



Innovation In Agricultural And Horticultural Education - Competencies And Skills For The New Urban Food Entrepreneur

Ekkel, ED¹, Stienstra, M², Van Hoof, T³, Pot, P⁴, Nobelen, M⁵ Coobs, H⁶

Presenting author's e-mail: d.ekkel@cahvilentum.nl

¹ *CAH Vilentum Professional University Almere, The Netherlands*

² *Nordwin College, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands*

³ *Citaverde College, Roermond, The Netherlands*

⁴ *InHolland Professional University, Delft, The Netherlands*

⁵ *Edudelta Education Group, Barendrecht, The Netherlands*

⁶ *De Groene Welle Agricultural College, Zwolle, The Netherlands*

ABSTRACT TEXT

In many countries, cities, citizens, food policy boards or whatever organisation take initiatives in small scale urban farming and/or urban horticulture. The underlying drives can be very different: the lack of availability of fresh food and vegetables, reinforcement of communities, increasing the quality and use of green spaces in the city, etc. Thus, the function of green areas in cities is changing and citizens are very engaged in these developments. Students studying Agriculture, Horticulture or Nature management nowadays at (Professional) Universities in The Netherlands have to be aware of these developments and perhaps it also leads to new career opportunities for them. However, what should be the optimal mix of knowledge, skills and competences for these students if, after graduation, they want to become an urban farming or urban horticulture entrepreneur ? How should the present curricula of the universities and colleges change ? In this paper, results of a research project that studies the innovation assignment for the present green curricula will be presented based on a thorough study of present urban food initiatives.