

KICK-OFF YOUTH WORKSHOP

AGRITERRA TRAINING PROGRAMME ● ● ● ● ●



INTRODUCTION

Youth participation is key to a sustainable future for agriculture and cooperatives. Communication between youngsters, older members, management and the board of the cooperative is of vital importance in creating trust and enabling youth to share their ideas, innovative thinking and access to new technologies. That is why Agriterra developed the Youth trajectory in which we help cooperatives to involve youth in their organisation step-by-step.

Following the kick-off Youth workshop, the first step is to develop a mutual focus and create space for young potentials to become active. The next step is the Youth Council Masterclass; we bring together groups who have achieved some results, to share among other things their experiences, to learn more about cooperatives from key-note speakers and take field trips complemented with case studies.

After this event, we offer to the most dynamic youth a Youth Leadership Masterclass where they learn about facilitative leadership, personal challenges, guiding groups and take field trips for creating a broader network. But first things first; we start with a kick-off Youth workshop.



KICK-OFF YOUTH WORKSHOP

The three-day workshop stimulates interactive discussions and knowledge-sharing by creating an environment of mutual understanding and openness among the participants. The moderator and Agripool expert inform participants on youth participation and provide them with plenty of opportunities to share their ideas and input on the topic. Different aspects of youth participation are discussed on the first day. On the second day, they bring together all ideas, elaborate an action plan and be challenged to work together as a team. The input, discussions and answers to the exercises from the first day are used as a source of inspiration. The third day we take some time to explore mentorship and share all action plans to motivate and help each other to make it happen.



OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the workshop are as follows:

- Create a mutual vision with executive board and young members about youth participation and how to organise it.
- Inform participants about youth councils, their aim, structure and place in the cooperative, illustrated Dutch examples.
- Stimulate an interactive discussion between the board members and management versus young members on youth participation, opportunities, benefits and challenges related to youth participation.
- Create clarity about what the young farmers expect and need from the board and management on enabling youth participation and vice versa.
- Create an action plan for the next 3-6 months on how management together with young members can increase youth participation, taking into account how their cooperative and youth can benefit, challenges can be overcome and how to promote inclusion.



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PARTICIPANTS

Per training four cooperatives are invited to participate. Every cooperative is to send six participants to the workshop: one manager, one board member and four young members of the cooperative. The training will be conducted by a moderator (guide of the group), a Dutch Agripool expert (expert on youth participation) and an Agriterra business advisor.



REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

The participating cooperatives can be very distinct. Every cooperative has its own history, origin, culture and all are in their own stage of development. During the training, the focus will be on the exchange of experiences, best practices and mutual learning. Openness and willingness to share are crucial. Because the group is made up of various functions and roles - board members, managers and young members - it is important that participants are aware of this diversity in advance and that they are willing to put themselves in the position of others, both in their personal function and in their organisational role. During this process, the moderator acts as a guide and facilitator.



COSTS

Available on request.



OUTCOMES AND FOLLOW-UP

An action plan for the coming 6 months, including first steps that will be taken by the participating organisation to increase youth participation. Follow-up is of vital importance and it will be implemented by the business advisor, who will regularly monitor and evaluate action plans with the client to ensure sustainability and continuity. Six months after the programme, the participants (mainly the young ones) will make a presentation about their progress in the field of youth participation. At this meeting, the business advisor will discuss the next steps in the youth trajectory.



PROGRAMME

WHEN?	WHAT?
Day 1	Introduction, benefits and opportunities of youth participation, mutual needs and expectations for enabling youth participation, experience sharing from an Agripool expert
Day 2	Share ideas, elaborate an action plan and clarity about why this is important, other experiences will be shared and the group will be challenged to work together as a team
Day 3	Presentation of all action plans and talk about how the youth group wants to be mentored
After 6 months	Follow-up day to assess what progress has been made per organisation



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Agriterra is an agri-agency founded by the Dutch agricultural sector that professionalises farmer organisations and cooperatives worldwide in order to better serve the needs and interests of their member farmers.

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