



Rabobank SDG Report 2017

Rabobank's contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals



Growing a better world together



Introduction

As a leading Food & Agri bank whose mission is 'Growing a better world together' Rabobank wants to achieve impact in society on the issue of sufficient sustainably produced and healthy food for the growing world population.

The food industry faces the challenge of producing food for at least 9 billion people in 2050. At the same time, agriculture has major climate impacts, the availability of suitable agricultural land is falling, and agricultural yields are vulnerable to climate change.

In this SDG report we demonstrate how Rabobank contributed to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations in 2017, with a special focus on the themes of Climate Smart Agriculture and Reducing Food Waste. Rabobank considers these themes to be key instruments to help achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the decades to come.

In addition to our efforts on these two themes, we consider SDG 17 to be key (Partnerships for the Goals), since we are convinced that the objectives of the United Nations can only be achieved when companies, NGOs, non-profit organisations and governments work together. Rabobank already collaborates intensively with organisations including UN Environment, World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and many other clients and organisations. Together with WWF, in 2017 Rabobank organised a conference entitled 'Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17: what makes a partnership successful?' The conference focused on the sustainable collaboration which the bank and the environmental organisation started six years ago, and on the role of entrepreneurs in making food production more sustainable.



Our mission is 'Growing a better world together'. Therefore it's natural for Rabobank to embrace the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and to work with our clients to focus on accelerating sustainable food production.

Foreword

As a bank whose mission is 'Growing a better world together' it's natural for Rabobank to embrace the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and to work with our clients to focus on accelerating sustainable food production.

Rabobank currently lends EUR 98 billion to Food & Agri businesses. We finance major Food & Agri clients in 40 countries and help 4.9 million smallholders in Africa, Asia and Latin America through the project partners of the Rabobank Foundation. But financing is not our only purpose. We believe that we can grow a better world together if we focus specifically on those issues for which we can make a difference together with our clients. Helping to feed the world more sustainably is one of the most urgent priorities.

That's why in October 2017 we launched our Kickstart Food programme and its four sub-themes Earth, Waste, Nutrition and Stability. These are the themes in respect of which we want to work with our clients all over the world to contribute to achieving a sustainable food supply.

In the new partnership with UN Environment we aim to make a 1 billion US dollar facility available to help farmers switch to more sustainable and climate smart farming methods. In this way we aim to contribute to increasing food production by at least 60% in 2050 and halving the climate footprint to feed over 9 billion people in 2050. We've already started our Kickstart Earth programme in Brazil and will launch Kickstart Waste in Europe in March 2018.

I'm honoured to have been invited to join the [Champions 12.3 coalition](#) at the World Economic Forum in 2016 as I believe this coalition is a crucial lever to make the world food supply more sustainable.

When I announced Rabobank's Kickstart Food at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development in October 2017, we received compliments for our initiative in speaking



out on the global food issue. And some parties directly signed up to Kickstart Food. To help accelerate sustainable food production across the world we need more companies to join us: from farm input companies through to farmers and to food retailers. Therefore, I invite you to read this report, support our ambition and join us in Growing a better world together.

Wiebe Draijer
Chairman of the Managing Board

Our contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The UN Sustainable Development Goals were drawn up to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity and well-being for all. This new global sustainable development agenda must be achieved before 2030.

As a cooperative bank wanting to realise social impact and with a mission Growing a better world together, Rabobank feels a responsibility to make a meaningful contribution to achieving the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. Which is why we have embedded our contribution to the SDGs in our strategic ambitions. Rabobank contributes to realising the SDGs through financial support, sharing knowledge and bringing parties

together. Our Banking for Food and Banking for the Netherlands strategies and our Sustainably Successful Together programme ensure that the SDGs are embedded in our strategic ambitions and that we have a direct impact on their achievement. Indirectly we also contribute through Rabobank Foundation, Rabo Rural Fund and Rabo Development projects. Through Kickstart Earth, Rabobank and its clients and partners support initiatives aimed at promoting climate smart farming methods. Kickstart Waste is helping Rabobank to put the subject of food waste on the agenda and to highlight the efforts we are making together with clients and partners to find solutions to contribute to halving food waste by 2030.

The infographic on page 5 shows how we are working towards reaching the goals. The goals to which we are making a primary contribution are enlarged in the infographic, relevant SDGs are coloured in, and the SDGs on which we have limited impact are shown in grey. The link with our visions Banking for Food and Banking for the Netherlands is also shown.

Our efforts are designed to maximise our positive impact on the SDGs. We are also taking clear proactive action to reduce our negative impact. For instance, by excluding certain activities. It is our policy not to finance the exploration and production of shale gas and other non-conventional fossil natural resources (tar sand oil, shale oil and shale gas, or coalseam gas). We also exclude the extraction of coal for power generation, financing of coal fired power plants and extraction of gas below the Wadden Sea from our activities.

Achieving impact on the SDGs cannot be seen in isolation. It requires a holistic approach. The interconnectedness of the goals is key to optimising the impact of the SDGs. We examine this in more detail in the case studies on Climate Smart Agriculture and Reducing Food Waste.

The [appendix](#) shows a total overview of the SDGs and our contribution to each of them.

