EU CAP Network Conference
‘EIP-AGRI Operational Groups: Innovation in practice’

Estoril, Portugal
6 - 8 May 2024
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
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: Inagro & ILVO
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
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All information on the conference is available on the event webpage: