

# Agrifood and circularity - Your 2026 funding roadmap

Do not miss out on these grants and incentives

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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

# Relevant grants and incentives in 2026

Programs - Agrifood and circularity*	Description	SME only?	Estimated grant range	Funding rate	Deadline
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 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.

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