Mission

Growing a better world together

Ambition

Substantial contribution towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Positioning

A courageous bank promoting prosperity and well-being through decisive action

Strategies

Banking for Food



Banking for the Netherlands



KICKSTART FOOD

Facilitate sufficient sustainably produced and healthy food for the growing world population

• Kickstart Earth
• Kickstart Waste
• Kickstart Stability
• Kickstart Nutrition

Kickstart Self-sufficiency

Kickstart Living environment

Kickstart Entrepreneurship

Climate Smart Agriculture

Reduce the scale of Food Waste

1 No poverty

- Rabobank Foundation is investing **€ 28 mln** towards reducing poverty¹.
- Positive impact on **4.9 mln small holders** in developing countries and **619,565 vulnerable people** in the Netherlands¹.

2 Zero hunger

- Rabobank is investing **€ 98 bln** in the global food supply.
- > **200 knowledge reports** on Food & Agri disseminated to clients and stakeholders.
- **119,885 farmers** gained access to markets through the Farm to Market Alliance.

3 Good health and well-being

- Financing for more than **48,000 business clients** in healthcare sector in the Netherlands.
- Investments in healthcare total **€ 5.4 bln**.
- **Rabobank Innovation Funds** supports start-ups active in the healthcare sector.

4 Quality education

- We finance the education sector with **€ 668 mln** and as such we contribute to education.

5 Gender equality

- Positive development of **gender equality** at Rabobank: SB 33% female, MB 40% female and senior management 26% female. For this Rabobank is winner of the **Diamond for Diversity award 2017**.

7 Affordable and clean energy

- € 3.4 bln in investments to **renewable energy generation**, mainly through wind and solar, and partly through biomass and geothermal.
- € 500 mln from **Rabobank Green Bond** invested in 12 solar and wind energy projects.
- € 548 mln in investments from Rabo Groen Bank to **renewable energy projects**.

8 Decent work and economic growth

- We promote economic growth by investing **€ 213 bln** in Dutch and international companies and providing **€ 198 bln** in loans to private clients (primarily mortgages).
- Access to banking services to **7.2 mln clients** in developing countries through **9 Partner banks**².
- We **support business clients** in the Netherlands with education.

9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure

- Together with development banks, we support industry in **emerging markets**.
- We invested **€ 4.6 bln** in the **construction sector**.

11 Sustainable cities and communities

- € 65.9 mln through **community not-for-profit investments**.
- We enhance the sustainability of homes with the **'Rabobank Green Mortgage'**.
- We supported **175 new local cooperative initiatives** since 2016, with financing, knowledge and networks in the Netherlands.
- In 2017 we supported **260 local cooperative initiatives** abroad with financing, knowledge and networks.
- New real estate finance transactions must meet **ambitious energy labelling standards**.
- Through the **Rabo Impact Loan for Healthcare and Education** we invested **€ 14 mln** (a total of € 100 mln was made available in 2017).



12 Responsible consumption and production

- We invested **€ 18.9 bln** in **sustainable financing** and **€ 4 bln** in **sustainable funds**.
- We use the **Circular Enterprise Performance Indicator**, fund circular business activities, and offer programmes like **Circular Economy Challenges** and **Regional Circular Economy scans** to help companies transform their **circular enterprise ideas** into business opportunities.
- We participate in **round tables** for 9 sustainable value chains.

13 Climate action

- We used the **Rabo Impact Loan** to invest **€ 179 mln** in sustainable frontrunners with a positive environmental impact.
- Rabobank **climate neutral** again in 2017 (own operations).
- Introduction of **Rabobank Climate Strategy**, participation in UNEP-TCFD and Sounding Board PCAF.
- **No funding** for gas production in the Wadden sea or for coal mining or coal-fired power plants.
- Rabo Green Bank invested a total of **€ 342 mln** in **green loans** to greenhouses.
- Rabobank became a **member and co-chairman** in 2017 of WBCSD's Climate Smart Agriculture Working Group.

14 Life below water

- With WWF, we help clients in Chile with **sustainable aquaculture businesses** and ASC certification.
- We promote sustainable aquaculture, partly by offering a **reduced interest rate** to certified fish farms.

15 Life on land

- **USD 1 billion partnership** with UN Environment for sustainable forestry methods.
- Rabobank is involved in the **Tropical Forest Alliance 2020** against deforestation.
- We invested **€ 326 mln** in **organic farming projects** and **€ 38 mln** in **nature conservation projects**.

16 Peace, justice and strong institutions

- **Encourage investment funds** to comply with the UN's Global Compact principles and the UN Principles for Responsible Investment.
- We contribute to agreements on **International Responsible Business Conduct** (IMVO-convenant in Dutch).

17 Partnerships for the goals

- Rabobank is involved in the **World Economic Forum**.
- CEO Wiebe Draijer appointed to a **European Commission advisory committee** on sustainability.
- **Participant** in WBCSD for Sustainable Development and in FReSH.
- **Partnership with WWF** on sustainable production.
- **Cooperation with UN organisations** on food security, nutrition and agriculture.

¹ Figures 2016. Legally the Rabobank Foundation is not part of Rabobank Group.

² Figures 2016. The partner banks are institutions in which Rabo Development and the investment fund Arise (with a minority interest of Rabobank) invest.



