

Synergia People & Faces

January 2026



Synergia - Participating Organisations / departments (page numbers to update)

Page Organisation - Department

3	Wageningen University - Agricultural Biosystems Engineering Group (former Farm Technology)
7	Dutch Research Council (NWO)
8	NextFoodCollective (former TiFN Food & Nutrition)
10	Wageningen University - Center for Crop Systems Analysis
12	Wageningen University - Animal Nutrition & breeding & genetics
14	Wageningen University - Horticulture & Product Physiology
17	Wageningen University - Marketing & Consumer behavior
19	Technical University Delft - Center for Systems & Control
21	University of Twente / Faculty BMS – Science, technology & policy studies
23	University of Twente / Faculty EEMCS –Human media interaction
25	University of Twente / Faculty of ET – Applied mechanics
27	Eindhoven University of Technology - Dep. of Electrical Engineering
29	Eindhoven University of Technology - Dept. semiconductor nanophotonics / photonic int.
31	Eindhoven University of Technology - Dept. Industrial design
33	Eindhoven University of Technology – Dept. Mechanical engineering / Control systems
36	Eindhoven University of Technology - Innovation technology entrepreneurship & marketing
38	Radboud University / Faculty of science – Molecular and laser physics
40	Wageningen Livestock Research
43	Wageningen Plant Research – Field crops
45	Wageningen Plant Research – Greenhouse horticulture

Wageningen University / Agricultural Biosystems Engineering group (previously Farm Technology)



- Biosystems Engineering
- Enhance the potential of technology in agri-food systems to fulfil the needs of mankind in a sustainable way
- Research (PhD's) and education (BSc & MSc Biosystems Engineering)
- knowledge, methods and tools for the operation, control and design of agricultural systems



Peter Groot Koerkamp

- Professor / scientific program leader
- Professional passion: develop new concepts
- Personal passion: biking (race & ATB), DIY



Monique Mul

- Postdoc
- Professional passion: Enabling sustainable agriculture
- Personal passion: insects, gun dog training, sailing, hiking



Robert van de Ven

- Promovendus
- Professional passion: Agricultural robotics
- Personal passion: Biking, craft beer, camping, nature, reading



Maedeh Sadeghi

- Promovendus
- Professional passion: Control Engineering
- Personal passion: Dancing



Sjoerd Boersma

- Senior researcher
- Professional passion: Control Engineering
- Personal passion: Basketball



Simon van Mourik

- Assistant professor
- Professional passion: Modelling and control
- Personal passion: Mountain biking



Gert Kootstra

- Associate professor
- Professional passion: Machine vision and robotics
- Personal passion: Mountain bike, ultimate frisbee and guitar playing



Rick van Essen

- PhD candidate
- Professional passion: Agricultural robotics
- Personal passion: Mountain bike, hiking, wild camping, travelling



Marjolein Derks

- Assistant professor
- Professional passion: Design
- Personal passion:



Eldert van Henten

- Professor Biosystems Engineering
- Professional passion: Agricultural robotics
- Personal passion: radio technology, singing, gardening ...

Dutch Research Council (NWO)



