

Water for food

The global population and the demand for food are sharply on the rise. The agri-sector will therefore need to produce more food, but at the same time, water is becoming more scarce. The Netherlands is only a small area. Nonetheless, we are one of Europe's largest exporters of agricultural products. Our secret involves the efficient use of land and water and effective responses to natural conditions. Now, the Dutch Water and Agricultural Sector have teamed up to develop new solutions for water re-use and better irrigation.



The Dutch water sector has committed itself to excel globally in three vital areas: Enabling delta life, **Water for food** and **Water for all**.

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Climate adaptive drainage

Over 50% of The Netherlands lies below sea level. Its position is the reason for the adaptation of the Dutch to live with water. The battle against water started with wind mills, dikes, dams and pumping stations. Land drainage, ditches and canals play an important role in this battle. As a result, The Netherlands has developed a lot of knowledge and practical experience with the construction and maintenance of land drainage systems. Drainage systems are not only necessary in the lower part of the country with predominantly clay soils, the upper parts will benefit from innovations in drainage to bridge periods with prolonged drought..

An example of innovative Dutch expertise is climate adaptive drainage, which facilitates adjustable drainage at all times. These innovative drainage systems are used to reduce flooding risks and to retain rain water during dry spells, especially on light soils.

Another major issue in Dutch polders is reducing the salinity of shallow groundwater. Innovative drainage systems could provide a solution as well. Drainage machines and pipe cleaning equipment, made in the Netherlands, are used worldwide. It is obvious that drainage systems will follow. The Dutch Association of Drainage Contractors (VND) can make an important contribution.

The entire chain of the Dutch land drainage industry is contained in the Association of Drainage Companies (VND). This association has close contacts with clients in the agricultural sector, the civil engineering sector, Water Boards and provinces. VND develops new techniques and products, in close cooperation with engineering firms and research institutes. New developments are implemented continuously to allow for adequate response to current and future scenarios.



Members of the VND are:

- drainage contractors;
- manufacturers of drainage materials (pipes, envelopes etc.);
- manufacturers of machines for installation and maintenance of drainage systems.

Within the association all the aspects of drainage are represented:

- Horizontal drainage;
- Vertical drainage;
- Greenhouse drainage;
- Climate adaptive drainage.

More information

Dutch Association of Drainage Companies (VND).

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