



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Model for circular
food system

GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH

Entrepreneurship award
for CRISPR diagnostics

AWARD

Wageningen
Experience Day

ALUMNI

to connect for quality of life



To connect for quality of life

The role of the University Fund Wageningen (UFW) is to support outstanding research and education at Wageningen University & Research (WUR). Fundamental and groundbreaking research is an essential part of finding solutions to the challenges faced by society today. By providing a comprehensive education, WUR trains students to be tomorrow's leaders in sustainability. And in doing so UFW and WUR strive for a future in which the coming generations have sufficient healthy food to eat and can live in a balanced environment.

Exceptional achievements in research and education are not possible without the support of the WUR community. We therefore connect WUR's internal and external relations and build warm long-term relationships with our philanthropic partners, donors and alumni. Only by working together can we drive towards a sustainable future. We listen to their ideas, enter into dialogues and organise events so that our supporters feel involved with WUR.

Thanks to the support of many, UFW has the opportunity to fund socially relevant research that does not qualify for regular funding, award scholarships to students who cannot afford to support their own education, give talented students and scientists a platform, facilitate extracurricular forms of education such as student challenges, and preserve Wageningen's cultural heritage.

Photo Guy Ackermans

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Facts and figures	6
Annual account	28
Named funds	30



SCHOLARSHIPS

Wageningen knowledge for healthier and more sustainable crop protection in Greece

8



FOUNDATIONS

Producing food and saving the earth
Foodshot Global Groundbreaker Prize

12



BIG GIFTS

Art in the protein transition, Resilient coastal towns and sustainable coral reefs in South-East Kenya and Obstructive water weeds become soil improver in Zambia

18



AWARD

“We aim to be the leading CRISPR diagnostics company in Europe”

20



FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY FUND WAGENINGEN

“The future belongs to the youth”

12



ALUMNI

Wageningen Experience Day

22



ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Alumni events worldwide

24



WAGENINGEN AMBASSADORS

Wageningen industry leaders return to Wageningen as coach

26

Dear donors and relations

The past year was again very different to what we had expected. The continuation of the pandemic meant we were still unable to organise physical meetings, while the team and Board had no choice but to work together remotely.

Thankfully our donors still managed to find us online, and their support helped us realise various unique projects in the field of research and education. Moreover, in the spring of 2021, the WUR community stepped up to the plate again by contributing to the emergency fund that helped students who had got into financial problems due to COVID-19 to complete their studies. In September we started welcoming back new students from abroad, several of whom received financial support by means of an UFW scholarship via various named funds.

The way we organise our work changed in 2021 after a period of careful preparations. In the final quarter, the responsibility for carrying out the alumni policy was separated from activities related to fundraising to allow the University Fund to focus on fundraising and develop and maintain relations with donors and philanthropic partners. The employees responsible for the alumni policy remained part of the Corporate Communication and Marketing department, while the UFW team that is primarily focused on fundraising and relation management now works from the Value Creation department, another division within WUR. These changes have no impact on our donors and relations; the independence of the University Fund Wageningen Foundation, which celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2021, is secure, and the Fund will continue to include alumni among its donors.

On 1 January 2022 we welcomed our new director Lies Boelrijk. She replaced Fusien Verloop, who had temporarily held the position since 2020. For myself, 2021 was the last full year as the chair of UFW as I will be saying goodbye this year to the Fund after 17 years of involvement and 12 years as chair.

Despite a strong focus on the proper realisation of the organisational changes in 2021, UFW was also able to support some fascinating initiatives and projects. This included organising the very first 'Wageningen Experience Day' at a fully virtual Wageningen Campus, where alumni were updated on key research themes and came together in online networking areas. UFW also supported various financing requests and award submissions to international funds, and helped scientists in ongoing projects that were a success thanks to our philanthropic relations. Partly as a result of our efforts, a WUR scientist was once again



Ir. Jan Karel Mak received a silver medal of honour of Wageningen University & Research in March 2022 for his long-standing commitment to the University Fund.
Photo Guy Ackermans

awarded the 'Groundbreaker Prize' from FoodShot Global. This year's prize went to Hannah van Zanten for her research into a workable circular food system. We also enabled the start of a project in Kenya aimed at improving ecological recovery and economic income from the tourism sector by building artificial reefs.

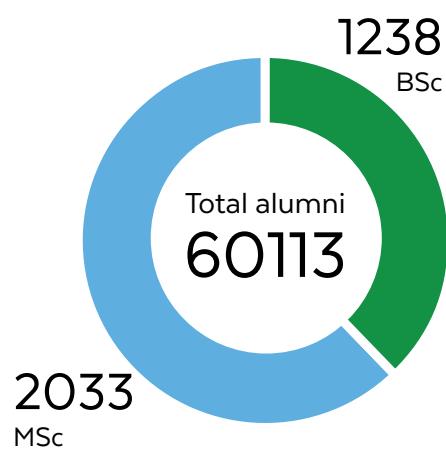
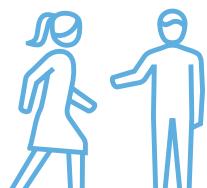
This annual report tells you more about these and other special activities, awards and research we supported in 2021. It is entirely thanks to you and our other committed donors, alumni and volunteers that we are able to share these stories. On behalf of all beneficiaries, we are very grateful for your support in 2021 and hope we can continue to count on your involvement in the future.

On behalf of the University Fund Wageningen board,
Jan Karel Mak (chair)

What do our figures say?