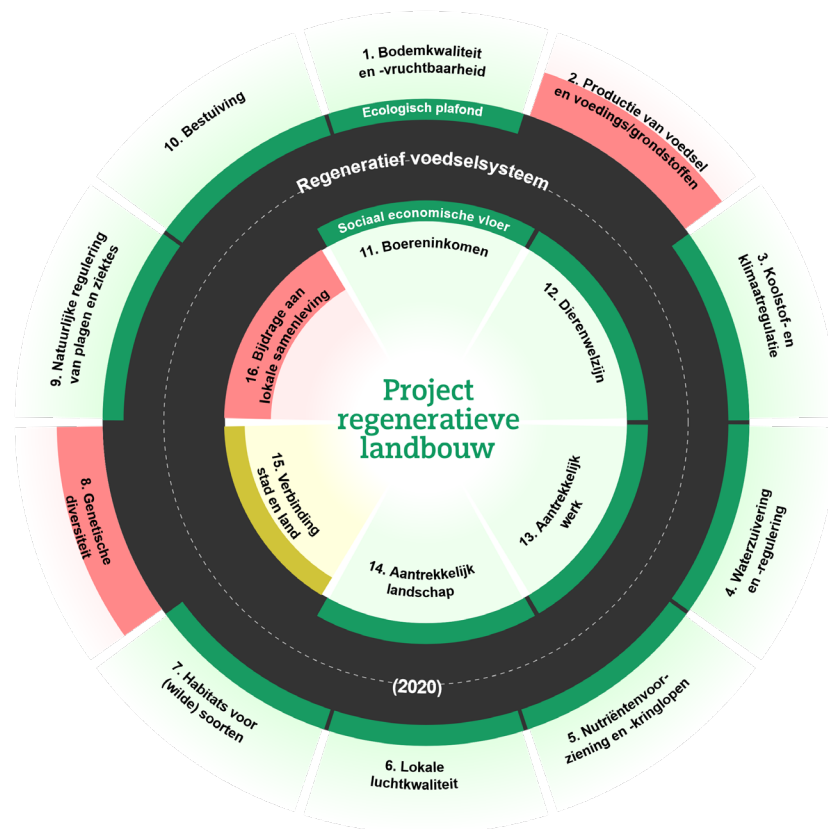
- Science funding organisation
- Advance world-class scientific research, that has scientific and societal impact
- Facilitate excellent, curiosity-driven disciplinary, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research
- Connect researchers from various disciplines and across the entire knowledge chain and bring researchers and societal partners together



Bea Pauw

- Programme officer
- Professional passion: Facilitate research programs in the field of agriculture, horticulture and food.
- Personal passion: Sports

Next Food Collective



- Foundation with 24 years of experience in orchestrating interdisciplinary research programs
- Public private partnerships; pre-/non- competitive
- Origin in Food & Nutrition: 'healthy nutrition', 'food structuring', 'gut microbiome'
- Active on sustainable food & agriculture since 2016:
 - Sustainable, healthy, affordable, reliable and preferable diets (SHARP)
 - Regenerative agriculture
 - Synergia/T4E
 - ReGeNL



Wouter-Jan Schouten

- Theme director sustainable agriculture
- Professional passion: driving systemic change for a sustainable future
- Personal passion: singing



Aafke van den Boom

- Theme coordinator sustainable agriculture
- Professional passion: to manage interdisciplinary programs which deliver impact
- Personal passion: Gardening & movies

WU Center for Crop Systems Analysis



- Scaling up basic, physiological processes from sub-plant level to crop level in man-managed systems.
- Obtain fundamental insight in the functioning of crop- and associated ecosystems in relation to the environments in which these systems are embedded.
- Field and greenhouse experiments.
- Modeling plant physiological and ecological systems.



Niels Anten

- Full professor
- Professional passion: Community ecology, evolutionary game theory, sustainable agriculture
- Personal passion: Running, history, salsa music



Bob Douma

- Assistant Professor
- Professional passion: Plant-Disease interaction, Statistical Models
- Personal passion: Refurbish/upholster old chairs, wild plants



Zohralyn Homulle

- PhD
- Professional passion: Creating sustainable agricultural systems
- Personal passion: Gardening and baking



David Kottelenberg

- PhD candidate
- Professional passion: Agroecological modeling, statistical modeling
- Personal passion: Playing piano, running, music.

WU / Animal nutrition & breeding & genetics



- Dairy cattle genetics and nutrition
- Research and education
- Knowledge on the role and sustainable use of genetic variation in dairy cattle (ABG)
- Understanding of nutritional processes and the effects of dietary compounds on health, welfare, production and emissions of dairy cattle (ANU)



Henk Bovenhuis

- Personal professor
- Professional passion: Genetic background of milk composition
- Personal passion: Cycling



Eugénie Guennoc

- PhD candidate
- Professional passion: Animal genetics
- Personal passion: Hiking, gardening, handcrafts



Jan Dijkstra

- Associate professor
- Professional passion: Sustainable dairy cattle nutrition
- Personal passion: Hiking; local politics



Margreet Edens

- PhD candidate
- Professional passion: Animal nutrition, dairy cows
- Personal passion: Cycling, farm work

