

Press Award

Previous award winners

2010: ir. Barend Hazeleger (documentary maker) and ir. Arend Jan Voortman (journalist and editor). Barend Hazeleger, with his six-part documentary production “Stakeholders’ views on biological containment”, has recorded the different perspectives on outcrossing of GM crops with conventional and biological crops of the relevant stakeholders; scientists, activists and the lobbyist.

He made a difficult subject like coexistence in the EU and the role of “biological containment” accessible to a wider audience and shed light on the issues from different perspectives with integrity. The production prompted many responses and much discussion, thus serving to widen the public debate on this subject. The jury praises his journalistic qualities: professional, calm images, with the maker taking a neutral position and leaving the protagonists to speak for themselves.

2010: ir. Arend Jan Voortman deserves the Press Award for his exceptional journalistic work over many years for the magazine *Spil*. As general editor and editor-in-chief of *Spil* over many years, he has adopted a critical, thought-provoking and constructive attitude to issues relevant to society. On the one hand, he has done this by offering his own, often colourful views on topical subjects, on the other hand by recruiting prominent and generally authoritative scientists and authors for the publication. *Spil* stimulates public debate and as such offers a platform for alternative voices, not just through the magazine itself, but also via its website. Driven by the tenacious Voortman, *Spil* has grown to become a medium whose influence reaches much further than its relatively modest circulation would suggest.

2006: ir. Peter de Jaeger (IJzendijke, Zeeland, 1955-2012, freelance journalist)

‘Peter de Jaeger is an excellent journalist who writes about a very wide range of topics that are linked with the Wageningen knowledge fields. He has great affinity with the material, enabling him to give the chosen topic the treatment it deserves. To achieve this he consults various scientific sources and approaches a topic from various angles. In this way he is able to combine an in-depth approach with a broad overview of the field. De Jaeger succeeds in accurately interpreting Wageningen science for society at large; as a result, his work contributes to the quality of life. In view of the wide range of topics he addresses, this is a very remarkable accomplishment.’

Peter de Jaeger graduated from Wageningen University in 1982 (at that time called Wageningen Agricultural University) in the Agricultural Sociology. Following his graduation he worked as a journalist/editor for agricultural periodicals such as *Boerderij*, *Boer en Tuinder* and the *Landbouwkundig Tijdschrift*; for several years, he was also the editor-in-chief of the latter periodical. Since 1986 he has worked as a freelance journalist for a wide range of periodicals and press organisations including regional newspapers, the *Geassocieerde Pers Diensten* and national newspapers such as the *NRC Handelsblad* and *Trouw*. In addition, he published on a regular basis in popular science magazines such as *Eos magazine* (published in Belgium), *Intermediair* and *Internationale Samenwerking*. He has also written a number of books.

2002: Hansje van Etten, one of the editors of 'Noorderlicht' (VPRO-TV program for the broadcast 'Genetic gold' broadcasted January 23rd 2001)

The jury praised the outstanding journalistic qualities of the broadcast, composed and directed by Van Etten. According to the jury: Hansje van Etten succeeded in showing what is interesting about scientific research - the challenges for researchers, the societal dilemmas, and also the commercial interests. The different perspectives and the technical aspects are clearly explained.' The jury appreciated the way in which

'Noorderlicht' makes science more popular via TV, radio and new media: 'Van Etten virtually forms an oasis in a desert, since there almost isn't a tradition to popularize science in non-printed media.'

1998: ir. Peter Vermij (Scientific journalist from Het Parool), for his articles "New virus comes from resistant plants" and "Manipulated bacteria against bread mold", published in 1994 in Het Parool. According to the Jury: 'Vermij writes in an excellent journalistic way for a broad audience about the results of scientific research in the areas of agriculture, nature and environment. He raised issues which were sensitive and he framed the subjects in a way that per se, whom are not confronted daily with the consequences and causes of the Dutch agriculture, were also interested and became aware of the meaning which agriculture and environment play for both national and international society.'

1994: VARA-radioprogramme "Vroege vogels" (Early birds). The editors were granted the prize for their entire oeuvre. The award was received by Ivo de Wijs, Carla van Lingen and Joost Huijsing. The jury praised the continuity of the programme that, for already 15 years, provides information for a wide and diverse audience about nature, environment and agriculture and the contrasting interests which are related to those subjects.

1990: Madame Legien Kromkamp, 'NCRV-Actualiteiten' (NCRV-current affairs). From the jury report: Madame Kromkamp has succeeded, with her TV-program "Op goede gronden" and in particular the episode 'Tomaten', broadcasted on August 12, 1989 by the NCRV, to inform a wide audience in a clear and fascinating way about agricultural and environmental occurrences. To achieve this, she almost 'casually' presented examples and results from scientific research in her TV-programme.

1986: Madame Marion de Boo-Spaargaren (freelancer) for her articles in Inermediar and the section science and education from the NRC-Handelsblad. From the jury report: Due to her regular efforts, a wide audience of interested readers are enabled to gain knowledge of the significance which agricultural sciences have for the national and international society.

1983: Dr. Jan Blom (journalist) for his articles about agricultural and ecological topics in the section science and society from the Volkskrant. From the jury report: "He succeeds in pointing out for a diverse audience how agricultural practices and science work together to benefit society".

1980: Sirs H.J. van der Kolk and G. Beukema, as director and editor of the NOS-TV programme "Oogst in beeld" for the documentary about cut flowers.

1978: Sir Alfred van Dijk (journalist) for his article "Aardappelzaden worden niet ziek" published in the magazine 19NU, written by the pen name 'Ernst Oberbosch'. The topic for this magazine article was shaped by research from the department Plantbreeding, in particular from dr. J. Hermsen.