With the Kickstart Earth programme Rabobank will support initiatives and projects for Climate Smart Agriculture together with clients and influential partners like UN Environment, WWF and WBCSD in coming years. Our objective? **Growing a better world together!**

Case Study

*Just imagine that we could transform and reorient agricultural systems with **Climate Smart Agriculture** to ensure food security in a changing climate and to halve agriculture's contribution to climate change.*

Climate Smart Agriculture

In November 2017 Rabobank launched the Kickstart Earth as part of its Growing a better world together mission. The launch took place in Brazil where we intend to work more intensively with WWF and other parties to tackle three challenges: Integrated Crop-Livestock-Forestry systems, reforestation, and agricultural methods which are better for the climate. Climate Smart Agriculture is an approach that helps to guide actions needed to transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively support development to ensure food security in a changing climate and to halve agriculture's contribution to climate change.

Climate Smart Agriculture aims to tackle three main objectives (source: <http://www.fao.org>):

- sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes
- adapting and building resilience to climate change
- reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas emissions, where possible.

What is Rabobank's role in cooperation with partners?

As a leading international Food & Agri bank Rabobank stands up for its responsibility in helping to achieve Climate Smart Agriculture. Our Banking for Food Inspiration Centre has a key

role to play, as it brings together global knowledge, innovative ideas and networks relating to global food supply. For instance, using our Food & Agri business research we make an active contribution to and support our clients in the F&A domain. As such they gain maximum benefit from the knowledge available from Rabobank. On the FoodBytes! and TERRA innovation platforms we identify the most innovative concepts in Food & Agriculture and link them to our network and to sources of capital, which are needed to bring the innovations to market. Network initiatives such as the Rabobank Global Farmers Master Class connect our farming clients to exchange ideas and experience.

What are our ambitions for 2018?

We are aiming for a world in which healthy food is produced in sufficient quantities and in a sustainable manner. Our efforts are intended to contribute to a sustainable increase in food production so that on balance 60% more food is available to consumers and the ecological footprint is halved to feed an estimated 9 billion people by 2050.

To this end we have the following ambitions for 2018:

- In 2018 we will have recorded the annual sustainability performance of 100% of our corporate clients (with an exposure above EUR 1 million) in a Client Photo
- Rabobank stimulates and rewards sustainable frontrunners in its service provision
- In 2018 we will continue to fund sustainable agriculture, for instance through cooperation with UN Environment and setting up a partnership with donors and corporate clients in the Food & Agri sector
- We will ensure improved access for all our corporate clients to our sustainability research and knowledge which is relevant to their business:
 - We formulate our vision on opportunities for making agricultural value chains more sustainable, ensuring that we optimise it by 2020
 - We share this vision and take part actively in roundtables or comparable initiatives to accelerate making agricultural value chains more sustainable
 - As member and co-chairman of the Climate Smart Agriculture Working Group of the WBCSD, Rabobank is working to develop financial solutions which we can offer directly to primary sector producers and processors to accelerate the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture methods
- We are working hard on increasing sustainable food production together with existing partners including UN Environment and WWF

Rabobank, Rabo International Advisory Services (RIAS), Rabo Development, Rabo Rural Fund and Rabobank Foundation all work with farmers around the world to fund projects for more sustainable agricultural methods, to accelerate knowledge exchange and improve network opportunities.

Our impact grows exponentially when we work together with like-minded companies and representatives of societal organisations such as WWF and international government bodies such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It was from this perspective that Rabobank joined the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) in 2017. Rabobank's goal in joining WBCSD is to boost

our efforts to help farmers produce more efficiently and more sustainability and to strengthen food value chains.

Within WBCSD Rabobank has become a member and co-chairman of the Climate Smart Agriculture Working Group. A representative of the bank co-chairs the working group to develop financial solutions (specific products and/or credit facilities) which can be offered directly to our clients in the Food & Agricultural sector to accelerate the adoption of Climate Smart Agricultural practices.

As a leading Food & Agri bank we want to contribute to Growing a better world together and accelerating the transition to more

What is the relationship to the SDGs?

By promoting Climate Smart Agriculture, Rabobank is attempting in so far as possible to maximise the positive impact and minimise the negative impact associated with agriculture. In doing so Rabobank will not lose sight of the fact that the SDGs are closely intertwined and that the focus on a particular topic (such as Climate Smart Agriculture) is closely connected with sustainable production (SDG 12). This will help to achieve not only SDG 12, but also other SDGs, such as sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth (SDG 8), innovative and

resilient infrastructure (SDG 9), action to combat climate change (SDG 13) and restoring ecosystems and protecting biodiversity (SDG 15). There is also a direct correlation with Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17) on account of the partnerships entered into with UN Environment, WBCSD, WWF, FAO, customers, and other entities. Beside these direct links between the SDGs, Rabobank also sees indirect links and impacts resulting from its activities in the field of Climate Smart Agriculture. The following visualisation illustrates the direct links (thick blue lines) and indirect links (thin orange lines).

Relationship between Climate Smart Agriculture and the SDGs



sustainable food production, starting with the global Kickstart Earth programme. On 16 October 2017 at the WBCSD Summit in Mexico City we announced one of the first steps in the Kickstart Food programme: a new partnership between Rabobank and UN Environment. Together we are establishing a USD 1 billion facility which aims to provide grants, de-risking instruments and credit to clients who adhere to strict requirements on conserving and restoring forests and improving the position of small farmers.

