

## The presence of *Fusarium* species in Dutch onion fields

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Uireka is a research project, that aims to improve the quality and thereby strengthen the export position of the Dutch onion. To realize this, forces are bundled from the whole production chain. Innovations mainly concern renewal and improvement of cultivation and drying techniques. The quality of the onion directly after harvest and just before storage determines the quality further in the chain.

The Dutch Onion is a world player. Export is around 1.3 million tons of onions per year to approximately 130 countries world-wide. These are seed onions, planting onions and shallots. This means a value of more than 400 million euros. The export and hence the export value has grown 30 to 40% in the past 15 years. This position is due to an efficient chain structure and innovations by breeders, growers, suppliers, knowledge institutions, sorting and packing stations and

exporters. In order to maintain or even expand that position, the quality must be excellent. In addition, it is necessary that the Dutch onion distinguishes itself as a durable product.

Part of Uireka deals with *Fusarium* research. In 2017, the focus is on the identification of *Fusarium* species in Dutch onion cultivation areas. From these areas, cultivation conditions are described and compared and onion bulbs are collected and examined for *Fusarium* infection. In total, bulbs are collected from 100 growers shortly before or after harvest. Participating growers will receive results of the survey on their parcel in the autumn.

During the presentation for the Fusarium Working Group, people will be informed about the project. Results will be presented in 2018. For more information consult the website <http://uireka.nl/>.



Visual summary of subjects by working group secretary Anne van Diepeningen.