

It's in OUR BENES Corporate social responsibility

Contributing to a sustainable, healthy future

Sustainability is high on the agenda in today's society. Issues such as climate change, the depletion of the Earth's resources and the circular economy are topics of discussion and policymaking worldwide. It is encouraging that there is so much focus on our planet and all the life on it. At Rijk Zwaan as vegetable breeding company too, we are asked about our corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities. Companies should do business in a way that shows consideration for the planet, and we are no exception.

Starting point

Our primary objective is – and will continue to be - to offer each of our employees an enjoyable and long-term job with attractive pay and conditions. Profit is merely a means to achieving this. Rijk Zwaan's shareholders made that decision back in 1989 and it still holds true to this day. Putting employees first automatically implies that you take the world those employees live in into account. In other words, all our company's activities are aimed at making a profit to benefit people and the planet.

Principles

In line with our way of working, our employees themselves apply the principles of CSR in all kinds of areas, driven by their own intrinsic motivation. In our everyday work, we contribute to a better world through the way we treat people and through the things we do. Our company is based on nine business objectives that are outlined in a triptych which is handed to every new employee. Each objective forms the basis for aspects of our business activities that together shape our CSR approach.

It goes without saying that we take care of the CSRrelated basics, such as paying a fair wage, ensuring safe and healthy working conditions and protecting the environment. Our way of working is aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the key aim of which is to end extreme poverty and hunger everywhere.

This brochure presents some examples of Rijk Zwaan's CSR-related activities. Rather than being an exhaustive overview, it provides a selection of facts and cases that illustrate what sets Rijk Zwaan apart. We hope this will inspire you to join us in working towards a sustainable, healthy future.

Board of Directors, Rijk Zwaan Ben Tax, Marco van Leeuwen, Kees Reinink



High motivation and close involvement

At Rijk Zwaan the top priority is to offer all employees an enjoyable and long-term job with attractive pay and conditions. Putting people first boosts motivation and engagement.

For us, stimulating high motivation and close involvement specifically means:

- A permanent contract from the start.
- Focusing on each employee's development needs and health.
- To the employees, Rijk Zwaan feels like their own business
- Employee loyalty and dedication.
- People-oriented management style.

Permanent contract

We take the time to invest in an intensive recruitment procedure to find the right candidate for each vacancy. We give new employees a permanent contract from the start and give them our trust for the whole of their career with us.

Around the world, we select our employees based on engagement, honesty, entrepreneurialism and team spirit. We look for people who are a good fit with our company culture, which includes being interested in CSR. Our sustainable approach to recruitment has resulted in high job satisfaction and low employee turnover.

Healthy employees

Rijk Zwaan has a low rate of absenteeism: just 3.4% in the Netherlands. We believe it is important that our employees feel fit and healthy, both physically and mentally. We prevent stress and illness by carefully tailoring the tasks and working environment to each employee. Many of our locations provide free healthy meals, salads or fruit,

and we also run vitality programmes, sport training sessions, health schemes and regular medical checkups. At the large Rijk Zwaan facilities we conduct a satisfaction survey once every four years. Every three years, employees in the Netherlands are given the opportunity to participate in a Periodic Medical Examination (PMO) at VitaSana. VitaSana was founded in 2020 by the shareholders of Rijk Zwaan.

Employee development

We give our employees the freedom to learn, to develop, to show initiative and to take responsibility. We want to recognise and reward our employees' talents and listen to their concerns. People get much more out of themselves if they feel seen and heard.

Joke Klap, Team Leader Phytopathology Implementation Netherlands

"Robust and resistant crops reduce food losses"

"There is a growing demand for vegetable varieties that are resilient and resistant, because plant diseases and pests cause food losses. Complete harvests can fail, and no harvest means no food. The rise in demand is driven by climate change, increasingly extreme weather conditions and the growth of international travel which helps diseases and pests to spread more rapidly.

Besides that, growers are under pressure to minimise the use of crop protection agents. Stronger vegetable varieties can help to make sufficient and healthy food available for more people.

Rijk Zwaan integrates sustainability measures into its vegetable breeding process – not only by investing in breeding vegetable varieties with resistances against various plant diseases, but also by conducting research into other natural plant traits that can contribute to a more sustainable world. For example, we support the principles of Integrated

Pest Management by developing vegetable varieties that allow natural predators such as insects to do their job better. Our CleanLeaf® aubergine varieties with 'hairless' leaves are a good example of this, as are our Blueleaf cucumbers and our Defense range. It's important that we continue to conduct sufficient research in order to keep developing resilient and robust vegetable varieties. Plants form the basis of our food chain."