This partnership signals the start of a three-year programme at Rabobank to boost efforts to make global agriculture more sustainable. Together with clients and influential partners like UN Environment, WWF and WBCSD in coming years Rabobank will support initiatives and projects for Climate Smart Agriculture. Our objective? Growing a better world together.

Integrated Crop-Livestock-Forestry (ICLF) to tackle deforestation

Rabobank actively supports its clients to help feed the world more sustainably and stimulate innovation. One example is how World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Brazil and Rabobank are exploring, in a partnership with farmers, the options available to combat deforestation in the Amazon and other parts of Brazil by innovative approaches in agriculture, while generating more profit at the same time.

Forests in Brazil are under threat. For instance, in the past 50 years, almost one fifth of the famous Amazon forest has been lost. Other forests, including the Atlantic rainforest on the coast, are also under threat. Three quarters of the deforestation occurs to make way for agriculture and livestock farming, which also account for almost one third of the country's total CO₂ emissions. Something clearly has to change, especially now that global demand for food will only continue to rise and the consequences of climate change make it more difficult for farmers to grow their crops.

One new solution in Brazil is known as Integrated Crop-Livestock-Forestry (ICLF) systems, farmers rotate land for both agriculture, such as growing soy or eucalyptus, with livestock farming or forestry activities. Traditionally, farmers already rotate crops on their land in winter and in summer. For instance, they may grow soy beans in winter and corn in summer, on the same land. Letting livestock graze instead of growing the second crop increases yields and fewer investments are required, for instance in artificial fertilisers. Owing to the livestock and their fertilisation, new nutrients enter the soil, which in turn improves both pastures and animal health. The more productive soil makes the crops more resilient in the face of the emerging consequences of climate change, such as irregular rains and droughts.



For more information see

- <https://www.rabobank.com/en/raboworld/articles/growing-a-better-world-together.html>
- <https://www.rabobank.com/en/press/search/2017/1-billion-to-catalyze-sustainable-food-production.html>
- <https://www.rabobank.com/en/about-rabobank/food-agribusiness/vision-banking-for-food/index.html>
- <https://www.rabobank.com/en/raboworld/articles/doing-more-with-less-in-brazilian-agriculture.html>
- <https://www.rabobank.com/en/about-rabobank/food-agribusiness/articles/2017/climate-smart-agriculture-needs-bold-steps.html>
- <http://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture/en/>
- <http://www.wbcsd.org/>



Case
Study

*Just imagine that
we could jointly
reduce the scale
of food waste*

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



In 2018, Rabobank will be highlighting the food waste theme through its Kickstart Waste programme. We will demonstrate how we are working with our clients and partners to find solutions to contribute to halving food waste in 2030 as stated in SDG 12.3. Our objective?

Growing a better world together!

Food Waste

Within the Kickstart Food programme we will be focusing in the coming years on four themes: Earth, Waste, Nutrition and Stability. Kickstart Earth started in October 2017 and will be followed in 2018 by the Kickstart Waste. Food waste is a multifaceted issue. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) every year 1.3 billion tonnes of food are wasted – enough to feed 3 billion people. These are stark figures and a weird reality. Just imagine that with innovative solutions (such as smart packaging) we could reduce the scale of food waste so that more people could be fed and at the same time are able to improve their economic and ecological impact. That's what Rabobank wants to contribute to.

What is Rabobank's role in cooperation with partners?

As a bank we support our clients in agriculture and food production by offering them access to finance, knowledge and networks. Our Banking for Food strategy focuses on sustainable production of more healthy food and making it available to more people. Reducing food waste is an important element in the strategy, which is why Rabobank is actively committed to achieving SDG 12.3.

We see it as our role to bring parties together to find creative solutions to food waste issues. A large and complex issue such as food waste requires a mix of content experts and out-of-the-box thinkers to solve it.

In the Banking for Food Inspiration Centre, Rabobank brings together knowledge, innovative ideas and networks relating to sustainable world food supply and food waste, and shares these

with our clients. For instance, we conduct research into the entire chain which we use to inform consumers and businesses about food waste.

During the World Economic Forum 2016 in Davos a coalition of 30 leaders launched Champions 12.3. This leadership group aims to accelerate progress in achieving SDG 12.3. Wiebe Draijer, chairman of the Rabobank Managing Board, is a member of the Champions 12.3 coalition.

In the Netherlands Rabobank is a member of the Taskforce Circular Economy in Food which was established in 2017. This Taskforce is an initiative by Wageningen University & Research (WUR) together with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Alliantie Verduurzaming Voedsel (Alliance for making food more sustainable). Around 30 members from food chains have joined this Taskforce. On 20 March 2018 the parties will

What are our ambitions for 2018?

We are aiming for a world in which food waste per capita is halved by 2030 and food losses are reduced.

