Netherlands Enterprise Agency

Annual Report **Innovation Missions 2025**

Content

Introduction

Innovation missions are an essential instrument for realising the ambitions of the Dutch Government's Mission-Driven Topsector and Innovation Policy and, increasingly, the priorities set out in the new National Technology Strategy (NTS). By engaging with leading innovation ecosystems abroad, we position the Netherlands as a preferred partner for strategic cooperation in key technologies that strengthen our economic resilience and our ability to address global challenges in climate, health, agriculture, security and digitalisation.

This report presents a concise overview of the innovation missions organised in 2025 in collaboration with the Netherlands Innovation Network (NIN) and the Netherlands Agricultural Network (LAN).

Missions in 2025

With funding and support from the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Climate Policy and Green Growth, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature, the Innovation Missions team organised 23 missions to 15 countries, enabling Dutch companies, knowledge institutions, and government bodies to connect with international partners working on technologies that align with the NTS – such as semiconductors, quantum, AI, photonics, biotechnology, and sustainable materials.

These missions contributed to building strategic long-term partnerships, strengthening innovation chains, and opening doors for Dutch organisations in areas where technological leadership is crucial for the Netherlands.

The missions are grouped under the following themes:

Key Enabling Technologies

Biotech & Medtech

Energy Transition & Sustainability

Cyber, Defence & Water Security

Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality

Benefits

Innovation missions deliver concrete and immediate value to participants, including:

- **Insight into global developments in priority NTS technologies**
- **Access to potential partners and leading R&D ecosystems**
- **Understanding of local policy, regulation, and investment agendas**
- **Guidance on connecting to international funding instruments**
- **Growth of international networks and strategic alliances**

Thank you for reading

We look forward to continuing our contribution to the National Technology Strategy through another impactful year of innovation missions in 2026.

Gabriëlle van Zoeren

Managing Director International Innovation

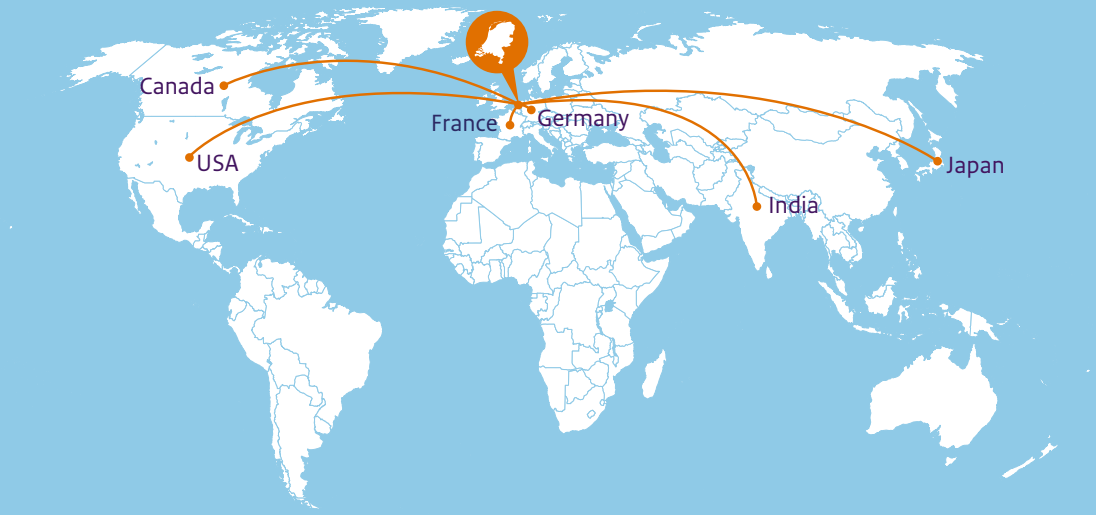
Overview

Ministry of Economic Affairs

Topic	Country	Date
Regenerative medicine	USA	6 – 11 Apr
Quantum technology	Germany	7 – 8 Oct
Cyber security	France	30 Mar – 3 Apr
Semicon	India	2 – 7 Mar
AI / Data in Privacy Enhancing Technologies	Japan	21 – 28 May
Photonics	Signapore	19 – 23 May
Neuromorphic Computing	UK	24 – 27 Mar
Quantum technology	Sweden	20 – 24 May
Future of compute	UK	10 – 13 Nov