Strong team spirit

At Rijk Zwaan we work as a team and we all share responsibility for the result. Thanks to working together, motivating one another and communicating effectively, there is a strong team spirit within the company. We also have strong relationships with our customers, partners and suppliers.

For us, fostering a strong team spirit specifically means:

- Sharing knowledge and successes, internally and externally.
- Genuine interest and a helpful attitude.
- Going the extra mile for colleagues and customers.
- The team works in the company's best interest.

Knowledge partnerships

We form coalitions with partners that share our societal interests:

- With growers to improve the yield and sustainability of production. We share knowledge such as technical information and data through our crop specialists, apps, e-learning, guided tours, demo facilities, study clubs and crop registration.
- Through industry associations to support the sector's best interests.
- With research institutes to develop innovative knowledge. We have 150 collaborative R&D partnerships with the 50 leading crop breeding research institutes.
- With schools to ensure that educational programmes are more closely aligned with industry needs.

Giving back

Through our Committee for Development Cooperation (COS), we share our experience, technical knowledge and vegetable seeds. We help families to learn how to grow vegetables so that they gain better access to healthy vegetables for themselves and as a source of income. We do this in various countries, including Guatemala, Peru and Haiti. We support schools all over the world, whether by providing vegetable seeds, vegetables or even greenhouses. In addition, through our Committee Sharing Health & Wellbeing, we do something extra for the well-being of children and elderly suffering from disease or disabilities.

Shared leadership

Our company is led by a collegial three-headed management. Our subsidiaries and larger departments are also usually led by teams. Sharing the management responsibility provides more flexibility, a bigger span of control, more collegiality, more knowledge and more resilience.

Employee share scheme

Employees have the option to purchase share certificates so that everyone can share in Rijk Zwaan's success. In total, over a thousand employees own approximately 10% of our company.

Christophe Guiet, Area Manager West & Central Africa

"Stimulating local vegetable consumption in Ivory Coast"

"HortIvoire provides students and young vegetable growers in Ivory Coast with sustainable agronomic practices to increase their yield, income and economic position. Together with HortIvoire, the aim by 2025 is to train 200 students to start or run a horticultural business. Rijk Zwaan's support for this training programme includes sharing its knowledge

and providing vegetable seeds of varieties that have been especially bred for the challenging conditions in Ivory Coast. We have also contributed to a new demo station in Tiébissou.

This innovative project enables us to boost local vegetable consumption in Ivory Coast. HortIvoire has embraced vegetable cultivation on local coco substrate. Growing on a substrate rather than in soil requires less water and artificial fertiliser as well as fewer chemical crop protection agents. Additionally, it takes up less space and produces a better yield.

Ivory Coast currently meets only 30% of the nation's vegetable demand itself. Local cultivation will contribute to the year-round availability of fresh fruit and vegetables, which makes the diet of people in Ivory Coast more diverse, nutritious and also improves food security. Moreover, it stimulates local employment."



Top-quality products & service

We are proud of our products. We offer highquality products and service to our customers, whom we also regard as our partners. Thanks to our position at the start of the food chain, we can play a role in tackling the global food shortage.

For us, top-quality products and services mean:

- Providing the best vegetable varieties, the best seed quality and the best service.
- Investing in the quality of people and resources.
- Managing the value chain to ensure consumers receive top-quality products.

Resistant against diseases and pests

We produce seed from more than 1,500 varieties of over 25 types of vegetables. We are continuously improving the quality of those vegetables, such as by breeding in resistances against plant diseases or pests, or by boosting the productivity. Our diagnostic services enable us to advise growers quickly in the case of crop diseases. This means that growers can reduce their use of crop protection agents and make better use of their land. It also offers opportunities for organic production.

Strict quality standards

No matter where in the world our vegetable seeds are produced, they all undergo quality control centrally in the Netherlands. We extensively test samples to check purity, germination strength and whether there are any infectious diseases. Seeds are only released for sale if they comply with the strict quality standards.

Improving the whole fresh produce chain

For Rijk Zwaan, our focus on quality does not stop with the grower. For example, we improve the shelf life of vegetables to reduce the losses during production, transport, in stores and in consumers' homes. This not only tackles food waste, but also enables our vegetables to reach more people and hence contribute to a healthy diet. This often involves collaboration with partners in the sales channels, including processing companies and retailers.

