

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF STUDENTS SPECIALIZING IN VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

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On behalf of Bionext



connecting the organic chain from farm to fork

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Farmers, processors & trading companies and organic specialised stores



# Dutch agricultural sector

- Characterized as **highly innovative and technologically advanced**
- Continuous **innovation as main driver**, including start-ups and a strong SME sector
- The **collaboration** between various knowledge institutions, businesses and government (**Golden Triangle/Dutch Diamond**).
- Oriented on **export** all over the world





# Vision Ministry of Agriculture

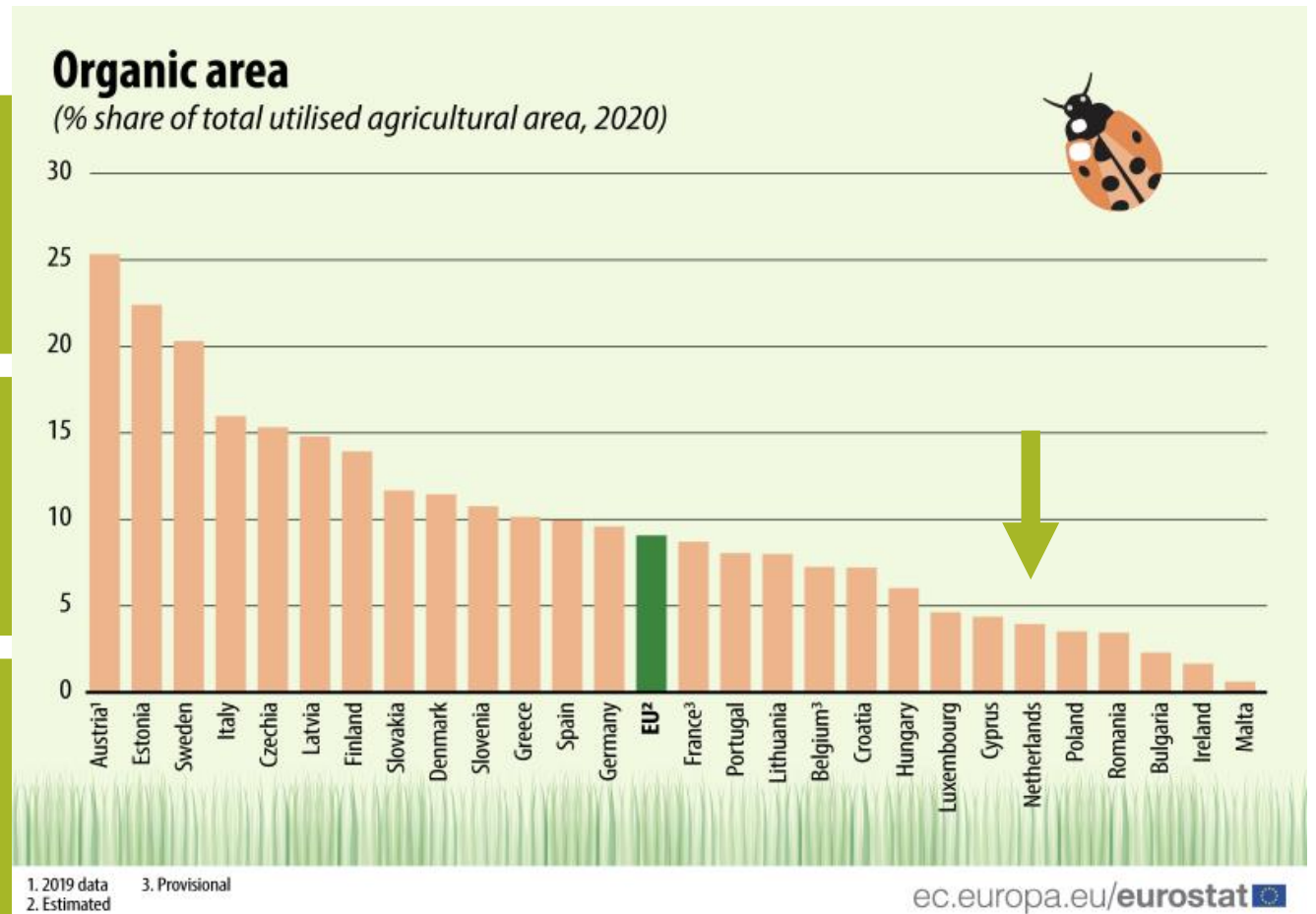
- The Netherlands faces **major challenges** in the areas of nitrogen, water quality, biodiversity and climate.
- Looking for **another way of agriculture**: Balanced agricultural and nature
- Target on the horizon: a resilient agricultural system that operates **within the natural boundaries** (soil, water, nature, climate) and preferably contributes positively to this.

