



Tomato *Talk*

The official opening of De Snelbinder

Door: Niels Roodenrijs

Fi-na-lly! The new cycle bridge is open!

It was opened on Monday 9 March in the presence of the press, local residents and other interested parties – with and without bicycles. Bram Meijer, Alderman for Traffic and Transport at the municipality of Westland, and Tom de Bruijn, Administrator for the Rotterdam-The Hague

Metropolitan Region (MRDH), gave the starting shot for a team of cyclists, after which the bridge was officially opened.

So a huge construction project that had been causing a lot of disruption to our employees and visitors since the summer of 2014 has been brought to a successful conclusion. We have detested and cursed the bridge, but secretly we have to admit it: we have become quite attached to the great view of the Snelbinder.



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What we mean by "interplanting" is that we plant new young plants in between the old ones which are still growing in the greenhouse. Five days before we start planting the new plants, we remove the main shoot from the top of the old plants so that they stop growing in height. Then the old plants are stripped back to seven leaves and – at the top - the string of the old plant is moved closer to the hook where the string of the new plant will be fixed, allowing more light between each pair of plants as well as onto the bottom of the greenhouse for the new crop. The new strings are also hung up at this point.

The day of planting and the day after are always busy. The new plants have to be strung up and the suckers pruned to keep the plants strong and prevent them from growing new branches. Plants are checked for damage and replaced where necessary. This can only be done up to two days after planting, as the roots start growing into the mat after that. And all this has to be done while all the other work goes on as usual!

On the technical aspect of cultivation, after planting it is always a challenge to get the plant off to a good and well balanced start. Aspects such as climate, watering etc. are

focused on the young plant while the old one is left in place for another nine weeks.

These are also challenging weeks for the crop protection department. If the pest pressure in the old crop is too high prior to interplanting, there is a significant risk that the pest will rapidly infest the young, delicate plants. So during the weeks before interplanting we scout the crops more often than usual for pests and diseases and take steps to control these where necessary.

The first three weeks, before the new plant grows above the old one, are the trickiest. This is because there are two different crops in the greenhouse at this point, creating a fastly denser crop and making our work more difficult to do. But, because working to the highest quality standards is essential and a top priority at Looije, tasks such as pinching out, turning, cutting, leaf removal and harvesting generally take longer under these cultivation circumstances.

After about nine weeks the last vines from the old plants have been harvested and the old crop is removed, leaving the new plants behind. In this week we always aim to harvest both the last tomatoes from the old plants and the first crop from the new plants. This way we ensure that there are never any gaps in production, enabling us to offer our customers a constant supply of tomatoes.



Films for Kom in de Kas 2015

Door: Niels Roodenrijs

You've probably seen Robert the cameraman around and about over the past few weeks. He has been busy taking a number of company videos for us especially for Kom in de Kas (Visit the Greenhouse). These videos will be shown to the 30,000 people who will be visiting Looije during the event.