WU / Horticulture and product physiology



- Physiology, growth, development, and quality of crops grown in greenhouses and vertical farms
- Crop monitoring, crop modelling, and experimentation





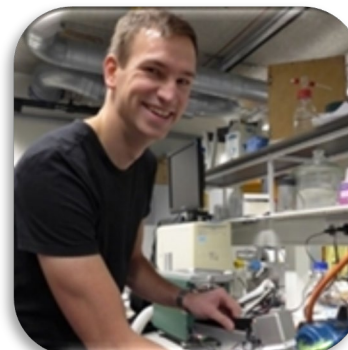
Leo Marcelis

- Professor
- Horticulture, crop physiology



Ep Heuvelink

- Associate professor
- Crop physiology and modelling
- Supervisor Task 1.1



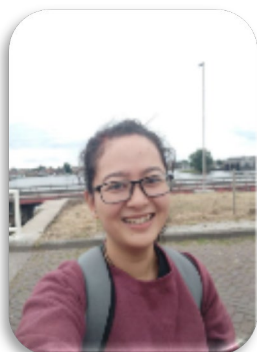
Elias Kaiser

- Assistant professor
- Plant phenotyping, photosynthesis, physiology
- Supervisor Task 1.2



Silvère Vialet-Chabrand

- Assistant professor
- Autonomous greenhouses, plant monitoring, photosynthesis, stomata
- Supervisor Task 1.2



Samikshya Shrestha

- PhD candidate
- Professional passion:
Acclimation of plant
processes in
chrysanthemum
- Personal passion:
.....



Julia Winkeler

- PhD candidate
- Professional passion:
....
- Personal passion:
...

WU / Marketing & consumer behavior



- Using real life situations in agricultural production to inform social science theory development
- Applies top level theories to contribute to real life agricultural issues
- Understanding consumer responses to sustainable innovations



Arnout Fischer

- Associate professor
consumer behaviour /
Synergia WP5 coordinator
- Professional passion:
Consumer response to new
technology
- Personal passion:
Reading and walking around



Marion Leo

- PostDoc
- Professional passion:
...
- Personal passion:
...

TU Delft / Delft Center for Systems and Control



- DCSC works on fundamental aspects of dynamical systems and control as well as on advancing innovative and high-tech applications
- Research (PhDs) and education (BSc Mechanical Engineering and MSc Systems & Control)
- Knowledge, methods, and tools for dynamical systems modelling, analysis, optimization, learning, and control in large-scale systems
- Giulia Giordano is now at University of Trento, Italy

**Tamas Keviczky**

- Professor / WP3 and task leader
- Professional passion: Find new insights and solutions via systems and control theory and make an impact in practice
- Personal passion: Nature/water and music

**Ioannis Panagopoulos**

- PhD candidate
- Professional passion: Control theory applications on Climate Control
- Personal passion: 3D printing and machining

**Giulia Giordano**

- Asst. Professor / task leader
- Professional passion: Understand nature through the lens of system theory
- Personal passion: Literature and music

**Maarten de Jong**

- PhD candidate
- Professional passion: To study the mechanisms of life
- Personal passion: Music listening and performing

University of Twente / Faculty BMS – Science, technology & policy studies

UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE.



- **Department of Science, Technology and Policy Studies (STePS):**
- We assess sociotechnical change, studying the past and **anticipating the future.**
- We stir constructive debate and identify productive steering options for governments, academic institutions, civil society, user organizations, and firms – in Europe and in emerging economies.
- We work towards better governance of science, technology and innovation, addressing major societal challenges such as **agricultural sustainability.**
- <https://www.utwente.nl/en/bms/steps/>



Kornelia Konrad

- Assoc. Prof. Anticipation & Assessment of Emerging Technologies
- Professional passion: Socio-technical futures
- Personal passion: Gardening, reading



Lenn Gorissen

- PhD-candidate
- Professional passion: socio-techno-ecological futures
- Personal passion: Art photography, classical literature

University of Twente/Human Media Interaction Group

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.