# Dutch agricultural sector

Organic is not a main topic

With 3.9 % of the land used for organic agriculture

And about the same % in consumption







# Elections nov 23

- PVV 37 seats
- BBB 7 seats
- NSC 20 seats
- VVD 24 seats



# THE EDUCATION SYSTEM OF THE NETHERLANDS

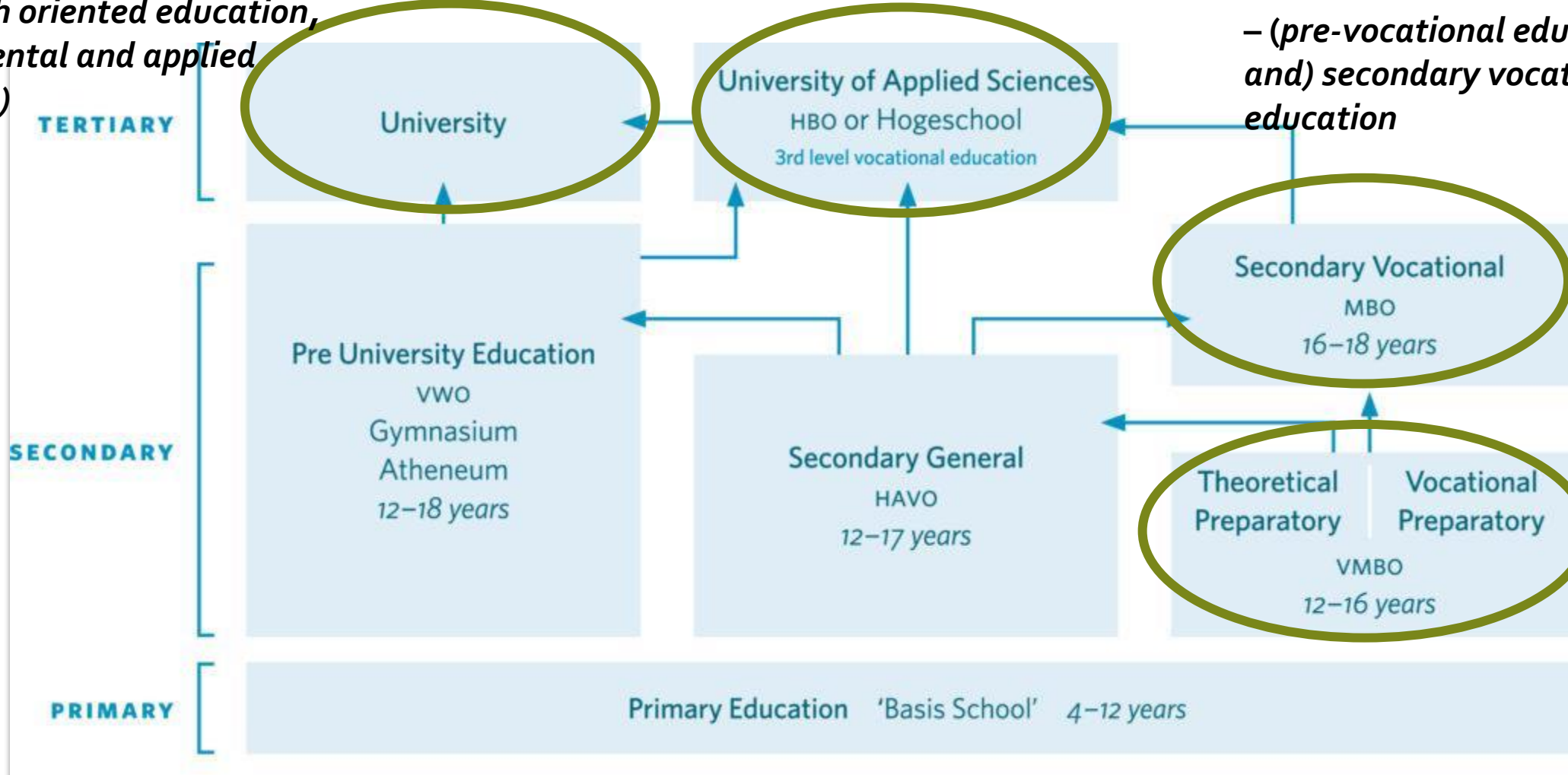
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The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food  
Quality of the Netherlands

