

# Growing cucumbers at the South Pole



PHOTO ISS: HARALD RENTSCH

**Wageningen scientists have developed a closed-cycle greenhouse system that could provide the crew of a space station with fresh produce. The greenhouse is being tested on a 'mission' to Antarctica.**

WUR is involved in a year-long European test space mission at the South Pole. The Greenhouse Horticulture business unit has developed a special greenhouse that could provide fresh vegetables in the future for the International Space Station (ISS) or other space missions. At the start of 2018, the greenhouse was erected and put to use at a test station in Antarctica. Using a cultivation

manual that the Wageningen researchers also produced, the 10-person crew have now harvested 157 kilos of tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce. Cameras keep track of the crops' growth rates and detect any deviations. In the event of problems, the Wageningen experts advise them. Photos, explanations and updates can be found at <http://eden-iss.net/>. Info: [cecilia.stanghellini@wur.nl](mailto:cecilia.stanghellini@wur.nl)