Social farming in the Netherlands

Marjolein Elings





Program

- Development of Dutch social farming sector
- Key success factors
- Results of effect studies
- Future directions and international challenges



Social farming: the Dutch situation

- Growing sector: 1100 care farms, more than 20.000 clients
- Different client groups: at first people with learning difficulties. Nowadays: people with a
- Different care provided





Social farming: the Dutch situation

- Farmer's wife with background in health care
- Former health care workers
- Social motive
- Financial motive
- New perspective/future alternative for intensification



Development of the social farming sector in the Netherlands

- 1999: Start of the National Support Centre
- 2003: Personal Budgets for clients
- 2005: Liberalization of long term health care
- 2010: National federation of care farmers



Development of the social farming sector in the Netherlands

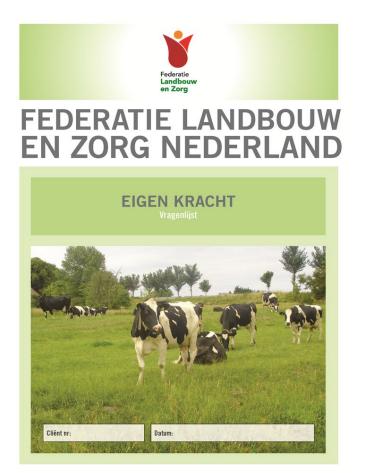
- 2005: Quality mark
- Quality law of health care institutions
- Health and safety law
- Legal complain law
- Law on protection of personal data
- Law on participation of clients in health care institutions







Client sastisfaction



21	Ik vind mezelf de moeite waard			
22	lk zet negatieve gedachten om in positieve gedachten	\bigcirc		
23	Ik overzie hoe mijn leven mij gevormd heeft tot wie ik ben			
24	lk ervaar rust en veiligheid in mijn woning	\bigcirc	C	
25	Ik heb elke dag voldoende te doen			
26	In onze samenleving worden mensen met een psychische handicap niet gediscrimineerd		C	
27	lk doe dingen die ik belangrijk vind			
28	lk kan omgaan met mijn kwetsbaarheden		C	
29	lk kan terugvallen op de mensen om mij heen			
30	lk durf op mezelf te vertrouwen	\bigcirc		



What do we monitor?

- Needs and objectives of clients
- Satisfaction with activities
- Involvement and responsibility
- Satisfaction with guidance of farmer
- Satisfaction with social contacts on the farm
- Social contacts outside the farm
- Reaching of identified objectives
- Reaching of broader objectives
- Empowerment



Research: Effect studies

- Youngsters with behavioural problems
- People with mental ill health and/or addiction history
- Elderly with dementia





Youngsters with behavioural problems

Performance-Indicator	Start	Finish	Follow up
			programme
	%	%	%
Good contact with father	12	58	73
Good contact with mother	33	83	81
Daytime activity	14	88	87
Good use of leisure time	5	51	58
Wellbeing	16	80	81
Self-confidence	9	83	81
No police contact	22	95	81
No drugs	12	80	50
No behavioural problems	3	50	46



People with mental ill health/addiction

- Quasi-experimental setting
- Follow-up T=0, T= 1 (half year) T=2 (one year)
- N=149
- No significant change on quantitative data
- No negative change in QoL, mental health or social functioning
- Decrease of use in medicine
- Highly satisfied with care on farm (8.2 and 8.3)



Elderly with dementia

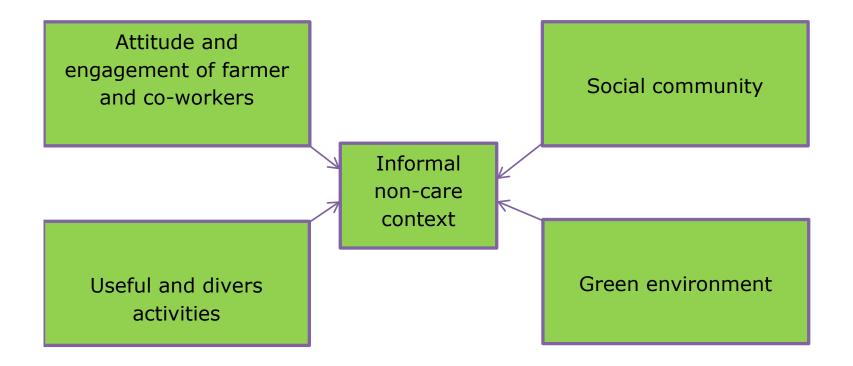


- Quasi-experimental
- Care farms regular day care
- Positive significant change in dietary intake
- Relief of informal care takers





Qualities of Care Farms





Engagement of the farmer (f/m)



- Continuity of treatment
- Role model
- Involvement and responsibility
- Emphasis on what people can do





Social community

- More social contacts
- Demonstrating more social behaviour
- Increase of perseverance





Useful and diverse activities



- Distraction
- Structure and routine
- Different environment
- Learning new competences



Green environment



- A better mood
- Improved concentration
- Recovery from stress
- Stimulates physical activity
- Different environment than used to



Implementation of research results

- Project subsidized by ZONMW
- Workshops for care farmers per region
- Aim: inform farmers, check results and use results in practice
- Project was not a total success because:
- Effect studies gave not always an answer to the why care farms work for clients
- Care farmers have other priorities at the moment



Positive aspects of involving the social farming sector in research



- Research:
- Built up a network of care farms who can cooperate in research
- Longitudinal studies and evaluation
- Bigger data sets



Positive aspects of involving the social farming sector in research



- Social farming sector:
- Built up a network and use research results in communication with government and institutes
- Monitoring the development of clients
- Status: research or monitoring on farm gives quality status

Future direction



- Introduction of monitoring system on all care farms
- Questionnaire as part of annual evaluation with client
- Feedback to improve quality of care (study groups)
- Development of large database



Thank you for your attention!



<u>Marjolein.elings@wur.nl</u> 0031 317 480 549