1 'green' University: Wageningen University and Research - WUR  
(research oriented education, fundamental and applied research)

4 'green' Universities of Applied Sciences (HBO) – higher professional education

9 Institutes for 'green' Vocational Education (MBO) – (pre-vocational education and) secondary vocational education



36 Schools for 'green' pre-vocational education (VMBO)



# Number of 'green' Students

**2020- 2021**

**87,800** (*excl. about 33,000 VMBO pupils*)

- 62,200 MBO students \* (12.3%)
- 13,000 HBO students \*\* (2.9%)
- 12,600 University students \*\*\* (3.8%)

\* Sector: Food, green and hospitality

\*\* Sector: Agriculture and natural environment

\*\*\* Sector: Agriculture and natural environment



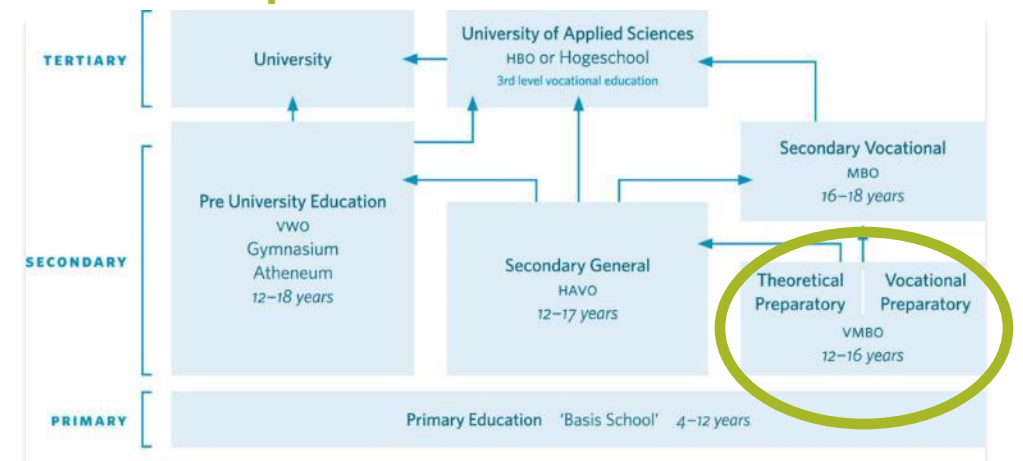


# Nature-inclusive Agriculture in Green Education

- Green deal : promoting new ways of producing food that decrease the pressure on nature and enhance biodiversity
- Focus on:
  - Training lecturers
  - Students working on questions from farmers
  - Putting nature inclusive farming in the curriculum

