

BIODIVERSITY DELTA PLAN: SHARED INTEREST & RESPONSIBILITY

Over 30 Dutch organisations active in nature conservation and business, including LTO have joined forces to protect and restore biodiversity in the Netherlands. The “Delta Plan Biodiversity” connect biodiversity and economy. The parties work together on restoring the variety of species, ecosystems and landscapes. www.samenvoorbiodiversiteit.nl.

Vision

In 2030, the green areas in the Netherlands has a rich biodiversity through soil life, plants, insects and farmland birds. The landscape sparkles with diversity and people like to live, work and enjoy the time there. Landscapes are recognizable by their design and vegetation. People identify with this and are proud of it. The coalition partners commit to contribute.

Why is this urgent?

Biodiversity has a significant role in the food chain. Soil vitality and soil life are strongly related. Insects are crucial for pollination and can help to control pests. However, biodiversity can only be achieved if all stakeholders work together and take responsibility.

Impact on farmers

The Delta Plan focuses on the three most important forms of land use in the Netherlands: nature, public space and agriculture. With regard to agriculture: Agricultural production systems on rich and healthy soils are circular and make use of functional biodiversity, supported by technological innovations. The quality of water, soil and water is good. Farmers produce high-quality and healthy products. Consumers and citizens appreciate the efforts of the farmers. Farmers receive a premium for their products based on their added value. This premium is based on valuation by independent researchers. Wageningen University has recently calculated the true cost of added biodiversity on dairy and arable farms (<https://edepot.wur.nl/501680>, English summary on page 8).

Five success factors

- A support base and shared values
- New income models: costs of restoring biodiversity should be recovered in the market.
- Enabling and coherent legislation
- New knowledge and innovation
- Regional co-operation between all land users

Examples of actions

- Supermarkets and other customers will work on a better position in the chain for farmers. Talks with Dutch retailers are still in progress on the premium to be paid to enable farmers to capture a fair share of the added value of more sustainable products.
- Rabobank to offer reduced interest rates to farmers contributing to recovering biodiversity.
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Dutch Inter-Branch Organisation for Arable Crops and Rabobank develop a biodiversity monitor helping farmers to get financially rewarded
- Nature association ‘Natuurmonumenten’ develops agricultural scan to identify initiatives and opportunities to achieve the goals of the Delta Plan in co-operation with farmers.
- Farmers will contribute to management and maintenance of public green areas and work on circularity on regional level.