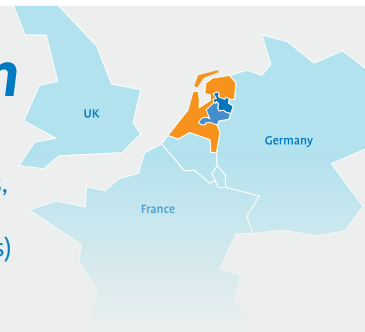




# No. 1 knowledge-intensive food ecosystem

The Netherlands is an agrifood powerhouse, world's number 2 exporter of food products and home to world's number 1 food and agriculture university in Wageningen. Foodvalley, located in East Netherlands, tops the list of appealing investment regions for many Agri-Food innovators worldwide. Foodvalley has an ideal mix of multinational companies, research institutes, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups.



## East Netherlands: a highly innovative agrifood cluster

*"In 2050, more than 9 billion people need 70% more food than is currently being produced. This calls for a fundamental adjustment of the current food system. It is not possible for one company to achieve this adjustment, but requires close cooperation. The move to Wageningen is therefore a logical step. By being an active part of the Wageningen Foods ecosystem, we have access to international talent and are able to develop new ways of cooperation with the WUR, knowledge centres, other companies, the authorities, NGOs and with start-ups, to jointly ensure that sustainable foods become the norm and that sustainable and nutritious food is accessible to all."*

**Paul Polman,**  
CEO Unilever

*"We chose Wageningen because of the proximity of Food Valley and other research institutes and facilities. Here we can develop products that are particularly suitable for the European market."*

**Yuzaburo Mogi Honorary,**  
CEO & Chairman of the Board at Kikkoman

### 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 international acclaimed R&D hotspot. **Wageningen University & Research** forms the center of a food research hub, where innovative developments are being driven by a community of researchers.



#### Companies

The list of globally operating companies in the greater Foodvalley region includes household names such as: Kraft Heinz, Unilever, Nestlé, Cargill, DSM, FrieslandCampina, Mead Johnson, Kikkoman, Mérieux NutriSciences, Givaudan, Yili, Arla, 2 Sisters Storteboom, Hoogwegt, Synthite, Bieze Food Group, Innova Market Insights, CSK, Moba, Vion, Dishman, Jansen Poultry Equipment and also Agrifirm, Bayer, CRV, De Heus Animal Nutrition, ForFarmers, Genetwister, Keygene, Schothorst Feed Research.



### Open and innovative

Joint research programs with the Universities of Wageningen, Nijmegen and Twente and top-class research institutes offer new food applications.

Foodvalley comprises many high-end agrifood research institutes, which cover the full spectrum of research from molecule to market and from basic science to applied (contract) research.

Examples include:  
NIZO food research, Wageningen Food Safety Research, Wageningen Plant Research, Wageningen Livestock Research, TOP BV, Wageningen Food & Biobased Research, Top Institute Food & Nutrition (TiFN), Nutrition Hospital Gelderse Vallei, Olympic Training Centre Papendal (Centre for Elite Sports and Education).



**Most innovative country in the world**

GII 2017-2019



### Business support

**Foodvalley** – the primary knowledge-intensive agrifood ecosystem in the Netherlands. It offers a platform of resources and opportunities to an (inter)national business network to accelerate innovation and market introduction.

**NIZO** has one of the largest food grade industrial pilot plants in the world.

**TOP Food Lab** offers facilities and know-how for companies to develop and produce innovative food products.

**The Protein Competence Centre (PCC)** is on the forefront of innovative protein research through collaboration of food and feed companies and knowledge partners.

**Shared research facilities** provides access to state-of-the-art facilities for scientists from industry, knowledge institutes and universities.

**Startlife** supports Food & Agri startups into leading enterprises.



# Oost NL has partnered with over **900** companies for success in Europe



## Top talent



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.

Number of students, East Netherlands

**43,000** research university students

**85,000** university of applied sciences students



**104,000**

students in vocational education

source: CBS, 2018/2019

**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.



## Funding

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.

**80 billion** budget for cooperation in R&D through EU Horizon 2020 program

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

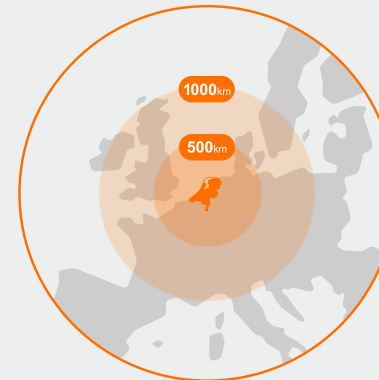
**100 million** innovation grants & incentives



## Market access

The Netherlands is a gateway to European markets, with an open market approach, business-friendly fiscal climate, and a multilingual workforce.

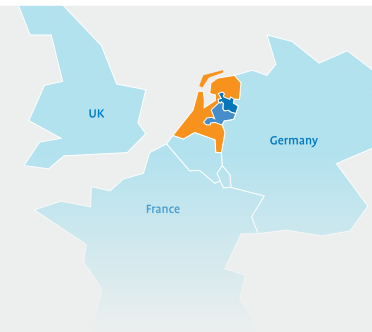
**95%** of Europe's most lucrative consumer markets are just around the corner



- 244 million consumers within 2-3 days by road
- 170 million consumers within 1-2 days by road



**6** International airports in 1.5 hour drive



## Oost NL - Your support for success in business

Oost NL is the economic development agency for East Netherlands.

### Invest in Holland

Oost NL works closely together with partners in the Invest In Holland program. 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.

### Contact:

East Netherlands Development Agency (Oost NL)  
Laan van Malkenschoten 40  
P.O. Box 1026  
7301 BG Apeldoorn, The Netherlands  
Tel: +31 (0) 88 667 0100  
[www.oostnl.com](http://www.oostnl.com)



Susan van Boxtel  
team manager Food, Health / International  
[susan.vanboxtel@oostnl.nl](mailto:susan.vanboxtel@oostnl.nl)  
Direct phone: +31 (0)618 416 745

East Netherlands  
Development Agency

