



**TOP
DUTCH**

**Naturally leading
the transition**

AGRIFOOD

Discover the **TopDutch AgriFood industry**, where our **ecosystem of knowledge and innovation communities, business and government** are growing the **smart and sustainable value chains of the future**.

As a small, densely populated country, the Dutch were driven to optimize their agricultural yield, whilst still being committed to sustainable agriculture. Realizing unparalleled yields and becoming the world's second largest exporter of food, it may well be the Dutch who will guide the world on how to feed the 10-11 billion people that will inhabit planet Earth by 2040.

Gaining a global leadership position in agriculture because of their strong focus on input, in the Netherlands we are now expanding our expert position and impact by maximizing value from output, creating the food, bio-based and circular value chains of the future. Here, we grow a healthy future.

1. Growing a healthy future

2. A cohesive ecosystem

3. World-class research & knowledge

4. A smarter, cleaner & healthier food system

5. The missing links

1. GROWING A HEALTHY FUTURE

We're working on the future of food, from seed to plate. And we're the go-to region for the builders of the new agrifood system; the creators of healthier, smarter and more sustainable solutions.

- **The TopDutch region is uniquely suited as a global frontrunner in the food transition.** Not just because of our ample and fertile farmlands, but also because we combine world-class research with an entrepreneurial mindset and a collaborative approach.
- **Our region stands out** for its expertise in:
 - the dairy chain;
 - healthy food;
 - water technology.



Eemshaven, Groningen. Photo: Johan Bosma

2. A COHESIVE ECOSYSTEM

We are dedicated to **smart and sustainable farming**, using cutting-edge innovations. That means protecting biodiversity, land, seed and crop quality; optimizing processes for sustainability and promoting circularity. **In the TopDutch ecosystem, we work together to make sure nothing goes to waste..**



Dairy Campus, Leeuwarden.

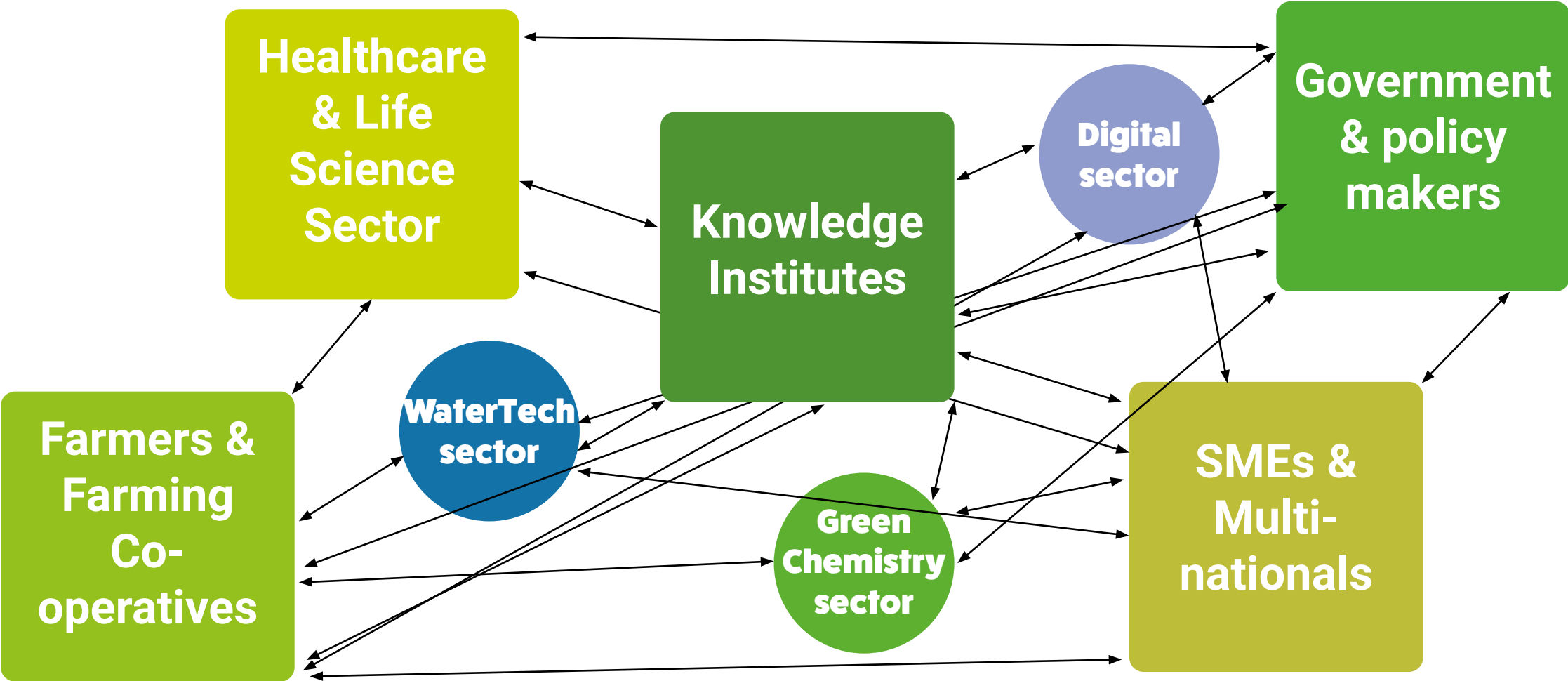
- **Dairy Campus Leeuwarden.** As a subdivision of the renowned **Wageningen University**, the Dairy Campus focuses on achieving and promoting close cooperation between the scientific community, education and the agricultural sector. At the Dairy Campus, located in the city of Leeuwarden, we share state-of-the-art research & development, knowledge and education to spur innovation and improve the dairy industry around the world.



