

Joint Statement WUR and INRAE on the Franco-Dutch Pact for Innovation and Sustainable Growth 12 April 2023

INRAE and Wageningen University & Research (WUR) welcome the adoption of the Franco-Dutch Pact for innovation and sustainable growth, signed today in the framework of the state visit of the President of the French Republic in the Netherlands.

The 17th of March, the Director of Wageningen University & Research (WUR), Sjoukje Heimovaara, and the CEO of the National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE), Philippe Mauguin, met in Paris to discuss next steps in the long-lasting and strong collaboration between our two organisations. We took the opportunity to discuss the paragraph 'Securing Food Transition', which is included in the Franco-Dutch Pact for Innovation and Sustainable Growth, as one of the areas to consolidate existing collaboration and to create more and new dynamics in the collaboration between France and The Netherlands.

Representing the strongest players (in number of funded projects) in the EU Framework Programmes for Research & Innovation - currently Horizon Europe - in the domain of Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment, but also in digitalisation, biotechnology (including animal breeding, plant breeding and plant genome editing technologies) and robotics, the two institutes are very well placed to support the Food transition and feed the innovation pipeline of *agritech* and *foodtech* companies.

Joint European projects relevant for the Pact:

- *Data4Food2030: Pathways towards a fair, inclusive and innovative Data Economy for Sustainable Food Systems (Horizon Europe), coordinated by WUR with participation of INRAE*
- *BIOINDUSTRY 4.0: Research Infrastructure services to promote deep digitalization of Industrial Biotechnology - towards smart biomanufacturing, (Horizon Europe), coordinated by INRAE with participation of WUR*
- *agROBOfood: Business-Oriented Support to the European Robotics and Agri-food Sector, towards a network of Digital Innovation Hubs in Robotics (H2020), coordinated by WUR with participation of INRAE*

We are perfectly aligned with the priorities of the Pact which fits well into the strategies and strengths of both organisations and are of major importance to achieve the needed transitions of our countries' and the EU's Food System.

Through the Pact, we also see opportunities in linking up big national initiatives and investments in France (France 2030) and in The Netherlands (National Growth Fund, Topsectors) in which INRAE and WUR are respectively involved, to further intensify the collaboration between France and The Netherlands in the fields of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

INRAE and WUR are willing to bring in their expertise and networks in the next steps of the implementation of the Franco-Dutch Pact for Innovation and Sustainable Growth.

Philippe Mauguin: CEO Institut National de Recherche pour l'Agriculture, l'Alimentation et l'Environnement



Sjoukje Heimovaara: President of the Executive Board of Wageningen University & Research

