



ileia

2011

ANNUAL REPORT



**agri
cultures**
NETWORK



Photo: CGIAR Climate

Summary

Many changes afoot

In a year characterised by change, ILEIA and the AgriCultures Network have achieved some important breakthroughs, and have actively engaged in international debates, for instance through publishing two special issues of Farming Matters, one on Regional Food Systems (published together with Bioversity International) and one on Land Grabbing (with Oxfam Novib).

A renewed interest in family farming is emerging, but the paradigm shift that has been called for has not yet taken place in the mindsets of policy makers. Therefore, the International Year of Family Farming, declared in December 2011 by the UN General Council, offers a great opportunity to take this agenda forward. Meanwhile, movement can be seen happening on the ground, and the AgriCultures Network is strategically positioned to communicate the many changes that are occurring. The increasing demand for ILEIA's support in documentation and systematisation of practical experience in agriculture by major institutions like IFAD, FAO and IDRC, and ILEIA's participation in TimetoAct, a high profile sustainable agriculture coalition preparing for Rio+20, indicate a strengthening of ILEIA and the AgriCultures Network as global players.

Meanwhile, ILEIA and the AgriCultures Network saw their financial resources shrinking considerably. We have been working towards a not-for-profit financial model, seeking new donors, both conventional and less conventional. It was a great pleasure to be informed by Sida towards the end of the year, that they had granted us core funding for the period 2012–2016. We now have a new financial basis upon which to continue our important ongoing activities such as the production and dissemination of our magazines and website, and to attract new funding, for instance from IFAD and the EU.

Finally, ILEIA and the AgriCultures Network have increased their digital presence. The new AgriCultures portal has made the network more visible and this is paving the way for exciting new changes to the format and accessibility of our magazines and to our advocacy activities.

Edith van Walsum, director of ILEIA, secretariat of the AgriCultures Network



1. Magazines and knowledge sharing

What we did

In 2011, ILEIA produced four issues of the global magazine, *Farming Matters*.

1. Youth: “We take the lead”
2. Trees and farming
3. Regional food systems
4. Securing the right to land

The latter two themes were sponsored by and produced in collaboration with Bioversity International and Oxfam Novib, respectively.

Other members of the global AgriCultures Network in India, East Africa, West Africa, Brazil, Peru and China, produced 3 issues of their regional magazines in English, Portuguese, French, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese, respectively. Synchronisation between the regional and global editions was slightly hampered by funding uncertainties, meaning that a fourth issue for each of the regional magazines was delayed.

Visit [Agriculturas](#), [Agridape](#), [Baobab](#), [Farming Matters](#), [LEISA China](#), [LEISA India](#) and [LEISA revista de agroecología](#).

What we achieved

In 2011, *Farming Matters* provided **17,773** subscribers in **154** countries with an opportunity to share knowledge, information and opinions. In 2010 there were **20,216** paper subscribers. Together, the regional maga-

zines reached **51,899** subscribers during 2011 (as compared to **62,320** in 2010). The number of subscribers shows a declining trend in 2011, for the first time. Reasons are rigorous cleanups of all databases and the policy shift towards paid subscriptions for the paper edition of the magazines, and free digital subscriptions.

From the readers' survey conducted in November 2010, our readers emphasised that the magazine is “informative” and “relevant” to them, as well as “useful” and “inspiring”. They particularly appreciate the practical information provided in the magazine, the detailed information on technological innovations, in the form of real farmers’ experiences and “success stories”.

Farming Matters gives importance to women’s role in family farming, and the information in the magazine can work as an inspiration and a tool for their empowerment. The number of female authors grew this year from 30% to 35%.

What we learned

We see the potential to continue developing our niche with a magazine that is still largely based on local experiences, and written for an important part by people based in the field but with due attention to policy and the big picture. The production and distribution of printed copies of the magazines will be drastically reduced, with the aim to save costs and to reduce our ecological footprint. On the other hand, the internet has developed more and more and the magazines are all downloadable for free and the expected number of subscribers will be much higher.



2. Education

What we did

ILEIA completed a series of seven teaching modules for agricultural educators on small scale sustainable farming called Learning AgriCultures. The series had been under development since 2008 and was officially launched in September 2011.

Following an initial period on the ILEIA website as free downloadable documents, access was restricted in order to keep track of their use and to cover production and distribution costs. Educational institutes can opt for a CD-ROM or printed version, and for one or all modules. Organisations in developing countries with limited financial means can receive the modules as PDF files free of charge.

The series was also shared with the FAO and their distance learning group (part of the Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension) showed interest in developing the material into an e-learning series. Further, the Director of the Land and Water Division expressed interest in disseminating the series through conventional means.

What we achieved

Thirty-five institutions are now using the Learning AgriCultures series, in academic as well as field settings.