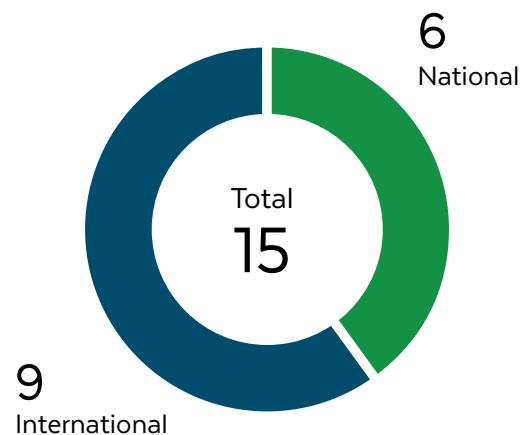
Alumni

In 2021 WUR has gained 3271* alumni

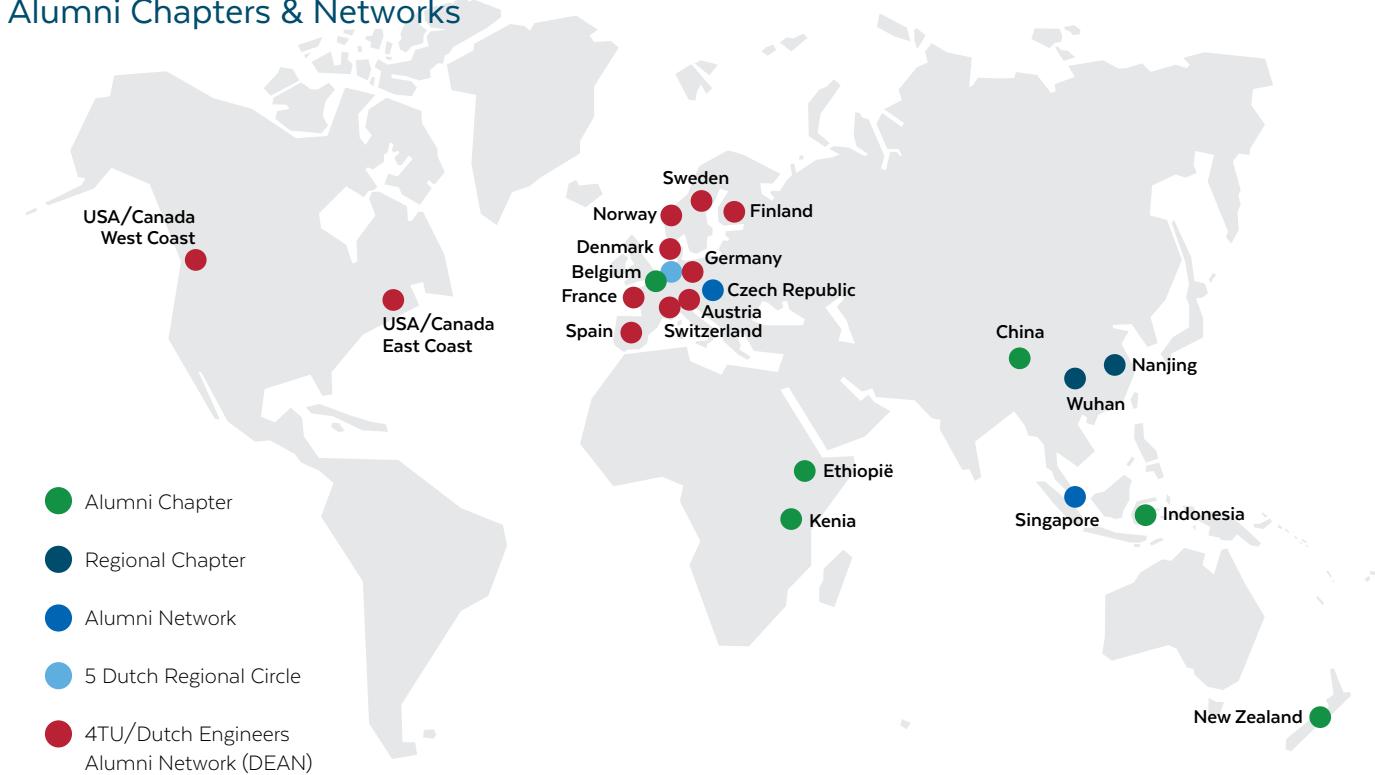


* PhD-students are not included in this

Alumni events



Alumni Chapters & Networks



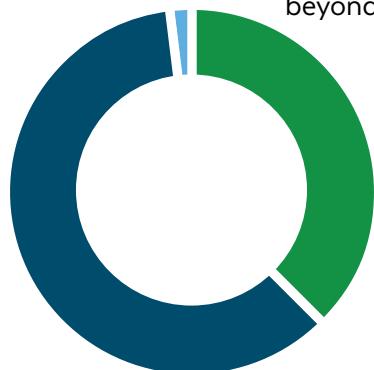
Volunteers



350
Volunteers involved
with UFW

Fundraising

€ 64,080
recruited for
crowdfunding



€ 2,829,840
raised in large
donations

Named Funds

€ 1,758,006 € 34,463
earmarked unearmarked gifts



27
named
funds



3
crowd funding
projects



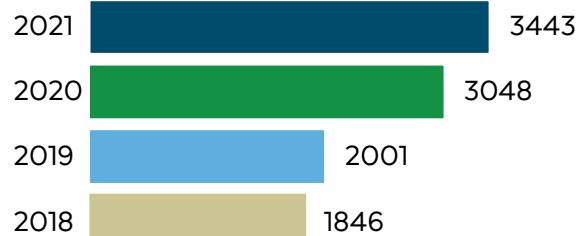
In total **48** scholarships given to
international students



Donors



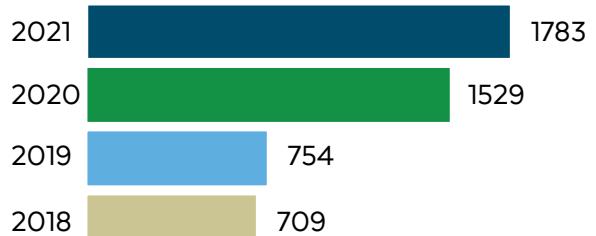
3443
Donors



* Some donors give to multiple funds, but are included
in the total number only once.



1783
Regular donors



To which funds

1276
Donors

University Fund
Wageningen

1184
Donors

anne
vanden
banfonds

1199
Donors

Fonds
Belmonte
Arboretum

Wageningen knowledge for healthier and more sustainable crop protection in Greece



Spyros Koutis is a first year Master student in Plant Sciences. Having discovered what it was like to study abroad during his Erasmus exchange to Milan, Spyros thought that following his Master's in another country would be a great opportunity and offer him a fresh perspective. Wageningen was the perfect destination: "WUR has an excellent ranking in my field, and agriculture in the Netherlands is well-developed." While his father gave him the go-ahead, raising the funds needed to study in the Netherlands proved more difficult. Thanks to the Pavlos Condellis Fonds, Spyros was able to pursue his dream of studying at the world's best agricultural university.

Photo Guy Ackermans





Ariane Condellis

"Ever since my late husband Pavlos Condellis decided to do something for the future of farming, after having devoted all his professional life to the advancement of agriculture in Greece, I have enthusiastically supported this orientation. To put his trust in Wageningen was a decision we both took, knowing that his belief in the future of farming was in the best of hands. We believed that the combination of academic excellence and a hands-on attitude at WUR was exactly what Greek students needed. It guides young farmers in exactly the right direction – a world class exposure to many of the challenges that all of us face. For a comparatively small country like Greece, the opportunity of its students to be part of such a globally acknowledged university is exactly what I wish for them."

One-in-a-million chance

Spyros' parents left Greece when he was still young. "The financial crisis in 2010 was followed by a difficult economic period, and my parents were unable to find a job in their respective fields," Spyros explains. His father is an agronomist but ended up working in construction, while his mother took on various temporary jobs. Because his father also had Albanian nationality, they decided to move to Albania where they were able to find work in their own fields and benefit from a much lower cost of living. "But Albania is not a developed country and the wages were low, so returning to Greece wasn't an option."

When Spyros registered at WUR, he initially missed out on the Pavlos Condellis scholarship. "There was another student who needed it more than I did, but going to Wageningen was a great opportunity for me and a one-in-a-million chance. My parents pledged that: 'You will go no matter what. We will find a way to support you.' They had already sacrificed a great deal and didn't want me to miss out." When the other student ended up deciding not to go to Wageningen, Spyros received a partial scholarship after all.

"In Wageningen we are all the same"

Spyros struggled with the Dutch educational system at first. Studying was a much more passive activity at his previous universities in Albania and Italy, where he listened to lectures and read his study books. "You just read to memorise for the exam and forget everything the next day." In Wageningen he has practical lessons in the lab and discusses lectures with the teacher and fellow students. "Although it demands more, I see that it really benefits me from an academic perspective and helps my personal development."

Spyros also has a busy student life in Wageningen. "I now have friends from all over the world and it's fascinating to talk to them and learn from their experiences. In Wageningen we are all the same." He has also joined a volleyball club in Wageningen. "This helped me get to know Wageningen and stopped me feeling homesick. I've found that Wageningen offers something for everyone. It is easy to make contact with people and be part of something."