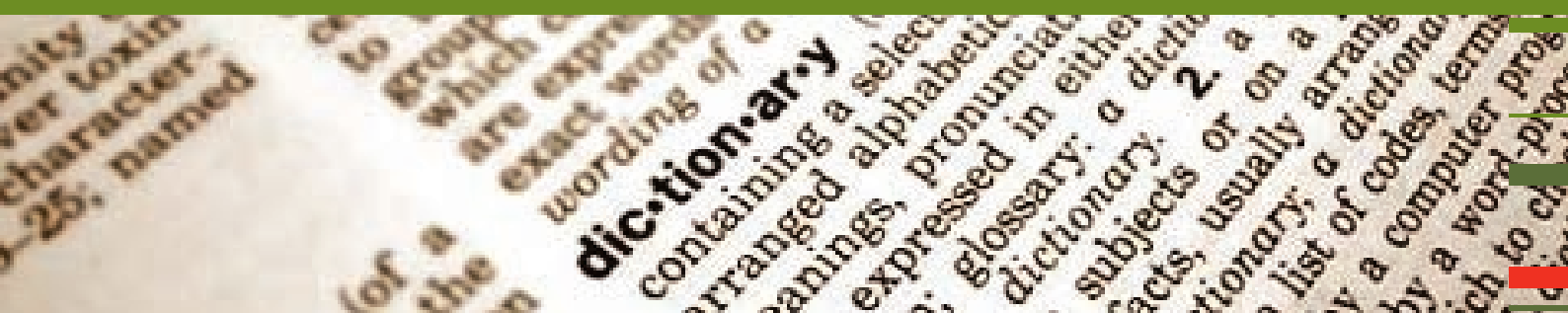


In this series of videos we will be showcasing the journey our tomatoes take before they reach the shops. There will be a video about the greenhouse, about energy consumption in the greenhouse, about how we store the tomatoes, our packaging facility and our logistics department. So he has his work cut out!

The videos will be presented by former Dutch soap star Bas Muijs. Want to get his autograph? Then make sure Saturday 21 March is in your diary. That's the day he will be coming to Looije to do his recording.

The main language spoken at Looije is Dutch, but we hear many other languages around us as well. The table below lists some of the words that are often used within our company, mainly in the packing facility and the greenhouses. You can use this mini dictionary to brush up on your Dutch, Polish and English. Who knows, maybe you can start talking to your colleagues in three languages almost immediately!

<i>Dutch</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Polish</i>
<i>Heftruck</i>	<i>Forklift truck</i>	<i>Wózek widłowy</i>
<i>Schoonmaken</i>	<i>Clean</i>	<i>Sprzątać</i>
<i>Loods</i>	<i>Warehouse</i>	<i>Magazyn</i>
<i>Expeditie</i>	<i>Shipping</i>	<i>Spedycja</i>
<i>Opslag</i>	<i>Storage</i>	<i>Skład</i>
<i>Voorraad</i>	<i>Stock</i>	<i>Zapasy</i>
<i>Partij(en)</i>	<i>Batch(es)</i>	<i>Partia (partie)</i>
<i>Oogstdatum</i>	<i>Harvest date</i>	<i>Data zbioru</i>
<i>Productiedag</i>	<i>Production date</i>	<i>Dzień produkcji</i>
<i>Verpakken</i>	<i>Pack</i>	<i>Pakowanie</i>
<i>Kantoor</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>Biuro</i>
<i>Printen</i>	<i>Print</i>	<i>Drukowanie</i>
<i>Stickers</i>	<i>Stickers</i>	<i>Naklejki</i>



Did you know that...

... we are opening our doors to the public for 'Kom in de Kas (Visit the Greenhouse) 2015'?

... we are expecting between 30,000 and 35,000 visitors that weekend?

... Robbert has his own hobby corner at the office?

... Cynthia and Chakir have turned out to be the ideal Excel duo?

... we are still looking for female school students for in the greenhouses?

... the Snelbinder cycle bridge will be opening on 9 March?

... the soles of Ron's shoes wear out quickly because he always walks around when he's on the phone?

... we packed a massive 656,748 kg of tomatoes in February?

... this took around 4 million different packaging components?

... Kasia Cichowska has bought a house?

... Mervyn has definitely got a taste for German?

... we have an Italian intern, Mattia, at Burgerveen?

... Niels is having sleepless nights because he is (almost) moving in with his girlfriend?

... Robbert, Frank and Bas showed 66 secondary school students around Burgerveen on 5 March?

... Willemijn and Cynthia are mothering "Boompie", our baby Christmas tree?

... this was originally a Christmas present from a customer?

... Michiel and Cynthia have new jobs?

... Michiel will be immersing himself completely in our quality systems and Cynthia will be doing the administration for the packaging department?

... we have already done our first interplanting in Burgerveen?

... all Anja's favourite chocolate eggs suddenly disappeared without trace?

... she went hunting for them and even found them hidden among the teabags?

... Looije is organising activities on 16 May and 5 September (2015)?

... Frank is mad about cheese toasties with mayonnaise?