Overview

Ministry of Climate Policy and Green Growth



Topic	Country	Date
Clean hydrogen	India	8 – 13 Sep
Offshore wind	Japan	21 – 25 Sep
Liquid hydrogen	USA and Canada	17 – 21 Nov
Nuclear technologies	USA and Canada	30 Nov – 5 Dec
Nuclear technologies	France	2 – 5 Jun
CCU and biobased chemistry	Germany	30 Jun – 4 Jul

Overview

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature

Topic	Country	Date
Smart farming	Belgium	2 – 4 Dec
Digitalization & Water Scarcity in Agriculture	Spain	16 – 19 Jun
Sustainable & Digital Fisheries	USA	16 – 21 Nov
Manure processing and valorization	Italy	19 – 21 May
Climate, sustainability and digitalization of agriculture & livestock farming	Denmark and Sweden	23 – 26 Jun
Climate adaptation in agriculture: technological and data-driven solutions	Brasil	29 Sep – 3 Oct
Innovative climate & water smart solutions for open cultivation	Egypt	18 – 22 May
Bio-Control/Bio-Input	Switzerland and Germany	20 – 22 Oct

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Missions

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Outbound missions

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Countries

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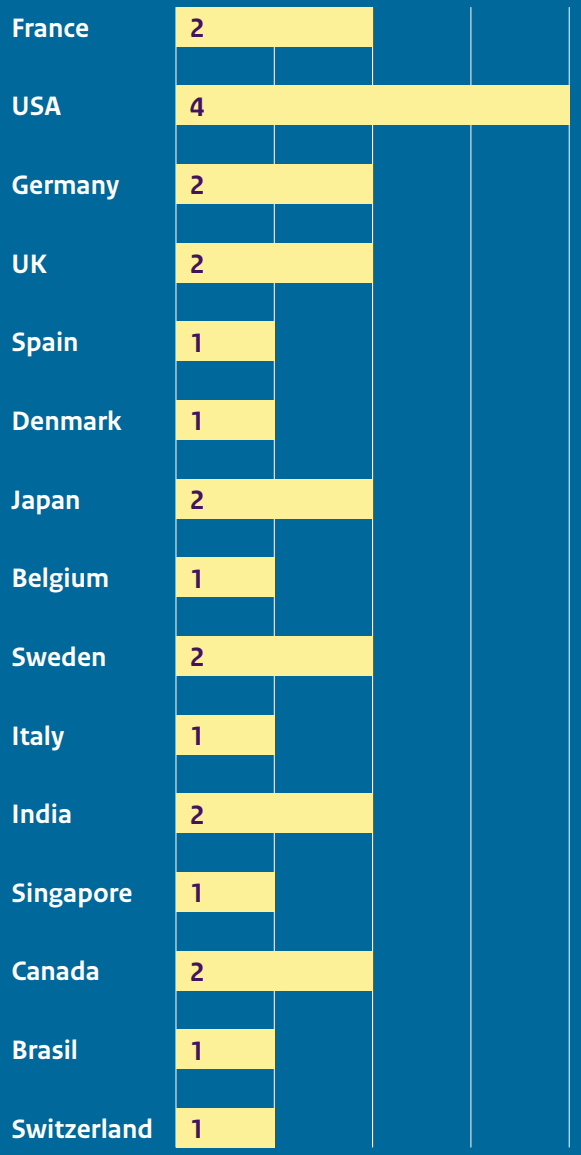
Topsectors



