

Movement Day Outcomes – 1 December 2025

Towards a powerful, broad, and diverse movement for agroecology



On 1 December 2025, active members of the Agroecology Network came together in Ede for an intensive Movement Day. It was the fourth major gathering of the year, with a strong focus on deepening and sharing experiences within the [Network's working groups](#). Around 50 people— young and older—from across the country (and even from Germany and Belgium) found each other around a shared question: *How, with all our different perspectives, do we build a strong agroecological movement in the Netherlands?*

➤ ***Interested in joining the AEN Signal group and email list?***

Send an email to: info@agroecologie.nl or [join the Signal group here](#)

➤ ***Want to get involved in a working group? Or know more about them?***

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A socio-political, global movement

After a playful song, Darleen briefly looked back with us at the past years of network-building. We reflected on how the different working groups form the beating heart of the network—and at the same time how difficult it can be to keep an overview of all the initiatives. We also heard from Leonardo how our network is rooted in (and directly connected to) an impressive international movement of farmers, fishers, pastoralists, and Indigenous communities.

It was stated clearly: **agroecology is more than a set of farming practices.** It is a socio-political movement for just food systems—where knowledge from farming practice, from social movements, and from researchers needs each other.



Pride and dreams in the working groups

The five working groups gave short pitches: what are we proud of, what is happening now, and what do we dream of if time and resources were not a limitation? Participants gained insight into each other's projects and ambitions—and it became clear how much the working groups strengthen each other in practice.

Mycelia of Hope



The Mycelia of Hope working group aims to bring agroecological farmers, activists, and other allies closer together by organizing work days on different agroecological farms across the Netherlands. Rooted in a culture of mutual aid, Mycelia of Hope works on learning together about agroecology and strengthening an agroecological movement that builds bridges between citizens and farmers, city and countryside, and human and more-than-human life.

What we are proud of:

- Connections built with the asylum seeker centre (AZC) in Wageningen. We brought residents of the AZC to work days, worked together in the AZC garden, and supported people by figuring out bureaucratic/legal issues.
- Work days on farms that we organized and that attracted (many) people.

In 2026 we want to build even more connections between farmers, migrants, and active people in the Agroecology Network. [Mycelia also has an Instagram channel.](#)

Agroecological Territories

We are proud that we are bringing agroecological principles to life in three territories in the Netherlands: the Amsterdam polder-lake area, [the South Veluwe watershed](#), and Friesland. In these territories, relationships are strengthened between place and community, past and present, economy and culture, and young and old. Knowledge—about fermentation, soil health, and craft, for example—is shared locally and adapted.



Food sovereignty is central. We strive for resilient territories that are less dependent on external inputs and imports, and where value (economic, cultural, and ecological) is kept within the region. A territorial identity is the foundation of this work: knowledge of a territory's history and characteristics helps people care for it. We also look at our deep historical connectedness with other territories and cultures that have shaped us—and continue to shape us.

This work matters because we are building connection and courage in the places where people live, in a context of growing disconnection between communities and their territories, rising fascism, and polarization. The deep history of territories tells us a lot about our future—and offers a powerful opportunity to unite movements.

Plans for 2026:

- A learning community gathered around the fire in the territories—learning and growing, and growing
- Developing a shared story for the entire Dutch Delta
- Driving cultural transformation — scaling deep



Rooting Deeper Festival

In May 2025 we organized the first edition of this festival in Ede, with one day of cycling excursions and one day of festival programming. More than 600 people joined. We are proud that we were able to involve decolonial artists and makers in the AEN, and that we found a way to celebrate our movement.

What was especially meaningful was how many new connections were made:

- a) agriculture with antifascism *and* spirituality,
- b) local, national, and international,
- c) children and grandparents,
- d) farmers and citizens, city and countryside.

The idea is to hold this festival every two years. Hopefully new people will join the organizing team.



Labour and Migration

Agroecology is about justice—and that begins with the rights and dignity of the people who produce our food. With around 300,000 labour migrants doing a large share of the work in agriculture, **just work for labour migrants is central to the agroecological story in the Netherlands.** Because exploitation of labour migrants is a reality in Dutch agriculture.

With more than 20,000 often unlicensed and weakly monitored temp agencies, wage theft, poor housing, and insecure contracts are a major problem. Housing is so bad, expensive, and overcrowded that **two-thirds of people experiencing homelessness in the Netherlands are former labour migrants**. This situation is maintained by weak legislation, an underfunded Labour Inspectorate, and the political influence of large retailers and temp agencies. Strengthening labour rights—and building a robust inspection system—are crucial to improving the situation for labour migrants.