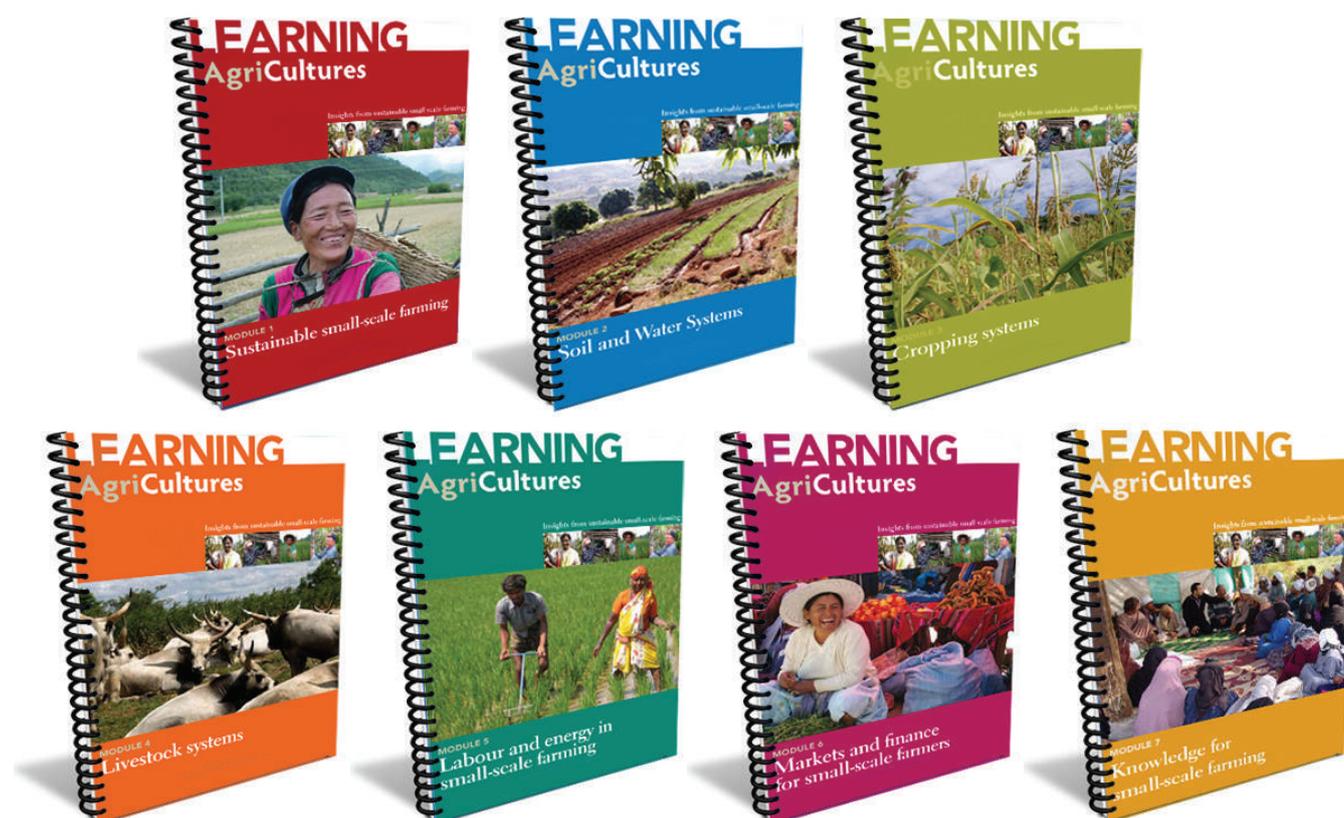
The soil and water systems module is most popular. The number of positive reactions indicates that the series has been well received in a number of countries, ranging from Ethiopia to the Pacific, and that it is being used in universities as well as field settings.

The Learning AgriCultures curriculum can be customised to different agroecological contexts and to different types of educational institutions and target groups. In 2011, ILEIA zoomed in on two specific opportunities for customisation. Elements of Learning AgriCultures were incorporated in a curriculum developed by agriculture education institutions in Afghanistan in collaboration with Larenstein University. Furthermore, ILEIA participated as partner of WUR/CDI in a successful NUFFIC bid for curriculum development for Sustainable Agriculture with the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa.