Contribution to National Growth Fund Projects

NXT GEN hightech

PhotonDelta

Quantum Delta NL

REGMEDXB

BioBased Circular

CropXR

Contribution to the topsectors

Topsector Agri & Food

Topsector Chemie

NL Holland High Tech
Global Challenges. Smart Solutions

TOPSECTOR TUINBOUW & UITGANGSMATERIALEN

NL Health~Holland

DIGITAL HOLLAND
where innovation starts

TOPSECTOR ENERGIE
Empowering the new economy

Contribution to SDGs

Overview innovation missions

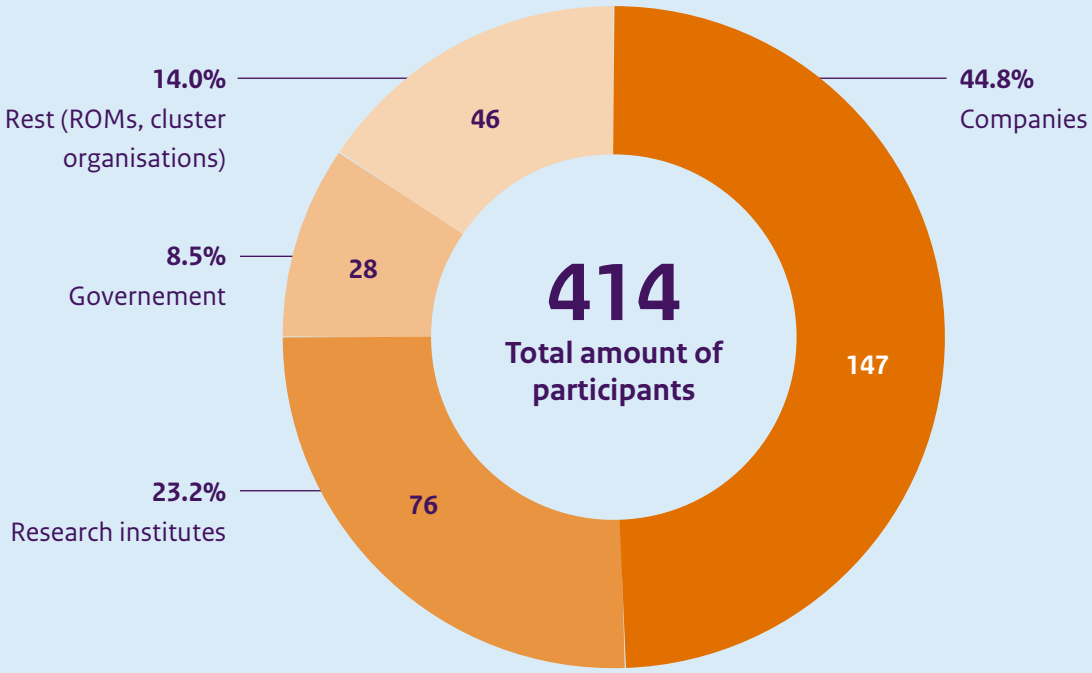
Ministry		#	Country	Participants	Average new contacts per participants
Ministry of Economic Affairs	Cyber security	1	France	16	23
	Key Enabling Technologies	7	Japan, Germany, Sweden, UK, India and Singapore	156	16
	Life Sciences & Health	1	USA	24	9
Ministry of Climate Policy and Green Growth	Energy Transition & Sustainability	6	India, Japan, USA, Canada, Germany and France	130	16
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature, and Food Quality	Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality	8	Belgium, Spain, USA, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Brasil and Egypt	88	15

