**Food. Secure or not?**

**The impact of the war between Russia and Ukraine is dire for everyone involved, so many lives are impacted. Let's support our leaders so that the violence ends as soon as possible. We support the Ukrainian people where possible, personally and with our company Protix.**

**The full consequences of this war are still a guess, but in the short term, in addition to high energy prices, we will also notice impact on our plate. Ukraine is the breadbasket of Europe and feeds the world. This terrible conflict is therefore not only about the sovereignty of countries and the protection of essential constitutional laws and fundamental rights, but also about global food security.**

**So where are we?**

All food simply comes from somewhere and it always has a link with land, water, and air. They create products in a cyclical way such as cereals, vegetables, fruit, dairy, meat, fish, etc. In addition, we are part of a global system in which some countries simply have more than others. For example, Ukraine has an incredible amount of fertile land, making them a [production powerhouse](https://ukraineinvest.gov.ua/industries/agrifood/). And we are also a bit dependent on that, just as we are a bit dependent on Russia for oil and gas. And that dependency is now under discussion, and rightly so.

**Why?**

Climate change has already created more uncertainties in our food system, but this war adds a number of possible shocks. In the coming weeks, a large part of the wheat will have to be sown and a major supplier of fertilizer, Yara, [has already sounded the alarm about this](https://www.reuters.com/business/global-food-supply-risk-russian-invasion-ukraine-yara-says-2022-03-01/), and [Rabobank](https://www.rtlnieuws.nl/economie/bedrijven/artikel/5293049/recessie-grondstoffen-rabo-oekraine) wrote that it will probably cause a recession. So it sucks.

**And now?**

Unfortunately, solutions are not as 'easy' as putting on a warm sweater and turning down the thermostat a degree to reduce the consumption of Russian gas. If there is not enough grain, it is very simple, then there will be less food and it will be much more expensive. And that makes it a very big problem, for everyone. I wrote about this earlier in 2017. ([Link to article Food is not an issue, until it is an issue](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/food-issue-until-its-real-all-us-kees-aarts/))

With Protix, we are an active member of the WBCSD and the World Economic Forum. These are organizations on the world stage and guide the transition to a sustainable society. In the WBCSD we contribute to policy on Food & Protein. At the WEF I was a member of the "Council on Food Security and Agriculture". In recent years, my contribution has mainly been that of an entrepreneur who wants to offer a solution through innovation and development.

**Is Protix part of the solution?**

Yes, we are. We produce sustainable proteins, oils and other raw materials based on insects. And we do that locally, in the region. Insects are fed with food waste and by-products, giving them a very low footprint in terms of land, water and CO2. In addition, we have a productivity of 10,000 tons of protein per hectare on an annual basis. That is 2,000 times as much as what soy yields. This makes it the most productive "vertical farm" in the world and we have proven that in our [production facility in Bergen op Zoom.](https://www.businessinsider.com/inside-fly-farm-sustainable-protein-agriculture-industry-protex-2022-1?international=true&r=US&IR=T) This allows us to have a major impact on the food security of every region where we (will) produce.

**When will food be secure again?**

The war in Ukraine will (unfortunately?) be a turning [point](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_22_1616). Personally, I would have liked to see further cooperation between Europe, Ukraine, and Russia so that together we could tackle climate change. I do not believe that the Russians are ‘bad’ and I strongly believe in a healthy dependency between countries so that we can work together on an inspiring future. However, there are now victims in Ukraine, and we have to deal with the consequences of this on a humanitarian, economic and social level. (The option of) Independence is of great importance here.

We will continue to play our part and bring as much productivity as possible through the power of insects.

Kees