- **Who are we:** A multidisciplinary group in which **computer science** meets **social science** to investigate and design and evaluate novel forms of **human-computer interaction**.
- **What do we do:** Human interaction with intelligent agents, social robotics, machine analysis of human (social) behaviour, human-agent multi-modal dialogues.
- **In Synergia:** provide general usability guidelines for the user's interaction with the robots and the (processed) data they produce. We will also connect the robots to mass media outlets.



Vanessa Evers

- Full professor
- Professional passion: socially intelligent robots
- Personal passion: horses



Tessa Beinema

- Post-doc
- Professional passion: ..
- Personal passion:



Bob Schadenberg

- Post-doc
- Professional passion: understanding and developing explainable human-robot interaction
- Personal passion: avid hiker



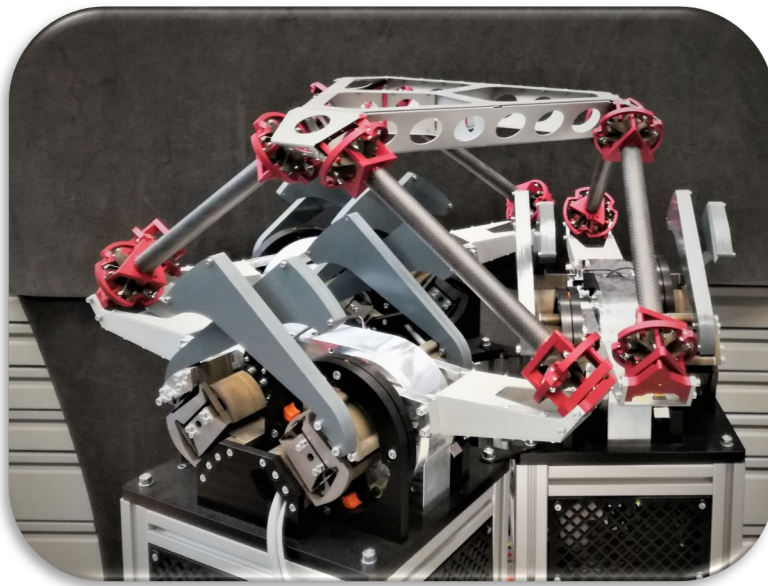
Daniel Davison

- Interaction Lab Manager
- Professional passion: making a meaningful impact through social intelligent technology
- Personal passion: family life, making & tinkering, outdoor sports activities

University of Twente / Faculty of ET

Applied mechanics

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.



- Mechatronic mechanisms (e.g. grippers)
- Precision mechanisms for predictability
- Precision motion and force control



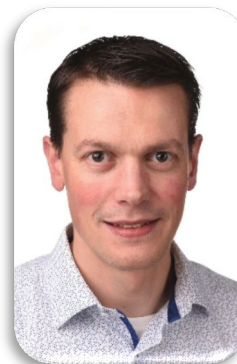
Dannis Brouwer

- Professor
- Professional passion: Design Principles for Precision Engineering
- Personal passion: Biking / vintage RC cars



Jan de Jong

- Assistant Prof
- Professional passion: Mechanisms / Balancing / Grippers
- Personal passion: Biking



Wouter Hakvoort

- Associate Prof
- Professional passion: Precision Motion Control
- Personal passion: Biking



Filip Šunjić

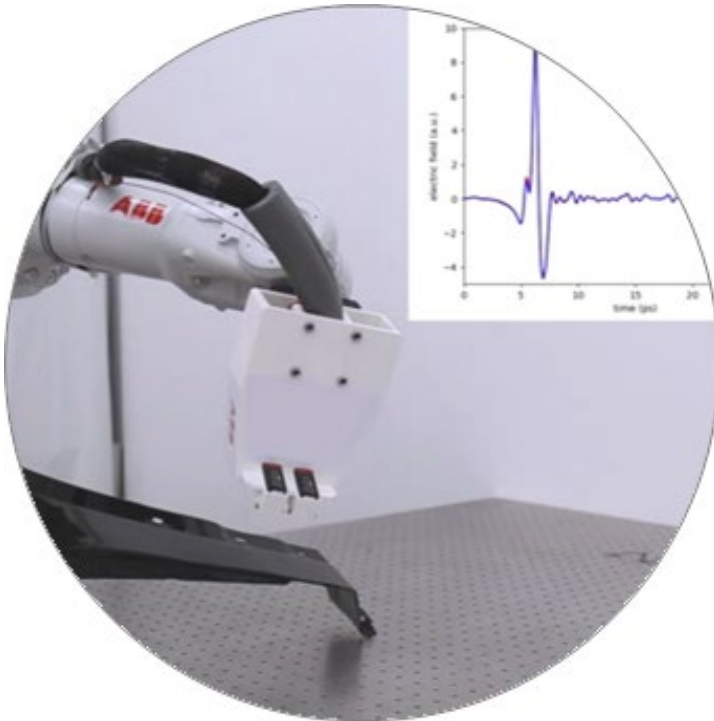
- PhD candidate
- Professional passion: ...
- Personal passion: ...