To this end we have the following ambitions for 2018:

- As the leading Food & Agri bank, and in light of the commitment of our CEO Wiebe Draijer to Champions 12.3, Rabobank wishes to contribute to the food waste ambitions and agenda at global, national and regional levels.
- In 2018 Rabobank will put the food waste theme high on the agenda through its Kickstart Waste programme. We will demonstrate how hard we are working with our clients and partners to find solutions to contribute to halving food waste in 2030 as stated in SDG 12.3. We will deploy our knowledge, networks, partnerships and financial solutions to achieve this.
- In March 2018 the Taskforce Circular Economy in Food (of which Rabobank is a member) will announce the Ambition & Agenda for food waste in the Netherlands during a Dutch Champions 12.3 event.
- In March 2018 the RaboVerspillingsHub will officially open during the 'Waste Month'. To generate even more impact from its efforts, in the Netherlands Rabobank has taken the initiative to develop a Rabo VerspillingsHub (Waste Hub) (see [text box on page 13](#) for more information).

publish a national strategy and roadmap for working together to establish a circular economy for food. The Taskforce understands this to mean an economy in which nothing is wasted, the reuse of agrifood waste flows is optimised and raw materials retain their value.

Rabobank is also a founding partner of the [Food Waste Xperts](#) in the Netherlands. This provides entrepreneurs with a one-stop-shop to tackle food waste. Food Waste Xperts collaborates intensively with the TaskForce Circular Economy in Food. In addition, they coordinate all the knowledge and experience from all the business cases, which creates a powerful learning community.

What is the relationship to the SDGs?

Food waste is also incorporated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 12.3). The target is to halve food waste per head of population by 2030 and reduce food losses. Reducing food waste will of course also make an important contribution to ending hunger (SDG 2) and to restoring ecosystems and protecting biodiversity (SDG 15). When food doesn't get thrown away, there's no need to produce extra food to replace it. And that is extremely relevant. In this way Rabobank is attempting to make a direct positive impact. But we also want to play a part in reducing the negative impact associated with food production in so far as possible. Today we need food for 7 billion people. By 2050 we will need food for more than 9 billion people, whereas by that time we will have less land, water and raw materials at our disposal than we do now. Furthermore, this estimated food waste accounts for 28% of agricultural land area, has a land and groundwater footprint of more than 250 km³ per year and generates

3.3 billion tonnes of greenhouse gases (SDG 13 on climate change). For the purposes of comparison: if worldwide food waste was classified as a country, it would have the third biggest emissions of greenhouse gases in the world, behind China and the United States. If you take into account the transportation needed to ship enormous volumes of food and drink all over the world, this means a gigantic amount of wasted resources (SDG 14 on conserving the seas and SDG 15 on restoring ecosystems and biodiversity). There is also a direct correlation with Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17) on account of the involvement of our chairman Wiebe Draijer in Champions 12.3 coalition, the Circular Economy in Food Taskforce, and Food Waste Xperts, along with partnerships with customers and various organisations. Rabobank therefore sees that its activities related to food production have a direct impact on SDG sub-target 12.3, but also that we have indirect impacts in respect of other SDGs. The following visualisation illustrates the direct links (thick blue lines) and indirect links (thin orange lines).

Relationship between Food Waste and the SDGs



Outside the Netherlands Rabobank also works actively with clients and partners to tackle food waste. Major companies in the chemicals, agriculture, retail and packaging industries met up at the fourth [Agri meets Chemicals \(AmC\)](#) event in November 2017 entitled 'From Waste to Taste'. This initiative, sponsored by Deloitte and Rabobank, was designed to discuss how cooperation between the sectors could generate opportunities to tackle food waste.

Rabobank Brazil and the Ministry of Culture in Brazil made an [interesting informative documentary](#) in which economists, politicians, NGOs and bankers point to the need for a cultural change when it comes to tackling food waste.

Through FoodBytes! and TERRA, Rabobank organises and facilitates different innovation platforms and venture capital funds which focus on innovations in Food & Agriculture.

In Australia in 2017 RaboDirect surveyed 2,300 financial decision-makers aged between 16 and 65 in respect of their behaviour related to food and waste, savings and debt, weekly shopping and how much they know about the journey which food takes from farm to plate. The results are shown in the [Financial Health Barometer](#).

Rabobank Foundation finances warehouses in developing countries to store food, as well as cooling facilities for dairy cooperatives to keep milk fresh for longer periods, and mini-ovens for tea farmers to help them dry their crop immediately. Working together with FAO, Rabobank Foundation also gives workshops to women to improve how they match supply and demand in the market, meaning less of their harvest is wasted.

Rabo VerspillingsHub

Rabobank has taken the initiative to develop a Rabo VerspillingsHub (Waste Hub). The Rabo VerspillingsHub is the go-to meeting place for entrepreneurs, students and start-ups to develop and test innovative concepts for preventing or reducing food waste. The Rabo VerspillingsHub is the place where supply and demand come together relating to food waste knowledge and best practices from the entire chain, from local, regional, national and international parties. In March 2018 RaboVerspillingsHub will be officially opened during the 'Waste Month'. Rabo VerspillingsHub is located in the circular innovation centre against waste in THREE-SIXTY in the Dutch town of Veghel. A logical location since De Verspillingsfabriek (Waste Factory) and the Food Waste Xperts are also located here.

De Verspillingsfabriek processes excess food into new products. For instance, tomatoes which can no longer be sold as fresh in the supermarket are processed into soups and sauces and then sold in the same supermarkets or other outlets. Since De Verspillingsfabriek has a distinctive positive impact on people, the environment and society it is partly funded by an impact loan from Rabobank and the European Investment Bank (EIB). This loan offers sustainable businesses an attractive discount.