Overview innovation missions*

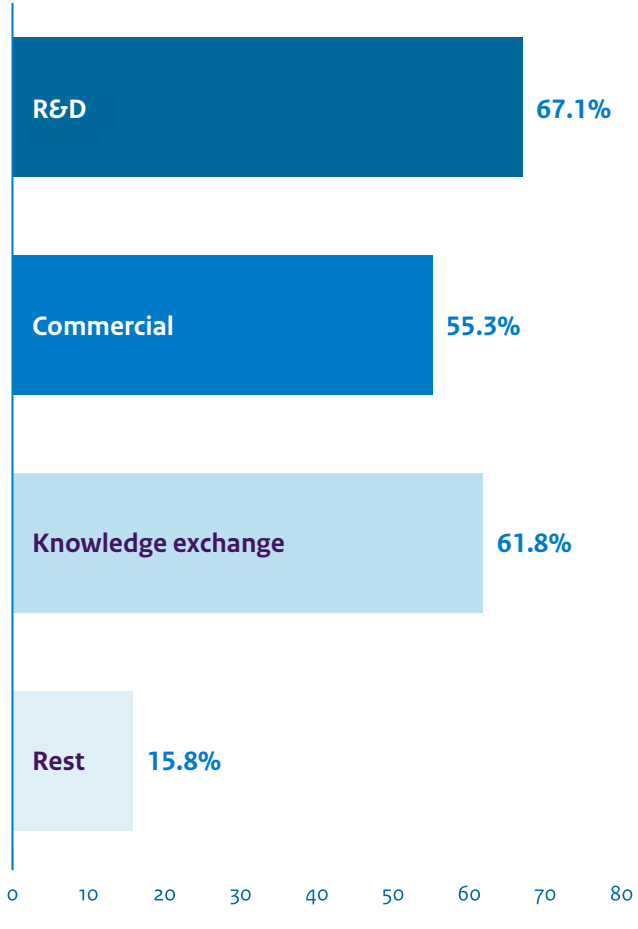
*based on input by those particpants who completed the survey

Average rating per mission	Average new contacts per participant	Average amount of participants per mission
8.5	16	18

Innovation missions 2025



Follow-up activities



Mission Highlights **Energy Transition & Sustainability**

Country + topic	Key takeaways	Participants	Avarage rating	Average new contacts per participants
India Clean hydrogen	• India will play a massive role for Dutch companies in scaling up and deploying novel technologies. There is a massive opportunity for Dutch companies in establishing an entity in India and paralleling developing its technology with Indian stakeholders. • Having the option to join the hydrogen valley project to start a pilot facility in India. India has a clear hydrogen strategy supported from the government. • This hydrogen ambition results in subsidy tenders to construct GW electrolyser manufacturing plants. • Followed with huge subsidy tenders to produce large quantities of green ammonia.	**10**	**9.3**	**37**
Japan Offshore wind	• Importance of face to face interaction to gain understanding of where opportunities for cooperation are. • Follow up may be difficult because of the distance, but worthwhile because of the complementarity in both offshore wind and hydrogen developments. • We need to cooperate and all companies that are involved should communicate together, also the raw material supplier should be involved.	**30**	**8.0**	**23**

Mission Highlights **Energy Transition & Sustainability**

Country + topic	Key takeaways	Participants	Avarage rating	Average new contacts per participants
USA and Canada Liquid hydrogen	• It was a very valuable and useful innovation mission to the US and Canada. We had the opportunity to meet many relevant new partners and gained insight into the opportunities that both regions have to invest in export of blue hydrogen and ammonia. RVO, embassies, consulates and NBSOs have done a wonderdul job hosting and supporting us. • Insights into the business environment and research developments of Edmonton and Houston. Plus the insights of the NL position of policy and business proposition regarding H2 (carrier) development. • Opportunities for knowledge collaboration and both US and Canada partners are very open for business.	**8**	**8.5**	**16**
USA and Canada Nuclear technologies	• The mission was extremely valuable and well organized. The reception at the ambassador's residence was particularly inspiring and provided excellent opportunities to make high-level contacts. The site visits provided a much better understanding of the scale of the projects and the people involved, which was very insightful. Thanks to the meetings and discussions, concrete agreements were made and promising contacts were established that may lead to future collaboration and projects. The entire experience was intense but thoroughly worthwhile. • The innovation mission provided a good overview of the nuclear energy activities and strategies in Canada and the US, and was also a good opportunity to build and strengthen relations in the Dutch nuclear ecosystem. • In order to build a large nuclear eco system, one has to learn from the existing ones in order to avoid duplications. This will save time, energy and money in the long run.	**24**	**8.8**	**16**

