

Sustainability day

A view from the farmers

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Sustainability and farming



Soil provides many functions

- Enough, qualitative and cheap food
- A low footprint of this food production
- Soil provides water storage
- Biodiversity
- Storage of CO₂
- Water quality
 - Nitrate, phosphate, degradation of chemicals



So, I as a farmer have the job to improve the soil quality, but....

What should I do?



*I need an
income now!*

*Most of my fields are
hired for only one year*

*The soil is still
a black box...*

*I am not allowed to
add enough organic
matter on my soil!*

*Of course I want
to make my soil
better, but...*



Soil quality needs an owner



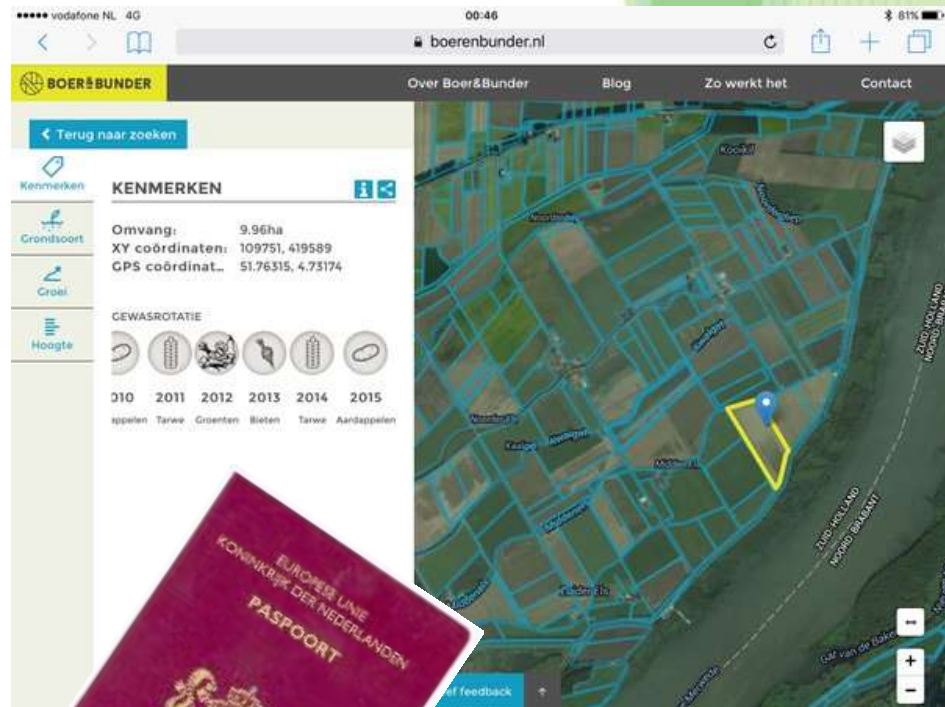
At the farms



At the government

At the farms

- More insight in (development of) soil quality
- Qualitative conditions in contracts between owners and users of the soil



At the government soil is not a theme

Example: nitrogen norms

$$\frac{\text{Input nitrogen} - \text{Output (yield)}}{\text{Loss of nitrogen}}$$

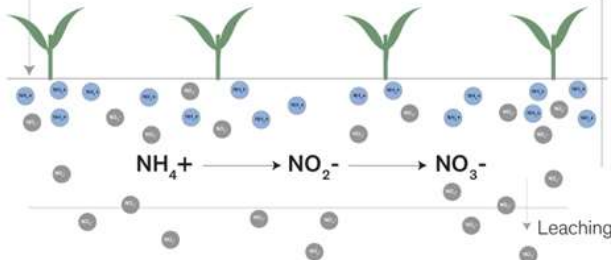
Leaching factor

Nitrate leaching

What happens in the soil?

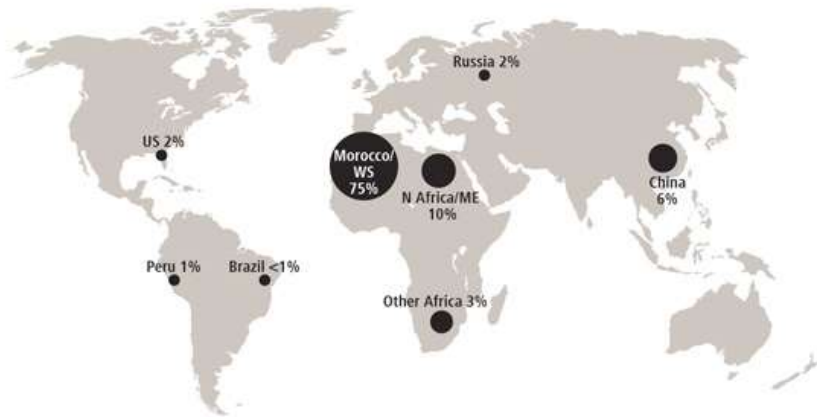
Nitrogen application

NO₂⁻ NO₃⁻ N₂
Denitrification



Our approach to the new nitrate directive action programme

- Soil quality
- Individual responsibility (e.g. precision farming)
- Treatment of animal slurry (circular economy)



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**Thank you for listening
and have an inspiring day!**



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