Greece is the word

The Pavlos Condellis Fund asks students to contribute to agriculture in Greece after their studies. For Spyros served as extra motivation to go back to the country where he was born. "I have always wanted to return to Greece. Most of my family still lives there and at home we speak both Albanian and Greek. All our traditions are Greek too and I really love our culture." While still undecided as to which career path he will ultimately



Spyros Koutis received a scholarship from the Pavlos Condellis Fund so he could pursue a Master's degree in Plant Sciences at Wageningen University & Research | Photo Guy Ackermans

"I hope to be in a position one day to support other students financially"

follow, Spyros hopes his knowledge of phytopathology and entomology will allow him to make a contribution. "I enjoy the fact that at first glance plants seem to simply be growing somewhere, but when you study them closely there is so much more going on. You can see how a plant responds to threats such as pests and disease, for example. Many people in lesser developed countries don't know how to protect plants from these enemies or have the necessary tools to do so. This may cause them to lose everything." After graduating, Spyros hopes to have sufficient expertise to prevent harvest losses and apply alternatives to harmful control methods. "In Wageningen we learn that there are different ways to protect crops without negatively affecting our health or the environment."

A strong desire to give back

Spyros recently wrote a letter of appreciation to Mrs Condellis, the widow of Pavlos Condellis. "I told her about my experiences in Wageningen and explained why the scholarship was so important to my family and how it helped me personally. It is just wonderful what she and her family are doing for Greek students who want to

contribute to Greece, but do not have the means to do so." The family fund's mission inspires him and as a recipient he fully understands the impact of funds like this. "I hope to be in a position one day to support other students financially. I am determined to make this happen." ●

More information

www.universityfundwageningen.eu/pavlosfund



Foodshot Global Groundbreaker Prize

Producing food and saving the earth

What would a healthy diet look like that does the least possible harm to the climate and the environment? Hannah van Zanten is figuring it out in the Circular Food System model, with which she won the Groundbreaker Prize. "If livestock are fed on waste streams, there is no need to import soya from Brazil."

Wageningen and FoodShot Global

FoodShot Global is a US-led collaboration between venture funds, banks, corporations, universities and philanthropic foundations that seek to contribute to a sustainable food system. Wageningen is involved in the network as a knowledge partner. FoodShot Global focuses on scientifically sound concepts and supports their application in practice, by providing credit to start-ups and organising competitions such as the annual FoodShot Challenges, in which scientists and entrepreneurs can compete for a cash prize for pioneering work. The University Fund Wageningen (UFW) organised internal nominations and a selection procedure for the challenge, and supported Hannah Van Zanten in preparing her entry. "We have experience with philanthropic organisations and understand their motives and goals," says our relationship manager Fanny Castel.



More information
www.foodshot.org

"The livestock industry has a big impact on the environment. I pondered what we could do differently," says Hannah van Zanten, associate professor in the Farming Systems Ecology chair group in Wageningen and visiting professor at Cornell University. With her team and other colleagues from Wageningen and elsewhere, Van Zanten developed the Circular Food System model, which maps out what a healthy diet of plant and animal proteins looks like when it also respects the Earth's carrying capacity. For every continent, the model takes into account greenhouse gas emissions from food production, land use, fertiliser inputs, the impact on biodiversity, and how to make such a system financially viable. The European model is very nearly ready and the global model is in the making. It also incorporates the impact of food transportation between continents. In January, Foodshot Global awarded Van Zanten the Groundbreaker Prize for her work: 150,000 dollars to be spent on research.



Hannah van Zanten | Photo Bart van Overbeeke

"The livestock industry has a big impact on the environment. I pondered what we could do differently."

Eating residual streams

"The food system that colleagues and I have developed is circular and targets an optimal combination of plant and animal proteins," says Van Zanten, who obtained her PhD cum laude in 2016 for her thesis on the role of livestock farming in a circular food system. She found there was a valuable role for livestock if you feed the animals on food scraps and waste from the food industry, and graze them on grasslands that are unsuitable for arable farming. "If livestock are fed on these waste streams, we can grow crops for human consumption on the land where we now grow livestock feed. That way there is much more food for human consumption and the livestock feed, such as soya from Brazil, does not have to be transported halfway around the world,"

explains Van Zanten. It also means that we can continue to eat meat and milk, but about 60 to 80 per cent less than our current rate of consumption. After obtaining her doctorate, Van Zanten was awarded a Veni grant by the Dutch Research Council for follow-up research into the international circular food system that she envisages, and work started on developing the model. 'We can use this to study how our ideas play out in practice. After all, the food system is very complex and there are many conflicting interests involved in it.'

Pork or chicken

Protein from insects is frequently proposed as an alternative to animal protein. But breeding insects requires a lot of electricity, Van Zanten notes.

"Our model maps the relations between these different chains"

Moreover, the insects eat food leftovers that are currently used for biofuels. "Our model maps the relations between these different chains, generating broad analyses and enabling us to see how we can manage the trade-offs." So for instance, are we primarily aiming at a healthy diet or at minimising the environmental impact? To give an example: in an environmentally optimal circular system, it is better to keep dairy livestock (which produces both milk and meat) and pigs, because these animals are best suited to eating grass and

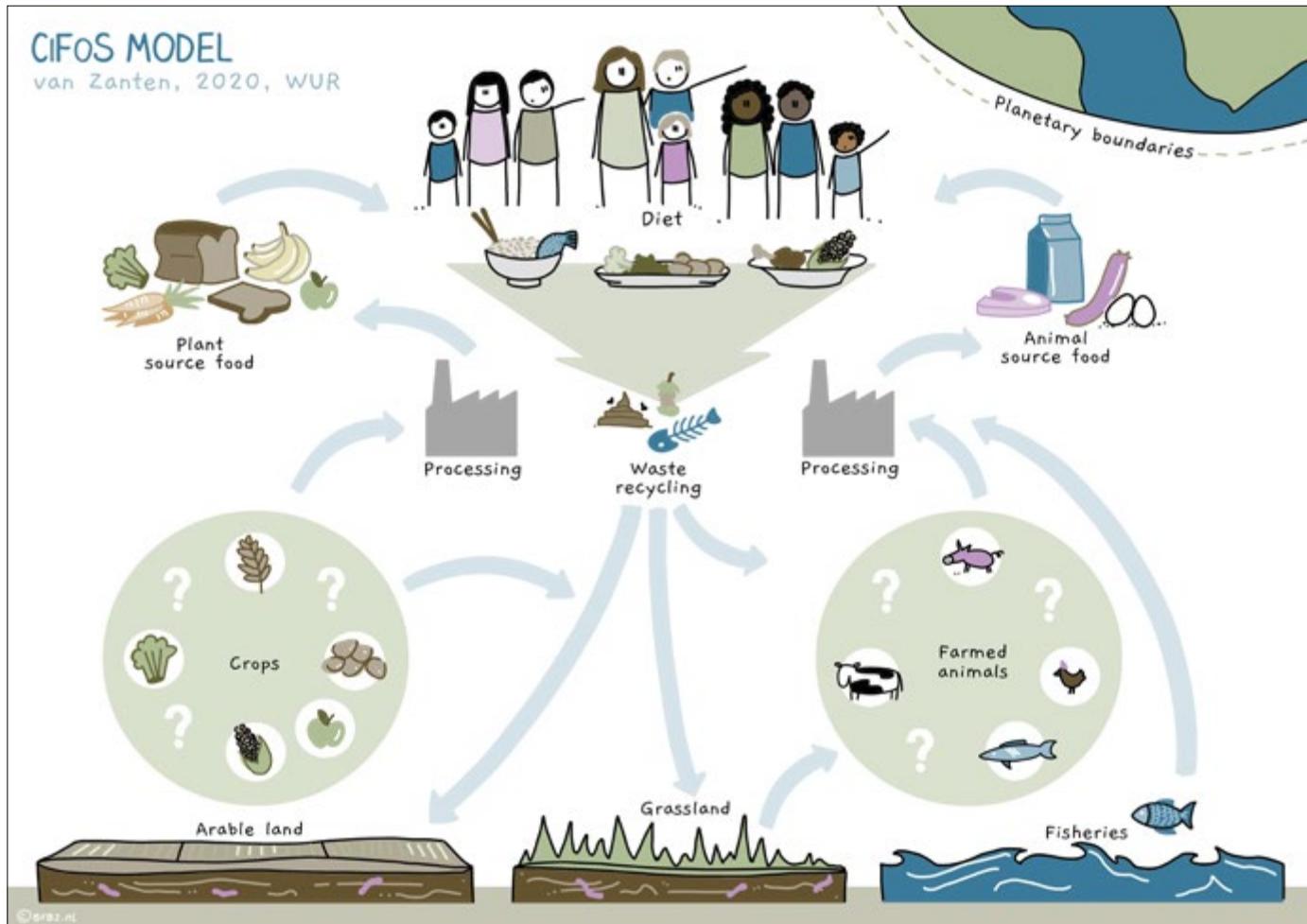
residual streams respectively. But for our own health, it is better to avoid red meat and eat chicken. Van Zanten, PhD student Ben van Selm and their colleagues published figures in *Nature Food* earlier this year showing that in an optimal circular system, greenhouse gas emissions would be reduced by up to 31 per cent and the use of agricultural land by up to 42 per cent, compared to the situation with a healthy diet according to the international standard. "We are now looking at what happens if we in Europe take a diet that meets all the health

