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Report Name: Dutch Government Presents Agricultural Plan

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Report Highlights:

On September 13, 2024, the Dutch Cabinet presented its government program for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security, and Nature, outlining key initiatives and commitments for the coming years. For 2025, €40 million (\$44.5 million) will be allocated, and €500 million (\$555.9 million) is reserved for nature management. From 2026 onwards, a multi-year budget of €5 billion (\$5.6 billion) will be available for the government program. The Dutch Agricultural and Horticultural Organization, LTO, responded positively, stating that “realism is back in our agricultural policy.”

On September 13, 2024, the Cabinet presented its [government program](#) for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature, outlining key initiatives and commitments for the coming years. For 2025, €40 million (\$44.5 million) will be allocated, and €500 million (\$555.9 million) is reserved for nature management. From 2026 onwards, a multi-year budget of €5 billion (\$5.6 billion) will be available for the government program. The Cabinet emphasized the need to restore trust between government, farmers, and fishermen. A focus on hearing different perspectives, listening to concerns, and ensuring policies are realistic and grounded in practice is central to this effort. The Cabinet stressed the importance of long-term, stable policies, as frequent changes can negatively impact food security. Food security was identified as a basic social provision that needs to be guaranteed. Moreover, the Cabinet views innovation as crucial to achieving societal agricultural goals. The Cabinet reiterated its commitment to national and international obligations following from regulation related to nature, biodiversity and climate, such as the goal to lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 55 percent by 2030 compared to 1990¹ levels, and to develop a national nature restoration plan for 2030.²

The current National Program for Rural Areas³ for nitrogen emissions will be stopped. The Cabinet proposes an approach in which farmers will work towards specific goals, as opposed to working with prescribed measures. One suggested approach is to make nitrogen emissions, and not nitrogen deposition, the new unit of measurement. For overall climate goals, a “nutrient balance” is proposed to track soil nutrients and other GHG emissions. Pilot programs will begin in 2025. For the long term, the focus will be on innovation to reduce emissions.

Other proposed actions in the plan include:

- A voluntary buy-out scheme for the livestock sector is envisioned for 2026. This buy-out scheme will be added next to the currently existing buy-out schemes.
- Farmers with nitrogen permits voided by a court ruling (so-called “*PAS melders*”), will be offered the solutions of a legalization program, compensation, or voluntary buy-out.
- A study on techniques to reduce emissions in livestock stables (ammonia, particulates, odor, and GHG) will be conducted, with results published by the end of 2024.
- Shrimp fisheries will get a separate voluntary buy out scheme, along with prospects for those that continue, in the first quarter of 2025.
- For the manure crisis,⁴ a cohesive action package was presented,⁵ which the Cabinet intends to present successful proposals to the European Commission.

¹ Following from the Dutch Climate Law and Climate Plan 2025-2035.

² Following from the EU Regulation on Nature Restoration 2024/1991.

³ See [NL2022-0035 Government Presents National Program to Reduce Nitrogen Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Rural Areas](#)

⁴ See [NL2024-007 Dutch Loss of Manure Derogation](#)

⁵ See <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2024/09/13/alles-op-alles-voor-verlichting-druk-op-mestmarkt>

An EU strategy will be published in the fall of 2024, based on the EU document "[Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture](#)". This strategy will address the Dutch manure crisis, pulse fishing practices, and the designation of [Natura2000](#) areas, among others. Additionally, the government is revisiting ideas from previous cabinets, such as the establishment of a "land bank" to facilitate the trade of agricultural land.⁶ A framework for the use of agricultural land is scheduled to be published by the end of 2024.

The Cabinet intends to better reward farmers for services such as nature management. It will reduce agricultural fuel costs and undertake efforts to enhance the earning model for farmers. The Cabinet will work on the future of fisheries, as well as young farmers looking to start or take over family farms. Other topics explored in the government program are high-quality biobased raw material production, innovations within agricultural labor, and ex ante assessments of the impact of future legislation.

The proposed plan was met with support from the Dutch Agricultural and Horticultural Organization (LTO), stating "Realism is back in our agricultural policy. The ambitions of this cabinet give confidence that we can take steps in the coming years in the tasks that farmers and horticulturalists face. From LTO I see plenty of starting points to work together in this."⁷

Attachments:

No Attachments.

⁶ See [NL2022-0054 Nitrogen Report Delivered to the Dutch Government](#)

⁷ <https://www.lto.nl/reactie-lto-op-het-regeerprogramma/>