010 International consultant in pastoralism, agronomy and biodiversity in Burundi. Support to the definition of the **Strategic Plan of ISABU – Institute of Agricultural Sciences of Burundi (Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi)** for the next 10 years. Funding agency: BTC (Belgian Technical Cooperation) Agency.

2008 Definition of the environmental strategy of the NGO Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (Vets without Borders) especially for the interactions between development cooperation activities in stockbreeding and biodiversity conservation.

2007 – 2008 Several expert assessments for the Belgian administration of international cooperation

Evaluation of the programmes (2008 – 2010) of cooperation activities of several NGOs (Vétérinaires sans Frontières, ACTEC, Louvain développement, Solidarité socialiste – FCD, Association Belgique Rwanda). Redaction of reports. Participation to the political negotiations between the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the NGOs.

Funding agency: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Belgium.

2006 International consultant in pastoralism and biodiversity in Serbia. Head of mission in collaboration with Serbian experts. Study of rangeland management in the dry mountains of the **Nature Park Stara Planina (Serbia) (Drylands)**. Analysis of the quality and biodiversity of the most dominant grassland communities. Reviewing the information on the main factors of changes of ecosystems and biodiversity. **Recommendations** of measures for conserving and restoring grassland ecosystems, for supporting and developing pastoralism and stockbreeding again, for building pastoral infrastructure, and for promoting quality products in order to increase breeder’s income. Recommendations for the reform of the Nature Park administration and for a better cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment.

Funding agencies: World Bank and Government of the Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Water Management, Belgrade, Serbia.

1998 – 1999 International consultant in pastoralism and biodiversity in Morocco. Design and follow-up of a pastoral development project in the areas of Tazekka (National Park) and Tafraata (**Drylands**). Contribution to a participatory approach for the definition of the objectives of the project. Definition of measures for the restoration of forage quality, biodiversity and soil quality of grazed steppes and forests. Proposition for the improvement of water management. Definition of a system of project follow-up by sustainability indicators. Definition of a programme of capacity building. Funding agency: UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome, Italy.

2001 – 2002 Adviser of the Minister of Environment (Belgium).

Participation to the **Belgian delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** before and during the Belgian Presidency of the European Union for the implementation of a **Global Environment Governance**: participation to numerous international meetings in the **European Union Delegation** in Alger, Nairobi, Montreal, New York, Brussels. Participation in many meetings of the Council of Ministers of Environment of the European Union. Participation to the Governing Council of UNEP in Nairobi. Contribution to a definition of strategies for the implementation a Global Environment Governance.

Coordination with other countries of the European Union and contacts with delegations from other continents. Contacts with United Nations organizations and programmes. Report to the Minister of Environment in Wallonia and to the federal ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brussels). Diplomacy.

Funding agencies: Minister of Environment and DGRNE, Namur, Belgium.

2000 – 2006 Adviser of the Minister of Environment (Belgium).

Transposition of the European ‘Nitrate’ Directive (Directive 91/676/CEE) in Belgian law.

Contribution to a **definition of a political strategy for water protection in Wallonia**. Synthesis of scientific knowledge on nitrate pollution in agriculture in Europe and in the World.

Negotiation between stakeholders (farmer’s representatives (farmer’s Union), water producers and administrations). **Leading meetings with the stakeholders**. Drafting the text of the regulation.

Definition of a strategy and **development of an extension service for the implementation of the environmental legislation in the agricultural sector**.

Funding agencies: Minister of Environment and DGRNE, Namur, Belgium.

1992 – 1993 Adviser of the Minister of Agriculture and Environment (Belgium).

Design of the agri-environmental scheme of Wallonia. Negotiation between stakeholders (Farmer’s Union, NGOs and administrations). **Leading meetings with the stakeholders**. Drafting the text of the regulation.

Funding agencies: Minister of Agriculture and Environment and DGA, Namur, Belgium.

1982 Consultant in agronomy, member of a multidisciplinary mission with agro-economists, foresters and agronomists. Evaluation of the agricultural sector in Guinea-Conakry (for the World Bank). Visit of the main regions of the country. Contacts with the local authorities, the administrations, the research and extension services, the State farms, the farmers of many villages. Interviews and field visits.

Drafting of a report on crop and livestock productions, on the economic aspects of agricultural productions including on State farms and on the state of the infrastructures. Presentation of the report at the World Bank in Washington.

Funding agencies: AGCD (Belgian Agency of International Cooperation) (now CTB), Brussels, Belgium; World Bank, Washington, DC, USA.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

(1 – excellent; 5 – basic)

Languages	Reading	Speaking	Writing
French	1	1	1
English	1	1	1

PUBLICATIONS

List of publications on request.

- Books: 22
- Chapters in books: 20
- Peer reviewed papers in international journals: 78
- Papers in Proceedings of international conferences: 73
- Peer reviewed papers published in national journals: 16
- Papers published in national proceedings: 18
- Other papers and advisory booklets: 94
- Technical and scientific reports: 135
- Total: 456 publications

TWO RECENT PAPERS

Peeters A., Lefebvre O., Balogh L., Barberi P., Batello C., Bellon S., Gaifami T., Gkisakis V., Lana M., Migliorini P., Ostermann O., Wezel A., (soumis pour publication). A Green Deal for implementing agroecological systems – Reforming the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union. *Journal of Sustainable and Organic Agricultural Systems*

van der Ploeg J.D, Barjolle D., Bruil J., Brunori G., Costa Madureira L.M., Dessein J., Drağ Z., Fink-Kessler A., Gasselin P., Gonzalez de Molina M., Gorchach K., Jürgens K., Kinsella J., Kirwan J., Knickel K., Lucas V., Marsden T., Maye D., Migliorini P., Milone P., Noe E., Nowak P., Parrott N., Peeters A., Rossi A., Schermer M., Ventura F., Visser M., Wezel A. (2019) The economic potential of agroecology: Empirical evidence from Europe. *Journal of Rural Studies* 71: 46-61. (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2019.09.003>).