FUTURE FOOD SYSTEMS REDESIGN

van Zanten, 2020, WUR



The redesign of our future food system comprises four elements: 1) respecting planetary boundaries, 2) food for human consumption, 3) avoiding waste, and 4) recycling | Illustration bvbz.nl



The CiFoS Model from Hannah van Zanten embraces the circular food system, in which the food waste from our diet is eventually returned to the basis of this food production as a useful nutrient. This all occurs within the planetary boundaries | Illustration bvbz.nl

requirements as our starting point. How can we reduce greenhouse gas emissions and land use in that scenario?"

Game

A model with a thousand rules and formulas is not very appealing, so Van Zanten and her research team are developing a game that helps players get to grips with it. The players can adjust the preconditions and goals, changing livestock numbers or growing different crops and then seeing the effects on things like greenhouse gas emissions straightaway. "Once stakeholders see for themselves how they can be part of sustainability, things will really change. That is where I want to get to." Van Zanten wants to use the Groundbreaker Prize money to bring her model to the attention of companies, consumers and governments in various countries. "FoodShot Global has a huge international network and specialises in campaigns that make people think about certain themes." ●

Philanthropic fundraising

One of our main goals in the coming years is to be the central organisation for WUR in strategic relationship management with philanthropic partners and the expert in philanthropic fundraising. At the heart of our approach is a focus on personal connections with our relations, which we call "friendraising before fundraising". Through careful and long-term relationship management, we enter into 'partnerships for impact' and realise groundbreaking research within WUR. We also support researchers in their proposal development and submission to major international (philanthropic) organisations.

More information

www.universityfundwageningen.eu/research



Grant management

As part of integrated relationship management, University Fund Wageningen takes care of the process of grant management upon receipt of a philanthropic gift for WUR research projects. This entails due diligence procedures and setting up donor agreements, as well as monitoring projects, facilitating meetings between the donor and the researcher, and streamlining communication about the project.



Art in the protein transition

Thanks to a donation from Stichting DOEN to UFW, Arne Hendriks was Artist in Residence at the Wageningen campus from mid-2020 to the end of 2021. The concept behind the role saw Hendriks help scientists to see the transition to a more plant-based diet, the so-called protein transition, in a new way and generate new ideas. "I am convinced that everyone has an artist inside them," he says. "Artists are not opposed to scientists – we always have to look for common ground."

While the need for this common ground is huge among scientists, according to Hendriks, there is often a lack of funding, time and trust. "In Hebrew, the words art and trust originate from the same source. The donation from Stichting DOEN reflects trust, offering support without knowing exactly whether or how the project could contribute to the protein transition."

In the 18 months of his residency, Hendriks developed various visible initiatives, from collaborations with WUR scientists and an exhibition on algae in a museum in Rijswijk to installations during Dutch Design Week. He also created 8 archetypes – shamans, as he calls them – of various types of people involved in the protein transition. This included the Cornucopian, who thinks from abundance and is positive about creative solutions that will save us. There was the Oceanic Farmer, who relies on the possibilities of cultivating protein sources such as algae in the water. And, perhaps the most important shaman of all,

the Incredible Shrinking Man – someone who takes a step back, eats a little less, and leaves something for others. With these archetypes under his arm as cardboard cut-outs, Hendriks talked to many different people to see if they could lead to inspiring insights. He now hopes to further disseminate what he learned. "I sought and found stories revolving around the protein transition that will encourage us to change. The protein transition is largely a practical process in which economic principles, a better offer and stimulating a different demand are key elements. This makes it a bit 'boring' for outsiders. It doesn't tickle our imagination, or at least not sufficiently. And a disinterested imagination cannot inspire new desires."

Based on his residency in and outside WUR, Hendriks therefore created a magazine called 'Protein: The Transition. Eating ourselves towards a resilient now'. The publication highlights his meetings, ideas, artworks and archetypes. He also organised a closing symposium on Campus and started a theatre tour to share his experiences and stories in April 2022. Stichting DOEN, which focuses on the aspects Social, Green and Creative, is very pleased with the result: "Hendriks brought all these aspects together in this unique project and it was a great success," says Maarten Derkzen, programme manager at Stichting DOEN. ●

More information
www.arnehendriks.net



Resilient coastal towns and sustainable coral reefs in South-East Kenya

Mkwiro Village is a coastal town in South-East Kenya, one of many similar towns that depend largely on coral reef fishing and tourism. The decline of the coral reefs, the related loss of fish stock and the economic blows to the tourism sector caused by the pandemic have left

these towns highly vulnerable both socially and economically. WUR scientists are therefore looking for opportunities to develop a sustainable economy here.

Previously, the WUR project REEFolution trained local

REEF rangers to manage the coral reefs in a sustainable way. They were also taught how to use artificial blocks to rebuild the coral reef and plant more coral. Now it is time for the further development and anchoring of the technique, and this stage was recently started in Mkwiro thanks to a donation from the Turing Foundation. Firstly, sustainable diving and snorkelling tourism will be boosted by building a reef for this purpose. Secondly, added value will be created for local seaweed cultivation by establishing a production facility for high-quality end products from seaweed. Finally, a visitor centre is being built for both tourists and the local population, providing information on the sustainable use of coral reefs and other natural resources.

"It is great to see how, thanks to the aid of the Turing Foundation, Mkwiro is making the transformation from a town that is strongly dependent on fishing to a pioneer in sustainable coastal use," says WUR scientist Tinka Murk. "The support has stimulated the development of sustainable alternative businesses, which converts the vulnerable dependency on fisheries in Mkwiro into greater resilience and inclusivity."

The Turing Foundation is also very positive about the project: "The integrated approach of WUR and



Photo Ewout Knoester

REEFolution, together with the local population in Mkwiro Village, not only protects and recovers the coral reef, but also develops a sustainable use of the reef. This has the potential to turn Mkwiro into a regional role model while stimulating other villages and areas to follow suit and benefit an even greater coastal area. From the perspective of the Turing Foundation, this type of project contributes to a healthy balance in our ecosystem." ●

Obstructive water weeds become soil improver in Zambia

Thanks to a donation from the foundation of the Teulings family, a Zambian WUR-PhD scientist is now working on improving agricultural soil quality in Zambia and enhancing the nutritional value of sorghum in particular via the use of water weeds. Although these weeds are a problem in Zambian rivers, they can be a great source of nutrients and organic matter for agricultural soils. The exact value of the water weeds will be studied by using various types of weeds and processing methods (compost and bokashi), followed by an analysis of their impact on soil processes and the growth of sorghum after they've been added to the soil.