- **FASCINATING** is a project-based program and think tank working on healthier and more economically- and environmentally-sustainable production. The three big farming cooperatives (**Agrifirm, Avebe, Cosun**) have teamed up with **LTO Noord, the Province of Groningen, and the Institute for Sustainable Process Technology** (ISPT) in the agriculture project. Together with the **University Medical Center Groningen** and several other organizations from the food, chemical, and energy sectors, they're looking into how we can make the farming of the future a reality.
- **The Bakery Sweets Center** (BSC) connects education, government, and businesses in Northern Netherlands with a shared mission: to develop a strong and sustainable bakery and sweets sector. Through this collaboration, they ensure a future-oriented industry with enough qualified workers and innovative solutions.

● **Next Food Collective** connects the entire food industry, from farming to food production, from equipment to business services and from top universities to field labs and educational institutions. This unique collective of academia, research institutes, corporates and SMEs in the Netherlands focuses on the shift to regenerative agriculture and increasing the share of sustainable proteins in our diet. They also focus on reducing waste, energy and water use in food processing and improving nutrition and health by changing the food environment and consumer behaviour.

**TopDutch
innovation
networks for
smarter, healthier &
more sustainable
AgriFood**



3. WORLD-CLASS KNOWLEDGE & RESEARCH

The Netherlands is home to Wageningen University, the number 1 AgriFood university in the world. Twelve of the 40 largest AgriFood companies have located their R&D facilities in the Netherlands, and our country has the second-highest private R&D investments in AgriFood in Europe..

- **Wageningen University & Research.** (WUR) has two specialized facilities in the TopDutch region, namely its Dairy Campus in Leeuwarden and a Field Crops test location in Valthermond. The latter is used to conduct research into arable farming, multifunctional agriculture and field production of vegetables.
- **Leading applied education.** The TopDutch region has the best knowledge institutes, such as Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, with a strong focus on applied research on sustainable agriculture and water management, and communities for cutting edge AgriFood innovation R&D.

Researchers from the Hanze & Van Hall Larenstein Universities of Applied Sciences

● **Innovation communities and pilot facilities.**

The TopDutch region hosts a large research & development cluster for the agriculture, food technology, and related industries. This includes several dedicated food innovation communities, and an array of shared research and pilot facilities.

**TopDutch AgriFood
key locations**

Campus Groningen:

- 1. Carbohydrate Competence Center (CCC)
- 2. Innolab AgriFood/Chemistry
- 3. Zernike Advanced Processing (ZAP)
- 4. Zernike Institute for Advanced Materials (ZIAM)

- 5. Field crops test location Valthermond

- 6. Potato Valley Drachten

Leeuwarden:

- 7. Dairy Campus
- 8. Water Alliance
- 9. Food Application Center for Technology (FACT)
- 10. Van Hall Larenstein



4. TOPDUTCH TECH, CHEMISTRY & DATA POWERS THE TRANSITION

Our agricultural industry feeds our chemical cluster with bio-building blocks to create new sustainable solutions. We apply our digital expertise to create smarter AgrTech. And we cross-link AgriFood research with WaterTech and life sciences research to accelerate the water and healthy ageing transitions.