... Teddy is finally eating normally again?

... we very much value your input in our annual questionnaire?

... Niels and Bastiaan have a lot in common with Captain Haddock and Tintin?

... Bastiaan is only ever seen in Naaldwijk (office) when there is food on offer?

... Niels likes to experiment with coffee and tomatoes on Monday mornings?

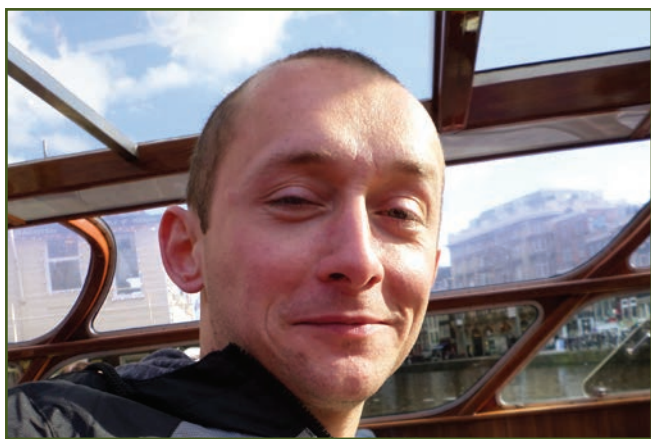
... Veronique has not had a cigarette in four weeks?

... Ron's catchphrase is "Let me put it this way.."?

... our AKA (General Labour Market Aspirant) students have exams coming up?

... we wish them the very best of luck!?





My name is Tomasz Pluta and I recently joined the 'Enjoy the Taste' panel. I would like to give you an idea of what we talk about at our meetings and what this means for our work.

We spend a lot of the time talking about work safety and how to increase productivity without increasing the amount of work we do. To give you an example, this can lead to experiments with new types of scissors that are safer for staff to work with. We also discuss the ideas put forward by the greenhouse personnel. As a result of these suggestions we are now replacing scissors more regularly, which raises the standard of tomato cutting. As far as safety is concerned, we

analyse the minor accident lists and explore ways of reducing the number of injuries at work.

We also discuss various aspects of the language course. For example, we think about how we can encourage people to take a Dutch language course and what the demands are on staff who are already taking one. The other members of 'Enjoy the Taste' and I are delighted that so many people have indicated their willingness to start a language course.

The best part of the 'Enjoy the Taste' meetings is when we get to talk about the activities planned for the coming year. There are plenty of ideas but it is not always easy to adapt even the best ideas to such a large group of people.

So that is roughly what happens at ETT meetings in a nutshell. There are a lot of people learning Dutch, so there is bound to be someone (or several people) who would like to find out for themselves what happens at our meetings and the kinds of things we talk about.

Visit from Corlaer College

We are still very busy working towards our target of attracting 1 million visitors to Looije by 1 January 2022. With this in mind, on Thursday 5 March, we welcomed a group of VIP visitors from Corlaer College in Nijkerk. A total of 66 students came to Burgerveen, where they first watched our company presentation and were then shown around the greenhouses.



BIRTHDAYS

Magdalena Sowa	14-3	Dominique de Beer	23-3
Robbert de Jong	17-3	Radoslaw Skrzypek	24-3
Joanna Gulak	18-3	Hristo Stoykov	24-3
Klaudia Prus	20-3	Luna de Rooij	24-3
Farid Baouch	22-3		



What keeps you busy?

Hello, I am Katarzyna Pargiela, I am 29 years old and I live in Maassluis. I have been with Looije since April 2011.



Katarzyna Pargiela

... in your personal life?

I always spend my free time (weekends) outdoors. That's how I get away from the daily grind and recharge my batteries for the week ahead ...)

... in your work?

For a while now I have been working on loose line 6, sorting or packing tomatoes in crates or boxes, depending on the order.

... in the world?

Television, press, internet – war, terrorism, hopeless conflicts everywhere! Everyone should ask themselves where this will all end ... WHAT is really important to us?