

Sustainability according to the United Nations (UN)

The UN states that sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations, both here and in other parts of the world. Plantum's vision and mission are in line with that definition of sustainability.

Plantum's vision:

We envisage a world in which an economically healthy, innovative and multiform seed and young plant sector from the Netherlands makes a maximum contribution to important development goals for the entire world, such as food security and quality, sustainability of agriculture and horticulture, product quality and diversity and well-being in a healthy living environment.

Plantum's mission:

Together, we work on a fit, strong and sustainable sector for seeds and young plants. We do this through lobbying, industry development, supporting members and promoting meetings and collaboration.

PLANET, PEOPLE & PROFIT

Sustainability is an integrated part of the companies united within Plantum. Based on the Planet, People & Profit principles of sustainability, the sector plays an important role that contributes to the main goal described above.

Planet

- The sector contributes to reduced use of crop protection, water and energy through healthy and resilient starter material, adapted to developing cultivation systems. See also our [Social Fact Sheet](#).
- The sector reduces its footprint.

People

- The sector contributes to various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as food security, through the availability of good starter material worldwide.
- The sector provides jobs with good terms & conditions and career opportunities.
- Fit employees play a critical role in the sustainability ambition and the development of the sector. Good terms & conditions (of employment) and career opportunities are important aspects in that respect.

Profit

- We are committed to a healthy business climate where sustainability on the environment and social themes can be improved according to the capacity of companies. See our Economic Fact Sheet [<link>](#).

COLLABORATION AND FACILITATION

- Together with government and other stakeholders, we work on more sustainable agricultural and horticultural chains. We do this by supporting the transition to more resilient crops, limiting food waste and making healthy products available by continuously working on improved varieties.
- We encourage viable mechanisms to make crop protection more sustainable and reduce dependence on chemicals.
- We standardise sustainability ambitions for the sector and support and inspire companies to make business processes more sustainable.
- We support (international) corporate social responsibility and the development of effective seed systems (outside Europe).



- Together with companies and social partners, we work on sustainable labour relations by concluding collective agreements and promoting an optimal working environment. Plantum is a party to three collective agreements with trade unions and other employer organisations. In addition, Plantum promotes the fitness, education and development of employees.

BIODIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE

Plant breeding increases genetic diversity in cultivation and the choice for farmers and gardeners to fully support their cultivation, and to develop varieties for new, more sustainable cultivation systems. In addition, the sector works closely with the Dutch gene bank (CGN), which actively combats the loss of diversity. See also our [Biodiversity Fact Sheet](#).

Number of registered species and varieties in the EU

	Number of species	Number of varieties
Agriculture*	109	25,000+
Vegetables*	77	22,000+
Flowers and plants ornamental plant cultivation**	520	100,000+

Source: * *EU Plant variety database* and
** *Dutch Varieties Register*

The sector encourages diversity by marketing and keeping a multitude of species and varieties. The table above gives an indication of the number of species and varieties registered in the EU. Market access and registration of new varieties must be low threshold in order to make as much diversity available as possible. In addition, control mechanisms are necessary to ensure:

- Identity of a variety for the benefit of a fair market (see [Intellectual Property Fact Sheet](#)).
- Quality in the form of vital seeds and plants.
- Plant health (see [Crop Health and Environment Fact Sheet](#) and [Market Access and Phytosanitary Policy Fact Sheet](#))

We encourage resilience by breeding aimed at the market segments for agricultural crops, vegetable and fruit crops, ornamental plant cultivation and specialist professional cultivation of young plants. Targeted breeding of organically certified crops also takes place (see [Organic Parent Material Fact Sheet](#)). All available methods are used to ensure the breeding process runs effectively. There is a growing need to be able to use techniques that make breeding progress faster, among other things, to keep up with the effects of climate change. See our [Breeding Methods Fact Sheet](#).

SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Every year, Plantum presents the Sustainability Award at the General Members' Meeting. Plantum member companies submit projects in which sustainability aspects play an explicit role. The award goes to the most innovative, original and inspiring project. The award is intended to encourage other companies to deal with sustainability in a different way.