

wageningen soil conference

MASTERCLASS

M5: Comparability and compatibility (soil) data for food forest monitoring*

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Short description

Field trip to food forest Ketelbroek exploring the challenges we face with data comparability and compatibility in (soil) monitoring on food forests systems as well as different methods used in food forest monitoring compared with regular soil monitoring, scientific practices and the (possible) role of new techniques.

Inspired by the different grass root movements on re-integrating biodiversity in society we encounter “frustration among early adopters for being questioned on the validity of food forests in providing a valid alternative for current agricultural practices”. We believe that gathering, interpreting, and visualizing data in a structured way is crucial to provide proof of the various values and services that food forests can offer. Apart from this, gathering these data obviously helps us understanding these new complex systems better. With this knowledge we can improve design and management and find inspiration for making other agricultural practices more resilient.

Although a lot of data is collected on these new systems most of it is anecdotal. Cost effective methods like citizens science are dependent on volunteers. The scientific methods used may be sound but contextual differences, including variation in soil type, previous land use and seasonal and climatic conditions while collecting the data hamper a proper comparison.

In this field trip to food forest Ketelbroek we want to address the challenge to find the best method fitting the goal you want to achieve with the data. On location we will be introduced to food forest Ketelbroek and some of the food forest principles by Wouter van Eck. We then will discuss together the challenges we face with data comparability and compatibility in (soil) monitoring on food forests systems. With explicit attention for methods used and promising new techniques.

Theme: Advances in measuring and modelling soil processes

Keywords: Monitoring, biodiversity, rich soil-food-web

Type of masterclass: Excursion and discussion

Maximum number of participants: ~ 25

* This is a field trip involving extra costs for transportation (expected ~25 eu p.p.) and you will not be back in time in Wageningen for the evening program.