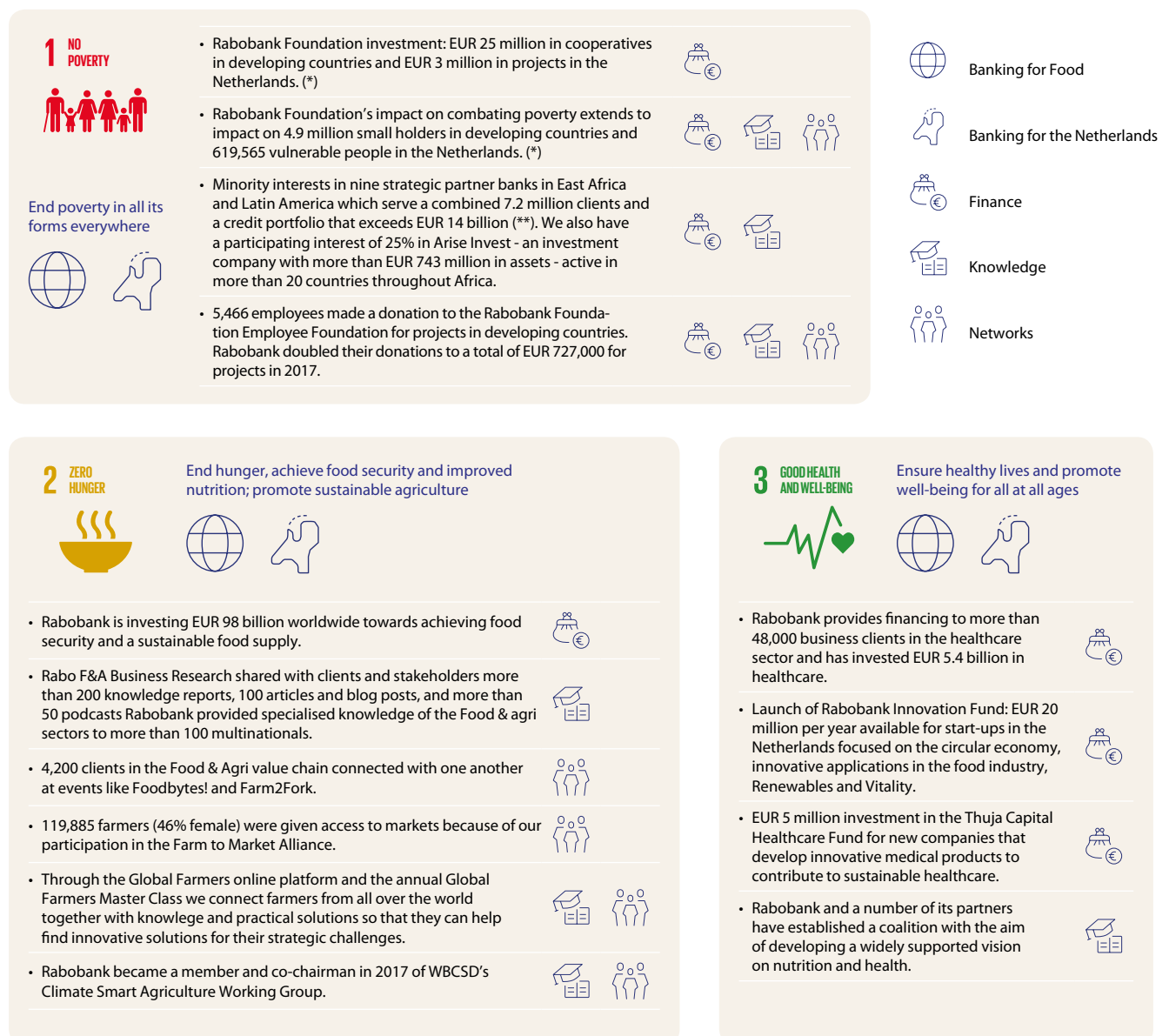
For more information see

- > <https://www.rabobank.com/en/about-rabobank/background-stories/food-agribusiness/20150504-coalition-against-food-waste.html>
- > <https://www.rabobank.com/en/raboworld/articles/measures-to-prevent-food-waste-bring-gains.html>
- > <https://www.rabobank.com/en/raboworld/articles/de-verspillingsfabriek-makes-mincemeat-of-food-waste.html>
- > <https://www.rabobank.com/en/raboworld/videos/brazilian-documentary-changes-our-view-on-food-waste.html>
- > <https://www.rabobank.com/en/raboworld/articles/six-food-waste-apps-to-watch-6-freshsurety.html>

Appendix: our contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals



The infographic on pages 14-17 shows the contribution made by Rabobank in 2017 to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Per SDG we indicate what form the contribution took (finance, knowledge, networks) and how this links to our Banking for Food and Banking for the Netherlands strategies.






* Figures 2016. Legally the Rabobank Foundation is not part of Rabobank Group.



4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning





- EUR 668 million financing to the education sector in the Netherlands and abroad. With this we contribute to the education of 660,000 students. We finance approx 60% of all Dutch institutes of (higher) education and approx 50% of all Dutch primary schools.  
- We support higher education and universities in the process of knowledge valorisation within the Triple Helix model, which also encompasses the knowledge clusters Medical Delta, Brainport, Brightlands, Yes Delft and Food Valley. We finance 80% of the YesDelft start-ups.  
- We encourage lifelong learning for 37,170 employees (in FTE terms) and spend EUR 1,837/FTE on training courses. 



