

**Collection development in support of a global
information network:**

**A case study of LEISA, Low External Input and
Sustainable Agriculture**

Wilma Roem, Marilyn Minderhoud,

**ILEIA Centre for Information on Low External Input and sustainable
Agriculture**

Zuidsingel 16, 3811 HA Amersfoort, The Netherlands

The objective

To show how, over the last 20 years ILEIA has developed the LEISA Magazines with an international readership from grey literature sources

Highlighted will be:

- **Criteria for collecting and evaluating “grey” source material**
- **The methodology underlying the editorial approach**
- **The role of networking in this process.**

ILEIA's Mission:

The development and promotion of LEISA to smallholders in developing countries:

- **Contribute to the alleviation of poverty**
- **Enhance ecological sustainability**
- **Safeguard social and cultural integrity**

Open Access to LEISA

- ❖ **People in developing countries that cannot afford high subscription rates**
- ❖ **Access to information is important for these people**

Develop the LEISA concept:

- ❖ **Start in 1984**
- ❖ **Mainstream agriculture not interested**
- ❖ **Reports, memos and stories only available in grey sector**
- ❖ **Building up knowledge of LEISA**
- ❖ **Well-known collection of literature ILEIADOC**

Documentation

Input documents:

- To base an article on
- To document an article
- As reference material

Output documents:

- LEISA Magazine articles
- Other publications

Initiation: 1984-1992

- ❖ **starts with collecting grey documentation**
- ❖ **start Newsletter**
- ❖ **LEISA criteria developed**
- ❖ **“Farming for the future”**

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE

An Introduction to
Low-External-Input
and Sustainable Agriculture



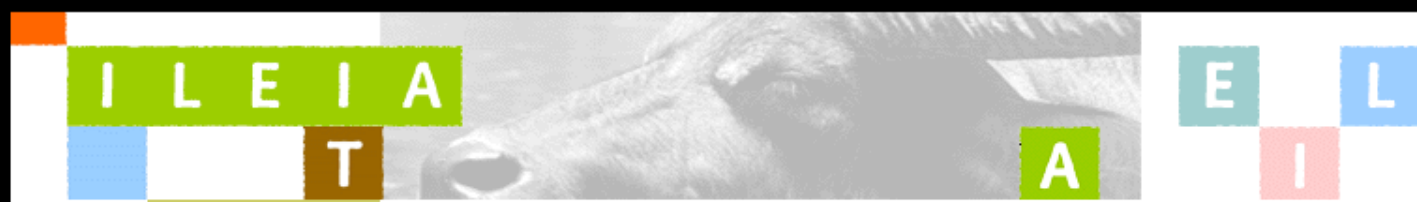
Coen Reijntjes, Bertus Haverkort
and Ann Waters-Bayer

Consolidation: 1992-1999

- ❖ **Thematic Newsletter approach**
- ❖ **Library collection developed**
- ❖ **Practical experiences became output**
- ❖ **Strong network of practitioners developed**

The collection of documents

- ❖ **Special LEISA library collection**
- ❖ **LEISA Thesaurus developed**
- ❖ **Metadata in database (1994)**
- ❖ **Data free available from website (1996)**



I L E I A

S About ILEIADOC

D Search ILEIADOC

O Advanced Search

M Search PTDDOC










Search Help

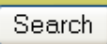
Library services

E L

A I

Ask ILEIADOC an advanced question.

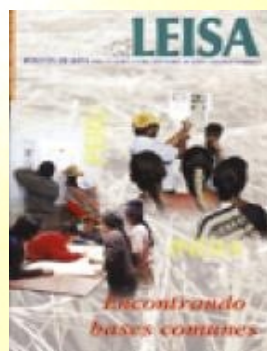
Boolean	Field	Search for
	Author 	Reijntjes*
And 	Title 	farming for the future
And 	Year of publication 	
And 	Keyword 	
Or 	All fields 	



Please enter a query

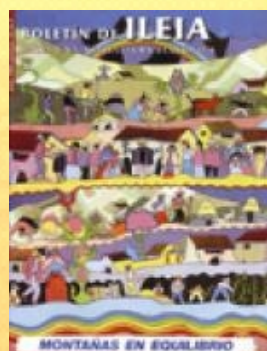
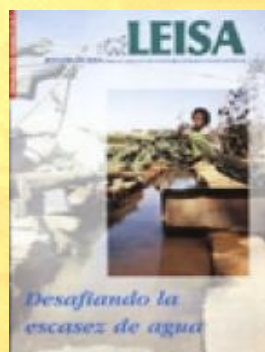
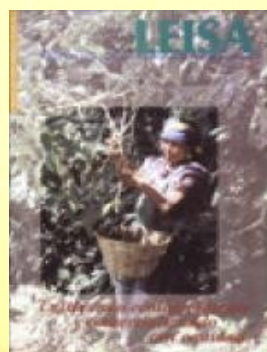
Extending the concept: 1999-now

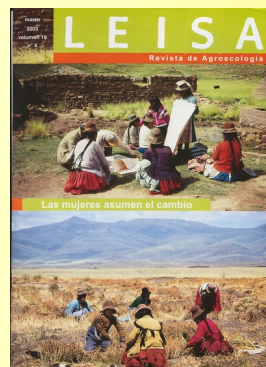
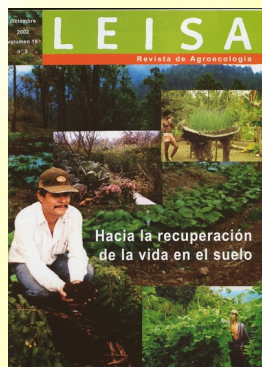
- ❖ **Specialized editorial process**
- ❖ **Creating knowledge on LEISA from grey sources**
- ❖ **Documenting experiences and cases**
- ❖ **Dissemination of practical experiences**
- ❖ **Regional editions 5**
- ❖ **Digital future**



