



## Keeping biodynamic agricultural land in good hands through the generations, this is what the Stichting Grondbeheer – Land Stewardship Foundation – is all about.

Donations and bonds enable us to release agricultural land and lease it to biodynamic farmers and market gardeners. Land stewardship provides a contemporary solution for sustainable land management and food production because:

- Biodynamic agriculture is the shortest way to a clean, animal-friendly and living earth;
- We need fertile agricultural land for the production of vital, healthy food both today and in the future;
- The cultivation of fertile ground is the *magnum opus*, as it were, of farmers and market gardeners, so that in this way it can be passed on to the next generation.

Agriculture is the basis of our existence. It is the source of our food and contributes significantly to the quality of our living environment. With the Stichting Grondbeheer leaseholders, our biodynamic agricultural land is in good hands.



# Money as the driving force of a sustainable world

**A modest profit for you, and a huge revenue for the earth. This is the motto for a new financial product from the Stichting Grondbeheer: everlasting bearer bonds in biodynamic agricultural land. Kees van Biert, chair of the Board of Directors, explains the economic and ecological aspects of these bonds.**

"Our reason for starting to use bonds is to be able to give an answer to a question from society. In the short term dozens of biodynamic farmers and market gardeners will retire with nobody to take over their work within the family. They want their life's work to be in safe hands and have therefore approached the Stichting Grondbeheer. Their wish is that we release the land for use. We do this by purchasing the land and leasing it to the new generation of farmers and market gardeners as a non-profit organisation. However, a lot of money is required to release the land of these dozens of businesses. Even though the Stichting Grondbeheer has received structural donations and regular bequests, this is not enough to meet the current demand. Bonds are a safe form of raising capital quickly for substantial land purchases. It is safe because the value of the bond is covered by the value of the land and because the interest is paid from the lease on that land."



## **What is an everlasting bearer bond?**

"A bond is nothing more and nothing less than a promissory note: a claim matched by an obligation. The claim is the amount that is loaned. The obligation is the annual interest paid by the Stichting Grondbeheer towards the claim to the bondholder. A bearer bond means that a bond is easily transferable. Hence the owner can sell his bonds, or gift them to another legal person. Everlasting means that no repayment is possible, but that the Stichting Grondbeheer is prepared to pay interest forever on the loan. Our motivation for choosing the everlasting bonds is based on our objective: to release the land. Without an obligation for repayment, the land is truly free from the pressure of payments."

## **What is the turnover/yield?**

"The bonds are not charity, but a sound economic model. The interest is linked with the lease that the farmer can pay from a healthy business operation. In addition to the interest in line with the prevailing market - and thus modest - the social

benefit is considerable. As a spin-off of biodynamic business management, the fertility of the land, biodiversity and the quality of our living environment can only increase. Hence we are looking for investors who will prioritise the social benefit and put their money to work for a beautiful clean world. It is my dream that every Dutch citizen will take on the responsibility for the number of square metres of agricultural land necessary for his or her own food production. I can imagine this as a powerful gesture on the part of grandparents to literally pass on a piece of fertile land to their grandchildren. On the one hand you are giving a piece of where their food comes from; and on the other, the annual interest is a nice bit of spending money for children."

## **What is the value of money?**

"I hope that the issue of our bonds generates a conversation about profit. Money really only has value if food, drinking water and clean air are available. So the future of our money depends very much on the future of our agricultural land."