The project in Zambia is a sub-project of another WUR study for which project leader Gerlinde de Deyn won the FoodShot Global Groundbreaker Prize in 2019. This research project focuses on making a traditional beverage from sorghum grain with micro-organisms from local Munkoyo plants that only grow in the wild. The result is a non-alcoholic beverage with a high nutritional value and more vitamins than sorghum grain itself. Both projects involve close cooperation with the University of Zambia and local farmers.



Photo Nelly Phiri

De Deyn is delighted with the donation: "As well as being a unique opportunity for a Zambian PhD candidate to develop further and contribute to new knowledge, it also lays the foundation for continued cooperation in Zambia in the field of fundamental and applied knowledge." In addition, the collaboration with the University of Zambia creates opportunities for De Deyn's teaching as well as for the students she supervises: "It gives them the chance to participate in a research project in a completely different environment than the Netherlands or even Europe." ●

“We aim to be the leading CRISPR diagnostics company in Europe”

Scope Biosciences has participated in the AtlasInvest Entrepreneurship Grant not once but twice. Although the start-up didn't win first time round, its second attempt was successful: Scope Biosciences won the Start-Up Award 2021 with the team receiving the very welcome amount of €35,000 to invest in its further development. “The jury was extremely enthusiastic about our technology.”



CEO Niek Savelkoul (right) and business partner Bart Scholten with their cheque for €35,000 | Photo Guy Ackermans

Scope Biosciences uses the CRISPR technology to diagnose diseases at the molecular level, as CEO Niek Savelkoul explains: “A PCR test is currently the golden standard for diagnostics, but it takes a long time before test results become available and complex equipment is required. Our test is just as accurate but much faster and easier: the results are in after around 25 minutes.”

The technique uses the CRISPR protein. “Originally a type of bacterial immune system, CRISPR accurately identifies the genetic material (DNA or RNA) of viruses and cuts it into pieces. Scope Biosciences uses the high specificity of the CRISPR protein as a kind of tracker to detect the genetic material of infectious diseases. A piece of the virus that is being searched for is added to the protein and we can visualise the activity when the CRISPR protein identifies it.”

Finding financing for the start-up was less easy. “The bank account had been emptied,” says Savelkoul, recalling the period right before winning the Start-Up

“Our dream when we started was to have our own facilities. And now we have actually reached that point”

Award. "We were in the advanced stage of a financing trajectory but needed to finance the transition period. Thanks to the prize money linked to the Award we were able to continue our activities in the lab. Without it we would have had to look for a transition credit and that wouldn't have been easy."

Having now found a new investor, Scope Biosciences will be able to open its own lab at Wageningen Campus. "Our dream when we started three years ago was to have our own facilities. And now we have actually reached that point; the dream of every biotechnology student. In the near future we hope to enter into partnerships with companies from various sectors; not just medical, but the veterinary and agrifood sectors too. Eventually we aim to be the leading CRISPR diagnostics company in Europe." There are still many trials to perform before the diagnostics technology is ready for medical applications. "It will be another year or more before we're approved. But the first client in the agrifood sector has already come forward and we are very proud of that." ●

More information

www.universityfundwageningen.eu/aieg



Excellence and remarkable achievements deserve to be rewarded with extra attention and societal recognition. Therefore, UFW and multiple named funds present several awards and stipends every year.

[www.universityfundwageningen.eu/
awards](http://www.universityfundwageningen.eu/awards)



UFW Awards in 2021

Thesis Award

Peter La Follette (overall winner), Patrick Barendse, Wisse van Engelen, Lianne Remie

Research Award

Irene Sánchez-Andrea

AtlasInvest Entrepreneurship Grant

Scope Biosciences (Start-Up Award) & Algreen (Impact Award)

Prize money Teacher of the Year Award donated to Anne van den Ban Fund



In 2021 UFW and a group of closely involved docents decided that, rather than singling out one teacher as is usually the case, they all deserved an accolade for the huge success of online and hybrid education during the COVID-19 pandemic. To show their appreciation, UFW and Wageningen students made a special thank-you video while the prize money of €10,000 found another destination. Together with several teachers, the Dean of Education Arnold Bregt and Rector Magnificus Arthur Mol decided to donate the money to the Anne van den Ban Fund. Bregt: "Our hope is that this edition of the Teacher of the Year Award will make all docents feel valued while at the same time giving a new student the chance to study at WUR."

On 30 September 2021 Arthur Mol presented the cheque to the Chair of the Anne van den Ban Fund, Pim Brascamp, during the introduction dinner for new Anne van den Ban students. | Photo Guy Ackermans

“The future belongs to the young”

Last summer, hydrologist Peter La Follette received University Fund Wageningen’s Thesis Award. He earned this distinction with his Master’s thesis on reducing the number of errors in hydrological models. “I’m delighted that my research is recognized in this way,” says La Follette, who graduated cum laude and is now living and working in the US. “Knowing you could win this prize gives you extra motivation when you’re writing your thesis.”

The Thesis Award is an annual accolade for WUR students who have written an excellent Master’s thesis (graded 9 or above). It is one of the activities made possible by the Friends of University Fund Wageningen, an initiative that arose in October 2020 when the alumni association KLV was dissolved. The Friends support activities for students and young alumni, some of which were supported by KLV in the past. Besides the Thesis Award, this includes network meetings, competitions in which students come up with innovative solutions to societal problems, and training courses to prepare students and young alumni for the job market. The Friends also put 10,000 euros into the emergency fund for students that was established during the COVID crisis.

Job prospects

Partly thanks to a round of phone calls with ex-KLV members, there are already more than 1000 Friends of UFW. One of them is Lidwine Delleart (WUR, Plant Breeding 1972), a senior expert with development organisation PUM Netherlands. Over her long career, she worked in numerous management positions, such as director of Statistics Netherlands (CBS) and director of seed production at what was then De Ruiter. “I’ve been a member of KLV ever since I graduated. I think it’s a pity the alumni association was dissolved but I’m glad UFW

is now ensuring that the activities for students and recent graduates continue. It was an obvious step for me to become a Friend of UFW and support those activities financially.” Dellaert thinks it’s important to help students and recent graduates get ready for the job market, and to actively nudge them to join alumni networks. “Because it can increase their chances of getting a job and they will benefit from it in their work.”

Sharing experience

For freelance consultant Han Swinkels (WUR Zootechnics 1988), it was obvious that he would join the Friends of UFW. As the last chair of KLV, he was closely involved in the development of the



Become a Friend of University Fund Wageningen!

You can join the Friends of UFW for a contribution starting at five euros a month. From 120 euros a year, there is the option of making a tax-deductible multiannual donation. On Friends Day, you will be invited to meet up and get to know various projects and students. As a Friend you will receive a newsletter and a welcome gift on joining.



Peter La Follette | Photo Guy Ackermans

“You should spend your money on the things that are the best investment. The future belongs to the young”

initiative. “The project team for dissolving KLV came up with the idea. Lots of KLV members have been loyal to their alma mater for many years, and we thought it would be a very nice way for them to continue expressing that loyalty through some kind of membership.” For Swinkels, this is a friendship for life. “It’s just like my old football club, that I’ve belonged to for 51 years. Why? Because I had a good time there. The same very much applies to my time in Wageningen. That period was incredibly formative in making me the person I am now.” Swinkels also sees a role for the Friends in giving workshops and helping students and young alumni via their networks. “I hope the student committee of the UFW, which organises the activities programme for final-year students, will make use of the Friends network and approach alumni to get them to do some sessions now and then.” Swinkels himself gave a workshop on networking, for instance. “That was fantastic. There were about 30 final-year students there, from all over the world.

