

The Positioning of research at Wageningen University & Research

Wageningen University & Research carries out fundamental and applied research in an independent manner. The conclusions on all its research are reported on the basis of the facts demonstrated and analysed in the research. Clients and other interested parties have no influence on this. The party or parties funding the research are always stated on the report.

Research themes in our domain

Wageningen University & Research is a knowledge organisation consisting of Wageningen University and nine, market-focused and demand-driven applied-research institutes which are brought together in the foundation: Stichting Wageningen Research. Wageningen University & Research carries out research in an independent manner within the broad domain of Food and living-environment, focussing on three core areas: *Society and well-being; Food, feed and bio-based production and Natural resources and living-environment*. This domain holds some of the most important challenges of today and is in the centre of the public interest. As a result of the combination of fundamental and applied research on the one hand and a variety of scientific disciplines on the other hand, we can approach knowledge questions in our domain in a comprehensive manner.

To enforce our comprehensive approach, the most important research themes of Wageningen University and the research institutes have been gathered in five strategic investment themes, which are located at the cutting edges of our core areas and in which Wageningen University and Research will invest in the coming years: *A Global One Health, Resource Use Efficiency, Resilience, Metropolitan Solutions and Synthetic Biology*. These themes concur with urgent social challenges to which we make an important contribution thanks to our expertise and versatility.

Research at Wageningen University & Research, providers of funding, clients

The research of Wageningen University & Research is carried out within Wageningen University and within the nine applied-research institutes.

Research at Wageningen University

Approximately half of this –primarily fundamental- research is funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. The other half is funded by other parties (foundations, the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), consortiums, the EU, government bodies and companies). The research questions must be in keeping with the policy of the chair groups/graduate schools. They are formulated by the researchers, where appropriate in consultation with the external partners.

The funding parties have no influence on the publication of research results. Results are made known by means of publication in journals and doctoral theses and by means of lectures. Research results are generally published in peer-reviewed journals but also in popular scientific magazines, professional magazines, doctoral theses, books, lectures and presentations.

Publication can sometimes be postponed for a limited period, for instance in the case of patenting.

Research at Stichting Wageningen Research

This comprises five components:

- *Statutory research tasks* for purposes of legislation and regulations set by the government. The research is funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, which has a say in decisions about research questions. Results are presented to the government which then decides on disclosure. This research can be fundamental research or applied research and can lead to publications in peer-reviewed journals.
- *Knowledge base research*: funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, which has a say in decisions about research questions. The research can be fundamental or application-oriented and is aimed at ensuring the development of deep knowledge and expertise which are necessary to solve future social issues. Results are always published in reports accessible to the public and on the [Kennisonline](#) website, without intervention on the part of the funding party. The research may also lead to peer-reviewed publication in scientific and professional journals.
- *Policy support research*: applied research commissioned by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, aimed at finding solutions for practical societal issues. Results are always presented to the ministry and these reports are always made public. Generally speaking, a waiting period of two months is applied before reports are made public so that the ministry can examine and formulate consequences for policy.
- *Top sectors*: sectors which are deemed crucial to the Dutch economy and employment rate and in which the government wishes to stimulate innovations. Government, industry and research- and knowledge centres have formed a so-called "golden triangle" in order to achieve this. Wageningen University & Research actively contributes to the top sectors *Agri & Food* and *Horticulture & Starting-materials*
- *Contract research for third parties*: this type of research comprises two elements: public-private cooperation and contract research for a single client. Public-private research always gives rise to public reports. For other types of contract research, reports are presented to the client. In consultation, this type of research can also result in scientific publications, if required after the anonymization of confidential company information.

Integrity and quality

Research results and views of researchers are weighed up and judged in a social context by the outside world. Partly for this reason a code of conduct regarding research and education has been drawn up which applies to all researchers of Stichting Wageningen Research: the [Netherlands Code of Conduct Scientific Integrity](#). This code defines principles of integrity that underlie good research practices.: Honesty, Scrupulousness, Transparency, Independence and Responsibility. The Dean of Science and the Scientific Advisory Board see to the compliance with this code. There is also an Integrity Code that applies to all employees, there is an ethics committee, and confidential counsellors have been appointed. The Code of Conduct, the Integrity codes and the General Terms and Conditions of Wageningen University and Research can be read [here](#).

In all cases where public and/or animal health are at stake, or where negative environmental effects have been demonstrated, the competent bodies will be informed without any reticence.

Chairs by special appointment and endowed chairs are funded by external parties. The complete list of these chairs is published on the internet twice a year.

Both the university and the research institutes of Stichting Wageningen Research undergo reviews by committees of external and international experts who assess the quality, integrity and independence of the work. These reports are available to the public.

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