

Challenge opportunity: More Crop per Drop



global specialist in horticulture

Background:

How can we retain & reuse more freshwater in greenhouses? Are you a creative enthusiast who wants to test new ideas? Then be sure to apply to this Challenge!

For a long time the Dutch water sector had the mindset to move water as fast as possible to the sea. Out of sight, out of mind. However, with the growing agricultural water requirements and the increasing legislation on the discharge of drain water there has been a shift in this mindset. How can we retain the freshwater as long as possible and use it for crop production?

There are many levels on how to retain freshwater. It can be done at the level of the waterboard where the sewage water is treated so it can be reused in the greenhouses. It can also be done on the level of a grower where rainwater basins collect the water from the roof. There are various technologies nowadays that dehumidify the air in which the water can be collected. We are looking for alternatives to save water. Simple and/or smart solutions to get more crop per drop.

Royal Brinkman has started the WaterInnovator program to support & accelerate water innovations in the horticultural sector. Through this we encourage creative individuals and teams, with a passion for prototyping and product development, to come up with new ways to get more out of water. The WaterInnovator provides the tools and testing facilities for students to test and demonstrate their ideas.

Research questions:

- *What other cost-effective solutions are there to save more water in the greenhouses?*
 - *What are the prerequisites of these solutions?*
 - *Design and develop a first prototype.*

The main goal is to develop new products which can be used cost-effectively by greenhouse growers to reuse and/or retain more freshwater.

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