

# Building feminist agroecology stories through participatory video

## Introduction

Internal draft for participatory videos in reference to task 3.2. “capability guides” and task 2.3. “In-depth analysis of WLI”.

## Idea

Social movements and activists are frequently portrayed in opposition or in reaction to a dominant narrative rather than seen to be pro-actively presenting a coherent story. The formulation of a coherent story and narrative can help social movements unite but also provide power in presenting alternatives for social transformation.

SWIFT aims to support women-led innovations acting for change in agriculture and rural areas to foster transitions to sustainable, balanced, and inclusive development. One aspect of this is to facilitate a change of framing in agriculture and rural areas allowing for more inclusive language and stories. Following the participatory approach in SWIFT, the project aims to build on the realities, experiences, and knowledge of grass-roots organisations, building a story from the bottom up. By facilitating the exchange of experiences, visions and values, the project can contribute to the formulation of a strong narrative.

The integration of other forms of knowledge and accessibility of the collected knowledge is a central principle to the work. The creation of videos allows us to exchange lived experiences, visions, emotions, and views that are not as adequately expressed in written word. It also provides a low barrier of access for a wide audience and video material which can be used by the involved groups beyond project end.

With the aim of collecting individual stories and formulating a common narrative we will facilitate the creation of short participatory videos. In a **first step**, participants will be involved in recording moments of their life and their story. The **second step** will consist of joint viewing, sharing, and reflecting on the filmed material to discuss and find a common narrative. As a result, the process should provide an opportunity to exchange experiences and knowledge, while also providing the group with a tangible output (a short film) to be used in their own advocacy and communication work. The produced video can also be used as a way to share experiences and stories across the SWIFT project partners and beyond.

This introduction outlines a proposed filming process which can be adapted and changed depending on the context, needs and expectations of the involved participants.

## 1) Filming own stories

The videos will be made by members of the groups without a script or an outline of the content. This serves to maximize ownership of the story told in the video and to document key aspects and moments they consider relevant while also enabling spontaneity and flexibility in the scenes that are shared. Technical support (editing, and equipment if necessary) will be provided by the SWIFT team. We have also prepared a short manual for the filming process with technical tips and tricks.

The videos made by the participants can be in English or another language, depending on where the participant feels most comfortable, and which adequately reflects their culture and story. Subtitles can be added in the editing process to make the videos available to a wider-audience and allow for exchanges to occur.

Guiding question for the filming process is: **What moves you as an agroecological farmer?**

### How?

The participants will be provided with a camera, power bank and SD Card for the filming process. What and when the filming occurs is completely up to the participants and should serve to convey their experiences, thoughts, and motivations.

The idea is to capture moments that move the participants. Things, activities, people, and other life that are important to them, which express or symbolize who they are and what they do. Things they consider true, frustrating, beautiful, or inspiring. The SWIFT team will provide a short filming manual with tips and tricks. The filming can be an iterative learning process where things are recorded multiple times or in different ways to create a result the participants are content with.

A brief filming field notes diary (see further material below) will encourage a short reflection and notes on each recording making it easier to comprehend the intention and content at a later time. This will also make it easier in the editing process to choose valuable scenes to keep and highlight or ones that are considered not as central by the participants.

### Wandering Camera model

With Toekomstboeren, we want to try a method of participatory videos with a wandering camera. One camera will be handed from farmer to farmer with each using the camera for 2 to 3 weeks of filming and then handing it over to the next. The film material should be downloaded from the camera and uploaded by each participant into a shared cloud storage.

Through the personal handing over of the camera there is the opportunity to exchange on the process, share tips and tricks and chat about how it went. This should contribute to create a sense of a communal and joint project connecting the participants across space.

This approach will be trialed with around 6 members of Toekomstboeren initiated by EIs.

## 2) Discussing and building a shared story

In the second step of the process, the aim is to share and discuss the collected film material. This step should serve

Prior to this step there will be a round of rough editing conducted by the SWIFT team which should serve to put together the content of all the participants. Depending on the total length of all collected material, some decisions may need to be made regarding what content to include or shorten. This will be done with caution to not distort the stories shared. The filming field notes will be valuable here to indicate the participants own opinion of the recording. Importantly, the original material will be kept to ensure it can be included again at a later time.

In focus group discussions, the compiled material will be watched, discussed and reflected together. In this process the aim is for the participants to share their stories and formulate the idea, meanings or affect behind the videos. The discussions will provide direction for the next editing round and also initiate discussion among the participants. The participants can discuss whether the recorded material reflects their stories appropriately, if certain aspects are missing, over represented or misrepresented.

Following the discussions, there can be another round of filming or the next stage of editing depending on the formulated wishes. The step of sharing and discussing can also be repeated with a new edited or adapted version of the material.

### Who?

All interested WLIs are invited to join. The activities will be assisted by the SWIFT team based in Vienna.

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In the case of Toekomstboeren in the Netherlands, the idea is also to accompany the process with further academic research. For this purpose, Charlotte as a PhD student will be involved and utilize the material for further in depth analysis that should create additional benefit to the WLIs and the SWIFT project.

Importantly, the data collected will remain in the ownership of the WLI and any distribution or modification will be discussed with the WLI prior (consent forms will be created accordingly).

### When?

The making of the participatory videos in the Netherlands will start in November 2023. Further times can be coordinated as necessary.

### Technical equipment

- Currently we have the DJI Pocket 2: <https://www.dji.com/at/pocket-2>
  - This is considered not practical for the purpose (too many functions, built-in screen is too small and connection to Smart Phone is not stable, buttons are too small)
- Charlotte will research camera alternatives

Requirements:

Sturdy

Independent from phone

Waterproof

No options or features (simple use)

Separate microphone option

Agreement on Akaso Brave 7. incl. external microphone and tripod stand.

Possible camera insurance: <https://hepster.com/de-at/kameraversicherung>  
approx. 31Euros for one year.

- Another alternative would be to utilize the smart phones of the participants
  - Uncertain if all have a smart phone
  - Varying and uncertain quality of video and sound

## Further material

Filming Manual:

<https://cloud.foeeurope.org/index.php/apps/onlyoffice/s/9AD2eJPPfQy5MRT?fileId=4289588>

Filming field notes:

<https://cloud.foeeurope.org/index.php/apps/onlyoffice/s/9AD2eJPPfQy5MRT?fileId=4289587>

Academic background research on Participatory videos as a methodology:

<https://cloud.foeeurope.org/index.php/apps/onlyoffice/s/9AD2eJPPfQy5MRT?fileId=4127608>