

---

## UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES

**Name** : Ria Hulsman  
**Position** : regional manager Latin America & the Caribbean  
**Period reporting** : Oct-Nov 2019



Main highlights:

### Argentina:

Ignacio (Nacho) Elena is the new policy advisor of the Agricultural team at the Dutch Embassy in Buenos Aires. At Wageningen campus he met the researchers involved in project with Argentina.

### Brazil:

- Ongoing preparations for a 'dairy mission' and a 'beef mission' to resp. Paraná and Pará on request of the Agriculture Counsellor of the Dutch Embassy in Brasilia (Bert Rikken). The 'dairy mission' will take place in the week of November 16 by Adolfo Alvarez en Jelle Zijlstra (WLR). The 'beef mission' is still in discussion and under preparation and will take place Jan/Febr 2020.
- Follow up with Janneke Seters and Theo Jetten on the intention to strengthen the relationship with Universidad de Sao Paulo after having joined the Internationalization Program workshop of USP in Sao Paulo last month. Around 10 specific chair groups are interested to enter a stronger collaboration with USP to build a consistent program around the topics of their PrInt program (especially the TPAS): <https://sites.usp.br/print/description-projetcts-tpas/> and <https://sites.usp.br/print/>. The interests and possibilities will be discussed with Arthur Mol.
- We've had our first WUR-Brazil meeting and discussed WUR priorities for Brazil: ("Food security and valuing water", and "Nature inclusive & landscape"). From these priorities a rough outline of a 'Country Strategy Plan' will be elaborated and published on a special WUR-Brazil internet page (in English and Portuguese) to be more visible for partners in Brazil.
- Public lectures and discussion on doing research nowadays in Brazil. The event "*Terra Firme; how firm is agricultural and environmental research nowadays in Brazil*" was organized in Forum with lectures of Vinicius Guimaraes (EMBRAPA) and Fabiano Tony (Universidad de Brasilia).  
Read more about the event on the Brazil intranet page: <https://intranet.wur.nl/Project/Brazil>
- Meeting with the new LABEX Embrapa coordinator based in Europe (Montpellier) who visited WUR. Follow up on the MoU extension with EMBRAPA and meetings with EMBRAPA postdoc. and PhD researchers @ WUR.
- Further advancement on the WUR-Brazil booklet (in the making).
- NWO consultation meeting with Dutch Universities in preparation of NWO-FAPESP meeting. Possible future NWO-FAPESP calls will be on Biobased and Circular Economy (2020), HTMI (2021) and Health (2022).

### Colombia:

Preparation of Seed Money Projects in coordination with Agricultural Counselor of Dutch Embassy in Bogota.

Preparations of a seminar on Water use and re-use in agriculture with Angel de Miguel and Arjan Budding (WEnR) and Agriculture counselor of Dutch Embassy.

### Caribbean:

WUR is participating partner and host institute of two proposals to the NWO Caribbean call. This news came through after a first WUR-Caribe meeting which will be organized more frequently for WUR staff doing research in the Caribbean.

Lobby for a hub with local partners on Bonaire is still going on.

Peru:

A very interesting Peruvian company visited WUR to look for collaborations. [LXG Amazon Reforestry Fund](#) has a business model that consists in reforesting areas of the Amazon that have been degraded by livestock, agriculture, illegal mining and illegal logging. Specifically, LXG ARF seeks to counteract the adverse effects of these activities in the environment, in global warming and in biodiversity, and to generate attractive returns to its investors. In further communications they're now interested to receive MSc students to 'optimize the current organic feed (fresh soldier fly larvae, organic annatto, yeast, red sweet potato) given today to giant prawns and to further develop an organic supplement (micro green algae (spirulina or chlorella) to materially reduce methane emissions in cattle.

Upcoming visits:

- Brazil Network Days on November 19 in The Hague: <http://www.brazilnetworkday.org/>
- Visit of Heidge Fukumasa and Jose Bento (USP zootechnology) 2/3 december 2019
- Visit of Ricardo Sugiura, Cargill South America (t.b.c.)
- Duty trip to Colombia (1-7 December).

Comments and/or questions or interested to join the meeting with any of the upcoming visits:  
[ria.hulsman@wur.nl](mailto:ria.hulsman@wur.nl)



Photo: the "Terra Firme; agricultural and environmental research nowadays in Brazil" had 30 participants and after the lectures a good discussion on the dilemma of agriculture production and environmental/biodiversity conservation, the power of the 'rural caucus' through property rights on land, the attention for sustainability and the smaller producers in Brazil.