

Rick van de Zedde: Project manager NPEC & Sr. scientist/ business developer Phenomics and Automation at Wageningen University and Research

Summary:

Currently Rick van de Zedde is project manager of the new phenotyping facility NPEC @ WUR and he is senior scientist/ business developer Phenomics and Automation at the Wageningen Plant Science Group. He has worked at WUR since 2004. His background is in Artificial Intelligence with a focus on imaging and robotics. In 2002, he graduated with a MSc in Artificial Intelligence from the University of Groningen.

Since 2006 he has been a coordinator of www.AgroFoodRobotics.nl, a joint initiative of several research institutes within Wageningen UR. He is also one of the initiators of the Phenomics initiative within WUR - www.phenomics.nl - in which 15 WUR research groups work closely together on plant phenotyping projects. He also takes an active role in research. In 2011, he was head of the MARVIN-project in which he and his team developed a tomato seedling inspection approach based on 3D reconstruction. In the current EU project EPPN, he was the leader of the “Novel Instrumentation for Plant Phenotyping” work package. And the coordinating activities of WU and WR in the EU-project EPPN2020.

In the EU-COST action Phenomen-ALL (FA1306) “The quest for tolerant varieties - Phenotyping at plant and cellular level”, he was WG3 leader taking care of the integration of phenotyping at plant and cell level and translation into good practices for applied end use.

Currently he is leading the development of the Netherlands Plant Eco-phenotyping Centre (NPEC) - www.npec.nl NPEC provides a versatile modular platform that will enable Dutch and international scientists, both academic and R&D, to carry out accurate high-throughput phenotyping: studies of plant performance in relation to relevant biotic and abiotic factors across a range of scales, from molecule to crop, from nm to km.

NPEC is an integrated, national research facility housed by Wageningen University & Research and Utrecht University and is co-funded by The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).