Healthy and appealing vegetables

We entice consumers to eat more healthy vegetables by introducing new shapes, colours, flavours and ease of preparation. For example, we launched snack vegetables on the Indian market under our SN!BS brand. Rijk Zwaan also promotes vegetable consumption through the Love my Salad consumer platform, which has over 250,000 social media followers in more than 20 countries.

Training and development

We help to keep our employees' knowledge and development up to date through our own training centre as well as intensive collaboration with national and international training institutes, a business school and universities. New colleagues are assigned a mentor and follow an extensive on-boarding programme, plus they are allowed at least one year to fully settle into their role and the organisation.

Arun Joshi, Managing Director India "A joint approach is essential"

"The World Vegetable Center – or WorldVeg for short – is a non-profit organisation that was founded back in 1971. The institution is focused on improving varieties and production methods in developing countries. WorldVeg helps vegetable growers to achieve a higher yield.

This results in them earning a better income, plus it creates jobs and stimulates a healthy and more



WorldVeg conducts research into how to improve existing, traditional varieties. The institute also develops varieties with resistances against diseases and pests that are widespread in tropical and subtropical regions of Asia and Africa.

The resistances against Ralstonia, the tobacco mosaic virus and the leaf curl virus in tomato are all good examples. The resistances developed by WorldVeg against these diseases are now used in virtually all tomato varieties.

Governments, knowledge institutes, NGOs and seed companies all work closely together within WorldVeg. A joint approach is essential. Rijk Zwaan supports WorldVeg financially and we also share our knowledge and experience whenever necessary. In return, we can utilise genetic material from the WorldVeg gene bank to develop new varieties, so it's a win-win situation."

Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015 the United Nations presented the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), an ambitious agenda leading up to 2030, comprising 17 global goals aimed at eliminating poverty, hunger and inequality worldwide and putting a stop to climate change. The SDGs are widely used by policymakers and influential bodies (such as NGOs and the media) to monitor and evaluate the progress of governments, organisations, companies and citizens towards achieving these goals.

17 goals, 169 targets

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are formulated fairly broad, which is why 169 targets have been defined to make the goals specific and hence easier to put into practice. We have compared these 169 targets against our own business objectives stated in the triptych. A full description of all SDGs can be found on the website of the United Nations.

Modesty and conviction

Rijk Zwaan has an impact on some element of each of the 17 SDGs and the associated targets. For example, in the case of SDG 1, 'no poverty', the supply of high-quality vegetable seeds and the provision of intensive support for growers can help them to achieve a higher yield, which substantially improves the income position of small-scale growers.

And in the case of SDG 3, 'good health and wellbeing', through our convenience line – such as snack peppers – we contribute to boosting vegetable consumption and hence to improving people's health. Independent analysis has shown that the main areas in which we currently make – or can make – a difference are: ending hunger (SDG 2), creating decent work for all (SDG 8), stimulating responsible consumption and production (SDG 12) and seeking partnerships to achieve the goals (SDG 17). The stories in this brochure are linked to these four goals.

As explained in the introduction, corporate social responsibility goes without saying at Rijk Zwaan. It is an integral part of who we are and what we do. We don't claim to have a solution for all of the world's problems, but we shoulder our responsibility wherever we can and we put our mission of 'Sharing a healthy future' into practice.



Excellent business ethics

Our approach is based on doing business with integrity and with due consideration for high standards, values and the people around us. This applies in every country, irrespective of the local culture, and we expect the same from our partners.

For us, excellent business ethics specifically mean doing what is right:

- Only selling products that we fully believe in ourselves
- The top priorities are honesty, integrity and justice.
- Respect for others.

Biodiversiteit

Biodiversity is essential for vegetable breeding. In order to continue to ensure that we will be able to respond to market needs and to contribute to food security, both now and in the future, we are always on the look-out for new genetic variety in our crops. In this context, we work closely with gene banks across the globe. We finance gathering missions that enable gene banks to expand their collection and to safeguard genetic sources for the future. We also help to identify, document and reproduce those genetic sources.

By partnering with gene banks and by developing new vegetable varieties, we directly contribute to safeguarding the biodiversity of our planet and to providing future generations with even better vegetables.