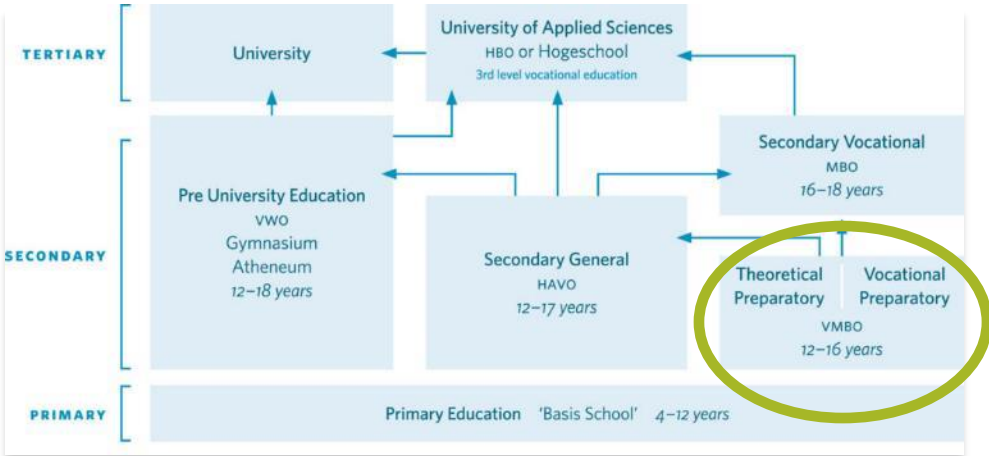
# Organic education on VMBO level

- It's possible to chose 'Green'
- Learn about sustainability and circularity
- Use skills and techniques in a green context
- To be able to find various solutions for a problem





# Organic education on VMBO level



# Organic Education on MBO level



- On MBO-schools it's possible to chose Organic farming
- 240 hours, for learning more about organic
- In practice used for an introduction in organic farming
- Developed by Bionext together with 3 schools
- Implemented on 4 locations ( Terra Emmen, Yuverta Boxtel, Clusius, Aeres Leeuwarden)



# Organic Education on MBO level

Aeres Warmonderhof: Bio dynamic  
Farming and Gardening

- Practical and theoretical aspects of biodynamic farming and gardening.
- Majority of the full time students live on campus
- Most of the parttime students had another working life before



# Organic Education on University of applied sciences level

## Minor Organic Farming in Dronten

- 420 hours, including 15 days of practical period
- For students who do want to start an organic farm, to take over one of are interested in organic farming

## AD Organic dairy in Leeuwarden

- 2 year course



# Wageningen University



## Number of students (without PhD candidates)

| Year                 | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Total</b>         | 4,713 | 4,941 | 5,398 | 5,959 | 6,771 | 7,473 | 7,933 | 8,814 |
| <b>International</b> | 1,185 | 1,108 | 1,108 | 1,444 | 1,735 | 1,922 | 2,016 | 2,137 |

| Year                 | 14/15 | 15/16  | 16/17  | 17/18  | 18/19  | 19/20  | 20/21  | 21/22  |
|----------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>Total</b>         | 9,545 | 10,380 | 11,275 | 12,001 | 12,439 | 12,819 | 13,275 | 13,676 |
| <b>International</b> | 2,160 | 2,364  | 2,642  | 2,788  | 2,769  | 2,889  | 2,777  | 3,186  |

| Year                 | 22/23  | 23/24  |
|----------------------|--------|--------|
| <b>Total</b>         | 13,678 | 13,564 |
| <b>International</b> | 3,506  | 3,717  |

# Organic Education on University level



## BSc minor Sustainable Agriculture and Consumption

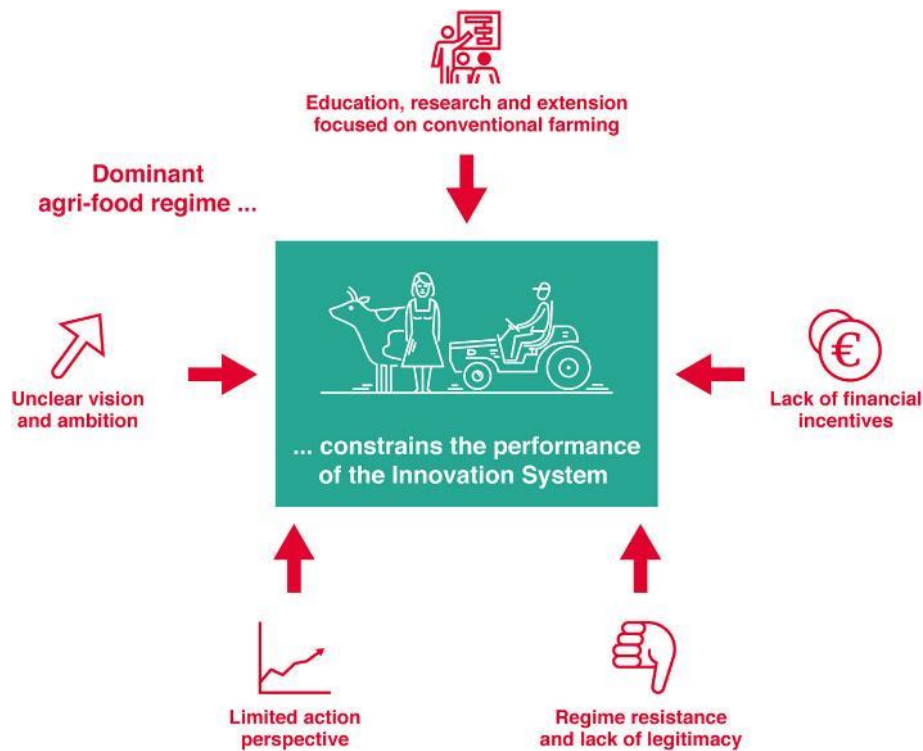
- About all aspects of organic production and sustainability