I shared my experience with them and of course I hope that they got something out of it. I really enjoy that kind of interaction with young people. What is more: you should spend your money on the things that are the best investment. The future belongs to the young. I hope they will think back to this when they get older and are comfortably off.”

American graduate Peter La Follette is grateful to all the donors. And not just because he was so pleased to win the prize. “I am working on hydrological models now at the American firm Lynker Technologies. At my job interview I could tell them about how I won the Thesis Award. They reacted very positively to that. The prize could well have contributed to their decision to hire me.” ●

More information

[www.universityfundwageningen.eu/
friendsofufw](http://www.universityfundwageningen.eu/friendsofufw)



Wageningen Experience Day

On 2 October 2021 we welcomed our alumni to a specially built 'digital' campus for Wageningen Experience Day. Throughout the event, WUR experts talked about their research into major issues such as how to deal with climate change and halt the loss of biodiversity, and what to do about famine and future pandemics. There were also discussions with the audience on how to find solutions together. In addition to these intrinsic elements, the digital campus provided a place to meet and network in a virtual environment.



The digital campus with recreated buildings: the recently opened Aurora, Helix, Forum, Orion, Gaia, Lumen and Atlas, and Omnia which will be delivered in June 2022 | Illustration FX agency

1100 alumni visited the digital campus
Wageningen Experience Day is the new name of the Alumni Open Day. In 2021, the event took place virtually in view of the uncertainties related to the COVID measures. To create the campus feel we developed a digital alternative. Some 1100 alumni registered to watch the event live or visit the digital campus later that month.

Finding Answers Together

The theme of the day was "Finding Answers Together". The world is facing major challenges and WUR wanted the theme to underline the fact that solutions can only be found in partnership with others. Visitors were updated about the global challenges, the WUR's role herein and how the alumni can contribute via short videos in various digital buildings. This included a contribution by professor

in Biodiversity Liesje Mommer about the loss of biodiversity, and Joukje Siebenga, programme manager of Erraze@WUR (Early Recognition and Rapid Action in Zoonotic Emergencies) on research to prevent pandemics (such as COVID-19). Participants were able to have live debates with the experts online.

"I even made new contacts"

In addition to the intrinsic debates, many participants found (re)connecting with former fellow students to be the highlight of their visit. There were special reunions for various years and it was possible to meet other students at random in Aurora based on the year their studies started. In addition, various organisations, such as several study chapters and the University Fund, presented themselves to the alumni in Omnia.

Hybrid events work

A benefit of the digital version of Wageningen Experience Day was that it allowed a large number of people, including those abroad, to attend. "Wageningen Experience Day shows that a digital campus works in situations where real-life meetings are not an option," says Corporate Communications & Marketing director Inge Wallage. "We will continue to use this platform in the future for other events as we live in a world in which physical and virtual events can take place at the same time."

First campus poem

The day was concluded by spoken word artist Ellen van der Kolk. In addition to being a WUR student she is also the city poet of Wageningen and wrote a poem specifically for the event and campus. ●

You can read the poem here (in Dutch)
<https://bit.ly/campusgedicht>



Alumni activities in the spotlight

The pandemic again meant that we were able to organise fewer physical alumni meetings than in previous years. Thankfully, online meetings offered alumni the opportunity to connect and more easily come together with fellow alumni from other countries.

350 volunteers participated in our programme

Many programmes and activities are possible thanks to the continued efforts of some 350 volunteers worldwide who together contribute an average of 3000 hours a year. For some this is a one-off contribution as (guest) speaker, while others are involved more permanently as committee member in a (national) regional or international chapter. Some volunteers are willing to share their knowledge, network and experience in focus groups for their alma mater, with other alumni, or even with (graduating) students. This includes alumnus Marc Verkuyl (WUR aquaculture and fisheries 2010 and senior

production manager at the Yalelo aquaculture company in Uganda) who spoke to a group of students during the Career Café in May: "My advice was to enjoy their student days as much as possible and acquire as much knowledge as they can." Volunteering also enables alumni to enhance their own network and stay connected to their alma mater, like Verkuyl: "I was looking for people who shared an interest in aquaculture and wanted to join my company." In 2020 and 2021 there was a decline in the number of volunteers as fewer alumni activities could take place due to COVID. ●



Students and alumni meet in online Career Café

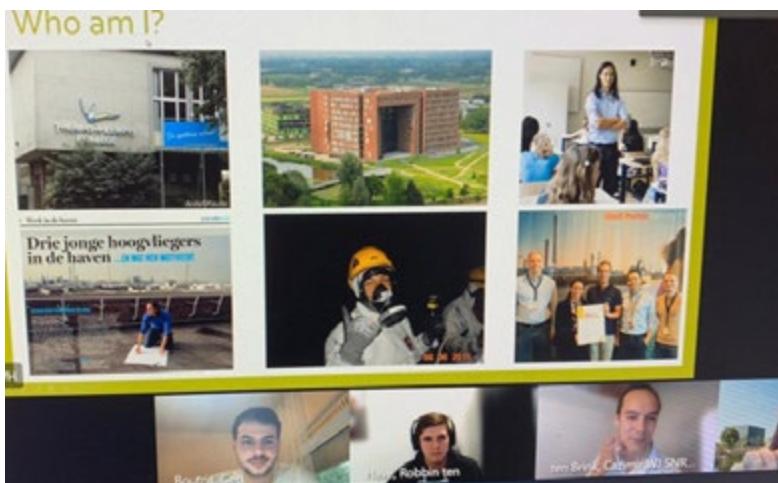


Photo Eline Nell

During the online Career Café in May 2021 students and recent graduates had the opportunity to ask questions related to finding a job and career perspectives to alumni from different sectors. All five nights were well-attended, with each focusing on a cluster of industries, such as agriculture, plants and animals, research, education and government. Some 85 participants met with 24 former Wageningen students working in mid-level and senior positions at companies, government bodies, universities and other organisations. Groups could meet with two different alumni each night. "I

recommend the Career Café to every final-year MSc and graduate student," says graduate Caspar Geelen. "It is an easy way to ask about how things work in a specific sector, and how you can get there." Participants and speakers also indicated how they enjoyed meeting the various alumni and students. The Career Café was organised in collaboration with the student committee of UFW and Alumni relations – Young University Fund & Alumni – and Student Career Services at WUR. The next editions with both online and physical meetings will take place in 2022. ●

Alumni Relations

WUR invests in the strengthening of its relations with alumni, and between the alumni themselves, both nationally and internationally. We organise various events for this purpose, including alumni events in the Netherlands, and, via our 'alumni chapters' and, since four years, in the 4TU framework (Dutch Engineer Alumni Network, or 'DEAN') elsewhere too. With our contribution to Wageningen World and various digital newsletters, we keep the connection between the alumni community alive. We also use the engagement platform WUR Connect to link over 9,600 alumni, WUR employees and other stakeholders. A warm and life-long relationship between UFW, WUR and its alumni is established in this way. ●

More information
www.wur.eu/alumni



Improved database

How can we make sure that the right alumni are invited to an event? By working with a well-organised database with the correct data! There is no point, for instance, in inviting all alumni in the Netherlands to an event for women in the technical sector in Groningen. In 2021 we took the first steps to

improve our alumni and donor database, mapping out which information we already have and establishing a method to keep it up-to-date. As a test we approached all graduates from 2015 with a personal email to update their contact information. We are working on a way to update data more

easily. We also made progress in segmenting alumni relations in order to serve our alumni in the best and most personal way possible. This will allow us to approach the right people for specific activities in the future and only contact alumni with regard to issues that really interest them. ●

Wageningen industry leaders return to Wageningen as coach

Thirty international student teams came up with innovative ideas to stimulate the protein transition in the 2021 Rethink Protein Challenge #2. The protein transition should ensure that our food has a lower environmental impact, that access to protein sources is distributed more fairly in the world, and that we eat more healthily. The solutions from the teams were very diverse: from the reuse of proteins from waste streams and making meat and dairy replacement products more attractive, to exploring new protein sources such as insects and 3D printing protein-rich snacks. Two Wageningen Ambassadors contributed their many years of work experience as coaches to the student challenge, supporting several teams in developing their concept and team spirit.