Taking horticulture to the next level

In countries such as Ivory Coast, Benin, Ghana and Nigeria, we participate in public-private partnerships to professionalise vegetable production. Together with local partners, we provide training to growers either in person or through e-learning. We help them to share their new technical knowledge and market

insights with other growers, regardless of whether they buy their vegetable seeds from Rijk Zwaan. This gives more growers the chance of a better life.

No child labour

We are strongly against child labour and actively make it a topic of discussion. In our contracts with producers in India, we explicitly state that we will not tolerate child labour. We subject our growers to external audits and collaborate with other breeding companies and local partners to invest in educating parents there. We now plan to roll out this approach in other countries.

Ethics course

The IESE business school in Spain worked closely with Rijk Zwaan to specially develop an intensive three-day training course called Business Ethics & Company Culture about doing business with honesty and integrity. 150 colleagues have completed this course so far, including all our directors and business managers.

Jair Haanstra Breeding Manager Lettuce Netherlands

"Biodiversity is essential for the future"

"Biodiversity is under pressure. That's a problem today, but above all in the longer term. We need biodiversity to help us tackle future challenges. Wild plant material contains genes that can help us to find solutions to deal with new pathogens, and to problems such as silting and drought. We don't know which genetic source contains which solution, which is why we're building gene banks. A seed sample

could seem worthless today but it might be very important in 20 years' time.

We collate, document and reproduced the material, working together with governments as much as possible. At the same time, we show how the material can be preserved, so all sides benefit.

At Rijk Zwaan we believe that material in gene banks should be accessible for everyone, which is why we collaborate with governments. To facilitate access to patented material, we are one of the initiators of the International Licensing Platform Vegetable. The members of that platform give one another access to patented material, in exchange for a reasonable fee. After all, biodiversity benefits everyone and we need to ensure it stays that way."



Mutual interaction

We believe it is important that colleagues have consideration for, take an interest in and help one another.

Good manners form the foundation for this, and these are specifically based on:

- Telling the truth.
- Communicating in a friendly, clear and open manner.
- Respecting each other's opinions and ideas.
- Adhering to high moral standards and values.

Company culture

The Rijk Zwaan company culture is not dependent on the cultures and customs of a particular country. Instead, it is based on universal standards and values that can be supported by everyone, anywhere in the world and it unites our colleagues.

Another important aspect of our company culture is having mutual respect for other people's ideas and opinions. We want our employees to feel safe and secure at work, so we do not tolerate undesirable behaviour such as aggression, violence, discrimination or intimidation.

Dialogue

At Rijk Zwaan, we do not work with appraisal forms; instead, employee development is based on dialogue. An appraisal meeting is a confidential discussion during which the employee can talk to their manager about what is going well and what could be improved, and where they reach clear agreements together about how certain issues can be tackled even better or more effectively from now

What do we mean by 'putting people first'?

For us, every employee is the same unique person 24/7, with his family, friends, colleagues, with joy

and sorrow. And this human being is invaluable to us. Someone who can always be themselves rather than having to put on an act from 9 to 5 at work, and who isn't just a source of labour but instead can do work that they are good at and enjoy. This applies to every Rijk Zwaan colleague, regardless of their age or background; in our eyes, everyone is equal and uniquely valuable.

Alev Demokan Yapici, HR Manager Turkey "We're all crew on the same ship"

"At Rijk Zwaan, we put people first. In effect, our colleagues shape the directors' choices. The company cares about the happiness of its employees and takes their opinions into account. This is illustrated by the fact that the board of directors involves HR as a strategic partner who has a say in important decisions.

We try to involve our employees as much as possible

in their own personal and professional development. We regularly hold appraisal meetings, but these are aimed at helping our colleagues to work on their own development rather than evaluating their performance.

Our recruitment process entails several interviews and an assessment, and employees who complete the process successfully immediately receive a permanent contract so they feel a shared responsibility for the company as a whole. That long-term view is typical of Rijk Zwaan.

We're all crew on the same ship and the responsibility for the success of our company rests on everyone's shoulders."



Decentralisation and decision-making

Within Rijk Zwaan we give people responsibility for the work that they do as much as possible, as part of our decentralised approach. We expect our employees to act as entrepreneurs, yet always with a sense of solidarity with their colleagues.

In concrete terms, for us decentralisation means:

- A flat hierarchy.
- Argument-based decision-making.
- Room for initiative.
- Taking a critical approach to assignments rather than just following orders.
- Commitment to decisions once they have been made.

