



# EU CAP Network Conference 'EIP-AGRI Operational Groups: Innovation in practice'

Estoril, Portugal  
6 - 8 May 2024



Funded by  
the European Union

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# Carmen Landuyt

OG 'From handyman to manufacturer: professionalization of self-made mechanisation in Flanders'





## From handyman to constructor: professionalization of self-assembly mechanisation in Flanders, BELGIUM 'Boer Bricoleur'

*Carmen Landuyt, CCBT*  
*Bert Vandergeynst, Aardevol*



Europees Landbouwfonds  
voor Plattelandsontwikkeling:  
Europa investeert  
in zijn platteland



# How it started...

- CCBT = umbrella of applied research for organic farming in Flanders (Belgium)
- Biennial demonstration day + **innovation contest for farmers who build their own machinery**
  - => harvesting & exchanging innovations of farmers
- Winning innovation in 2018: **electric bed weeder** based on second hand wheelchair (farmer: Alex Floré)
- **Other farmers wanted to replicate!**



# How it started...



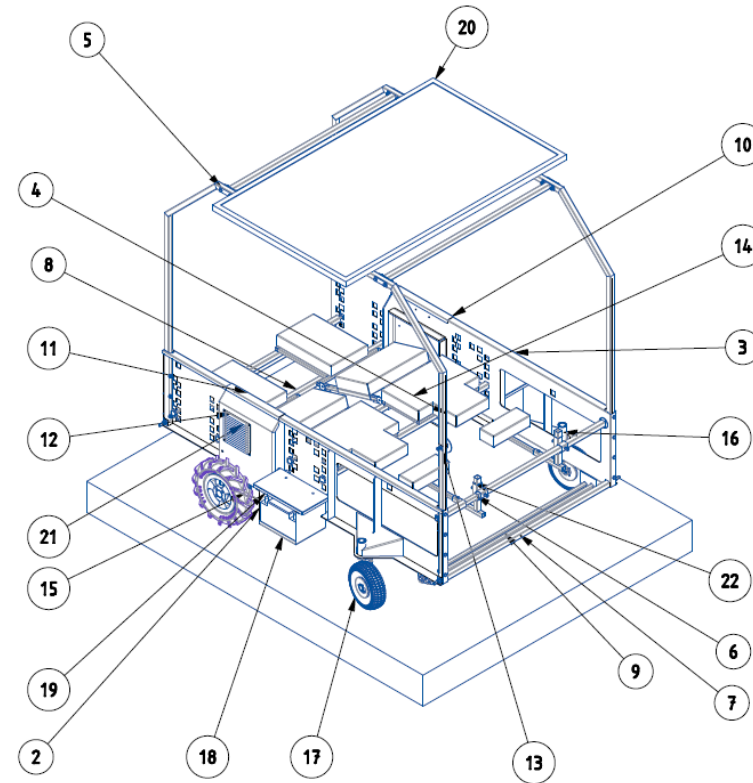
- **Bert Vandergeynst** = Belgian organic vegetable farmer
  - Participated in trainings of l'Atelier Paysan (FR) for building machinery for his own farm
  - Enthusiast and socially engaged about bringing the concept of 'building together' to Belgium

Combining the request of Flemish farmers with the French experience, enthusiasm & know-how of Bert

=> **Boer Bricoleur** was born

# Next step: partners!

- Teamed up with **6 other organic farmers** who are passionate about developing and building machines/tools
- Open source construction plans > **VIVES** (higher education collega) joined to **help drawing the plans**
- **Scientific advice:**



# Operational Group: 'From handyman to constructor: professionalization of self-assembly mechanisation in Flanders'

- European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability' (EIP)

- Duration: 1 jan 2021 - 31 dec 2022

- Partners:

- Aardevol: Bert Vandergeynst
- Vives Hogeschool: Geert Furniere
- Inagro: Joran Barbry
- Rawijs: Alex Floré
- ILVO: Simon Cool
- Karel Dewaele
- Oogstgoed: Rony Nekkebroeck
- Oostgoed: Thijs Demeulenaere
- De Zaailing: Nelis Schiettecatte
- Kiemkracht: Klaas Ysebaert
- Tom Callewaert
- CCBT: Carmen Landuyt



*Starting from the needs and ideas of farmers and building the action plan for the OG together, sharing responsibilities, supports **ownership & trust**.*

# Activities

- Self building concept for **electrical bed weeder** (2021)
- **DIY GPS** on tractor (2022)
- Farmers poll to decide for next tool >> **on and off roller** for drip tapes (2022)
  
- **3 Farmer-led-trainings:** learning-and-doing:
  - Build your own machine
  - Learn technical skills: welding, wood working
  - Exchange with colleagues
- Building plans available for download
- **And don't forget to have fun!**  
(Social aspects can be very valuable)





# Next steps

- Follow up project 2023-2024 (new Operationel Group) focusing on **automation**
- Exploring feasibility to **set up a formal organisation** in Belgium together with farmers:
  - Learn-and-do trainings
  - Mobile workshop
  - Individual guidance on mechanisation
  - Machine library?
- Exchange innovation & methodologies with other Living Labs in an international network: [Grassroots innovations for agroecology](#)



**Thank you for listening!**  
**Questions?**

[www.boerbricoleur.be](http://www.boerbricoleur.be)  
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# **EU CAP Network conference**

## **‘EIP-AGRI Operational Groups: Innovation in practice’**

6-8 May 2024

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All information on the conference is available on the event webpage:

<https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/events/eu-cap-network-conference-eip-agri-operational-groups-innovation-practice>

