

Institute for photosynthesis research

In March, a new, independent institute was set up by WUR and the Photosynthesis 2.0 Research Fund (P2RF): the Institute for Advanced Studies for Photosynthetic Efficiency (IASPE). 'An important aim is to learn how to improve the efficiency of photosynthesis in food crops. That could help considerably in efforts to feed the world,' says Ernst van den Ende, a member of WUR's Board of Directors. A few plant species can grow very fast thanks to their much greater

photosynthetic efficiency. One such species is the shortpod mustard. The institute wants to learn from such species. The idea is that better photosynthesis will result in higher yields for current crops. The new institute will require an investment of 62 million euros over 10 years. Fifty million euros will come from P2RF and WUR is contributing 12 million, mainly in the form of staff and laboratories.

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