

## Excursion to Salt Farm Foundation Texel, September 12, 2019

*(Option 1, early departure: 8.00; Option 2, late departure: 11:00)*

Salt Farm Foundation (SFF) Texel is established for sharing knowledge on saline agriculture with small-scale farmers worldwide, in an effort to combat salinization, save freshwater supplies, and improve food security.

Located on the island Texel, the organization invites you to visit sites related to saline agriculture. You will visit the headquarters of SFF at "De Boet", a former sheep shed. To start with, we will show you the demo field, where different plants are growing on clay soil, irrigated with salt water.



Secondly, you will visit the test facility located at the commercial company "Saline Farming b.v.", where research is being done on various aspects of salinization and salt water irrigation related to growth and quality of crops and halophytes. At the open-air lab, fresh water and seawater can be mixed into any desired salt concentration. Root zone salinity is carefully monitored by means of sensors and frequent sampling. In this way, it is possible to (re)define the salt tolerance of crops and identify salt tolerant varieties. Their scientists will guide you around the recent experiments conducted on the field.



*Zilt Proefbedrijf Texel vanuit de lucht.*

Then we will take you to the Prins Hendrikpolder where you will see an innovative concept of reinforcing dikes. Sand dunes, mud flats and salt marshes form a new natural landscape as a barrier between the land and the sea. Surrounded by the Northsea, the island Texel fully depends on rainwater and seepage from the dunes. Long periods of drought forced the inhabitants to look for new solutions, like the so called fresh weir, designed to hold fresh water and drain brackish and salt water.

Following the old dike you will pass through the fishing village and historical maritime port of Oudeschild and inland bird reserves, on the way to the Polder Wassenaar in the north of the island. At this site, a tunnel in the dike allows the seawater to come in, tests conducted with farming shellfish inland showed that they grow twice as fast as compared to their usual habitat. The model can be replicated to cultivate shellfish and seaweed in areas where there is no possibility to get freshwater for growing crops.



During the excursion you will be served a saline lunch, made with fresh ingredients from the island. The lunch will be served at "De Boet", where you started your excursion. .

This trip includes:

- Transportation from/to Leeuwarden
- Transportation among listed sites on Texel
- Meals mentioned in the program

## **Schedule**

Group 1 Departure Leeuwarden 8.00 am  
09.30 Ferry to Texel  
10.00 Welcome with coffee and tea at Salt Farm Foundation  
10.30 Start site visits  
14.00 Lunch at SFF  
14.45 Departure for 15.00 ferry  
16.30 Arrival Leeuwarden

Group 2 departure Leeuwarden 11.00 am  
12.30 Ferry to Texel  
13.00 Welcome and lunch at Salt Farm Foundation  
14.00 Start site visits  
17.45 departure to 18.00 ferry  
19.30 arrival Leeuwarden