5 GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls






- RaboWomen assists female employees in our company with their professional development. RaboWomen organised 39 events, at which 2,000 women engaged in dialogue with each other. Approximately 17,600 female employees are subscribed to the RaboWomen newsletter. 
- Positive development of gender equality at Rabobank: SB 33% female, MB 40% female, MB-1 29% female and MB-2 26% female. For this Rabobank is winner of the Diamond for Diversity award 2017 for its achievements in the area of gender diversity. 

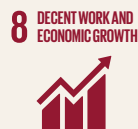


7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



- Rabobank investing EUR 3.4 billion in renewable energy generation, mainly through wind and solar, and partly through biomass and geothermal 
- Rabobank Green Certificates generated a revenue of EUR 500 million, which we invested in 12 renewable solar and wind energy projects. Combined, these projects have a capacity of more than 229 megawatts. 
- Rabo Groen Bank invested EUR 264 million in wind energy projects, EUR 144 million in solar panels and EUR 140 million in geothermal energy, biomass and other renewable energy projects. 



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full & productive employment and decent work for all











- Rabobank promotes economic growth in the Netherlands by investing EUR 113 billion in Dutch companies and EUR 100 billion in international companies.
- In developing countries Rabobank Foundation provides agricultural training courses (e.g. on new production techniques, management, marketing & sales) to more than 208,000 farmers, of whom 71% are women. 
- We promote economic growth by providing EUR 198 billion in loans to private clients (primarily mortgages). 
- Rabo Development is extending access to banking services for more than 7.2 million clients in the least developed countries, and assists agriculture companies through 9 Partner banks with technical advances and innovation. (**) 
- We support business clients in the Netherlands with knowledge and networks through 90 multi-day courses (MKB Collegetour, Rabo miniMasters, Master Classes) and starters with our 'ikgastarten.nl' platform. 



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation





- Together with development banks, we support industry in emerging markets. 
- Rabobank invested EUR 4.6 billion in construction. 
- Provided financing to remodel 465,000 m² of old buildings so they can be repurposed as affordable housing, mostly for students, young people and the elderly. 
- Rabobank is a participant in SHIFT INVEST, a venture capital fund that invests in innovations in Food & Agriculture, nutritious food and clean (bio-based) technologies. 
- Rabobank supports start-ups with knowledge, networks and access to capital. Rabobank played a prominent role at the three theme events: Startup Fest Europe, Amsterdam Capital Week and Cyber Security Week.   
- Through Rabo Innovation Fund we invest EUR 20 million per year in early-stage Food & Agri companies in western Europe and the United States to advance innovation in the Food & Agri sector. 

(**) Figures 2016. The partner banks are institutions in which Rabo Development and the investment fund Arise (with a minority interest of Rabobank) invest.



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



- We improve the living environment of local communities with EUR 65.9 million through community not-for-profit investments, and by putting projects on the local participation agenda. 
- We enhance the sustainability of homes with the 'Green Mortgage', 'Slim Verbouwen' (Smart Renovation) events, workshops and our partnership with GreenHome.  
- We supported 175 new local cooperative initiatives since 2016, with financing, knowledge and networks in the Netherlands.   
- In 2017 we supported 260 local cooperative initiatives abroad with financing, knowledge and networks.   
- Our employees dedicated approximately 180,000 hours of their time to volunteer work in the Netherlands and abroad.
- To promote community vitality, Rabobank sponsors more than 2,000 sports and culture foundations and associations in the Netherlands.  
- All properties (starting with business properties) involved in new real estate finance transactions or extensions must have an ambitious energy label. The buildings must earn the minimum label no later than 2022. Rabobank has exceeded the requirements of the current legislation both in terms of timing and scope. 
- Rabobank's entire Real Estate portfolio was evaluated according to the new energy labelling standards by a specialised agency (CFP). The result: 55% of the utility buildings received a 'C' energy label or better (the result is 30% when we include rental properties).
- Rabo REF took part for the first time in 2017 in the Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark (GRESB) for Debt and received a 4 star rating. This is the highest score awarded to a new participant.
- The Rabo Impact Loan for Healthcare and Education (a total of €100 mln was made available in 2017) was introduced in cooperation with the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB). By offering reduced interest rates to primary healthcare and secondary education, we help improve the sustainability of, for example, primary and secondary school buildings. 
- In 2017 Rabobank REF financed various area transformation and building remodelling projects (e.g. Hyde Park in Hoofddorp and the old Ministry for Social Affairs and Employment building in The Hague).  



