

## PA #11 The Dutch Bioeconomy and supporting knowledge on the transition to a local circular bioeconomy

The Biobased Economy occupies an important place in the circular economy and is an extensive joint task for government, industry and knowledge institutions. It offers new opportunities for business and may become one of the spearheads of the national economy. Especially as the Netherlands is strong in chemistry, agro-food and logistics, the Biobased Economy is one of the ways in which the Netherlands can achieve green growth.

### State of the bioeconomy in the Netherlands: what has been achieved so far?



Figure 11: Dutch Rural Area

Thanks to its well-developed agricultural, transport and chemical sectors, the Netherlands has laid extremely solid foundations for the development of a successful bioeconomy. Existing sustainability agreements between these sectors within the scope of the Top Sector Policy and the energy transition offer solid footholds for the development of the bioeconomy. Examples of this include the 'Green Deals', within which agreements have been made concerning the production of bio-based chemicals, biopolymers, biofuels and electricity. In this regard, attention is being paid to the development of sustainable chains, with a particular focus on the development of business models and removing legislative

obstacles. In the Netherlands, around 1,200 companies are active in the bio-based economy, most of which are in the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector. A quarter of these businesses develop and manufacture bio-based materials and chemicals. In comparison, there are approximately 55,000 businesses in the agricultural sector, several hundred in the fishing industry and over 4,000 in the food and food-processing sectors. New businesses can help boost the bioeconomy, as newcomers tend to invest significantly in innovative production.

### Remove legislative and regulatory barriers to biomass production

The central government supports the development of the biobased economy. With various measures and funding.

### Stimulating research and development

Industry and central government are jointly investing in the biobased economy. They do so by investing hundreds of millions of euros in research and development. This agreement is laid down in an innovation contract biobased economy. One action resulting from this contract is the establishment of a Top Consortium for Knowledge and Innovation Biobased Economy, where scientists and entrepreneurs work together on research.



Figure 2: Dutch Field

