

# Lettuce on open water

**Wageningen Plant Research is experimenting in Lelystad with the cultivation of vegetables on floating polystyrene islands.**

The rafts measuring two by three metres drift in a basin in the open air. They are made from polystyrene blocks wrapped in plastic foil that are bound together by nets. Lettuce, spinach and tomato plants are suspended in the holes in the polystyrene. Their roots touch the water, allowing them to absorb water and nutrients.

Vegetable islands are a particularly promising solution for open water, for example in places where there is a lack of farmland such as the city of Singapore, says Urban-Rural Relations researcher Marcel Vijn. 'Or in areas that are regularly flooded or submerged under water for brief periods.'

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