What do the Wageningen Ambassadors do?

Wageningen Ambassadors are WUR alumni who are leaders in business, non-profit & social organisations and government authorities and have a warm heart for Wageningen. By using their network, experience and financial means, the ambassadors help build a bridge between science and practice. They support activities and projects which stimulate entrepreneurship among students or which facilitate the dialogue about Wageningen themes. Wageningen Ambassadors also host workshops and act as a coach in various programmes. This is how the Ambassadors support UFW in meeting its goals of contributing to important extracurricular activities and enabling connections between students and alumni who have already made major steps in their careers.

Atze Schaap, Wageningen Ambassador since 2015, independent consultant, programme manager and supervisor in the dairy industry

"Participating in this type of project generates a great deal of energy. You are faced with a wide diversity of students who are all equally focused and driven. They have lots of energy which energises us as a coach, too." Schaap was impressed by the amount of knowledge the students had on the topic. "As a coach this means you have a unique role, not so much focused on intrinsic expertise but more on how to make good ideas workable and knowing which obstacles might be encountered. Our work mainly revolved around asking lots of questions."

Schaap was also able to bring the teams into contact with relations from his network who could then provide more specific advice. He became involved in the student challenge in order to give back to his alma mater as a true Wageningen alumnus. "I owe a lot to the university, which was responsible for a defining time in my life." Schaap believes it is important to support activities that are typically Wageningen. "The interdisciplinary aspect, for example, and working on the major challenges society faces today." The student challenge is a type of education that includes these aspects. "It provides



Left to right: Atze Schaap, Gerda Feunekes, chair of Wageningen Ambassadors, and Henk Wymenga during the ReThink Protein Challenge 2 | Photo Rio Pals

students with the opportunity to excel in a socially relevant theme. And we also teach them about teamwork, interdisciplinary activities and the practical implications of a concept."

Looking back, Schaap is very positive about the challenge. "I was again reminded that while the world has a number of problems that must be solved, there are also many intelligent people working hard to do so and contributing concrete ideas. It's a great thing to see."

Henk Wymenga, Wageningen Ambassador since 2020, interim-manager/independent consultant with knowledge of the international brewery sector

"During my time at Heineken I often had dealings with young people. Some breweries, especially in Africa, even have their own schools and I have a lot of empathy with and passion for helping youth." Although the protein transition is not one of Wymenga's fields of expertise, he does have a broad working experience to draw from. "You can help the team by keeping them on the straight and narrow and making sure they continue to function as a team." And Wymenga learnt something himself too. "For example, how to embrace new technologies and ideas that didn't seem relevant before, such as applications with insect protein."

Coaching a very international team with members from several parts of the world meant that cultural differences

and varying time zones did not always make working together easy. Wymenga helped his team deal with these situations. "I have many years of experience with a wide variety of cultural backgrounds. I learnt to deal with cultural differences by trial and error, it's not something you learn from books." A dose of humour is also always welcome. "The participants were often very serious and sometimes a bit nervous. As a coach, you have to teach them to occasionally take a step back from the subject in order to gain a better perspective. This is the life experience I contributed."

Wymenga approves of former Wageningen students like the ambassadors from the business sector acting as coach in such challenges. "I think the experience most ambassadors have can serve as a rich source of knowledge and inspiration for young students. It's very enjoyable to contribute to a university that has given me so much." ●

More information

www.universityfundwageningen.eu/ambassadors



The abridged financial statement provides an overview of UFW income and expenses in 2021.

Principles for valuation for the balance sheet

UFW's financial statement is drawn up in accordance with the Dutch Council for Annual Reporting's guideline RJ 650 for fundraising institutions. The assets and liabilities are valued at nominal value unless otherwise specified. The financial fixed assets are valued at market price. Claims are valued at nominal value, where necessary minus a provision for recoverability. The equity capital includes a division between reserves and funds. The continuity reserve is intended for guaranteeing the continuity of the organisation. The designated funds are an individual part of the determined capital, the limited spending options of which are determined by third parties.

Principles for result determination

Taking into account the valuation principles, the result is determined as the difference between the income from

in-house fundraising, third-party actions and other income, minus the expenses throughout the year. Unless specified otherwise, the income and expenses are accounted for in the year to which they relate.

Audit statement

The financial statement was compiled by Verenigingen Beheer Nederland BV. It was assessed and provided by an audit statement by Schuurman & de Leeuw Accountants in Wageningen. The purport of the audit statement is: "We assess that the financial statement in this annual report gives an accurate insight into the scope and composition of the capital of Stichting University Fund Wageningen on 31 December 2021 and the result over 2021 in accordance with the guidelines for financial reporting, and Guideline 650 for fundraising institutions in particular." ●

Balance on 31 December 2021

Assets

Financial fixed assets	1,012,619
Receivables	201,682
Liquidities	5,437,731
Total	6,652,032

Liabilities

Reserves & funds	
Foundation capital	552,731
Continuity reserve	493,845
	1,046,576
Funds	5,064,143
Short-term debts	541,314
Total	6,652,032

Fund progress

Named funds

Balance on 1 January	2,036,965
On: Received donations	1,758,006
Off: Gift fee	-489,403
Off: Expenses/advance	-842,564
Balance on 31 December	2,463,003

Fundamental Change and other WUR projects

Balance on 1 January	2,310,804
On: Received donations	2,829,840
Off: Expenses/advance	-2,585,971
Balance on 31 December	2,554,673

Income and expenses in 2021

Income

Income from private individuals	1,812,469
Income from companies	84,000
Income from nonprofit organisations	2,789,413
Income from investments	103,087
Total	4,788,969
Benefits in kind	714,278
Total income	5,503,247

Expenses

Spent on causes	
Named Funds	1,331,968
Food for Thought	19
Fundamental Change and other WUR projects	2,585,971
UFW projects	10,997
Total	3,928,956
Recruitment costs from benefits in kind	705,328
Management and administration costs for account UFW	92,437
Management and administration costs from benefits in kind	8,950
Total expenses	4,735,671
Balance of income and expenses	767,577

Addition/reduction

Designation named funds	426,038
Designation fund Food For Thought	-19
Designation fund Fundamental Change and other WUR projects	243,869
Mutation continuity reserve	97,690



Full financial statement

Read the complete text of the financial statement at
www.universityfundwageningen.eu

NAMED FUNDS

Support a specific goal within the University Fund Wageningen

The University Fund Wageningen managed 27 named funds in 2021, all of which are contributing to the growth and flourishing of research and education at Wageningen University & Research. This year we raised a total of € 1,758,006 for these funds.

