

Agrifood and circularity - Your 2026 funding roadmap

Do not miss out on these grants and incentives

May 2026



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Agrifood and circularity – Relevant trends

- **Major transformation needed to meet 2050 nature and climate goals**
 - The Netherlands can achieve a greener landscape and meet EU nature, water, and climate targets by 2050, but this requires historic changes in agriculture—such as halving livestock, expanding nature areas, and investing heavily in new technologies or nature-inclusive farming—with urgent action and broad collaboration needed to succeed
- **Sustainability becomes the new standard in Dutch food**
 - By 2040, Dutch food producers compete on sustainability and health, with stricter regulations, transparent supply chains and rewards for sustainable practices. This drives a shift to plant-based diets, regenerative farming and circular food systems supported by digitalization and strong chain collaboration
- **Dutch plastics sector faces major circularity challenges**
 - Only 13% of plastics come from recycled content, with fragmented governance and low recycling efficiency across value chains. Coordinated action, stronger producer responsibility and sector-specific targets are urgently needed to accelerate the transition to a circular plastics economy

Funding roadmap 2026 - Opportunity selection



Relevant grants and incentives in 2026

Programs - Agrifood and circularity*	Description	SME only?	Estimated grant range	Funding rate	Deadline
EIA and MIA/Vamil	Dutch fiscal advantage opportunities for investments in innovative decarbonizing techniques and environment friendly techniques	No	10%-12% net benefit	Max. 45% eligible costs	Year-round
WBSO	Dutch fiscal scheme offering tax benefits for companies conducting R&D activities in innovative technologies and processes	No	Project specific	Max. 50% of eligible costs	Year-round
EFRO	Funds regional projects that boost innovation and economic growth through collaboration between businesses and research institutions	Yes	€250k - €2m	Up to 50%	Year-round
Kansen voor West	Funded by the European Regional Development Fund (EFRO). Supports projects in the Randstad that drive innovation, sustainability, and a transition to a circular, climate-neutral economy	No	Call dependent	Up to 50%	Year-round
EIC Accelerator	European innovation program that provides funding and support for SMEs and startups to scale up and bring high-impact, market-ready innovations to global markets	No	Max. €2.5m + €1-10m equity	Max. 70%	Short proposal: anytime Full proposal: 8 July 2026 2 September 2026 4 November 2026
EIT Food	An EU innovation initiative that funds projects and partnerships to accelerate sustainable food systems, improve nutrition, and foster innovation across the agri-food sector	Yes	~€100k - €1m	70%	Call dependent, multiple deadlines in Q3, Q4

Relevant grants and incentives in 2026

Programs - Agrifood and circularity*	Description	SME only?	Estimated grant range	Funding rate	Deadline
DEI+	Dutch program for sustainable energy investments, including renewable generation, energy efficiency, and innovative decarbonization technologies	No	Max. €30m	Max. 80%	30 July 2026 / 27 August 2026
EKOO: Biobased Circular	Dutch funding program, focusing on advancing innovations of the production of bio-polyesters based on biobased, carbohydrate-rich feedstocks	No	Max. €500k	40%-80%	20 August 2026
Eurostars	European funding program that supports innovative SMEs and their partners in collaborative international R&D projects aimed at developing new products, processes, or services for market introduction	Yes	€500k (NL)	Max. 50%	10 September 2026
Horizon Europe: Pillar II (CL 4, 5, 6)	Funds collaborative research and innovation projects focused on digital and industry (CL4), climate, energy and mobility (CL5), and food, bioeconomy, natural resources and environment (CL6) to address global challenges and EU priorities	No	Call dependent	Up to 70% or 100%	Call specific, next deadline: 15 and 17 September 2026
LIFE	European program that supports projects that protect the environment, promote climate action, and advance nature conservation and biodiversity across Europe	No	Call dependent	Max. 60% or 95%	22 September 2026
Circular Bio-based Europe	A Horizon Europe partnership that funds projects developing sustainable, circular bio-based solutions to replace fossil resources and strengthen Europe's bioeconomy	No	€1.2m - €20m	60%-100%	22 September 2026
DUMAVA	Dutch subsidy program that supports companies in implementing energy-saving measures and sustainability improvements in buildings to reduce CO ₂ emissions	No	Project costs dependent	70% or 100%	16 October 2026
Just Transition Fund (JTF)	EU funding program that supports regions most affected by the transition to a climate-neutral economy, financing projects that create new jobs, reskill workers, and promote sustainable economic diversification	No	Call dependent	Call dependent	Late 2026

Credential highlight: DEI+ – water saving

EY Grants & Incentives assisted an innovative micro-algae startup with a DEI+ application for water recycling.

Project details

A Dutch micro-algae producer was seeking to upscale its production capacity, while also reducing costs for resources.

- Sterile water is the primary cost driver for in-tank micro-algae cultivation
- The client designed an innovative cascaded filtering system (membrane and UV) to attain a 90% reduction in water usage
- The recycled water is sterile to 0.1 μm
- In addition, the system extracts valuable resources from wastewater such as proteins, phosphate, potassium, and nitrogen salts

How EY provided support

- EY has drafted the full application package for Client within 3 weeks
- The application package includes:
 - Project description
 - GHG calculations
 - Financial information
 - Market study



OUTCOME AND BENEFIT TO CLIENT

The project was awarded a grant of ~€800k by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency.

EY Grants & Incentives - approach and contact



Opportunity and risk assessment

Our international team of grants & incentives experts can aid you in mapping the right incentives for your operations. The ensuing long- and shortlists focus on timing, feasibility and value and help to devise an appropriate funding strategy. Additionally, compliance experts from our Subsidy Audit Services can identify potential compliance breaches early - contributing towards prevention of potential clawbacks.



End-to-end support

Our experienced team is well-versed all things grants and incentives. Deep technical and subject matter expertise helps to draft compelling, strong funding applications, whereas our knowledge of funding rules and regulations helps to optimize compliance processes.

Our Grants & Incentives services can consist of 1. aligning with your needs, 2. mapping opportunities, 3. deciding and prioritizing, 4. applying and submitting, and 5. ensuring compliance and follow-up.



Governance

As one of the world's largest business advisors we know how organizations work. Our in-house experience and track-record with servicing the largest firms in G&I applications helps us to define efficient, effective processes that ensure 1. timely identification of benefits, 2. efficient application for benefits and 3. effective retention of benefits. We help to define G&I governance processes - be it local, regional or global.



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