Marissa Jonker

- PhD candidate
- Professional passion: Computer vision based robotics
- Personal passion: Painting

TU Eindhoven / Electrical Engineering



- Terahertz science and technology (electronics and photonics)
- Optical sensing technologies for societal benefits
- Development of novel signal processing algorithms
- Application to medical, industrial, agrifood sectors



Marion Matters

- Full professor
- Electronic THz science and technology



Piyush Kaul

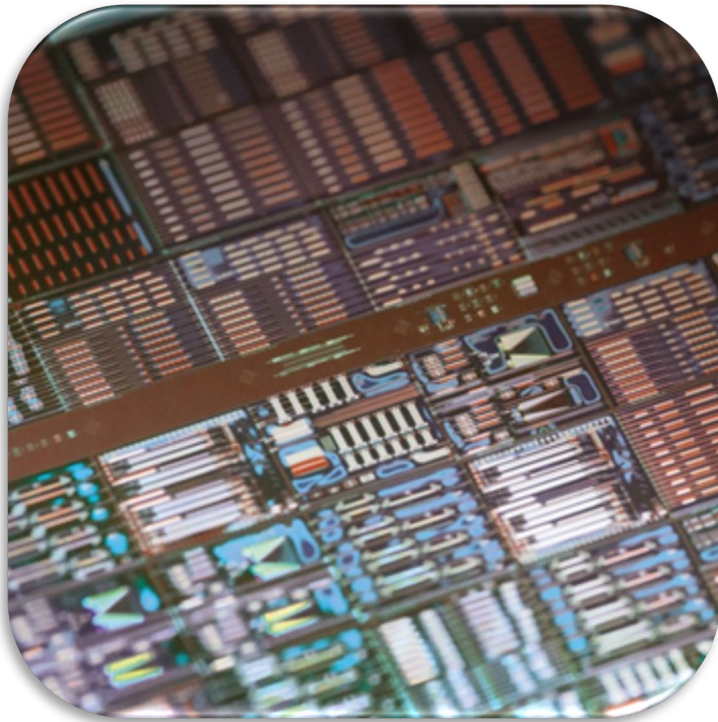
- Assistant professor
- Professional passion: high-frequency IC design
- Personal passion: sports, video games, reading



Maryem Tanveer

- PhD candidate
- Professional passion: ...
- Personal passion: ...

Eindhoven University of Technology / Dept. semiconductor nanophotonics / photonic int.



- Provide major contributions to photonic integration and the associated applications with a particular focus on indium phosphide technology;
- Coordinating the JePPiX multi-project wafer services and Pilot Line: <https://www.jeppix.eu/>;
- Expertise in design of (tunable) lasers, optical phased arrays, filters and detector arrays, to be used in:
- Lidar, metrology, THz and IR imaging and spectroscopy for the agro-food field.



Andrea Fiore

- Professor
- Professional passion
...
- Personal passion
...



