No. 1 knowledge-intensive agtech ecosystem

Tiny country The Netherlands is changing the way the world farms, combining business and practical experience with leading research and developments (source: National Geographic). East Netherlands is home to number 1 Food and Agriculture University Wageningen and the most entrepreneurial university of the Netherlands, Technical University of Twente. Foodvalley, around Wageningen, tops the list of appealing investment regions for many agrifood innovators worldwide and has an ideal mix of multinationals, small and medium enterprises, startups and research institutes.

Business climate

Wageningen and the surrounding Foodvalley are home to a vibrant, highly educated, international research community dedicated to food, nutrition and agricultural sciences. With more than 3,000 agrifood related companies, institutes and a community of more than 10,000 agrifood experts from over 110 nationalities, it has become an internationally acclaimed R&D hotspot. Wageningen University & Research forms the center of an agrifood research hub.

Three Research Universities and five Universities of Applied Sciences educate multi-skilled talent for future challenges in agrifood such as nutrition, biobased materials, agtech and protein transition.

Companies


Open and innovative

Joint research programs with the Universities of Wageningen, Nijmegen and Twente and top-class research institutes, like imec, Mesa+, Chip Integration Technology Centre (CITC) and LEO Center for Service Robotics offer new smart agriculture solutions.

Foodvalley – the primary knowledge intensive agrifood ecosystem in the Netherlands.

Shared research facilities provide access to state-of-the-art facilities, e.g. Netherlands Plant Eco-phenotyping Centre (NPEC).

NARO, National Agriculture and Food Research Organization, Presence of liaison officer at Wageningen Campus.

CITC, Chip Integration Technology Centre, development of chip technology for smart farming application.

OnePlanet Research Center, a multi-disciplinary collaboration between imec, Universities Radboud, Wageningen and Radboudumc. Focus on the development of e.g. sensor & agriculture.

MESA+, a leading nanotechnology research institute.

StartLife supports Food & Agri startups into leading enterprises.

Farm Technology group, Wageningen Plant Sciences.

Business support

East Netherlands:
a highly innovative agtech cluster

“The choice for The Netherlands was based on several reasons: the level of education, a multilingual population, easily accessible by road, train and air and very well connected to the rest of Europe. The Netherlands is furthermore frontrunner in agriculture, with Wageningen University and Research (within 20 minutes drive from Heumen) as its beating heart.”

Alfred Rol
Regional Business Manager - EMEA at Ag Leader

“The Netherlands has a historically strong position in international vegetable breeding, and Wageningen is a globally-recognized center for plant science.”

Paul Degreef
Managing director KWS Vegetables BV, Wageningen
Agriculture and food innovations are funding priorities within the European Union. These funds are an important vehicle to connect your food developments to the European market.

As a partner of the Dutch and EU governments, Oost NL is a qualified intermediary in helping you to access EU, national and regional funding.

255 million regional participation fund

100 million innovation grants & incentives

95% of Europe’s most lucrative consumer markets are just around the corner

Beyond being the most wired country in Europe and having the continent’s fastest connection speeds, the Netherlands has the world’s second-highest penetration of household broadband connections.

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Wageningen University & Research – for many years ranking world’s number 1 food and agriculture university.

Aeres University of Applied Sciences and Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences are also active in the ‘green’ domain.

Due to its position in Europe, the East Netherlands attracts many international students and researchers. Hosting three international schools, the region offers a quality setting for international talent workers and their families.

Invest in Holland
Oost NL works closely together with partners in the Invest in Holland network. Our main partner is the Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency. We have access to resources – funding, network of business and research partners – to help you succeed in establishing and growing your European business.

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