

## Full Professor in Farming Systems Ecology

The chair Farming Systems Ecology is one of the 19 chairs in the Department of Plant Sciences of Wageningen University and Research Centre. This chair is responsible for academic education and research on organic and other low external input farming systems in multifunctional landscapes. The new professor leads the Farming Systems Ecology group.

The focus of the chair group is on the *transformability of agro-ecosystems*, based on the analysis, evaluation and design of low external input farming systems. The ultimate goal is to contribute to fundamental re-design towards sustainable agriculture in the framework of the circular economy, partly using an action research approach. This is exemplified by integration of plant and animal production and permaculture in which the utilization of natural processes is maximized and the use of external inputs and the emissions of nutrients to the environment are minimized in an ecosystems and landscape context.

The professor in Farming Systems Ecology will:

- lead and manage the Farming Systems Ecology group;
- initiate, supervise and execute education and research on organic and other low-external-input farming systems;
- supervise Bachelor, Master and PhD students;
- acquire funding for research;
- cooperate with other chair groups at Wageningen University and related research groups in The Netherlands and abroad;
- maintain and develop productive relationships with actors and societal organizations in The Netherlands and abroad, in particular in organic agriculture.

### Research

The focus of the chair is research on farming systems in multifunctional landscapes based on ecological principles regarding soil quality, crop diversity and cropping systems, animal diversity and welfare, fertilization, and the control of weeds, pests and diseases. Organic agriculture as a model of agriculture with little or no external inputs is the central theme of the chair. A systems approach (analysis and design of field-farm-landscape interactions) of low-external-input farming practices in multi-functional landscapes is the main scientific challenge. Component analysis will remain important to support the overall research theme of the chair group and should be developed as much as possible in collaboration with other groups.

### Teaching

Farming Systems Ecology is a key chair within the MSc programme Organic Agriculture (MOA) in terms of contributions to courses and supervision of MSc students (both for MSc theses at Wageningen and for internships elsewhere). Systems analysis and methods and applications of 'radical re-design' are prominent in education. A typical feature of FSE teaching is the emphasis on field and farm visits, which support the contextual and action-oriented objectives of both MOA and FSE.

We are looking for candidates with:

- a PhD degree, preferably in Agronomy, at least 5 years postdoctoral experience in farming systems ecology or organic agriculture research, a strong track record of publications in key scientific journals and proven experience as Principal Investigator;
- an inspiring vision on the place and position of farming systems ecology research and organic agriculture education, proven didactic skills and enthusiasm for knowledge transfer and the capacity and ambition to inspire, coordinate and design the group's research and education and communicate with clients, science media, government and the general public;
- an excellent overview of the entire research area (field-farm-landscape), expertise in conceptual thinking and integration of knowledge at systems levels, the capacity to make cross-links between levels of aggregation in interdisciplinary research and willingness to cooperate with affiliated research groups at Wageningen University & Research Centre;
- a strong and extensive international network in science and practice of farming systems ecology or organic agriculture, leadership in agenda-setting in research and

- education in farming systems ecology or organic agriculture and a strong track record in acquisition of externally-funded research projects;
- excellent managerial capacities.

### Contact information

Further information about the position can be obtained from:  
Prof. Dr. Lijbert Brussaard, Chair of the Selection Committee  
Tel: +31 317 483325  
E-mail: Lijbert.Brussaard@wur.nl  
Or  
Dr. Theo Jetten, Secretary of the Selection Committee  
Tel; +31 317 483687  
Email: Theo.Jetten@wur.nl

Additional information can also be obtained through the following links:

- about the organisation: [www.wageningenur.nl](http://www.wageningenur.nl)
- about the activities of the group:  
<http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Chair-groups/Plant-Sciences/Farming-Systems-Ecology-Group.htm>
- Chair description: <http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Chair-groups/Plant-Sciences/Farming-Systems-Ecology-Group/News/Show/New-chair-description-vacancy-for-Professor-Farming-Systems-Ecology-will-follow-soon-and-will-be-announced-here.htm>

### Application

Wageningen University & Research Centre strives for more diversity to improve the quality of our organisation. Therefore we explicitly invite female candidates and candidates from abroad to apply. Applications should include (a) a motivation letter, (b) a 500-word vision on research and education interests and intended direction, (c) a curriculum vitae, (d) a list of publications and (e) name, affiliation, telephone number and email addresses of three referees.

Are you interested? Please send your application, including your detailed Curriculum Vitae, references and list of publications, **before June 20**, 2016 to:

Theo Jetten  
Secretary of the Selection Committee Farming Systems Ecology  
Graduate School Production Ecology & Resource Conservation  
Droevendaalsesteeg 3a  
6708 PB Wageningen  
*preferably in digital form to [Theo.Jetten@wur.nl](mailto:Theo.Jetten@wur.nl)*

### **Please, note that the date on which the interviews are scheduled is September 15, 2016**

Selected candidates will be invited to present their research and education interests and intended direction.

One or more candidates will be asked to give a public lecture on October 13, 2016 as part of the selection process. This lecture should show (1) the candidate's excellence in teaching and (2) their vision on research and education.