



**FACCE-JPI**

9 December 2014

## **International programme brings together scientists and national funding agencies from around the globe**

Interview with Prof Wim van der Putten (Wageningen UR - Rikilt)

"I was asked to join the SMARTS2 project on improving smallholders' life in India, so they can adapt to climate change. The question came from agronomic, social and economic scientists, from Japan and Hawaii, I had never met before. The project is funded by a programme I had never heard of either: the Belmont Forum/FACCE-JPI Food Security and Land-Use Change programme. Projects do not usually start like this, because most of them are initiated through my network and funded by national funding agencies, the EU, or ERC. But I gladly accepted the invitation", says Wim van der Putten (Wageningen UR- Rikilt/ Head of Department Terrestrial Ecology, NIOO).

The SMARTS2 project aims to demonstrate how conservation agriculture, technology, and fore-knowledge of climate variation (e.g. water availability) can be integrated with small landholder farmers' existing knowledge and behaviours to increase adaptation to climate change. A better understanding of behaviour will lead to a greater adoption of conservation agricultural production systems that are resilient to climate change and will provide rural farmers with tools for self-reliance.

### *To better the world*

"My drive to participate as an expert in this project, is connected with the question how I can improve the world. I am interested in how international collaboration, with its international view, can bring together international policy, science and society. And helping others not to make the same mistakes we in the West have made, by sharing our experiences and knowledge", according to Van der Putten.

"Personally, it helps me also to get a broader view, which can help us here in the Netherlands. Also, this ties in with my drive to improve and broaden the knowledge on the living soil in an international setting; with the setup of the Soil Ecology Centre in Wageningen at the heart of it".

### *The Belmont Forum/ FACCE-JPI funding*

Understanding the dynamic interactions between food security and land use change, a challenge confronting nearly all continents and of paramount interest to policy-making, science and society, requires a global strategic approach and cooperation between national research programmes. To this end, the Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE – JPI) together with the Belmont Forum (The international group of funding agencies working on knowledge to support human action and adaptation to global environmental change) have launched a Collaborative Research Action (CRA). Funders and research institutions in this programme come from Cyprus, Ireland, Israel, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Romania, France, the UK, Australia, Brazil, India, Japan, South Africa and the USA.

The Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI) brings together 21 countries that are committed to building an integrated European Research Area addressing the interconnected challenges of sustainable agriculture, food security and impacts of climate change. FACCE-JPI provides and steers research to support sustainable agricultural production and economic growth, to contribute to a European bio-based economy, while maintaining and restoring ecosystem services under current and future climate change.

More on Joint Programming Initiatives: [www.jointprogramming.nl](http://www.jointprogramming.nl) or contact Christine Bunthof: [christine.bunthof@wur.nl](mailto:christine.bunthof@wur.nl)

More information on SMARTS2: <https://www.igfagcr.org/funded-projects/sustainable-management-agro-ecological-resources-tribal-societies-2>

Or contact Prof Wim van der Putten directly: [wim.vanderputten@wur.nl](mailto:wim.vanderputten@wur.nl)