Mission Highlights **Energy Transition & Sustainability**

Country + topic	Key takeaways	Participants	Avarage rating	Average new contacts per participants
France Nuclear technologies	• Strengthen European cooperation on Nuclear Energy. • Localization through globalization at the European level is a new mindset that we need to embrace. • The French have a well organized nuclear sector that creates great opportunities for both the established and newcomer companies. The education possibilities are numerous and fulfil a significant role in the nuclear ecosystem. The manufacturing industry is well advanced, though some innovation challenges exist. • Developing a sustainable supply chain is crucial. A lot of focus needs to be on improving public perception and acceptance of new nuclear - when this is achieved, all the other topics such as funding, financing, risks, insurances, supply chain, knowledge management and deployment of new nuclear will be boosted. • French can be self-reliant on virtually all aspects of nuclear value chain, owing to its long history and strategic autonomy. Yet, there can be areas where NL can provide value to FR companies, especially related to expanding their manufacturing supply chain, and their innovation power.	**31**	**8.3**	**21**

Mission Highlights **Energy Transition & Sustainability**

Country + topic	Key takeaways	Participants	Avarage rating	Average new contacts per participants
Germany CCU and biobased chemistry	• We could even gain more if we look for a systemic approach. Why look at biobased chemistry and CCU as separate solutions while we need both and should discuss what fossil feedstock/product combinations fits well with what technique and how can we build a system on that. • Networking in person is still the most effective way to learn new things, meet new people and identify potential business/cooperations. • Germany appears more willing to provide subsidy and state funding for scale ups even if market and industry are not ready. • Germany has several regional initiatives to support spin-offs from universities/ research institute, e.g. Chemical Invention Factory in Berlin, Chemstars in NRW region. • In Germany the (governmental) investments are almost 10 times higher than in Netherlands and they don't focus (yet) on writing documents, policy notes and agendas but directly invest in programmes and projects.	22	8.5	17

Mission Highlights **Key Enabling Technologies**

Country + topic	Key takeaways	Participants	Avarage rating	Average new contacts per participants
Germany Quantum technnology	• How advanced the manufacturing technologies are we have seen at the different visits. • Quantum Sensing and communication are getting more mature. • European supply chain is a key aspect for the current partners of Eagle-Next, which puts Single Quantum Germany in a pole position to become the selected supplier of detectors.	17	8.4	17
France Cyber security	• Big disconnect between board level decision makers and executive teams. Different approach in France compared to the NL. • The cyber security ecosystems of France and the Netherlands share many common challenges and opportunities.	16	7.9	20
India Semicon	• Great insight in Indian eco system. Good insight in willingness Indian government to cooperate. • India offers a strong ecosystem for the future of the semiconductor industry. With its vast talent pool, supportive government policies, and growing infrastructure, the country is well-positioned for innovation.	10	8.6	23

Mission Highlights **Key Enabling Technologies**

Country + topic	Key takeaways	Participants	Avarage rating	Average new contacts per participants
Japan AI / Data in Privacy Enhancing Technologies	• There is certainly a common ground for collaboration. We face similar challenges, but also believe in Smart Industry solutions, and share similar values on how to use technology. • The Japanese innovation ecosystem has to deal with the same challenges as we do. There is a shortage in the labor market, we are squeezed between the US and China and need to innovate to remain competitive. Current geopolitics almost forces us to work together more often. This is something that we can work on, despite the geographical distance between Japan and the Netherlands.	14	8.2	15
Singapore Photonics	• Singapore is a great potential partner. The people are open and eager to connect/collaborate, as far as I can judge now. • The only way to do business in Singapore is to be constantly present with a technical representative. I have visited the country twice before and did not find any commercial opportunities. This trip changed that, mostly because our name had become associated with a face and I had warm contacts who were ready to make introductions. The embassy and RVO also facilitated this.	18	8.2	11

