

## **ANNA WILLEMINA BLOK-VERSTEEG**

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Date of birth: 04-05-1972, Civil Status: Married, Nationality: Dutch

### **EDUCATION**

#### **WAGENINGEN AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**

**Netherlands**

##### ***MSc in Rural Development Sociology***

**1992-1998**

- Thesis 1: FAO, Ecuador - study to determine impact of post harvest technology on women and their families.
- Thesis 2: DIO (Foundation for Veterinary Medicine in Development Corporation), Kenya - Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) regarding livestock production.

### **EXPERIENCE**

#### **TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)**

**Guatemala 2007**

##### ***Facilitator – Freelance Consultant***

- Facilitation of a Training of Trainers course on the development and implementation of the Farmer Field School (FFS) methodology in livestock production for 26 livestock experts from Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala.
- Curriculum and methodology development and organization of the training course.

#### **THE WHARTON SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**USA 2005**

##### ***Program coordinator of the Environmental Management Program***

- Teaching Assistant for the course 'Environmental Management: Law and Policy'
- Coordinated development of new website and edited content (<http://environment.wharton.upenn.edu>)

#### **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) - UNITED NATIONS**

**Peru 2002-2004**

##### ***Associate Professional Officer (APO) - Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme***

**Cambodia 1999-2002**

##### **Capacity development and adult education**

- Member of management team of both Cambodian and Peruvian IPM project and responsible for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the FFS training methodology - discovery based group learning.
- Organized and co-facilitated workshops for facilitators -Training of Trainers- which led to an increased methodological and technical capacity to execute Field Schools in different crops and topics.
- Coordinated establishment of local farmer groups and facilitators' organizations, resulting in farmer networks for knowledge sharing and the embedding of community-based IPM activities in local societies.

##### **Innovation in development**

- Co-designed Farmer Life School (FLS) concept - integration of HIV/AIDS and health education into the FFS training approach. The concept has proven to be highly effective and is now used in a wide range of development programmes.
- Implemented first FLS in the world and embedded the concept in community development and sustainable livelihoods.
- Planned and managed transition of the Cambodian IPM Project into an independent local Foundation (Srer Khmer).

##### **Gender and development**

- Designed and facilitated first gender training in both the Cambodian and Peruvian IPM project, leading to the integration of gender equality and equity in all project activities.
- Implemented a gender strategy that increased participation of women in Field Schools and number of female facilitators.

##### **Monitoring, evaluation and promotion**

- Advised government organizations and NGOs on how to incorporate FFS/FLS in their ongoing activities, leading to more interactive capacity building and the embracement of participatory training methods.
- Participatory monitoring and evaluation of the FFS/FLS training activities in the Cambodian and Peruvian IPM project.
- Impact assessment of the Cambodian local facilitators' network and of the FFS methodology in the Peruvian IPM project.
- Led design and production of informational videos of the Cambodian and Peruvian IPM project.

#### **NETHERLANDS AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION (NVAS)**

**Netherlands**

##### ***Organizer of international conference 'AIDS, Livelihood and Social Change in Africa'***

**1998-1999**

- Selected focus areas and prepared workshop sessions. The conference contributed to a paradigm shift: positioning AIDS in a social, economical and cultural context, rather than as a pure health problem.
- Developed marketing strategy that helped to attract participants from 25 countries and managed the logistics.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **PUBLICATIONS:**

- Research study on the impact of FFS in Peru: "Más nos han enseñado, mucho hemos aprendido", FAO, 2004.
- Manual on training dynamics, energizers and other group forming activities: "Aprender Jugando", FAO, 2004.
- Methodological IPM FFS facilitators guide in Spanish, FAO, 2002.

**TRAINING COURSES:**

- Community Health at Hogeschool Leiden, The Netherlands – 4 months, 2008.
- ‘AIDS in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Medical Anthropological Perspective’, executive course of the Amsterdam Master’s on Medical Anthropology, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands – 2 weeks fulltime, 2006.
- ‘Gender, Reproductive & Sexual Health, and Fertility’, executive course of the Amsterdam Master’s on Medical Anthropology (AMMA) at the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands – 2 weeks fulltime, 2006.
- Advanced topics in Microfinance at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, USA - 2 months, 2005.
- ‘Training of Trainers in Gender and Development’ at the Royal Tropical Institute, Netherlands - 3 weeks fulltime, 2001.

**VOLUNTARY WORK:**

- Programme representative for the Health[e]Foundation, Bangkok, Thailand - 2009-present
- Member of the FFSnet Support Unit of the Global Farmer Field School Network and Resource Centre (FFSnet) in Wageningen, Netherlands – 3 days per month, 2007.
- Board member of 'Future Hope Nederland', a non-governmental fund-raising organization for the street children organization 'Future Hope' in Calcutta, India - one day per month, 1997-1999.
- Member of the executive board, W.S.V. 'Ceres', student society - 600 members, Netherlands, fulltime, 1995-1996.
- Volunteer in the 'Home for the Dying' and the orphanage 'Shishu Bavan' of Mother Teresa, and for the street children organization 'Future Hope', Calcutta, India - 4 months fulltime, 1992.

**INTERESTS:** making jewelry, photography, playing tennis, skating, and hiking.

**LANGUAGES:** Dutch (mother tongue), English (excellent), Spanish (good), German (good)