

*Connecting*



## **Louis Bolk Institute**

The Louis Bolk Institute is an independent international research and advisory organisation. We offer solutions for problems related to organic and sustainable agriculture, health care and nutrition. Our solutions are effective because we work closely with those engaged in practical applications and integrate the broader context into our methodology. This participatory approach ensures that research results lead to healthy and sustainable growth of humans, animals, plants and soil.

In many projects we cooperate with Wageningen University and Research Centre (Wageningen UR), the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO), as well as various other universities and knowledge organisations. Among our major customers are the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV), the Ministry for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM), the European Commission, development agencies, banks and a range of companies.

We carry out our research, advisory and concept development work within three departments: Agriculture, Health Care & Nutrition, and International Agriculture. For a full overview of our activities, please visit [www.louisbolk.org](http://www.louisbolk.org).

## **Annual report 2009** *Connecting*

Last year was particularly special for us. It was a year in which – after the merger with Agro Eco – we refocused our activities, entering into stronger relationships with our partners and stakeholders who, in turn, provided their view on our new positioning. We play a connecting role between those with diverse interests in agriculture and this bridging function is especially valued. We provide communications and coordination for the LNV-funded organic farmers' networks and we have set up a similar network in Flanders. We were also involved in the development, organisation and presentation to the European Commission of the first European research plan for organic agriculture. In addition, we are involved in meeting society's need for scientific evidence of the effectiveness of complementary health care. And we form the connecting link between local agricultural cooperatives in the tropics and development organisations in Europe which have sustainability high on their agenda.



We also want to create the same kind of long-lasting connection with you by providing a concise annual report and extending a clear invitation to you to get in contact with us. We will be happy to hear from you.

For the Louis Bolk Institute  
Bendert Gijzel, Acting Director  
Chris Koopmans, Miek Jong and Bo van Elzakker – heads of departments

## **LBI Agriculture** *Cooperation with all stakeholders*

In the Agriculture department we work on socially relevant topics such as Agrobiodiversity, Sustainable Soil Management, Animal Health and Welfare, 'Green' Plant Breeding and Cooperation between farmers and nature conservation. Thanks to our years of experience in upscaling organic agriculture, we have become experts in sustainability. We carry out research for the LNV Ministry in collaboration with Wageningen UR. In addition, provincial and regional authorities call on us for help in fulfilling their ambitions in terms of biodiversity and nature conservation. Our strength is that, together with farmers, we develop and integrate scientific knowledge from across the board in what we call the participatory systems approach.

One of around 120 agriculture projects that we completed in 2009 was for the Dutch Province of Drenthe. In the "Drenthe Soil Quality" project, the Province intends to stimulate sustainable soil use. The aim of the investigation, therefore, was to gain better insight into the diversity and the functioning of soil organisms. This is because these soil biota play a crucial role in soil services, or *ecosystem services*, such as water regulation, nutrient supply and water purification. Farmers affect the soil organisms, and therefore the functioning of ecosystem services, through cultivation techniques such as ploughing, fertilization, and plant protection measures. The study, which was carried out between 2007 and 2009, consisted of taking various soil measurements and making a comparison of the short-term effects of soil improvement measures.

This research revealed the positive effects of bio waste compost on soil structure and the great importance of the correct C: N ratio for soil organisms. Even more important was the close involvement of farmers in the project. They specified what for them were important ecosystem services. They came to realise how aspects of the soil, such as organic matter content, soil structure and soil organisms, are interwoven, and how important it is to integrate soil management measures with each other. Thanks to their involvement, the farmers are able to put this newly acquired knowledge more rapidly into practice and thus engage in a more sustainable form of agriculture.

Would you like to find out how this team can be of use to your organisation? If so, please contact the head of department Chris Koopmans, Ph.D. The Agriculture department comprises approximately 30 researchers and advisers.



## **LBI Health Care & Nutrition** *Broad vision of health*

In the Health Care & Nutrition department we focus on four themes: Complementary Treatment Methods & Integrative Medicine, Nutrition, 'Green Care' (farm-based therapy) and Education. Thanks to our systems approach and expertise in methodological clinical research, we have a broad view on nutrition and health. The most pressing question is whether and how organic products and complementary medicine can promote human health. These are the kinds of questions that funds, foundations, pharmaceutical companies and governments would like to see answered. In carrying out this research, we work closely with Wageningen University, TNO, the University of Groningen Medical Centre, the Slotervaart Hospital in Amsterdam and a variety of other organisations in the care and knowledge sectors.



In 2009, we carried out various research projects in the area of Integrative Medicine. One of Integrative Medicine's basic principles is the integration of complementary methods into conventional health care. By linking the two views, we continue to work on an integrated and sustainable concept of care in which quality is leading. It is, of course, necessary to demonstrate the efficacy of complementary methods. Increasing numbers of doctors, specialists, and producers of complementary and alternative medicines apply to the Louis Bolk Institute for research projects of this type. For example, for an international customer we compared the use of the anthroposophical medicinal product *Citrus/Cydonia comp.*, an injectable solution, in hay fever patients with that of the nose spray *Gencydo*.

