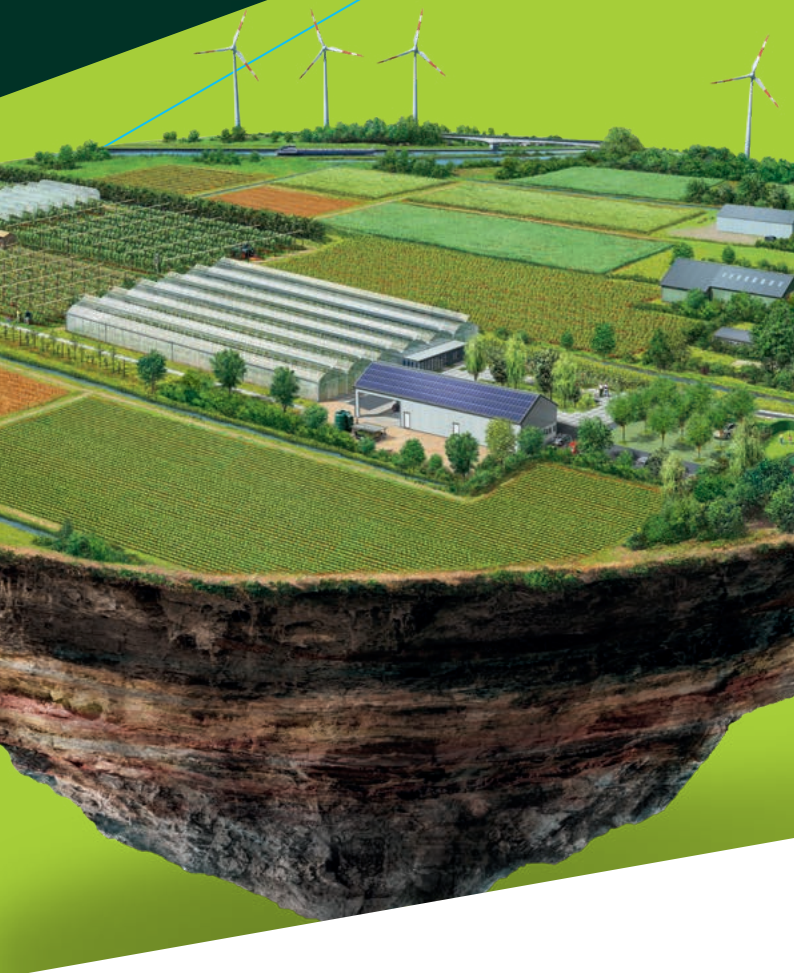


One Step Ahead with Sustainable Agriculture

**Zachtfruit Schalkwijk B.V. –
The Netherlands**



Forward 
Farming

Sustainable Agriculture in Practice

The van Garderen family's berry farm is situated on the island of Schalkwijk, surrounded by the water of the Amsterdam Rhine Canal and the Lek river, in a unique landscape that dates back to the 13th and 14th centuries. Founded in 1981, the family has grown the farm enterprise into a leading company in the fruit sector. The van Garderen family is committed to operating in an environmentally-responsible way, especially considering the farm's unique location. Together with the ForwardFarming partners, the farm is taking its sustainability practices to a higher level.



Introducing Zachtfruit Schalkwijk B.V.

The van Garderen Family Farm



Location:

Schalkwijk, municipality of Houten, near Utrecht.



History:

Founded in 1981, the farming operation has now expanded to a second location, where the ForwardFarming activities are concentrated.



Farm operations:

The farm grows berries on 35 hectares and also cools and packs over 12 million packages of fruit from its own cultivation and from third parties. The cooling capacity is over 550 metric tons.



Crops:

30 hectares of redcurrants, 4 hectares of blackberries.



Partners:

ForwardFarming Fruit is a collaboration between Zachtfruit Schalkwijk B.V., CAF (Centrale Adviesdienst Fruitteelt), The Greenery and Bayer. This ForwardFarming initiative includes additional collaborations with various institutes and enterprises.

Zachtfruit Schalkwijk B.V.

Farm Profile



- Tailored Solutions
- Product Stewardship
- Partnerships

Key Elements

- Planting material**
Van Garderen collaborates with The Greenery to develop new plant varieties, with a significant focus on varietal purity and resistance to pests and diseases.
- Crop protection**
Biological, chemical and technological crop protection measures are combined to form an integrated cultivation system.
- Decision support systems**
Optimization of crop protection in terms of timing, based on crop growth and external (weather) conditions.
- Precision technology**
Optimization of crop protection application in terms of placement and quantity, based on soil and crop sensor data.
- Storage**
Storage is managed to optimize energy use and to maintain optimal quality of the berries.
- Functional biodiversity**
The planting of flower strips and a variety of hedges as a bed and breakfast for beneficial insects and as natural buffers between the crop and adjacent areas.
- Apiary**
Honeybees for pollinating crops.
- Insect hotels**
Nesting sites for solitary bees to support pollination, and shelters and nesting sites for beneficial insects such as earwigs and ladybugs.
- easyFlow**
A closed transfer system to prevent possible contact with crop protection products during filling.
- Phytobac®**
Optimal yard facility combined with a Phytobac® for the biodegradation of effluent.
- Personal protection**
To ensure the safety of crop protection product operators.
- Partnerships**
In addition to the three main partners, there are cooperations with various companies and institutes.

Collaboration for Sustainable Agriculture

Partnerships are essential to stimulate progress in sustainable agriculture. This is being demonstrated by the partners of the ForwardFarming initiative:



// **Zachtfruit Schalkwijk B.V.** is a leading company in the area of cultivating, sorting and packaging berries. As a result, the farm is able to supply berries, such as red-currants, blackberries and raspberries, of highest quality year-round.



// **Centrale Adviesdienst Fruitteelt (CAF)** is an independent organization and knowledge center. CAF creates and shares knowledge related to crop protection, fertilization and cultivation techniques for pome, stone and berry fruits.



// **The Greenery**, owned by the Coforta co-operative with a member base of more than 500 growers, supplies a complete daily selection of fresh vegetables, fruits and mushrooms to supermarkets, wholesalers, caterers and the processing industry.



// **Bayer Crop Science** develops innovative seeds, services and crop protection products for agriculture and horticulture. These innovations contribute to an integrated crop management – the basis for sustainable agriculture.

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