



Jaap Dun, Netherlands
2017 Nuffield Netherlands Scholar



I farm starch potatoes, sugar beets, wheat, carrots in some years and fibre hemp on 110 hectares in the Netherlands.

It was a great week for me. I learnt a lot about people, about farming and so much more. I feel very lucky at this moment.

It is an important thing – to learn more about yourself and I have some great insights about farming in Brazil, of course and how people farm in different parts of the world.

I also liked the presentations – there was some really good ones looking at a different way for food production.

What is one thing that really hit home?

What struck me the most was the stories of abuse and hardship from the women, often in their childhood, who are now working in the bag-making Association, Maos Que Criad. I have two great small kids and I am very happy I can give them a normal life in a safe environment, and I can teach them things.

Tell me about your Nuffield research topic.

It is about companion cropping. Two crops in the same field in the same year. It is not only a double yield but they have to strengthen each other. We call it permaculture in Holland.

I would like to build up a layer of humus in the soil and you can do that with growing several plants at the same time, maybe even putting trees in and after a few years, animals – that way I can really build the soil.

What is one challenge agriculture is facing at home in Holland and in a global context?

We already know the climate is changing – over the past 10 years you can feel the climate is changing – it's warmer and also the amount of water that falls is a lot more than we used to have in Holland. Another is Roundup. We use that a lot and now they want to forbid its use. That would cause a lot of problems.

What would you say to someone who wasn't quite sure or doesn't know much about Nuffield?

Take this chance! Make sure you familiarise yourself with Nuffield and talk to people who are involved over the years. It's a great experience. You should take it.

A Nuffield Scholarship is an intensive preparation for farmers and agri-professionals who are committed to life-long learning and to promoting excellence in all aspects of agricultural production, distribution, management and communication.