Flat hierarchy

Within Rijk Zwaan there are a maximum of five organisational levels, and often fewer. The flat hierarchy means that some managers fulfil multiple roles, which helps to speed up communication. For example, some company directors also chair a 'crop strategic team'. This enables them to stay in touch with the practical side of the industry and helps them to make the best strategic choices about the long-term development of the global vegetable market.

Continuous improvement

At Rijk Zwaan we invest in the development of our employees at every level of the organisation. We encourage everyone to suggest ideas for improving their own workflows and for solving any problems they encounter in their work. This results in greater involvement, higher motivation and a stronger team spirit among our employees, and hence in top-quality products and services for our customers.

The environments affecting people

Every employee has a work environment – good collaboration with a network of colleagues, a safe and healthy workplace, the right equipment and resources to do their job properly, the opportunity to perform well in comfort and safety. For us, it is important that everyone enjoys coming to work. Besides that, every employee has a social environment of family and friends. We're well aware that those family and friends can sometimes place demands on employees and that everyone shoulders responsibilities for people in their social environment, so we take that into consideration.

Additionally, every employee is part of the natural environment, and we are keen to ensure that that natural environment is – and remains – healthy and safe for all our colleagues. Our mission of 'Sharing a healthy future' stems from that desire. In order to preserve our planet for future generations, we strive to do business sustainably and to include the environmental perspective in our strategic decisionmaking.

Jos van der Knaap, Crop Coordinator Lettuce Asia "Innovative vegetable varieties help to improve food safety"

"Food safety is a major topic in Asia because vegetables are produced on numerous small farms, plus there is no effective control system. Water can also pose a threat to food safety in terms of both too much rain and irrigation using polluted water – especially in the case of vegetables that are eaten raw. Two solutions that can improve food safety are

protected cultivation and non-soil-based growing.

That can make a big difference in a tropical climate, especially during the rainy season.

If plants are protected and kept dry, there is less opportunity for fungi and bacteria to grow, meaning that fewer crop protection agents are required.

Non-soil-based growing helps to prevent soil-borne diseases. Hydroponics, i.e. water-based cultivation, is a good solution, since it enables lettuce to be

grown without crop protection agents. Hydroponic production has really taken off in Asia and is rapidly becoming the preferred way of growing lettuce in many countries.

Rijk Zwaan has developed many vegetable varieties that are suitable for these new, safer cultivation methods, such as hydroponic lettuce varieties for example."



Innovation and creativeness

Our business is based on the continuous development and execution of new ideas, always in response to market demand.

For us, innovation and creativeness mean:

- Providing scope for the development of creative ideas.
- Only changing something if the new version is better or in high demand.

Blue Ocean Team

We have a Blue Ocean Team to stimulate the innovative strength and creativity of our employees. Every colleague can submit their innovative ideas to the team, which subsequently explores whether the idea is feasible. This enables us to make optimal use of the creativity within our company.

Solutions

We provide solutions to challenges in the market in society as a whole, such as:

- Better yield and protection of seedlings.
- Vegetable varieties that are suitable for organic production (40% of our range).
- Vegetable varieties specifically for sustainable hydroponics.
- Regional breeding to improve traditional varieties specifically for Africa and Asia.
- Tolerances to drought and salt for production in regions with limited water or saline soil.
- Disease resistances to reduce the use of crop protection agents.
- Vegetables that can be processed efficiently to reduce waste.
- Digital tools such as apps to identify diseases in crops.

Intellectual property

We believe it is important that all organic material, even if it is patent-protected, is available for

use in the development of new varieties, and that the resulting new varieties can also be sold commercially. That is why we are an initiator and member of the International Licensing Platform Vegetable (ILP). The members of the ILP give one another access to patented organic material, in exchange for a reasonable fee.

Robots and algorithms

Heavy and routine work is increasingly being robotised so that people can focus on the exceptions and their work becomes more challenging and enjoyable. In our phytofactory in Fijnaart we use robots for sowing, sampling and selecting, for example, and self-learning algorithms can also assist in selection work. This helps us to improve the quality and accelerate the development of even better vegetable varieties.

No GMOs

Rijk Zwaan's current product range does not include any varieties that fall under GMO regulations. We believe that there is no need for genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in vegetable varieties. Thanks to our planet's huge biodiversity, there are more than enough opportunities for breeding vegetables naturally.