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns





- In the interest of establishing a sustainable value chain, we invested EUR 18.9 billion in sustainable financing and EUR 4 billion in sustainable funds. 
- In the Champions 12.3 coalition, Rabobank cooperates with 30 leading organisations in the global fight against food waste.  
- We help companies transform their ideas about circular enterprise into business opportunities in different ways, for example, with the Circular Enterprise Performance Indicator, by funding circular business activities, and programmes like Circular Economy Challenges and Regional Circular Economy scans. It is our goal to help 100 companies create a circular action plan.  
- To guarantee sustainable Food & Agri chains, we participate in round tables about sustainable palm oil, soya, bio-materials, coffee, sugarcane, beef, dairy, fish and forestry. 
- In 2017 the volume of new (DLL) Clean Technology contracts grew into a portfolio of EUR 383 million. This growth comes largely as a result of renewable activities in the US and the Energy Efficiency activities that grew enormously in the US and were then expanded in Europe. 
- Rabobank is working with the new Taskforce Circular Economy in Food to merge existing and new plans for the circular economy. 
- We developed the Sustainable Water Management Decision Support Tool with WWF India and two large Indian sugar producers, EID Parry and DMCL. The tool helps growers use water more efficiently and limit their CO₂ emissions to prevent exhaustion of the ecosystem. 
- A team of Young Professionals from Rabobank won the 'Best New Partnership Award 2017', a prize for the best sustainable business case. Rabobank received the award for its cooperation with Bles Dairies, with whom we provide funding in the dairy chain in Kenya, and elsewhere. 
- With Deloitte, we organised the networking event 'Agri meets Chemicals' for the fourth time. This edition of the event was called 'From Waste to Taste' and targeted large agri, chemical, retail and packaging companies. A broad discussion with diverse stakeholders makes it possible to find solutions together for making the packaging chain more sustainable.  






13 CLIMATE ACTION



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



- We promote climate action through the third tranche of the Rabo Impact Loan. We invested EUR 179 million for over 200 clients, who invested in the rollout of different independent certifications. 
- Rabobank was climate neutral again in 2017 and remains actively committed to reducing the CO₂ emissions produced by its activities.
- The introduction of the Rabobank Climate Strategy marks an ambitious step towards monitoring and managing both the opportunities and risks related to climate change, for Rabobank, its clients and the environment. 

- Actively involved in UNEP pilot concerning Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and the Sounding Board Platform Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF). 
- No funding for gas production in the Wadden area or for coal mining for power generation or coal-fired power plants. 
- Rabo Groen Bank provides a total of EUR 342 million in green loans to greenhouses certified as energy-efficient. 
- Rabobank became a member and co-chairman in 2017 of WBCSD's Climate Smart Agriculture Working Group 
- Rabobank won the Green Bond Award 2017 for its innovative Green Bond programme.
- For its F&A clients who want to invest in renewable energy, Rabobank Brazil launched a special Green Loan. 



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



- Through a partnership project in Chile with WWF, we help clients to develop sustainable aquaculture businesses that meet ASC standards.
- We promote sustainable aquaculture, partly by offering a reduced interest rate to certified fish farms.



Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



- Rabobank launched a partnership with UN Environment worth USD 1 billion for clients who comply with strict regulations concerning forest conservation and restoration.
- Rabobank and WWF encourage the use of Integrated Crop Livestock Forest Systems (ICLF) in Brazil to prevent deforestation and loss of biodiversity.
- Rabobank is involved in the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020, committed to combating deforestation by the palm oil, beef, soya, and pulp and paper value chains. Clients who are involved in illegal deforestation are not eligible for credit from Rabobank.
- Rabo Groen Bank is investing EUR 326 million in organic farming projects and EUR 38 million in nature conservation projects.
- Rabobank, WWF and FrieslandCampina developed a biodiversity monitor to stimulate the preservation of functional biodiversity within the Dutch dairy farming sector.
- Rabobank is a co-signatory of the Biodiversity Delta Plan.



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



- Rabobank is involved in the World Economic Forum. Internationally we participate in the System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Food Security and Agriculture. Regionally we participate in Grow Africa, Grow Asia, NVA India and NVA Latin America.
- Chairman of the Managing Board Wiebe Draijer was appointed to a European Commission advisory committee on sustainability. A team of 30 experts will help EU Commissioner Frans Timmermans to formulate the EU policy for the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.
- We are participants in WBCSD and in FReSH.
- Rabobank works with WWF to achieve sustainable production in salmon farming in Chile, soya in Brazil, sugarcane in India, dairy in the Netherlands and the aquaculture industry in Indonesia. Together we developed the Sustainable Seafood Tool. On 5 July 2017 Rabobank and WWF organised a conference called 'Sustainable Development Goal 17: what makes a partnership successful?'
- We are involved with various UN organisations working on food security, nutrition and agriculture. Some examples are FAO, WFP, IFAD, WHO, UNDP, UNEP-FI, UN Global Compact and Scaling Up Nutrition.
- We cooperate with other financial institutions via our international banking network (including multilateral development banks and banking networks) such as the Banking for Environment Initiative and Equator Principles.
- Rabo REF has become a member of the Madaster Platform, which keeps an archive of materials passports for buildings. The development of materials passports and a widely accessible database represent an important contribution to financeability of circular construction solutions.



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



- Rabobank encourages investment funds to comply with the UN's Global Compact principles and the UN Principles for Responsible Investment.
- Our Anti-Corruption Statement and policy measures are part of our effort to eradicate bribery and corruption.
- Rabobank is a party to agreements on International Responsible Business Conduct (IMVO-convenant in Dutch), and has been active in drafting policy measures for sustainable development and safeguarding human rights for everyone.
- Rabobank coordinated the Responsible Disclosure Manifesto to safeguard data security and to make the internet and society safer.



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