Such comparative studies are of particular importance, because increasing numbers of patients are choosing complementary medicines, rather than the usual antihistamine and corticosteroid treatments. Our randomised controlled clinical study showed that *Citrus/Cydonia comp.* was not only curative but also promoted health. In addition, we developed an immunological model with which to monitor future treatments and to investigate their health promotion effects. Through our research we are building better insights into the efficacy of Integrative Medicine. What's more, we are establishing the link between the growing societal demand for complementary medical methods, combined with the need for sound scientific evidence.

Would you like to find out more about the Health Care & Nutrition team's research? For more information, please contact Miek Jong, Ph.D., the head of department. Her team, which has 6 members, works for national as well as international customers.



## **LBI International Agriculture** *Sustainable agricultural supply chains*

The International Agriculture team works from the Netherlands, Ghana and Uganda. Projects focus on *value chain development* (setting up sustainable supply chains), *capacity building* (boosting grower competencies) and local sustainability. We operate in Eastern and West Africa, the Middle East, Central and Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. Our clients are mainly Western development organisations and local NGOs, which benefit from our expertise on the ground and from our extensive network in Western Europe. More and more companies wish to get involved in fair, sustainable trade and are therefore also keen to call on our expertise. Outside the Netherlands we operate under the name Agro Eco-Louis Bolk Institute.



We create links between local farmers and trading partners, as well as between policymakers in development cooperation and local cooperatives. In addition, we evaluate the development projects of third parties to assess whether results are in line with the original project aims. In 2009, for instance, we evaluated the effectiveness of a substantial development project by the Swiss SECO (State Secretariat of Economic Affairs). The aim of the project was to stimulate organic agriculture in developing and transition countries. The retrospective evaluation by an independent party allows governments and funding bodies to determine whether the project was effective and whether funds were employed efficiently. We carried out this project together with Wageningen International using OECD/DAC standards and internationally recognised evaluation criteria. Although the project's objectives were not very clearly formulated at the outset, we were able to give the Swiss government a clear picture of the project's achievements. Furthermore, our recommendations led to tighter initial criteria being drawn up for subsequent projects. SECO selected our organisation because of the expertise we have built up during many years' experience of implementing agricultural projects, our international network, and our experience of independent research.

For more information about foreign advisory and development projects, please consult the head of our department International Agriculture, Bo van Elzakker, BSc. who has 15 colleagues based in Driebergen, Accra and Kampala.



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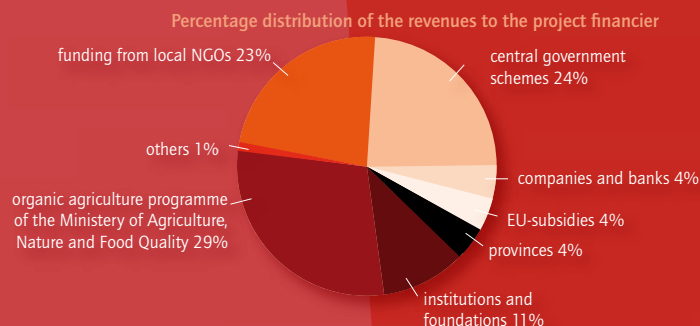
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Statement of revenue and expenditure (x € 1000)

	Actual 2009	Budget 2009
<b>Revenues</b>		
Projects	5,312	5,065
Gifts and income from fund raising	162	15
Donations	5	-
<b>Total income</b>	<b>5,480</b>	<b>5,080</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Subcontracting costs	1,975	1,230
Wages and salaries	2,737	2,617
Social security contributions	282	270
Depreciation of tangible and intangible fixed assets	128	65
Other operating costs	593	502
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>5.715</b>	<b>4,684</b>
<b>Balance from ordinary business operations</b>	<b>-235</b>	<b>396</b>
Financial revenue and expenditure	0.5	0
Extraordinary income/expenditure	-19	0
<b>Result</b>	<b>-254</b>	<b>396</b>



**Annual accounting statement** These figures refer to the consolidated annual statement of the LBI Foundation (Stichting LBI). An auditor's report has been delivered on these figures, which was approved by Ernst & Young on 26 April 2010.

**Management** As of 31 December 2009, the Supervisory Board was made up as follows: Drs. A.F. van de Klundert, chair; T.N. Peetoom; A. van den Burgt and Drs. H.J. Niemeijer, deputy chair. The Management Board in 2009 consisted of a single director: Mr V. Blok Ph.D. The Supervisory Board, together with the manager, mutually agreed at the end of 2009 that they would go their separate ways as of 31 January 2010.

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