What we learned

An internet survey revealed that agricultural extension workers, educators and development workers have downloaded modules of Learning AgriCultures and that they use them in their work. Suggestions for farmer visits, field exercises, the theoretical learning blocks, the case studies, photo series and videos were mentioned as elements that are particularly useful.

www.agriculturesnetwork.org/learning



3. Documentation and systematisation

What we did

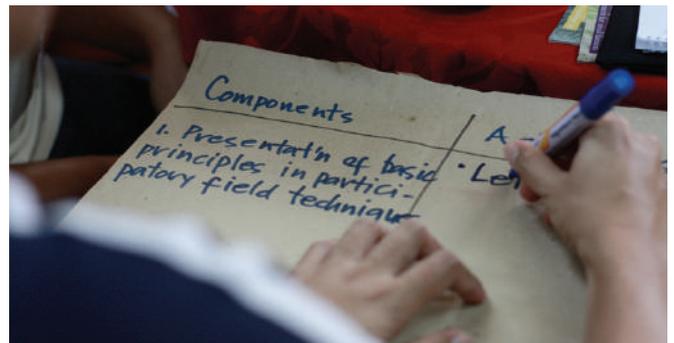
There was a lot of new activity in 2011 on the documentation front. ILEIA continued capacity building activities with IFAD and FAO. Workshops were organised in Uganda, Tanzania, Nepal, China and the Philippines. Some partners have presented their experiences through such documentation as a strategy to obtain more visibility as a service provider in this area.



What we achieved

Some of the documentation processes facilitated by AS-PTA, ILEIA and IED Afrique resulted in a number of publications:

- » **Pesticides in Brazil – a guide to action in defence of life**
- » **Puzzles for innovation - Case studies from Asia and Africa**
- » **Résilience et innovation locale face aux changements climatiques (Resilience and local innovation in the face of climate change)**



What we learned

The expert role of ILEIA and the AgriCultures Network in the field of documentation and systematisation has been increasingly recognised and we see this as a potential area for increased activity in the years to come.



4. Strengthening the AgriCultures Network

What we did

A conscious decision was taken to focus on consolidating existing regional programmes and making them financially sustainable rather than to expand the network to other countries and regions. After a review of our Indonesian partnership we decided not to continue our collaboration with AOI, the Indonesian partner since 2009, as this organisation was not able to meet with certain basic preconditions. The publication of *Petani* (earlier SALAM) magazine has been suspended for the time being.

Greater collaboration between partners during production of the magazines was also fostered through an International Editors' meeting and targets to increase exchange of articles and information.

What we achieved

Regional networks continue to grow. National readers' networks are active in Senegal, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Cameroon. In India the LEISA India Consortium is instrumental in keeping the regional language editions going.

Most AgriCultures partners are actively participating in and some are actually playing leading roles in national and regional networks. Also very visible is the trend towards more and more locally/regionally sourced articles and interviews in the magazines. Efforts to mobilise local sources of funding are gearing up in Peru, Brazil and India. Last but not least, the AgriCultures Network has been explicitly cited by Olivier de Schutter as an excellent example of a locally grounded initiative to promote the upscaling of agroecological practices.

What we learned

We can conclude that in a year of financial uncertainty, the AgriCultures Network itself is our greatest asset: it has achieved a level of ownership and engagement with the wider sustainable agriculture movement that is far beyond what was envisaged in our monitoring protocol in 2007. There is still a way to go in strengthening the governance structure of the network itself but this can be managed with a number of strong and locally rooted member organisations on board.



5. ILEIA board and staff 2011

Board

Name	Function
Dr. Teresa Fogelberg Deputy Chief Executive, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Amsterdam	Chair
Dr. Guido Gryseels Director Koninklijk Museum voor Midden-Afrika, Brussels	Board Member
Dr. Paul Engel Director, European Centre for Development Policy Management, Maastricht	Board Member
Dr. Melanie Peters Director, Studium Generale, University of Utrecht	Board Member
Dr. Janice Jiggins Visiting Professor, Wageningen University and Research Centre	Board Member
Dr. Moussa Badji Senior International Relations Analyst, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Brussels	Board Member

Staff

Name	Function	
Walsum, van E.M.	Director	
Chavez-Tafur, J.F.	Editor	
Vermeulen, M	Editor	Until 31-03-11
Merc, U.	Webmaster	
L. Eggens	Project assistant – Office management	
Roem, W.J.	Office Manager	Until 1-11-2011
Felipie, M.E.	Secretary/Financial Assistant	
Leetion, N.M.	Subscriptions Officer	

6. Financial statement

Balance sheet

(all amounts in EURO)

Assets	31 Dec 11	31 Dec 10
Receivables	52,742	112,982
Banks and Cash in Hand	656,109	599,023
	708,851	712,005

Liabilities	31 Dec 11	31 Dec 10
Net Reserves	345,962	240,151
Current Liabilities	362,890	471,854
	708,851	712,005

Statement of revenues and costs

(all amounts in EURO)

	2011 Actual	2010 Actual
Income	1,405,180	2,088,449
Project/program expenses	1,040,493	1,685,030
Gross result	364,68	403,419
Institutional costs	258,875	378,407
Net result	105,811	25,012

www.agriculturesnetwork.org

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ILEIA, the Centre for Learning on Sustainable Agriculture, is a member of the AgriCultures Network, a global network of organisations that build and share knowledge on family farming and agroecology worldwide.

