



The foreword of the WUR Alumni News of December 2024 is provided by Sjoukje Heimovaara, President of the Executive Board of Wageningen University & Research

I wish you a wonderful festive season and a happy New Year

Dear alumna, alumnus,

Stroopwafels, Johan Cruyff and Wageningen University & Research, these are the three things that people abroad praise about the Netherlands. I think we should try to accept this praise with some modesty. On the other hand, I believe that we, in the Netherlands and at WUR, give far too little appreciation to our name and impact worldwide. We may be one of the smaller universities in the Netherlands, but we punch well above our weight!

We literally meet WUR alumni all over the world. There are more than 68,000 alumni working in government ministries, well-known NGOs, and at the top of corporations, as well as in relatively unknown foundations, municipalities, and institutions. We are all responsible 'changemakers' whom the world desperately needs. By the way, this is exactly why it is a terrible idea to cut education and research budgets and skimp on multilingual education. We want nothing more than for WUR's knowledge to spread throughout the world.

Even if you have graduated and left WUR, I hope you will continue to feel at home in our community. I hope you will remain committed to our motto: *to explore the potential of nature to improve the quality of life*. Whether you work on a global scale or in a very local context, let's work together on healthy food and sustainable food production in a green, biodiverse living environment.

On behalf of all of us on Wageningen Campus, I wish you a wonderful festive season and a happy New Year.

[Dr ir Sjoukje Heimovaara](#)