Mission Highlights **Key Enabling Technologies**

Country + topic	Key takeaways	Participants	Avarage rating	Average new contacts per participants
UK Neuromorphic Computing	• We need to do work in identifying key applications, demos for enthusiasts where neuromorphic computing makes sense and further develop those. This should be done with the full stack being taken into account and in a manner that it can be easily shared with the community. • Neuromorphic is still emerging field, and both academic and industry like to explore but the real belief is not there yet. It requires convincing research to identify where NM stands out. • 1. RVO missions bring high value to the business if aligned strategically with the objective of the company. 2. Our products are well aligned with neuromorphic computing (AI) agenda and are trailblazing. We should continue investing in this direction to maintain market leadership.	**24**	**8.8**	**14**
Sweden Quantum technology	• Innovation requires three things: an important/relevant problem that needs solving, a good (future) solution by a great team, and the knowhow (experience, mindset, etc.) to get things done. The last part may actually be overlooked quite often. • Quantum Technology is maturing and will make an impact in the foreseeable future (2029-2032). Unfortunately, it is still unclear which quantum technology will emerge as “the winner” and which application will benefit first.	**11**	**8.3**	**14**
UK Future of Compute	• Better understanding of GenAI challenges and opportunities. Handfull (which is very good score) of valuable contacts for collaboration. • Connected with Dutch ecosystem (being the same delegation in a foreign country seems to foster a sense of community that you would not get inside NL), found potential collaborator in the UK.	**46**	**8.8**	**15**

Mission Highlights **Key Enabling Technologies**

Country + topic	Key takeaways	Participants	Avarage rating	Average new contacts per participants
USA Regenerative Medicine	• Collaboration, networking, and engaging with experts should be a priority for every startup and science-based company. Participating in missions like this accelerates those connections and opens up new opportunities that wouldn't have been possible otherwise. • Innovation and development can go much faster with a more dedicated focus, something we in Europe can learn from. • The field of regenerative medicine is very broad (gene/cell therapy to tissue and organs), which means that for the field to mature and thrive, a lot of disciplines need to come together.	**24**	**8.4**	**9**

Mission Highlights **Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security & Nature**

Country + topic	Key takeaways	Participants	Avarage rating	Average new contacts per participants
Egypt Innovative climate & water smart solutions for open cultivation	• Very fragmented agricultural business from small holder farms to extremely big farms. A lot to gain in farming practices and technology/equipment. Water is the biggest challenge. • Participating in this mission provided several key takeaways. First, it offered valuable, on-the-ground insight into Egypt's current market demands in the agricultural and educational sectors, enabling us to better align our offerings with local needs. Second, it significantly broadened Aeres' network, establishing connections with influential stakeholders and opening doors to strategic collaborations. Lastly, the mission highlighted the strong interest in Dutch expertise, particularly in training, knowledge transfer, and capacity building.	**12**	**7.8**	**9**
Italy Manure Processing & Valorisation	• Highly developed and strong region with a bright future for agriculture. Government priorities also include agricultural prospects, much more so than in the Netherlands. • We may face policy challenges in the Netherlands now. However, this is short-term, and in the long run, we will embrace a sustainable livestock farming sector through the implementation of various innovations. • Livestock farming in Northern Italy is large-scale and relatively more land-based than in the Netherlands. Farms are large enough to operate their own biogas plants (in the Netherlands, often in cooperatives). A transition from biogas to biomethane (green gas) is currently underway. Several companies process digestate. Environmental issues are similar to those in the Netherlands, but fewer restrictions on agriculture are imposed, leading to a greater preference for agriculture.	**14**	**8.4**	**7**

Mission Highlights **Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security & Nature**

Country + topic	Key takeaways	Participants	Avarage rating	Average new contacts per participants
Spain Digitalization & Water Scarcity in Agriculture	• Spain is very dry and much more advanced in irrigation aspects than the Netherlands. I do see strategic differences where Spain could possibly still learn from the Netherlands. • Water scarcity is an issue that needs to be addressed in a broad manner, combining many different stakeholders. It needs regulations and guidance. It is also something that introduces new challenges, like the discharge of brine. By addressing desalination, new R&D steps are likely to be required to solve the issue around brine.	**18**	**9.0**	**17**
Denmark Climate, sustainability and digitalization of agriculture & livestock farming	• That the Netherlands is still front runner of innovation in agriculture, but we can learn from Danish government about how to move forward. • Danish farmers share data and cooperate much better than Dutch farmers; Calves can be kept together with a few foster cows in a Kindergarten. • Very interesting and inspiring to see both policy setting in Denmark on agriculture, and how this plays out at the farm level. • Danish farmers work closely with the government and environmental groups. They tackle challenges together and are open to adapting.	**16**	**8.2**	**11**

