

The Netherlands Report

By Annechien ten Have – Mellema, 2014 Scholar and Chair



Being the Nuffield NL chair since October, this is my first chairman's report for Nuffield international. My name is Annechien ten Have – Mellema, farmer in the north of The Netherlands with a piggery, arable and a biodigester.

I am a 2014 Scholar who studied the value chain of pig meat. In particular, how can we produce in special market concept: Challenges and threats?

I am very excited to see how Nuffield The Netherlands, as the youngest country in the Nuffield family, develops and more and more professionalizes. Our group of 24 Nuffield Scholars in The Netherlands are all very involved into Nuffield. It was great to see that more than half of our group participating in the 2017 Triennial Conference in the UK. In 2018, Nuffield The Netherlands will organize and host the Contemporary Scholars Conference, and it will be great to see how this program comes together.

We have selected six 2018 NL Scholars from a nice wide range of professionals. One special scholarship is for Yvon Jaspers. Yvon is the Dutch presenter of 'farmers seeks a wife', a television program that will start with its tenth season next year and that has been watched by almost six million people. The Scholars were announced at the Nuffield NL autumn congress. We were happy and proud to welcome Nuffield International CEO Jim Geltch and Chair Kelvin Meadows and 2016 UK Scholar Robbie Moore as international speakers and also several international guests.

2018 Scholars

Chris Antuma runs an organic production farm on the sandy soils in Eastern Netherlands with his family. They grow herb roots like Valerian and Echinacea. The extracts of these are being used in natural products preventing cold, flu and restoring natural sleep. They also produce vegetables red onions and red beets. Outdoor production in our temperate maritime climate is basically only possible in the summer season. A welcome addition to our activities would also be some kind of (indoor)production or processing activity for the winter season.

Edwin Michiels, with his wife, run a mixed farm in Limburg. Pig farming is combined with arable farming and growing flowerbulbs. They have consciously chosen to produce their pigs within an animal welfare concept owned by an animal protection NGO and VION. Edwin is chairman of the Supervisory Board of Vitelia (a medium-sized cattle feed cooperative), member of the Supervisory Board of Royal Cosun (sugar beet cooperative) and board member

at LTO Arable Farming (Dutch farmers association). He will investigate whether there are better ways to close the mineral cycles between animal husbandry, arable and horticulture.

Kees Hemminga with his father runs a dairy farm in the northern part of the Netherlands. Before this, he studied business administration and worked at the Dutch dairy cooperative FrieslandCampina. He has a broad interest in dairy on both the farm level and on a global scale. Kees will study global trends and developments that affect the Dutch dairy industry, and how to manage this on the farm. As an entrepreneur I find it very important to get a greater insight in global trends in order to position my own business more effectively.

Rick de Vor, from Snelrewaard (Utrecht region) in the Netherlands is a dairy farmer with 115 cows. On this farm they grow corn and silage for cows on 38 hectares. Their ground is a clay on peat soil that every year a couple of millimeter descents. That's a problem for their environment and this is the main reason he will research the soil decrease in peat ground and how it's possible to minimize the decrease of the soil so there is less output of CO₂ and that there are less problems with high water.

Robert Nijkamp together with his family, a farm with slower growing broilers and dairy cows. At this moment there are 40 dairy cows with 23 ha pasture and three poultry houses equipped with winter garden. These houses accommodate 70,000 broilers with the "Beter Leven" (Better Life) label. After his Bachelor degree Modern Animal husbandry, Robert worked as a Sales- and Nutrition Manager for pigs and poultry for a feed production company. Robert will focus research on the usage of the data available on farm - together with the blockchain technology – in order to make the connection between farmers and consumers.

Yvon Jaspers presents the popular TV Show 'Farmer wants a wife' since 2004. Beside her TV activities, she writes columns in trade magazines and leads conferences and workshops about the relationship between the agricultural sector and the Dutch public. Her TV show about romance at the countryside draws millions of viewers each week. Yet her ambition to show the real life and challenges of the farmers community in the Netherlands is met with much less enthusiasm. Therefore, Yvon wants to visit inspiring examples all over the world and learn from these best practices that successfully tell their positive 'farm and food' stories to a big audience.