STIMULATING RESEARCH

Fonds stichting ECAF
for classical grains

Fonds de Vos
for vector-borne diseases

Hans de Jong Fund
for bulk goods

L. Bos Fund
for ecological plant virology

Leniger Bruin Kühn Fund
for food technology and
food security

Nico Buisman Fund
for environmental technology

**Plant Resources of the
World (PROW) Fund**
for useful plant species in
developing countries

Rob Goldbach Fund
for virology

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Fund Niels Smith
for top athletes

Middelhoven Fund
for an internship or study
trip in Microbiology

Marcel van Poecke Fund
for entrepreneurship

Aalt Dijkhuizen Fund
for visits to an institution
abroad

Named funds offer students, (young) scientists and other staff members at Wageningen University & Research the chance to build on their (international) experience and strengthen their position in the labour market, while international students receive a grant to study in Wageningen. Donors who make a large donation can consider setting up a named fund. The donor can decide on the name of the fund and choose a specific objective, as long as this is within the general objectives of UFW. Below you can read about the specific aims of these various funds.



If there is a particular subject that you would like to support or you require more information on a fund, visit
www.universityfundwageningen.eu



Would you like to set up a new namedfund yourself? Contact us at ufw@wur.nl for more information

YOUNG RESEARCHERS

Huub en Julianne Spiertz (HJS) Fund
for young agrobiologists and crop scientists

Lucie Timmermans Fund
for female animal scientists

Marina van Damme Fund
for talented female WUR alumni

Storm - van der Chijs Fund
for female WUR scientists

Wellensiek Fund
for doctoral research in horticulture

MISCELLANEOUS

Fund Belmonte Arboretum
for the maintenance of Belmonte Arboretum in Wageningen

Fund Wageningen Ambassadors
for a bridge between WUR and society

KLV Fund
for alumni initiatives

SCHOLARSHIPS

Anne van den Ban Fund
for students from developing countries

Dairy Science & Technology Fellowship
for an MSc specialisation Dairy Science & Technology

Gijsbert Oomen Fund
for Indonesian students

Pavlos Condellis Fund
for Greek students

CWF Fund
for Nutrition or Food

Technology students from developing countries

Future Animal Nutrition Africa (FANA) Fund
for Animal Nutrition students from Africa

Paul Speijer Fund
For Plant Sciences students from Africa

Van Rumpt Scholarship Fund
for MSc Biosystems Engineering students from developing countries

BESTUUR



Ir. Jan Karel Mak
Chair University Fund
Wageningen



Prof.dr.ir. Louise O. Fresco
q.q. Executive Board Wageningen
University & Research



Prof.dr.ir. Wouter Hendriks
q.q. Dean of Research,
Wageningen University & Research



Ir. Jules van Berlo
Treasurer



Dr.ir. Han Swinkels
q.q. KLV Wageningen Alumni
Network



Ir. Ronald van der Giessen
q.q. Wageningen Ambassadors

EMPLOYEES

Arianne van Ballegooij
Fundraiser

Anita Freriks
Administrative
officer

Janna van Hoek
Communications officer

Susanne van der Vliet
Events coordinator

Saskia de Boer
Executive secretary
(until 14 July 2021)

Daniëlle Grashuis
Relationship officer

Sacha Tijmstra
Communications officer

Delia de Vreeze
Director
(until 15 February 2021)

Fanny Castel
Relationship manager
international foundations

Eline Nell
Alumni relations manager

Joyce Smeltink
Fundraiser a.i.
(since 15 March 2021)

Maruscha Clarke
Grant manager

Denise Spiekerman
Alumni relations manager

Erik Vleeming
Operations coordinator

Cis Doorman
Data manager

Fusien Verloop
Director a.i.
(until 31 December 2021)

Please note: a reorganisation took place in 2021. UFW and team alumni relations were separated on 01-01-2022.

University Fund Wageningen, a brief history

The tradition of donating to agricultural science in Wageningen has existed for over 135 years. It can be traced back to 1884, when close friends of the recently deceased Winand Carel Hugo Staring (1808-1877), a leading Wageningen scientist and founder of soil science, decided to use his inheritance to establish the Staring Fund to help poor farmers study agriculture. Soon, several funds followed that had the development of the Agricultural College and the spreading of its knowledge as their goal.

Agricultural College Fund as anniversary gift

This example also inspired ir. Klaas Venema, who wanted to leave his entire fortune in a named fund to the Agricultural College, the current Wageningen University & Research. It was 9 March 1951 when the Agricultural College Fund (LHF) was established to mark the Dies Natalis of the university and presented as an anniversary gift to the Agricultural College. The new fund was successful: a total amount of fl.108,950 (roughly €405,753 today) was donated to LHF by firms in the first year, which also committed to an annual gift of fl.13,670 (now €433,031) in the years ahead. As the years passed, a number of the previously established funds were assimilated into the Agricultural College Fund, including the Staring Fund.

Fundraising and alumni relations

When the Agricultural College (Landbouwhogeschool) became the Agricultural University (Landbouwuniversiteit) in 1986, the fund changed its name to Wageningen Universiteits Fonds (WUF). In the 1990s WUF started acquiring active financial support for special projects that contributed to the growth and development of WUR. In 2016

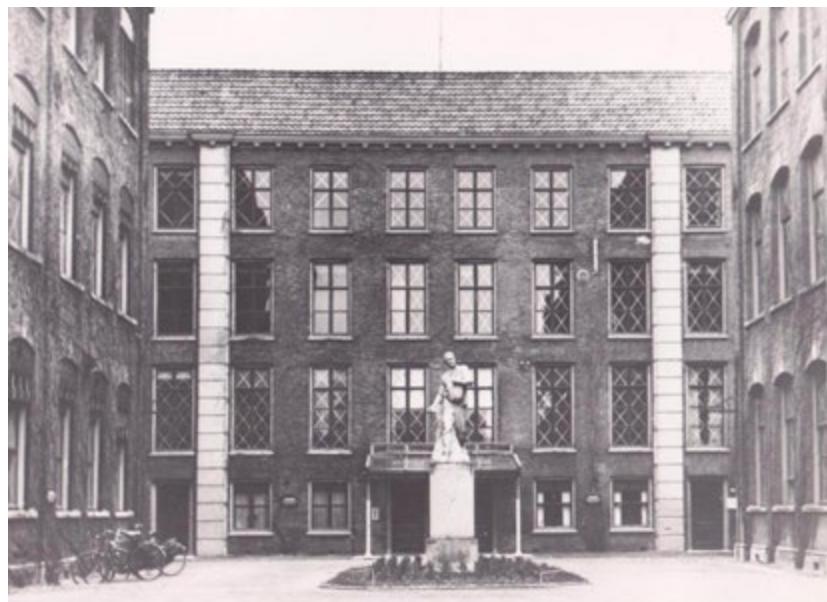


Photo Gemeentearchief Wageningen

the alumni bureau of WUR merged with KLV Wageningen Alumni Network and WUF into University Fund Wageningen (UFW). Following the disbanding of KLV in 2020, it was decided that UFW and team alumni relations would operate separately from 2022 onwards, although they continue to work together closely. This is how we still contribute to the initial ambitions from 1884. ●

University Fund Wageningen
Bronland 10
P.O. Box 9101 – courier number 192
6700 HB Wageningen
T 0317 484 054
ufw@wur.nl
www.universityfundwageningen.eu

Chamber of Commerce 41047850
Fiscal/ANBI registration number 0054.52.119

Editing

Sacha Tijmstra (Chief editor and texts)
Arianne van Ballegooij
Lies Boelrijk
Maruscha Clarke
Gerard Straver

The articles on pages 12 and 22 were previously published in Wageningen World
Text p.12: Alexandra Branderhorst
Text p.22: Anja Janssen

Cover photo

Bart van Overbeeke

Design

Wageningen University & Research,
Communication Services

Print

SMG Groep
This annual report is printed on FSC paper





© University Fund Wageningen 2022

ANNUAL REPORT 2021