



**ANNEX 2**  
**Best practice Identified and transferred**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Indication of content</b>
<b>1 Title of the best practice</b>	Farmer meets Neighbour
<b>2 Precise theme/issue tackled by the practice</b>	Stimulating use of green (solar) energy and CO2 reduction
<b>3 Objectives of the best practice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Producing green energy</li> <li>- Working towards climate neutral production processes</li> <li>- Stimulate energy awareness</li> <li>- Showcase that small contributions by consumers actually can make a difference in CO2 reduction.</li> </ul>
<b>4 Location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Netherlands</li> <li>- Noord-Brabant</li> </ul>
<b>5 Detailed description of the best practice</b>	<p><b>Introduction</b> The idea for ‘Farmer meets Neighbour’ (<a href="http://www.boerzoektbuur.nl">www.boerzoektbuur.nl</a>) originates from an initiative called Farmer and Neighbour and is in practical terms managed by Stichting Triple I-S. It enables farmers to cover the roofs of their stables with solar panels and reduce the CO2 emissions of their production processes and at the same time offers consumers a green energy investment opportunity and a chance to work towards sustainable consumption.</p> <p><b>Who is “Farmer and Neighbour”</b> Farmer and Neighbour is an initiative that promotes Community Supported Agriculture and aims to reconnect consumers with the origin of their food and farmers with their customers.</p> <p><b>Who is “Stichting Triple I-S”</b> “Stichting Triple I-S” stands for the International Institute or Inclusive Science and was created in 2001 for those interested in combining scientific information and experiential learning in an ongoing process of development.</p>

Triple I-S offers education programs like the one-year postgraduate program on Co-creation and Co-creation Sciences as well as research programs like learning from farmer-consumer connections

### **Background Farmer meets Neighbour**

The Farmer and Neighbour initiative was looking to strengthen the relationship between farmers and consumers. The Farmer meets Neighbour project is a practical example of how a direct link between farmers and consumers can be established.

### **Tools and techniques**

Farmers that participate in the Farmer meets Neighbour project invest in solar panels to place on the roofs of their stables. The necessary financial means are pre-financed by 'Neighbours', which in practical terms means people are willing to support local farms and have an interest in sustainability. Every neighbour can invest in 'shares' of 250 euros each. Each share entitles the buyer to products and services from the farm (meat, vegetables etc.) for a total amount of 300 euros, to be consumed in batches of 50 euros over a 6 year time period.

The farmer will sell the electricity he produces back to the energy network of the (green) energy supplier. However, the money he makes this way is not enough to earn back the initial investment within a reasonable amount of time. To overcome this problem the SDE subsidy scheme by the Dutch central government compensates the difference between production costs and the price farmers receive for their electricity.

The compensation is calculated using the following two basic figures

1. production cost: the average cost of producing solar energy in €/kW/h (sum of the investment and exploitation costs + a reasonable profit margin divided by the expected amount of green energy produced). This amount is calculated per type of installation and fixed for a period of 15 years.

	<p>2. price of electricity: this figure is yearly calculated in €/kW/h by the central Government and should be equal to the average price farmers get paid for their electricity.</p> <p>The actual subsidy a farmer gets per kW/h is the production costs minus the price of electricity.</p>
<p><b>6 Evaluation</b></p>	<p>In total 26 farmers participated in Farmer meets Neighbour. An evaluation amongst showed the following:</p> <p>Possible success factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farmer meets Neighbour offers farmers and consumers a new way to interact and to decrease the gap that has grown between production and consumption of food.</li> <li>- Farmer meets Neighbour is an alternative for Individuals that want to contribute to a sustainable society by investing in green energy but are not in the right circumstances to place solar panels themselves.</li> </ul> <p>Difficulties encountered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is only a limited amount of money per year available for the SDE subsidy, which is essential for farmers to enter the project. Granting the subsidy comes down to a “lottery”. This means that by far not every farmer that wants to participate in the project actually will be able to do so because he did not get the subsidy. This means that the full potential of the project is not reached.</li> <li>- The calculation of the basic figures for the subsidy is a complicated procedure and amounts can vary to such an extend that the compensation is not sufficient anymore. E.g. in the calculation of the production cost (fixed for 15 years) a certain total production in kW/h is assumed. However because of external factors like the numbers of sun-hours per year achieved, because of which this total production is not reached.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In some cases it proved to be hard to find neighbours to invest in the solar panels. This possibly has to do with the fact that with the current financial crisis, some people find it hard to invest 250 euros at once in food with a return period of 6 years. Another reason is that the farm sometimes is too far away from a populated area to be appealing to enough potential investors.</li> </ul>
<b>7 Lessons learnt from the best practice</b>	<p>In practice the Farmer meets Neighbour project works best for farmers who have a commercial activity (e.g. a biological farm shop) next to the day to day farming activities. It is easier to reach potential investors and the project can draw more customers to the store while at the same time potential investors have a good selection to choose from when they come to collect their 'share'.</p>

<b>8 Contact information</b>	<p><b>Stichting Triple I-S</b></p> <p>Anne Stijkel  E-mail: <a href="mailto:anne.stijkel@inclusivescience.org">anne.stijkel@inclusivescience.org</a></p>  <p>International Institute for Inclusive Science  Maldenhof 477  1106 EN Amsterdam  Tel: +31 (0)20-6972999  Website: <a href="http://www.inclusivescience.org">www.inclusivescience.org</a>  <a href="http://www.boerzoektbuur.nl">www.boerzoektbuur.nl</a></p>
<b>9. Best practice transferred</b>	<p>Farmer meets Neighbour reached 26 farmers.</p>

# 10 Other possible interesting information

Figure 1: Participants Farmer meets Neighbour

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### Deelnemende boerderijen

**Meer over BoerZOEKtBuur:**  
Projectbeschrijving  
Financieel: vragen  
Deelnemende boeren  
Meedoen als boer  
Leercarbons

**Download foto's:**  
Brochure BoerZOEKtBuur

**Contact:**  
Stichting Triple-16  
Anne Stijkel  
anne.stijkel@triple16.nl  
T. 020-6972999

**NEEDERLAND**

**Abcoude, De Hartstocht**  
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