Mission Highlights **Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security & Nature**

Country + topic	Key takeaways	Participants	Avarage rating	Average new contacts per participants
Switzerland / Germany Bio-Control / Bio-Inputs	• Exploratory mission and a trilateral dialogue with stakeholders from Switzerland en Germany to explore cooperation in research and development of bio-control. • These 3 countries are leading in creating sustainable crop protection, with highly demanding consumers and leading players in agriculture, industry and research. • Nevertheless, the transition towards sustainable crop protection is moving too slow, and yet conventional crop protection products are becoming less available. Cooperation with strong partners is needed to advance and accelerate. • The dialogue session at the ABIM conference was constructive and next steps in research, financing and a full-fledged innovation mission are taken.	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Brazil Climate adaptation in agriculture: technological and data-driven solutions	• The Brazilian agritech ecosystem is designed to provide a short path from idea generation to commercial implementation, with a strong focus on sustainable agriculture. • International collaboration forms the cornerstone of generating new opportunities to grow the sustainable production sector (including technology services' export) for the Netherlands (and Sweden). • Brazil is an interesting country to collaborate with. Everything is big in Brazil, there are a lot of possibilities. A lot of development on several areas, mainly in technologies. My impression is that there are a lot of initiatives in Brazil but the eco-system is not very coherent. (a lot of different, not yet connected islands). • For us it was good to participate. specially in Brazil, because we wanted to understand the situation and market in Brazil.	**9**	**9.0**	**16**

Mission Highlights **Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security & Nature**

Country + topic	Key takeaways	Participants	Avarage rating	Average new contacts per participants
USA Sustainable & Digital Fisheries	• Joining an embassy organised session can be very effective. Joining with a group of industry representatives is stimulating for all sorts of discussions. • That fishing on the West Coast of the United States is large-scale and that high operational costs and the fishing industry's reputation are putting pressure on the business model. And that the start-up and investment climate is more favorable than in the Netherlands. • Collaboration between business, research/education, and government is well-organized. Business plays a leading role in this. It's important that the ecosystem is sufficiently large and robust, and that a few parties/companies initially take the lead.	**9**	**9.0**	**7**
Belgium Smart farming	• Very valuable; it provided a clear overview of developments in Belgium and resulted in many relevant contacts. • Belgium and the Netherlands have a long-standing history of cooperation. Communication lines are short, and this mission once again highlighted the strong common ground for further collaboration. • The days were inspiring, with technical experts providing valuable insights and direction to remain at the forefront as an agricultural entrepreneur (vegetable grower). • We experienced an intensive, interesting, and valuable 2.5-day programme in Belgium in a positive atmosphere. The mission was well organised, and we received a warm welcome at the institutes and companies visited. • I found the mission valuable due to the new connections established and the insights gained into Smart Farming and Robotics in Belgium. I see clear opportunities for both education and research, and follow-up meetings have been scheduled.	**18**	**7.6**	**12**

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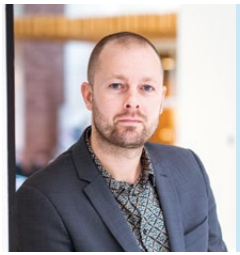

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For an overview of the Netherlands Innovation Network, please visit the page:
Netherlands Innovation Network | RVO.nl (https://english.rvo.nl/topics/international-network/netherlands-innovation-network)

For an overview of the Agriculture Attaché Network please visit the page:
Netherlands Agricultural Network (LAN) | RVO.nl (https://english.rvo.nl/topics/international-network/agricultural-network)

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