

## Meet the RUA International Secretariat

**Marielle Dubbeling** is the Director of the RUA Foundation. Marielle has long experience in multi-stakeholder strategic planning and policy formulation and training on urban and peri-urban agriculture and urban food systems, having supported over 40 cities around the world. She has a specific interest in the role urban and peri-urban agriculture can play as a strategy for resilient cities, climate change management and sustainable city region food systems. She coordinates several research projects and authored several books, reports and policy briefs on these subjects.



**René van Veenhuizen** is Senior Programme Officer and one of the editors of the Urban Agriculture Magazine. He has over 25 yrs. professional experience in natural resource management, and is currently involved in projects seeking to enhance the role of urban agriculture in optimising synergies with environmental management, WASH, and using its multi functionality in emergency situations.

**Henk Renting** is Senior Programme Officer. He has large professional experience in social science research, short food chains and logistics, local procurement and social business models. Henk currently coordinates research on city region food system assessment and, with Marielle, forms part of a technical team that supports cities and city networks on urban food systems.



**Femke Hoekstra** is the RUA knowledge and information officer and one of the editors of the Urban Agriculture Magazine. She is interested in the geography and planning of urban food systems in Europe and the US and leads a project on urban agriculture business models.

**Winfried Rijssenbeek** is Senior Programme Officer with a long-standing background in sustainable agriculture and sustainable energy (bio-energy, solar, wind). He seeks and supports innovations in these fields, with a clear sense of business and financial viability. He currently supports projects on optimising resource efficiency and use of solar based cold storage for food processing.



**Henk de Zeeuw** is senior advisor to the international secretariat of the RUAF Foundation. He has over forty years of experience as an advisor in agricultural development in rural and urban areas in a large number of countries. His main areas of expertise: participatory research and extension, multi-stakeholder policy development and planning, institutional development. He was the initiator of the RUAF network and former director of the RUAF Foundation.

**Desiree Dirkzwager** supports the RUAF Secretariat in secretarial and financial matters.

