

# **Agrifood and circularity - Your 2026 funding roadmap**

**Do not miss out on these grants and incentives**

**January 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          |
|--|--|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 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 |
| 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%   | TBA               |
| DUMAVA                                 | Dutch subsidy program that supports companies in implementing energy-saving measures and sustainability improvements in buildings to reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions  | No        | Project costs dependent | 70% or 100%       | TBA               |
| 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       | €250k - €750k           | 70%               | TBA               |
| DEI+                                   | Dutch program for sustainable energy investments, including renewable generation, energy efficiency, and innovative decarbonization technologies   | No        | Max. €30m               | Max. 80%          | August 2026       |
| Uppwater                               | A Dutch subsidy program that supports projects focused on innovative water purification and wastewater treatment technologies to enhance sustainability and reduce environmental impact  | No        | €1.5m - €2m             | Max. 30%          | 23 January 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 dependent    |
| Just Transition Fund                   | 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    | Call dependent    |

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| 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      |
| 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%                    | April or August |
| 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      |

# 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  $\mu\text{m}$
- 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.

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