

Farmers collectives join Soil theme

Two farmers' cooperations - **Agricycling and Kollektivenberied Fryslân (KBF)** - have connected to the Soil research theme of Wetsus, in order to stimulate the development of know-how for healthy soils. For the research in the theme it is very important to have access to the experience, insights and field testing options of farmers, as 'end users' of the developed know-how. We are finding more and more common ground in contributing to solve the global problems that affect agriculture in the Netherlands and worldwide.

With roots in stimulating sustainable agriculture and improving circularity in nutrient and carbon use, the Wetsus soil theme perfectly matched the Agricycling Federation. The hundred members of the collective hope to implement Wetsus' research to optimize the recycling of organic streams in soils for stimulating soil life and health.

KBF, a large network - seven Frisian agricultural collectives, aims to work towards a greener future. For instance, their collaboration has led to biodiversity improvements throughout the province. Wetsus' research is a tight-fitting match that they have chosen to support to facilitate farming practices that result in healthy soils and biodiverse rural life.



On November 30, Wetsus organized an evening about healthy, fertile and water-retentive soil, focusing on organic matter and soil microbiomes. The meeting was attended by 100 people.

New Members

[aqa.earth](https://www.aqaearth.com) has become a member of the Sensing theme. The Wetsus spin-off was created to directly translate developments within Wetsus into solutions for monitoring surface water quality. aqa.earth works towards a generally applicable dashboard for evaluating surface water quality in different water bodies as defined in the EU Water Framework Directive.

Our Desalination and Concentrates theme welcomes [Suez](https://www.suez.com). Suez SA is a French-based utility company which operates largely in the water and waste management sectors. With their worldwide presence and experience, Suez is a valuable addition to the research theme.

[Nijhuis Saur Industries](#) signed a participation agreement in January to become part of Wetsus' research theme Advanced coagulation for nanoparticles. With this participation, research at Wetsus on chemical usage will be further promoted and translated into new solutions for industrial and municipal water treatment, resulting in lower costs and a reduced environmental footprint.

[Aqua Nirvana Foundation](#) is now a platform member, the foundation's mission is to give every person in the world access to safe, clean water by investing in technologies that are fully sustainable in the long-term future.

WaterCampus role in Dutch start-up climate underlined

WaterCampus Leeuwarden is one of the Netherlands' main boosters for the growth of start-up jobs and is therefore mentioned as an important place for the development and growth of new tech companies in a recent publication. The report 'State of Dutch Tech 2023' was presented to Prime Minister Mark Rutte by Prince Constantijn, special envoy of TechLeap. The Biobizz Hub in Balk, connected to WaterCampus, also plays an important role in the increase of start-up jobs. Prince Constantijn advises to focus more on Deeptech: start-ups based on scientific research. Besides world-class innovative know-how, the availability of capital and well educated talent are crucial for that according to the report. We are proud that the results of the research, education and entrepreneurship programs at WaterCampus have led to impact in that regard, and a fantastic foundation to build upon in the coming years. A shining example of a successful WaterCampus spin-off company is SusPhos, who have recently allocated €10 million funding, which will be used to develop their technology and markets even faster.



More sustainable and better ice

The ice-skating world is very enthusiastic about the cooperation of Wetsus with the ice-skating arena Thialf, Heerenveen. Over the next four years, Thialf, Innovation Lab Thialf and Wetsus will research how the quality of ice can be optimized. This is to improve skating performance, but also to see if the fastest ice in the world can be made in a more energy-efficient way. With the current energy costs, a very important issue for all ice rinks. The knowledge developed provides more insight into the physical properties of water, from which Wetsus' research program will benefit in general.

Thialf's ice has international prestige. The ice masters of Thialf work hard to maintain a good ice floor for long track, short track, ice hockey and figure skating. The big question for Wetsus, Thialf and Innovation Lab Thialf is how to control and optimize the grip and gliding properties. Controlling these properties will not only improve performance, and can also provide insight into whether Thialf can make ice in a more energy-efficient way.

Many experiments have been done over the years to create the most ideal ice conditions. Nevertheless, scientifically there is not much research on ice in relation to sports performance.

Part of this is a PhD research project and a set-up will be built that mimics Thialf's conditions.

Wetsus Congress 2023: your company at the demonstration floor?

We started preparing our next Wetsus Annual Congress, on Monday October 9 and Tuesday October 10, 2023. The theme will be: Environmental resilience to novel entities.

On Monday, we will have a range of keynote speakers, addressing the theme from their perspectives, and on Tuesday, Wetsus research is the core of 12 scientific sessions, both plenary and parallel. On both days, the 20th birthday of Wetsus will be celebrated in various ways.

During all the breaks, our valued demonstration floor will play a big part. The welcoming, coffee/tea breaks and the networking lunches will all be held surrounded by the presentations of our exhibitors.

You can already reserve your spot on the demo floor! Contact Roely.watzema@wetsus.nl for questions and reservation.



Calendar

Date: 10 March 2023: [Defense Shuyana Heredia and Catarina Simões](#)

Date: 20 April 2023: [Theme meetings and workshops \(members only\)](#)

Date: 8 May 2023: [WaterCampus Business Challenge](#)

Date: 21 September 2023: [Theme meetings \(members only\)](#)

Date: 9 and 10 October 2023: [Wetsus Congress](#)

Date: 23 November 2023: [Wetsus Members Only Congress](#)