

Strong Dutch Presence in the AAPRESID Congress 2020 - Argentina

Under the slogan “Always Alive, Always Green”, a new edition of the annual AAPRESID Congress (Argentine No Till Farmers Association) took place in Argentina from the 18th to the 28th August. This year, and against all the challenges imposed by the current covid-19 pandemic, the organizers successfully achieved a dynamic online event.

More than 11.000 people signed up for the event. There were conferences taking place simultaneously in eight different rooms from 8am up to 6.30pm for the course of 9 days, with the presence of 542 speakers from 24 countries.

This congress offered an impressively wide variety of agronomic topics and cross-cutting subjects like climate change, water and bio-economy. It was also the first time that a symposium on Circular Agriculture was part of the AAPRESID Congress.

This symposium started off with a speech by the Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of The Netherlands, Carola Schouten. In the speech Minister Schouten spoke about her trip to Argentina 2 years ago and shared the conversations that she had had with young enthusiastic farmers who aim to ensure food security in the future. She also noted how much The Netherlands can learn from Argentina about no till systems and encouraged the audience to further exchange experiences in soil care, carbon balance and circularity.

Argentina is leader in its reduction of emissions thanks to direct sowing and in its very little use of fertilizers. Engineer Fernando Andrade, a researcher at the National Institute for Agricultural Technology (INTA), who was part of the same Symposium, indicated that Argentina has reached its productivity goals set in 2000, but there are still limitations that require further scientific contributions to reach environmental goals.

The Netherlands has taken the decision to have Circular Agriculture as their main production system by 2030 and Argentine farmer associations are eager to know more about this process. Going circular might ensure satisfactory incomes for farmers and food valorisation at all levels, including consumers, indicated the Minister.

As keynote speaker, Minister Schouten left an encouraging message to continue working together towards sustainability. After her speech, the floor was given to experts of Wageningen University and Research Centre (WUR), and Food Valley.

Saskia Visser is the manager of the knowledge development program at the Circular and Climate Neutral Society at Wageningen-UR. She builds partnerships that jointly seek for circular and climate neutral solutions that contribute to the realization of the SDGs.

Dr. Visser explained in detail the concept of circularity and presented some implemented cases that are being studied at the university: open cultivation, horticulture, and different intensive livestock models. The specialist indicated that animals are key to close circular biological processes (carbon, nutrient and water cycles).

The Dutch private sector was very well represented by Roger van Hoesel, who was CEO of the primary knowledge-intensive agrifood ecosystem in The Netherlands: Food Valley. Mr van Hoesel explained how the organization, with over 185 members from start-ups to multinationals, accelerates innovations and growth by connecting companies. Circular agriculture is certainly part of the innovation fields developed by Food Valley, focused on strengthening the international competitive position of Dutch companies.

The symposium also offered practical cases regarding reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and alternatives to transform effluents brought from intensive livestock production.

Dr.. Jan Peter Lesschen has been working at the Wageningen Environmental Research Centre for 10 years as researcher and project leader. Mr. Lesschen presented the Nutri2Cycle project, financed by the European Commission, which aims to improve nutrient cycling in EU agriculture (www.nutri2cycle.eu.) His conference laid the conceptual foundations to give the floor to the following conference about the bilateral cooperation performed between Wageningen University and AACREA (Argentine Farmers Association of Regional Agricultural Consortiums.)

Engineer Federico Bert, chief of R&D of AACREA, Pablo Cañada (AACREA) and Raymond Jongschaap (WUR) shared a noteworthy panel about the agronomic use

of slurry in dairy farms. The project performed in 2019 has allowed the experts to acquire scientific results in real farms. They have been able to design new models for productive areas of the Argentine Pampa region. AACREA's experts underlined the urgent necessity to update the official standards and legal frameworks, in order to better use effluents as good circular practices.

Bilateral cooperation in circular agriculture between the Netherlands and Argentina is promoted and encouraged by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Buenos Aires. The AAPRESID congress witnessed the strong institutional relationship between countries on the way to an "Always alive, Always Green" agriculture .

The Embassy for The Netherlands in Argentina would very much like to thank both AAPRESID for the opportunity and Dutch speakers for having participated in such wonderful event.

Event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIBdPeFX2pU>

Figures: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBO_Im-8lkg

Article: <https://www.aapresid.org.ar/blog/lo-que-dejo-simposio-de-agricultura-circular/>

18 al 21 | 24 al 28
Agosto 2020

La Agricultura Circular, Eje del Congreso

SIMPOSIO DE AGRICULTURA CIRCULAR

Jueves 27 de agosto

- 8 hs** Agricultura circular: visión para Holanda y Argentina - Carola Schouten Min. Agricultura Países Bajos, Fernando Andrade INTA - Conicet. Modera: Cesar Belloso Aapresid.
- 9 hs** Enfrentando nuestros futuros desafíos alimentarios; el caso Foodvalley - Roger van Hoesel. Modera: Pilu Giraudó Aapresid.
- 10.30 hs** Agricultura circular: sus principios y flujos específicos - Saskia Visser Wageningen University. Modera: Pilu Giraudó Aapresid.
- 15 hs** Agricultura circular y manejo sustentable del suelo - Jan Peter Lesschen. Modera: Tomas Mata Aapresid.
- 16 hs** Uso de purines en tambos para fertilización en Argentina - Federico Bert, Pablo Cañada y Raymond Jongschaap. Modera: Santiago Blousson.
- 16 hs** Evaluación de la biomasa para su transformación eléctrica en Río Cuarto, Córdoba - Raúl Crespi. Modera: Nicolas Andreo.
- 17.30 hs** Conoce el sistema de gestión integral para fitosanitarios de YPF Agro. Una propuesta tecnológica, sustentable y eficiente. (YPF) - Verónica Tiberi. Modera: Cristian Guillermon.

Viernes 28 de agosto

- 9 hs** Integración de arroz y pacú: un sistema a tener en cuenta en el NEA - Martin Meichtry. Modera: Ezequiel Odello.
- 10.30 hs** La Creación de Bioparques como Estrategia para un Desarrollo Sostenible - Claudio Dunan. Modera: Martin Lahitte.
- 15 hs** La circularidad en los combustibles de avanzada - Jorge Hilbert INTA. Modera: Segundo Fernandez Paez Aapresid.

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