



# **Congratulations!**

Allan Karlsson had an eventful past – and many new adventures starting with his 100th birthday





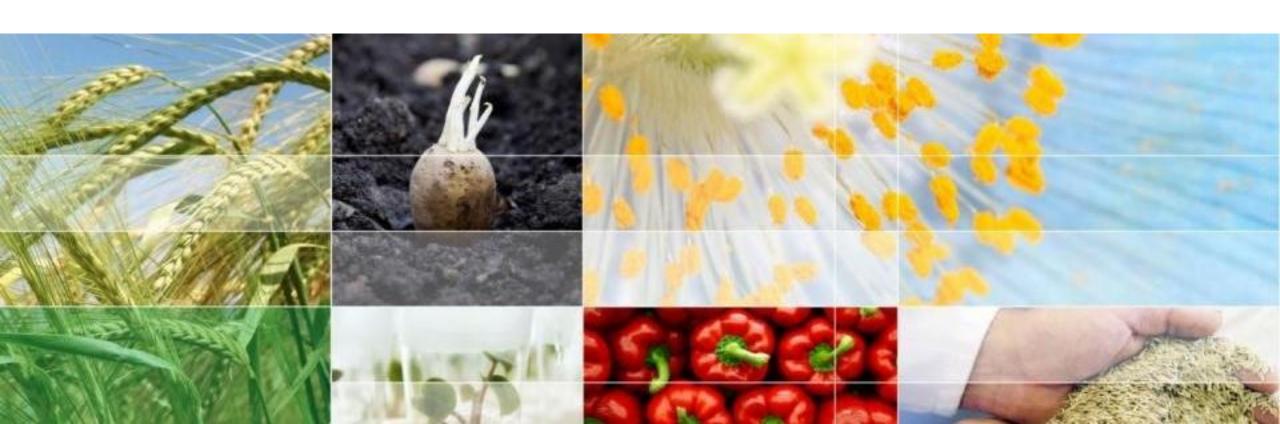
Euroopa Maaelu Arengu Põllumajandusfond: Euroopa investeeringud maapiirkondadesse



# Trends in breeding and seeds in Europe

Estonia, 29.10.2020

**Dr. Niels Louwaars, Director** 



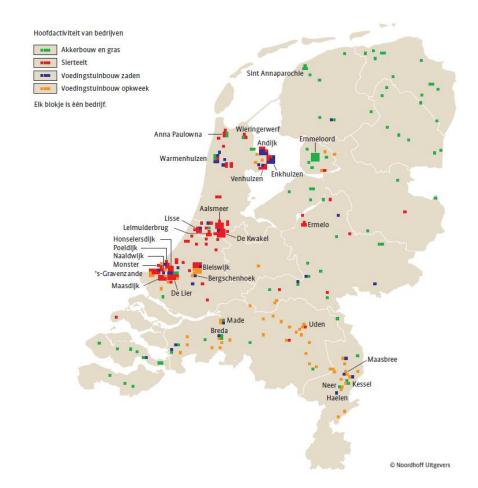
### **Dutch sector**



- ≥300 companies
- **▶**1200 jobs
- ≥3 billion € export

#### Success factors:

- 200 years of entrepreneurship
- Knowledge infrastructure
- Effective policy institutions
  - Phytosanitary controls
  - Quality control
  - Breeder's Rights



## Seeds: basis for the green economy



- Plantum focuses on key criteria
  - Policies that support innovation
  - Market access: Phyto/seed legislation
  - Sustainability: Crop protection, Social Responsibility, employment conditions
  - Visibility of the sector: in support of policy work and also job market/education



### Important new trends in Europe



# European Green Deal

- Become climate neutral
- Cut pollution
- Clean products/technologies
- Just and inclusive transition



## For agriculture . . . . Breeding!!!



- Adaptation to climate change
  - Tolerance to drought, salt, temperature and water stress
  - Resistance to new diseases and pests (eg mild winters)
- Cut back on chemicals (including organics)
  - disease resistance is key
  - guaranteed healthy seed becomes even more important

## Opportunities but also challenges



Plant breeding is at the top of the agenda of agricultural transitions

#### BUT:

- Breeding takes (a lot of) time
- Producing disease free seed often requires (seed treatment) chemicals

#### SO:

 Breeders are a main source of the required innovation – and need to innovate themselves as well.

## Innovation – opportunities



- Research:
  - horizon Europe
  - national funding
  - public-private partnerships
  - attracting bright people to the sector
  - creating crossovers
  - creating partnerships



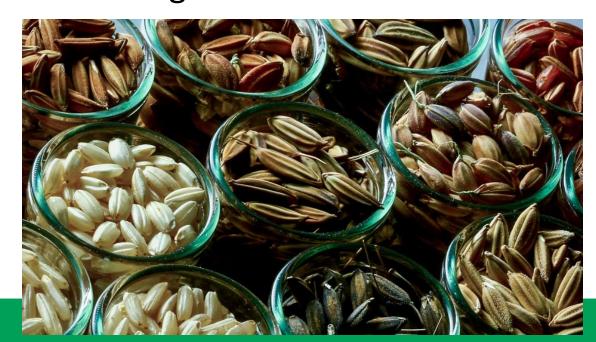
### **Innovation bottlenecks**



 Research collaborations: Horizon Europe / National funding / publicprivate partnerships / attracting bright people to the sector

Access to Genetic Resources – Nagoya Protocol: genebanks!





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- Intellectual property: Plant Breeder's Rights!... and patents?





### **Innovation bottlenecks**



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- Access to Genetic Resources Nagoya Protocol: genebanks!
- Intellectual property: Plant Breeder's Rights!... and patents?
- Modern breeding methods (gene editing) EU-regulations / licenses







## Supporting the sector

Plantum

- Research infrastructure and education of plant scientists
  - ETP plants for the Future
- DUS-facilities for registration and breeder's rights
- Quality control institutions
- Phytosanitary authorities
- Seed Association Plantum
  - Euroseeds
  - International Seed Federation





# **Sector organisations**



Provide a platform for discussion

- Represent the sector towards government, politics and society
  - Regulations
  - Implementation of regulations
  - Support (eg in international market access)



Provide services to the members







"On, nagu on, ja tuleb, mis tuleb"

I wish the institute and all of you an adventurous future!!

Congratulations!

