

# Year report 2017

New achievement:

In February we thought we could achieved the following: In cooperation with RCPR Agricultural School to get an agreement for an MoU between HAS Den Bosch and ICAR + CCRIA (Central Coastal Research Institute on Agriculture) in Goa.

For the research and Internship programs for students from HAS a back-up of laboratories and Academic guides is needed and this can grow as a "juwel in the crown" for HAS, RCPR Agrischool as well as for IDEA. Three students have already made their application and I am waiting for the draft (concept) of their program to send it to their guides at CCRIA. (ICAR Goa).

Mixed follow up of opportunities

That was in June 2017, the following is a bit different.

Building up the relation with RCPR Agrischool is developing well. ICAR cooperation has now to be decided from Delhi and that is a different story. Someone has to go there and see that the papers are worked on by the right person.

The messages for developing Umang are more disturbing. It looks as if my critical report about the first group (Social Care) has hit a few ego's. Although my remarks have been an almost direct translation from the comments from the directors of Umang and Bal Anand they were met with the reply "It is too much Indian". Which brings me to the conclusion: what are you going to do in India than?

Altogether it did not develop into the rather optimistic way we thought it could be in June. Trying to make appointments for programming were continuously changed and delayed. Observing that this was going to be a dead end, we decided to cancel the cooperation with Landstede and also with Umang.

I.D.E.A. And KW1C are now looking for a possibility with another cooperation partner, with knowledge of Horticulture etc. for the next academic year.

**Conclusion:** Two aspects:

- It seems to be very difficult for Dutch people to grasp the essence of cooperation with organizations in a different culture. You can't just drop your Dutch style of working and workplace behavior in a foreign environment. If you want to transfer your knowledge you first have to find the system that works for it and in India it is hierarchy, if you like it or not. That will need continuous time for meetings and discussions. In other words: what you exchange is your knowledge, how you exchange is based on dialogue, hierarchy and cultural circumstances.
- Institutes and Colleges are so fixed on competition itself in the Education field in The Netherlands that cooperation and open-minded approach in a different country / culture is not possible anymore. They all think they can reinvent the wheel again and for an outsider that sounds to be stuck in colonial thinking. In today's world you have to cooperate to survive nationalistic thinking.

The negative experiences with Landstede and some contacts in India around Umang have been so disturbing that it has delayed my visit to India till February 2018.

So much for the experiences in 2017.

Perspective for 2018:

- continue the cooperation with HAS, RCPR Agrischool and ICAR for internship and research programs in Agriculture and Value addition for Agricultural products
- Work hard on the opportunities for JAAG group: watershed management provided from sensors combined with drone technology to help drought prone areas in India. Get a working relationship with WOTR in Pune would help us a lot.

Cross fingers for 2018