

Landcare Conference

Working with Farmers and Nature:

Water-Smart Agroecology and Landcare in Action

21.-22.09.2026, Boerenbond & Landelijke Gilden, Diestsevest 40, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium

Day 1

08:30 **Registration**

09:00 **Welcome & Introduction**

Moderator: Maaike De Ridder, Boerennatuur Vlaanderen

Sven Defrijn, Boerennatuur Vlaanderen

Marie Bermudez Kaerlein, Landcare Europe

Keynote speeches

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

Marta Iglesias, 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, AgriCultura 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-cantered 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**

With results from the project
"Landcare Europe Captures Carbon"

Supported by:

Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Climate Action,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

European
Climate Initiative
EUKI

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by the German Bundestag



Day 2

08:30 **Start Excursion**

Drive toBocholt

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”*

Co-funded by the European Union