



Dutch Seeds Debate



About the location:

The Mauritshuis is a museum that is open to the public. The Mauritshuis is home to the very best of Dutch Golden Age painting. The compact, yet world-renowned collection, is situated in the heart of the Hague, right next to the government centre. Masterpieces such as Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, *The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp* by Rembrandt, *The Goldfinch* by Fabritius and *The Bull* by Potter are on permanent display in the intimate rooms of this seventeenth-century monument.

Prior to the meeting, attendees can visit the museum at their own discretion.

Paid parking facilities are available at the nearby, underground Pleingarage.



Expert meeting: Better vegetable seeds for smallholder farmers

Location: Mauritshuis, Plein 29, the Hague, the Netherlands

Date: 5 April 2016, 13:30 to 18:00

SMALL FARMERS
BIG DEAL



Dutch seed companies invest in Africa and South East Asia because these are regions where they see new markets. Not only do they sell seeds, they also train farmers in order to take horticulture to the next level. This contributes to more food security and a better income for farmers. The Dutch government, knowledge institutes and non-governmental organisations support these companies in their endeavours.

But these developments also give rise to questions. Is the work that these companies do relevant to the needs of smallholder farmers? How can these farmers be trained and organised in such a way that they can start earning money with those new seeds? Who pays and who is responsible for all this?

The objective of this meeting is to gather insights into best practices and existing hindrances. How can we take matters forward? We would like the discussions this afternoon to result in recommendations for business, knowledge institutes and the government.

Programme

Plenary session

Day chairperson: **Corinne Abbas, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

13.30

Words of welcome by Kees Blokland, Agriterra

13.40

Ido Verhagen, Access to Seeds Index

This Index measures the efforts companies undertake to provide access to seeds to smallholder farmers. The first results are out.

14.00

Maaïke Groot, East-West Seeds

What works and what does not work when attempting to reach small farmers in developing countries.

14.30

Marja Thijssen, CDI-Wageningen UR

What is the importance of vegetable seed companies for farmers? Where else do they source their seeds? Can seed companies invest more in horticulture and food security? What are the requirements to achieve that?

15.00 **Break**

Three simultaneous workshops

15:30

1.

• **Erik Juckers, Bakker Brothers Seeds**
• **Rolf Folkertsma, Monsanto**
Moderator: Stefan van der Heijden, VDH Life Science Consultancy

More practical experience. What works? What does not? What does it take for seed companies to reach more poor farmers?

2.

• **Tjeerd de Vries, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
Moderator: Niels Louwaars, Plantum

Which policy instruments are available to support seed companies and what can be done to improve them?

3.

• **Cees van Rij, Agriterra**
• **Giel Ton, LEI - Wageningen UR**
Moderator: Huib Hengsdijk, Wageningen UR

What is the role of farmers co-operatives in advancing horticulture, maximise the impact of improved seeds and marketing vegetables? How does one promote collaboration among farmers?

Plenary session

16.15 What are the recommendations from the workshops?



The Dutch Seeds Debate is part of a campaign set up by Agriterra. Agriterra has been created by the Dutch agriculture and food sector; its objective is to professionalise co-operatives in developing countries. During this new campaign, Agriterra will talk with companies and the Dutch government. The campaign's central idea is that cooperation between companies and smallholder farmers will benefit all. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation supports the campaign.

Would you like to attend this expert meeting?

Please send an email to info@smallfarmersbigdeal.org

For more information

Please contact Agriterra at 0031 (0)26 4455 445 or visit www.smallfarmersbigdeal.org www.agriterra.nl

