



# Landcare Conference

## Working with Farmers and Nature: Water-Smart Agroecology and Landcare in Action

21.-22.09.2026, Leuven, Belgium



### Day 1

08:30

#### Registration

09:00

#### Welcome & Introduction

*Moderator: Maaïke De Ridder, Boeren Natuur Vlaanderen*

*Sven Defrijn, Boeren Natuur Vlaanderen*

*Marie Bermudez Kaerlein, Landcare Europe*

#### Keynote speeches

“European Innovation Partnerships (EIP-AGRI) for water resilience and the role of farmers”

*Anikó Seregélyi, EU Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development*

“Farmers, Nature and Water Resilience: Bringing EU Policy to Practice with Landcare Associations”

*Corinna Friedrich, Landcare Germany/ Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege (DVL), Germany*

09:45

#### Presentation of good practices for water & soil management – Part 1

“Developing an enabling ecosystem for nature-based water retention solutions with the community of Daia village, Harghita County, *Szilvia Bencze, Agri Cultura Natura Transylvaniae, Romania*”

10:15

#### Coffee break



10:45 **Presentation of good practices for water & soil management – Part 2**

“Climate adaptive farming by reviving traditional water meadows”, *Thomas Köhler, Landcare Germany (DVL), Germany*

“Adaptive rotational grazing in Smelyne Farm - managing grasslands for the benefit of soil and water retention”, *Justas Gulbinas, Baltic Environmental Forum, Lithuania*

“Rehydrating degraded landscapes across the Iberian Peninsula”, *Noemi Nemes, AguAbundancia, Spain*

12:30 **Lunch**

14:00 **Project Presentation ‘Water~Farmers’**

“Creating an innovative, learner-centered training programme for farmers and agroecology consultants on sustainable water and soil management”

*Corinna Friedrich, Landcare Germany*

14:10 **Workshops ‘Landcare in Action’**

- A) Experience exchange: ‘Restoring water retention in a collective approach’
- B) Vision creation: ‘My ideal way of training and working with farmers towards more water resilience’
- C) Idea collection: ‘A manual for advisors on water retention in agricultural landscapes – what should it include?’

15:30 **Presentation and discussion of results in the plenum**

16:00 **Wrap up & Outlook**

16:15 **End of conference Day 1**



## Day 2

08:30 **Start Excursion**

Drive to Bocholt

10:00 **Farm visit “Gerard Vangerven”**

Holistic approach to enhance water retention using weirs, level-controlled drainage and subirrigation.

*Steve Meuris, BNVL, presentation on the technical solutions*



12:00 **Lunch**

Picknick including regional specialities and “Landcare” products

13:00 Drive to Peer

**Project visit, ‘Bodemgoud’ project**

“Closing the loop: using residues from hedgerow management to enhance soil quality”, *Fientje Verbruggen, BNVL, presentation on ‘Bodemgoud’ project*

14:45 Drive to Leuven

16:00 **End of Excursion at Leuven Train Station /Hotel**

In cooperation with the Erasmus+ project “*Water~Farmers: Advanced training for sustainable water and soil management on farms*”

