



Infarm partners with WUR

Infarm, a large network for vertical agriculture, is funding two PhD students and a postdoc over the next four years to optimize tomato production in terms of taste, nutritional value and yield. The tomatoes will be grown hydroponically indoors, in water containing nutrients and under LED lighting. An Infarm

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than 1400 vertical nurseries in North America, Asia and Europe, in which more than a million plants are grown every month. The company claims that indoor cultivation uses 95 per cent less land and water than land-based agriculture, and no chemical pesticides.

Experimental results

Infarm is looking for ways to reduce growing costs and improve the quality of the tomatoes. The researchers at WUR will use modern sensors and scanners to evaluate the growth rate, health and nutrient content of the tomatoes.

WUR professor of Horticulture and Product Physiology Leo Marcelis: 'This partnership is an ideal opportunity for WUR to apply experimental results in practice because the research conditions are representative of actual cultivation conditions.' He wants to make the knowledge acquired in these projects generally applicable, with the aim of improving tomato yields and quality while drastically reducing water and energy consumption. ^{AS}