Abdullah Sa'sa, Business Manager Middle East & North Africa

"Vegetables adapted to climate change"

"Rising temperatures, declining soil quality and the scarcity of fresh water are all consequences of climate change. More and more agricultural land is being affected by these extreme conditions. In some places it has already become impossible to cultivate vegetables.

Due to the growing world population, it is becoming



even more important to safeguard the production of healthy and sustainable food. Fruits and vegetables play a crucial role in providing essential nutrients like vitamins, minerals and fibre.

As a vegetable breeding company, we are aware of our contribution to the world's food supply and the challenges that climate change poses to growers. In our breeding programmes, we focus on vegetable varieties that can grow in multiple climate zones and are more resilient to external factors such as drought and soil salinisation – such as hydroponic

varieties which do not need soil to grow, which make more efficient use of water and nutrients, and which require little or no use of crop protection agents."

Careful use of resources

We provide the right facilities that enable our employees to perform exceptionally in favourable working conditions.

For us, careful use of resources specifically means:

- Using appropriate, reliable and durable business resources.
- Using material and equipment that enables us to supply high-quality products.
- Treating business resources with restraint, so that they last longer.
- Avoiding superfluous luxury.

Building for the future

Our new-build projects are designed for growth. The technical systems and layout of the buildings take possible expansion into consideration. This avoids demolition or major rebuilding work in the future and helps to save on raw materials.

Besides that, in new construction projects, we make use of sustainable building materials wherever possible, such as recycled horticultural materials or materials that we can reuse in the future.

Less plastic

As a vegetable breeding company, we're not only focused on the crop but also on the subsequent value chain. For example, we conduct research into opportunities to reduce the amount of packaging material our varieties require.

Reducing waste

We use sustainable materials whenever possible and minimise waste, including by making the necessary investments. We sort our waste materials for recycling wherever possible and reclaim waste water for reuse.

We also explore how our waste could be put to good use, such as the use of waste seeds as insect feed or insulation material.

Purification of waste water

We strive to minimise our production of waste water. That is why we use the best available techniques

- from water decontaminators to helophyte filters
- to purify the waste water from our processes. If necessary, we prevent waste water by developing techniques of our own, such as to purify the waste water from seed cleaning.

Nikos Ntagkas, Post-harvest Researcher

"Longer shelf life means less waste"



Environmental awareness

In all of our business processes we are continuously assessing whether and how we can contribute to improving the environment.

For us, this specifically means:

- The environmental aspect is one of the key criteria in our decision-making processes, alongside a focus on people and profit.
- Our vegetable varieties help to facilitate increasingly efficient utilisation of agricultural land and lead to an ongoing decrease in the amount of crop protection agents used.
- Healthy soil is a prerequisite for conducting crop trials, Therefore it is only logical that we make respectful and sustainable use of the environment and our natural resources.

Less energy and CO,

We strive to minimise energy consumption by stimulating an energy-saving mindset and also through technical measures.

Some examples include:

- In new-build projects, we incorporate as many of the available energy-saving measures as possible and install solar panels on roofs whenever possible.
 We also take steps to be able to participate in regional sustainable energy projects in the future, such as heat grids.
- We have installed solar panels at a growing number of our existing facilities. Welver in Germany has had solar panels since 2002 and the roof provides for 12.5% of its electricity needs. Our Dutch facility in Fijnaart has 1,300 solar panels on the roof, and solar panels have been installed elsewhere too, including on the roof of our warehouse in Italy.
- Some of our facilities have a heat recovery system which stores heat underground and in water tanks

in the summer so that it can be used for heating in the winter. Likewise, it can store cold air in the winter to use for cooling in the summer.

Preserving the environment through breeding

Vegetable varieties that can cope with less energy, water or chemical crop protection are better for the environment, and we bear that in mind when breeding vegetable varieties. We are constantly on the look-out for ways of incorporating resistances. We have also developed plants that are naturally more resistant against diseases and pests, such as Blueleaf cucumbers and CleanLeaf® aubergines.

Environmental management system

At the very least, we comply with all environmental requirements in every country. We register and monitor relevant environmental aspects and make changes if necessary, such as if the environmental burden increases or if improvements are possible.

Our mission of 'Sharing a healthy future' partly stems from our desire to ensure that the Earth remains habitable in the future. That is why, in our strategic decision-making, we strive to take the environment into account and to do business in a sustainable way.





For more information about CSR within Rijk Zwaan, see www.rijkzwaan.com/csr.