Don van Elst

- PhD candidate
- Professional passion:
photonics
- Personal passion:
cooking



Tasfia Kabir

- PhD candidate
- Professional passion:
photonic integration
- Personal passion:
music, books and
travelling



Martijn Heck

- Professor
- Professional passion:
photonic integration

Eindhoven University of Technology / Dept. Industrial Design



- Investigate the everyday interactions between individual people and the highly interconnected technology that surrounds them.
- Measure, model and design for the user experience when individuals interact with social-technological networks in
- Designing data-intensive products and systems
- Data-enabled research methods from wearable interfaces to digital twins



Mathias Funk

- Associate Professor
- Professional passion:
Design tools and methods
for designing with data
- Personal passion:
Ask me again after
COVID-19



Yuva Borra

- EngD candidate
- Professional passion:
Landscape Modelling
- Personal passion:
Calligraphy

Eindhoven University of Technology / Dept. Mechanical Engineering/ Control systems



- Mission: develop new methods and tools in the areas of Systems Theory, Control Engineering and Mechatronics and to apply them in a wide variety of industrial areas.
- The research focuses on understanding the fundamental system properties that determine the performance of mechanical engineering systems and exploiting this knowledge to design the high-tech systems of the future.
- Large group > 50 PhD active every year.
- Areas: performance driven control and systems design, and develops robust and data-driven control theory, hybrid and networked systems theory, optimisation techniques and mechanical design principles aimed at high-performance motion systems, robotics, vehicle powertrains and the control of plasma fusion as application areas.



René vd Molengraft

- Associate professor
- Professional passion: Robotics, head of TechUnited (soccer robots)
- Personal passion: Drums-Music



Maurice Heemels

- Full professor
- Professional passion: Control systems, Cyber-Physical Systems
- Personal passion: Hiking



Duarte Antunes

- Assistant professor
- Professional passion: Control systems
- Personal passion: Soccer



Wouter Kuipers

- Project manager
- Professional passion: Control of greenhouses
- Personal passion: Soccer robots



Ruben Beumer

- PhD candidate
- Professional passion: Robotics
- Personal passion: Soccer



Menno van Zutphen

- PhD candidate
- Professional passion: Control Systems and Stochastic Systems
- Personal passion: Running and reading

Eindhoven University of Technology / Innovation technology entrepreneurship & marketing



- Eindhoven University of Technology particularly well known for its joint research with industry
- The Innovation, Technology Entrepreneurship and Marketing (ITEM) group focuses on understanding and improving new business and product development processes within firms, organizations, and institutions in a high-tech context.

**Ed Nijssen**

- Full professor of technology marketing
- Professional passion: innovation studies, servitization, sales management, entrepreneurial marketing, path modelling, survey research
- Personal passion: jogging, golf, cooking, wine, travel

**Neomie Raassens**

- Associate professor of servitization and innovation outsourcing
- Professional passion: Servitization, outsourcing, food waste, B2B relationships
- Personal passion: Soccer, cycling, (board) games

**Shantanu Mullick**

- Assistant professor of marketing
- Professional passion: Food waste, sustainability
- Personal passion: Reading, traveling, trekking

**Patricia Roost**

- PhD student
- Professional passion: Networks, ecosystems, organizational learning
- Personal passion: Arts and crafts, craft beer, audiobooks, travel

Radboud University / Molecular Laser Physics



- Gas sensing
- Optical techniques (e.g. laser-based spectroscopy)
- Analytical instrumentation for biomarker discovery and validation
- Applications in Life Sciences (breath analysis, environmental monitoring, plant biology, fruit storage, etc.)



Simona Cristescu

- Assoc. Prof./Group leader
- Professional passion: biomarkers discovery
- Personal passion: travel



Amir Khodabakhsh

- Postdoc
- Professional passion: lasers
- Personal passion: books



Joris Meurs

- Researcher
- Professional passion: Mass spectrometry
- Personal passion: Basketball



Yueyu Lin

- PhD candidate
- Professional passion: lasers
- Personal passion: Photography

Wageningen Livestock Research (WLR)



- WLR is a contract research organisation for fundamental, innovative research and practical solutions for sustainable and profitable livestock farming.
- In Synergia & AGROS, we focus on the dairy use case, aiming to optimally manage the individual cow in a herd to improve her resource use efficiency and lower her environmental footprint
- Underlying tasks:
 - Design and exploration of future dairy farming housing systems
 - Further development of individual cow sensor technology on semi-practical scale
 - Showcasing prototypes in an integrated setting
 - Validating developed decision support tools





Yvette de Haas

- Project leader Precision Phenotyping
- Professional passion: Enabling recording new traits on individual animals in groups
- Personal passion: Board games, horse riding



