

Introduction

Vereniging Agrarische Bedrijfsadviseurs (vab)

The Dutch professional organisation for consultants that give advice to farmers

Founded in 1997

Founding principle:

- personal membership
- strong network
- stimulating members to excel in their field of profession

Membership rules:

- university degree (WO/HBO)
- full membership from four years experience
- > 50% agricultural customers

Farm Advisory System (FAS-register)

vab = recognised for FAS-register (BAS)

Since 2015 for EU (FAS)

Since 2020 in national setting (BAS / Sabe vouchers)

Main rules:

- independent advice
- life long learning
- checked maintained quality (FAS / ab)



Netherlands = fragmented landscape



vab = connecting all

vab welcomes **ALL** types of advisors within the association (network)
stimulating and monitoring quality in generalist, specialist and seniority



All advisors are equal, but some advisors are more equal than others 😊



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Connected, but different

LEVELS IN AGRICULTURAL ADVICE

- **ab**-title members
- **FAS**-registered advisors (BAS)
- other **vab** members



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vab Permanent Education (PE)

Association is FOR members BY member
vab board and thematic workgroups
vab PE-activities (life long learning)
External PE-activities (agricultural advice oriented)
PE unlocks ab title and FAS-register



Quality assurance

LIFE LONG LEARNING or PERMANENT EDUCATION (PE)

1999 - 2003	Lloyd's certified PE-system implemented for ab-certification
2003 - 2013	Lloyd's certified PE-system with audits
2014 - present	Self managed system for ab certified members (30 pts)
2015 - present	Self managed system for EU FAS register (20 pts)
2019 - present	Self managed system for national FAS register (20 pts)
2023 - future	PE-commission certified system for national and EU FAS register

Independent vs. dependent

Drawing a line through a “grey area”

EU definition >>> selling (own) products = depending

FAS administration vab >>> FAS commission examination

How? >>> Chambre of Commerce check on SBI code



Future goal - optimal connectivity

FAS EU & BAS NL

(GREEN) KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTES

Schools, universities



Raising knowledge
and expertise on
the farm!



RESEARCH INSTITUTES
Commercial and non-commercial

BUSINESS AND COMPANIES
Dependent and independent

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