CleanTech

The crops that grow in our agricultural hinterland provide bio-based energy solutions, circular producers and our green chemistry cluster, Chemport Europe, with an abundance of green building blocks.

We are able to extract valuable chemical building blocks, such as sugars, starches, glucose, carbohydrates and lignin from sugar beets, potatoes, wood chips and even shrimp shells.

We produce and recycle green packaging materials for the food industry and produce bio-methanol from wasted biomass.

Digital innovation

We develop new technologies such as soil sensor systems, smart dairy farming technologies and technologies that perform calibration measurements to optimize the performance of our cultivation and greenhouses:



WaterCampus, Leeuwarden.

Automated systems

DigiAgro3, a consortium of businesses and knowledge institutions from the Northern Netherlands, led by TNO (Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research), focuses on the development, supply, and use of robots in agriculture and horticulture. The prototypes will be ready in 2027.

Life Sciences & Health

Together with regional research partners in the life sciences & health sector, we unfold protein structures in food for advanced antibiotics research, and we research healthy nutrition at our Carbohydrate Competence Center (CCC).

WaterTech

Cross-linked with our WaterTech innovation chain, we develop water recycling and resource recovery solutions for the AgriFood industry.

5. MISSING LINKS

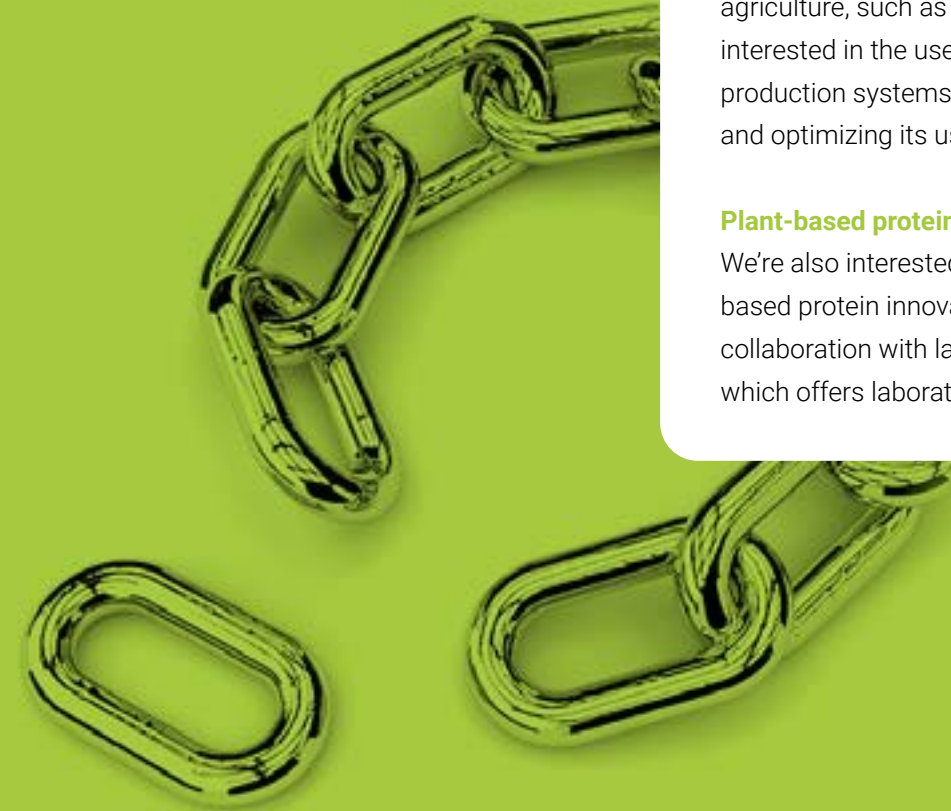
In the TopDutch region, we're working on sustainable solutions for global problems and we **invite the rest of the world to help build the future. And we are certainly interested in a little **help and expertise in the following fields:****

AgTech

One of our focus areas is smart agriculture, which is why we're always on the lookout for autonomization/robotization solutions in agriculture, such as drone technology or electric tractors. We're also interested in the use of data and artificial intelligence (AI) in production systems, such as improving the quality of collected data and optimizing its use.

Plant-based proteins

We're also interested in the transition to more sustainable, plant-based protein innovations, such as valorizing protein-rich crops, close collaboration with large companies like Avebe and Innolab AgriFood, which offers laboratory facilities and business support.





Are you interested in exploring what
your business possibilities could be?
Connect with **Reinder de Jong**,
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TopDutch region is naturally leading the
transition, or view the digital edition? Head
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