LEISA

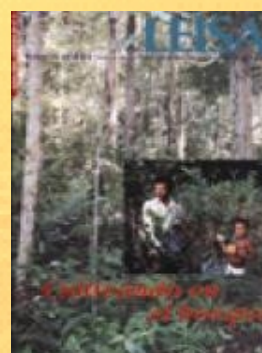
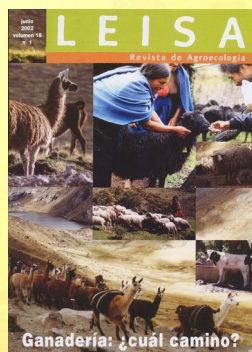
REVISTA DE AGROECOLOGÍA





LEISA

REVISTA DE AGROECOLOGÍA



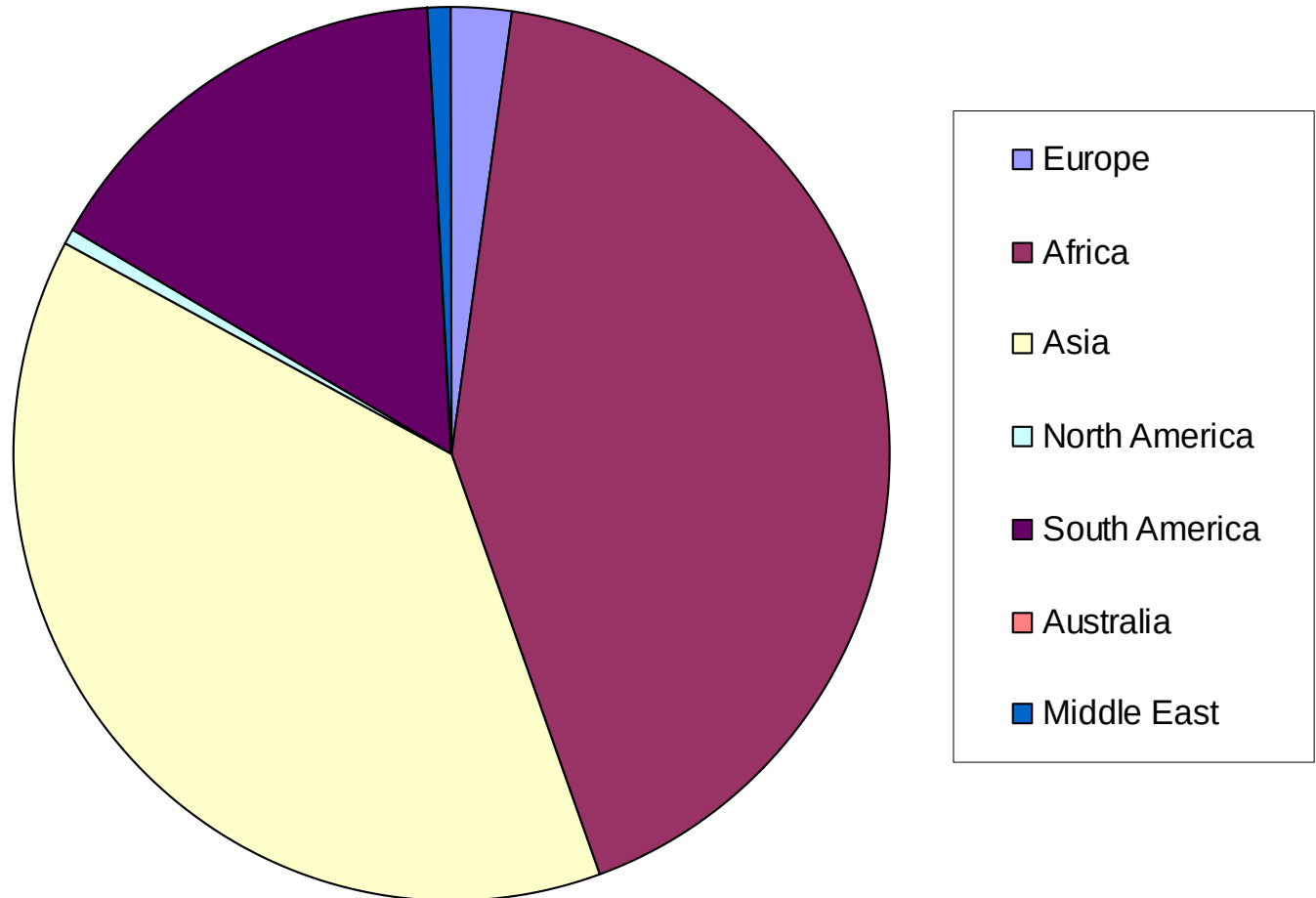
LEISA



Strength of approach

- ❖ **Collection criteria: practical experiences with LEISA
useful for target group**
- ❖ **Editorial approach: quality of grey material
reliability, “peer reviewed”**
- ❖ **Networking: clear target group and strong network
readers and authors**

Subscribers leisa Magazine: total 20,000



Weaknesses of LEISA collection

- ❖ **Collection not complete**
- ❖ **Selection criteria change**
- ❖ **Random received material**
- ❖ **Donor funding not continuously**

Conclusions

ILEIA has been successful in collecting and disseminating information during 20 years

- ❖ **strategic collection of grey literature**
- ❖ **special niche in development-orientated publishing and information exchange**
- ❖ **the methodology underlying the editorial approach**
- ❖ **networking**