Nico Ogink

- Team member
- Professional passion: Reliable and applicable research
- Personal passion: Family, books, music, sports



Claudia Kamphuis

- Project leader Big Data
- Professional passion: Connect data science/IT/domain to improve animal health
- Personal passion: Riding R6, true-crime, tramping



Bram Bos

- Integration WP6-8
- Professional passion: Redesign, Systems thinking
- Personal passion: Singing, daughter, walking, sustainable monument

Wageningen Research / Field crops



- WUR Field Crops is working on the sustainable transition of open cultivation in response to major social issues both nationally and internationally.
- We do this in cooperation and dialogue with the agricultural entrepreneurs, the chains, governments and social groups.
- We develop and test innovations that farmers and horticulturalists can apply today or tomorrow to run their business successfully.
- We connect fundamental knowledge with practical experience and make use of our networks, trial farms and storage facilities.
- Picture: the autonomous Robotti active on the Farm of the Future in Lelystad



Corne Lugtenburg

- Researcher
- Professional passion:
...
- Personal passion:
...



Herman Schoorlemmer

- Research manager
- Professional passion:
Cocreation with active
users and stakeholders
- Personal passion:
Theater and hiking



Corne Kempenaar

- Sr scientist precision
- Professional passion:
ag./smart farming./data-
driven agriculture
- Personal passion:
Sports, movies, travelling



Boelie Elzen

- Researcher / use cases
postdoc supervision
- Professional passion:
Creating bridges between
academic & applied
research
- Personal passion:
Writing (novels), hiking

Wageningen Research – Business unit Greenhouse Horticulture



- Mission: initiate and stimulate innovations for and together with greenhouse horticultural sector
- Two locations: Wageningen and Bleiswijk
- Strategic and applied research
- Lead partner in AGROS “Towards an autonomous greenhouse”
- Expertise in plant physiology, cropping systems, greenhouse climate control, vision and sensing, robotics
- Greenhouse climate and crop models (2D and 3D)



Anja Dieleman

- Team leader “Crop physiology
- Professional passion: Improving cultivation systems
- Personal passion: Gardening and hiking



Ilias Tsafaras

- Researcher Greenhouse Technology
- Professional Passion: greenhouse climate modelling
- Personal Passion: soccer

One Planet Research Center & IMEC



- OnePlanet Research Center initiates fundamental and applied research, groundbreaking innovations and smart product applications
- Imec is committed to sustainable developments for current and future generations. As the chip lab of the world, we can and want to inspire and involve the entire microchip value chain. Together we aim to develop technologies that contribute to a more sustainable future by focusing on the positive impact of future chip technologies. Our mission is to create disruptive innovations that make a positive and lasting impact on society.



Liesbeth Luijendijk

- Director AgroFood (until mid 2025)
- Professional passion: Creating a better world with digital technology
- Personal passion: Cycling, hiking, bird watching



Renske Landeweert

- Program manager
- Professional passion: Sense to sustain in agriculture
- Personal passion: Walking, tending my garden



Marcel Zevenbergen

- Program manager
- Professional passion: Disrupting the status-quo with new technology
- Personal passion: Mountainbiking, going to the gym, movies



Peter Offermans

- Principal Researcher Emerging Sensing Technologies
- Professional passion: Matching applications and technology
- Personal passion: Swimming



Mark Zentile

- Optical Sensing Researcher
- Professional passion:
Synergies of technologies
- Personal passion:
Cooking, baking, brewing



Lei Zhang

- Emerging Sensing
Researcher
- Professional passion:
Innovation
- Personal passion:
Photography, cycling and
traveling



Bas Boom

- Computer Vision Expert
- Professional passion:
Applying Deep Learning
technology
- Personal passion:
Gym, Movies, Podcast and
Meetup

Funded by



TKI Agri&Food



TOPSECTOR
TUINBOUW & UITGANGSMATERIALEN

Knowledge partners



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



TU/e
EINDHOVEN
UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY



UNIVERSITY
OF TWENTE.

Private sector partners



Connecterra



GenNovation



Stichting
Kennis in je Kas



AGROINTELLI

