

Two workshops organized by SKOV during the KLV-conference on 23 and 24 June 2017 on Wageningen Campus.



Workshop 6: 'Rainfed Agriculture in Sub Saharan Africa: A Risky Business (I) (ENG)'

Martin van Ittersum (Professor Plant Production Systems @ WUR) en Ruerd Ruben (Research coordinator food security & sustainable chains @ WUR)

Cor de Jong (director/owner @ Waterland International; president SKOV) opens the workshop.

Rainfed agriculture is a worldwide phenomenon. Agricultural practice, under uncontrolled circumstances in which one is dependent on the amount of rainfall and the spread of rain over the (growing) seasons, is a risky business. Especially in the semi-arid tropics, where the largest part of the poor world population lives in the least developed countries. People feed and cloth themselves on the little yield dry agriculture provides. Their problem is not only that production levels of crops are low, but also that production varies strongly year to year. To cope with these difficult circumstances, the farmer has developed several agricultural methods and strategies. The agricultural methods aim to minimize the risk of failed crops. The strategies focus on controlling business risks. They are mostly a combination of 'risk taking' and 'risk avoidance'. All in all the results of these measures are meagre. A complicating factor is the spectacular population growth in the focus area Sub Saharan Africa. The key question is: what, given the scarce natural resources, can and has to happen in order to feed the growing population in these regions.

Link: <http://www.klv.nl/a/programma-tijden/vrijdag-23-juni-ochtendworkshops/>



Workshop 2: 'Rainfed Agriculture in Sub Saharan Africa: A Risky Business? (II) (ENG)'

Peter Droogers (hydrologist; scientific director, advisor and researcher @ Future Water Wageningen)

Ruerd Ruben (Research coordinator food security & sustainable chains @ WUR)
Kees de Bie (Assistant Professor Spatial Information for Sustainable Agriculture @ ITC Enschede)
Ken Giller (Professor Plant Production Systems @ WUR)

Rainfed agriculture is a worldwide phenomenon. Agricultural practice, under uncontrolled circumstances in which one is dependent on the amount of rainfall and the spread of rain over the (growing) seasons, is a risky business. Especially in the semi-arid tropics, where the largest part of the poor world population lives in the least developed countries. People feed and cloth themselves on the little yield dry agriculture provides. Their problem is not only that production levels of crops are low, but also that production varies strongly year to year. To cope with these difficult circumstances, the farmer has developed several agricultural methods and strategies. The agricultural methods aim to minimize the risk of failed crops. The strategies focus on controlling business risks. They are mostly a combination of 'risk taking' and 'risk avoidance'. All in all the results of these measures are meagre. A complicating factor is the spectacular population growth in the focus area Sub Saharan Africa. The key question is: what, given the scarce natural resources, can and has to happen in order to feed the growing population in these regions. The speakers will discuss possible measures to unlock the potential of the available natural resources. Attention will be paid to the demographic, technical, genetic and socioeconomic aspects of the desired developments. To make these aspects cooperate well is a different problem. Modern planning methods, such as 'humble decision-making', can play a positive role in this matter.

Link: <http://www.klv.nl/a/programma-tijden/vrijdag-23-juni-middagworkshops/>

