

# Picking robot for peppers

Applied Plant Research (PPO) at Wageningen UR is all set to develop a robot for harvesting bell peppers. The European Union has allocated eight million euros to the CROPS project, involving research institutes and companies from 10 countries. Wageningen UR is coordinating the project, which focuses on the development of new techniques for sensors, robot arms, grippers and intelligence.

Project leader Jan Bontsema: 'We are going to generate fundamental knowledge in the form of practical applications. In the Netherlands we will be working closely with Jentjens Machinetechniek on the development of the machine. Abroad, the various different partners will be working on an apple-picking robot, a machine for picking grapes selectively for first-class wine and precision instruments for spraying apple orchards.' The grant for the project comes from the EU's seventh Framework Programme (KP7). Info: [jan.bontsema@wur.nl](mailto:jan.bontsema@wur.nl)