EXAMPLES OF BOOKS OR CHAPTERS IN BOOKS OF INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

- Couvreur J.-M., Peeters A., M., Halford M. et Delescaille L. (2021) Les habitats prairiaux et les mégaphorbiaies. In : Delescaille L.-M., Wibail L., Claessens H., Dufrêne M., Mahy G., Peeters A. et Sérusiaux E. (éditeurs) (2020). *Les Habitats d'Intérêt Communautaire de Wallonie*. Publication du Département de l'Étude du Milieu Naturel et Agricole (SPWDGARNE). Série « Faune – Flore – Habitat », n° 10, Gembloux : 113 p. Downloadable from: <https://fr.calameo.com/read/0058492779660ebf497ee>
- Delescaille L.-M., Wibail L., Claessens H., Dufrêne M., Mahy G., Peeters A. et Sérusiaux E. (éditeurs) (2021). *Les Habitats d'Intérêt Communautaire de Wallonie*. Publication du Département de l'Étude du Milieu Naturel et Agricole (SPW DGARNE), Série « Faune – Flore – Habitat » n° 10, Gembloux : 1011 p. Downloadable from: <http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/les-habitats-d-interet-communautaire.html?IDC=6399>
- Peeters A. and Wezel A. (2017) Agroecological Principles and Practices for Grass-based Farming Systems. Chapter 11 in Wezel A. (Ed.) *Agroecological Practices for Sustainable Agriculture*. World Scientific, *Connecting Great Minds*: 293-354 (https://doi.org/10.1142/9781786343062_0011).

- Murphy-Bokern D., Peeters A. and Westhoek H. (2017) The role of legumes in bringing protein to the table. In Murphy-Boken D., Stoddard F., Watson Ch. (Ed.) 'Legumes in cropping systems' 364 p. CABI (Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International), Wallingford, United Kingdom: 49-76.
- Huyghe C., De Vliegheer A., van Gils B. and Peeters A. (2014) Grasslands and Herbivore Production in Europe and Effects of Common Policies. Quae Editor, Versailles: 320 pp. (ISBN-13: 978-2-7592-2158-5). Downloadable from: <http://www.quae.com/fr/r3371-grasslands-and-herbivore-production-in-europe.html>
- Peeters A. (2013) Global trade impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Chapter 17. In 'Ecosystem Services. Global Issues, Local Practices' Jacobs S., Dendoncker N. and Keune H. (Eds). Elsevier: 191-219 (ISBN: 9780124199644). (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B9780124199644000172>)
- Peeters A., Dendoncker N. and Jacobs S. (2013) Enhancing ecosystem services in Belgian agriculture through agroecology: a vision for a farming with a future. Chapter 22. In 'Ecosystem Services. Global Issues, Local Practices' Jacobs S., Dendoncker N. and Keune H. (Eds). Elsevier: 285-304 (ISBN: 9780124199644). (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B9780124199644000226>)
- Peeters A. (2004) Wild and sown grasses. Profiles of a temperate species selection: ecology, biodiversity and use. FAO & Blackwell Publishing, Italy: 311 pp.
- Danckaert S., Derijck K., Mulders C. and Peeters A. (2012) Belgium. In 'High Nature Value farming in Europe' Oppermann R., Beaufoy G., Jones G. (eds.). Verlag Regionalkultur, Ubstadt: 128-137 (ISBN 978-3-89735-657-3).

‘INVITED SPEAKER’ AND ‘INTRODUCTORY TALKS’ AT THE CONFERENCES OF:

- The Brazilian Society of Animal Science, 2017 (invited speaker);
- the Third International Conference on Farming Systems on the Loess Plateau (China), 2011 (invited speaker);
- the Japanese Society for Grassland Science (Japan) 2010 (invited speaker);
- the European Grassland Federation: in Italy, 1996 (invited speaker); in Hungary, 1998 (invited speaker); in Estonia, 2005; in Spain, 2006 (invited speaker); in Sweden, 2008 (introductory talk of the conference); in Poland, 2012 (introductory talk of the conference); in Norway, 2016 (invited speaker);
- the International Grassland Congress: in Canada, 1997; in Ireland (conclusions of the conference), 2005; in China in 2008 (introductory talk of the conference); in India 2015 (invited speaker);
- ‘Stapledon Seminar’ of the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (United Kingdom), 2000;
- the French association of fodder production (France); 2004; (conclusions of the conference), 2005; 2012.
- EUCARPIA: in Italy, 2006.

EDITOR of 9 ‘proceedings’ of international conferences.

CONSULTANT

at several occasions for the European Commission, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Bank, the Centre for Biological Diversity (CBD), the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development of the French Republic.

PRIVATE COMPANIES

Foundation of **ECOSEM**, a start-up of the UCL, that multiplies seeds and plants of indigenous wild plant species for the development of ecological infrastructures (2001).

Foundation of the **Research Centre ‘RHEA’**
(natural Resources, Human Environment and Agronomy)