

Positioning study at Wageningen UR

Wageningen UR (University & Research centre) 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 studies. Clients and other interested parties have no influence on this. The party or parties funding the research is/are always stated on the report.

Wageningen UR is a knowledge organisation (consisting of Wageningen University, Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences and nine applied, market-focused and demand-driven research institutes, brought together in the DLO Foundation), that carries out research in an independent manner within the domain of healthy diets and living environments. This domain is a focal point within today's society.

Research results and the stances of researchers within a social context are weighed up and assessed by the outside world. Partly for this reason, a code of conduct for research and teaching has been drawn up, applicable to all Wageningen UR researchers: The Wageningen Code of Conduct for Scientific Practice [link]. This code of conduct covers five aspects: carefulness, reliability, verifiability, impartiality and autonomy. The Dean of Science and the Scientific Advisory Board oversee compliance with this code. There is also an Integrity Code [link], applicable to all employees, an ethics committee, and confidential counsellors have been appointed.

Research at Wageningen UR, providers of funding, and clients

Wageningen UR performs research at Wageningen University and within the nine applied research institutes.

Research at Wageningen University

Approximately half of this research - primarily fundamental research - is funded by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, which is responsible for academic education in the green domain. 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 will be 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 publications.

Publication can sometimes be postponed by a maximum of six months, for instance in the case of patenting.

Research at the DLO Foundation

This comprises four components:

- *Statutory research tasks* relating to legislation and regulations set by the government. Results are presented to the government which then decides on disclosure. This may be fundamental research or applied research. This research can lead to publications in peer-reviewed journals.

- *Knowledge base research*: funded by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, which has a say in decisions about research questions. This can be both fundamental and application-oriented research and is focused on ensuring the accumulation of knowledge and development of expertise necessary to solve future social issues. Results are always published in reports accessible to the public, without intervention on the part of the funding party. They may also lead to peer-reviewed publication in scientific and professional journals.
- *Policy support research*: Applied research commissioned by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation sets about finding solutions to practical problems. 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.
- *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 following the anonymisation of confidential company information.

In all cases, where public health and/or animal health is/are at stake, or if 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 full list of these chairs is published on the internet twice a year.

Both the university and the DLO research institutes will undergo reviews by committees of external and international experts who will assess the quality, integrity and independence of the work. These reports will be available to the public.

The Wageningen Code of Conduct for Scientific Practice, the Integrity Code and the terms and conditions of delivery of the DLO foundation can be read [here](#).

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