Solidarity with trade unions and migrant organizations is essential if we, as an agroecology movement, want to push back against exploitation in agriculture. We are proud of the alliances we built with these organizations over the past year—and we will continue this work in 2026. We created a manifesto on labour migration and invited others to think along about ways to make migrant workers' experiences visible—and ultimately to improve them.

The working group is organizing a dinner to eat together with labour migrants on **16 February 2026** and a **film night on 5 March 2026**. **5 March 2026**: a film night



Access to Land

Long-term security of land use is essential for making sustainable investments (such as planting trees or improving soil fertility) and for a stable livelihood for farmers. Toekomstboeren supports farmers in gaining access to land, brings land issues to public attention, and advocates for a different tenancy law. In the coming period, the Land working group—[led by Toekomstboeren](#)—will start an inventory among Toekomstboeren members and newly graduated farmers about the need for land. To what extent can (new) farmers get started, or are they blocked by lack of access to land? How much land do they need? In which areas do they need security in order to start? What obstacles do farmers face in searching for land, what routes exist, and what can we learn from success stories?

Agroecology Knowledge Collective



The Agroecology Knowledge Collective (AKC) strengthens collaboration between researchers, students, and farmers, so that research becomes truly transdisciplinary and usable in practice. We want a realistic structure and strategy that fits the different needs and availabilities of farmers and researchers.

The AKC can provide practice-oriented support for researchers to show how agroecological research can be carried out according to AE principles. We focus on better working methods for collaboration with farmers throughout the entire research process (from problem definition to interpretation and application).

There are many ideas, but the limiting factor is structural: time and capacity for both farmers and researchers. That is why the group first wants to make a clear choice about its role (practice-oriented support group, platform/connector, or advocacy), and then prioritize a limited, feasible list of actions. First concrete actions mentioned: mobilizing for better funding for farmer participation, clarifying what the AKC can mean for the Federation, and simplifying the publishing/adding of content on the website.

Open Space

After lunch—and some movement to live music outdoors—the program shifted to an Open Space session that went beyond the working groups. The central question was: **what can we, from our different positions, do together to strengthen the network *and* the agroecological movement?**

In one session, migration and labour again took centre stage—this time with a sharper focus on the polder-lake area around Amsterdam. Participants explored how the stories of migrant workers are often “crumpled away” in the dominant history of the landscape, and how we can bring those stories back to the surface.

We spoke about the continuity between colonial exploitation and contemporary labour relations, and about possibilities for mapping places of exploitation *and* resistance: which farms, distribution centres, or villages are hotspots, and how can we be present there as a

network? Alongside the more serious analyses, there was also the playful call to “make migration sexy again”: not framing migration only as a problem, but as a source of new relationships, knowledge, and culture within agroecological communities.

For the Knowledge Collective, the open space made it clear that “collecting questions from farmers” is not enough on its own: the group emphasized that farmers must be involved in every step of research (problem definition, method choices, interpretation, application). Ideas also emerged around guidelines/examples for collaboration, training and peer learning for students and supervisors, matchmaking (including internships/theses), and building a light shared knowledge infrastructure (website/knowledge map/inventory).



Structure and collaboration

Other open-space sessions focused on how the network’s internal structure can better match the reality of the working groups. It was noted that the working groups are the engine of the network—and that the steering group should primarily play a supportive role: connecting, building visibility, and offering practical support where needed. Ideas included fixed contact persons per working group, regular short online check-ins, and a clearer rhythm of shared network days.

It was also suggested that we could organize better onboarding for new people, for example by holding an introductory one-hour webinar every two months. At the same time, there was healthy restraint: better a few concrete agreements that are doable than a long wish list that becomes impossible in the rush of daily life.

Agroecology is relational

In the closing circle, we harvested what had been discussed across the different sessions. The harvest showed that the day set a lot in motion—both in content and in organization. Substantively, the connection between agroecology and social justice became sharper, with special attention to migration, labour, and the position of people in vulnerable circumstances.

Participants expressed the need for a clearer shared narrative: what is specific about this agroecological movement—and how? We reflected that the many young people in our network, our growing connections with trade unions and antifascism, and our deep international roots make us a unique movement. There was also a strong desire to keep our connections with farmers and farmer organizations strong within the network.

The Movement Day in Ede achieved what it set out to do: it helped those present find each other in their diversity, share knowledge across disciplines and backgrounds, and build new connections that reach beyond the day itself. It became clear that an enormous amount is happening in the Network's working groups—and that together we are building a powerful movement.

Participants went home with concrete ideas—from further developing and spreading the manifesto on labour migration to strengthening connections between farms and asylum seeker centres—but also with a renewed sense of togetherness. On this day, agroecology was not only discussed as a concept, but lived as a way of working together: **relational, critical, caring, and oriented toward justice and dignity.**



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