## Master Resilient Farming and Food Systems in Wageningen

- Learn to design the resilient food systems of the future.
- Study sustainable food production from both natural and social perspectives.



# New development: integrating organic



- To take away resistance in the sector and schools
- To find new role models
- To teach new skills
- Show other perspectives



# HOW TO BECOME AN ORGANIC PROFESSIONAL?

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*If you are already a farmer?*

# How to convert to organic?

- Most farmers start as a conventional farmer
- Step by step they learn more about organic
- Farmers learn from other farmers: study clubs, excursions
- With training and advice, often with financial support of (local) authorities



# Where to find more about organic education?

## BioAcademy

- Platform where in organic specialised trainers, adviseurs introduce themselves
- Agenda with all the courses and trainingen about organic

## Online database on organic farming

- Home – Biokennis
- Groen kennisnet
- Wiki biologische bedrijfsvoering
- Organic E prints



**BREEDE  
BLIK** voor de  
verandering

Thank you very much for your attention

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groer pact

## Public Private Partnerships & International ambitions

Facilitated by various policy 'instruments'

To deliver graduates with knowledge and skills to be able to address **global challenges & international agricultural labor market needs**

- To achieve **more cooperation, coordination and professionalism** of international activities of agricultural education institutions

By means of.....

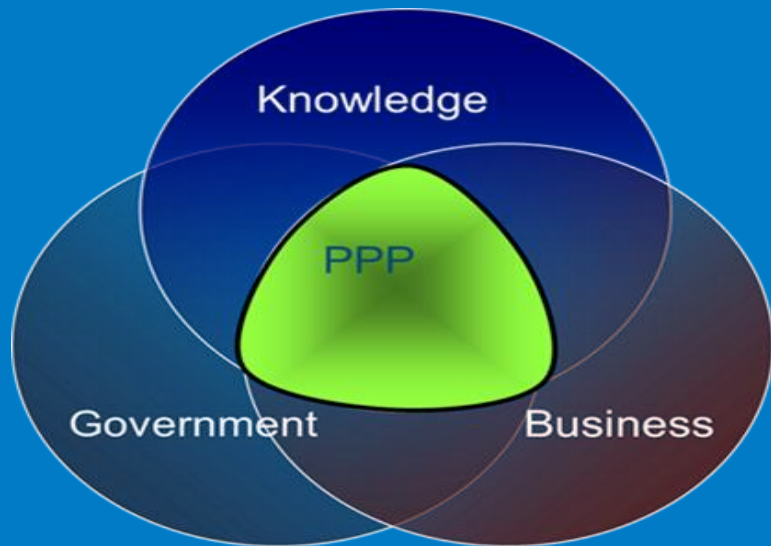
- Facilitating cooperation, projects and exchange with knowledge institutions in Europe, Asia, Africa, South America
- With support of EU/EC, Dutch ministries (OCW, BZ, LNV), bilateral agreements
- And with the help of our agricultural counselors worldwide and various policy 'instruments' (e.g. seed-money projects of the two top sectors, the acceleration program on internationalization of GroenPact)





groerpact

## Public Private Partnerships



## Looking for international cooperation with the Netherlands?

Please feel free to contact:

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