Dean’s Trip to the Netherlands
An Exclusive Look at Agricultural Innovations
with Dr. Staci L. Simonich, Dean for the College of Agricultural Sciences, and Dr. Dave Stone, Associate Dean of International Programs
April 13 – 19, 2024
TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

MEET Dutch agricultural innovators and see their work firsthand on an exclusive, six-night program in the Netherlands with Dr. Staci L. Simonich, Dean for the College of Agricultural Sciences, and Dr. Dave Stone, Associate Dean of International Programs.

WITNESS cutting-edge innovations in greenhouse horticulture at the World Horti Center during an expert-guided tour, with special access to their research center and greenhouse demonstration area.

EXPERIENCE the groundbreaking Agrovoltaic site in Randwijk, with an exclusive look at how solar panels are used to shade plants and create green energy (pending confirmation).

DISCOVER how Dutch companies like Bejo Zaden and HZPC are exporting their expertise to challenging regions worldwide, meeting their teams to delve into their unique work.

CELEBRATE tulip season at Keukenhof, legendary Dutch gardens open only a few weeks a year, with experts revealing secrets of how they cultivate millions of colorful blossoms each season.

IMMERSE yourself in dairy farming and dairy innovations in the Friesland region of the Netherlands, an area with its own language and flag.

GAIN a deeper understanding of Dutch leadership in “green software” with an exclusive inside look at Holland’s Seed Valley, where companies employ sophisticated technology to reduce their carbon footprint while enhancing crop quality and yield.

OBSERVE innovative agriculture in action on a private visit to a vertical farm, with Green Simplicity Systems enabling precise research on plants in controlled environments.
TRAVELING WITH YOU

**Dr. Staci L. Simonich** is the Dean for the College of Agricultural Sciences. She holds an MBA from Oregon State University and earned her Ph.D. in chemistry from Indiana University. With a history of impactful research, including more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, her laboratory research delves into understanding the fate and impact of pesticides and organic compounds. Dr. Simonich has received numerous awards and mentoring accolades throughout her career and has secured over $10 million in external research funding.

**Dr. Dave Stone** is an Associate Dean of International Programs in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Professor in Food Science and Technology at Oregon State University. His expertise is in international capacity building, food safety, and risk analysis. Dr. Stone is engaged with diverse clients across the globe to develop and advance agricultural trade and safe foods. He holds a B.S. from the University of Texas at Austin in zoology, an M.S. from the University of North Texas in environmental sciences, and a Ph.D. from Oregon State University in toxicology.
Dear Friends of the College of Agricultural Sciences,

At the beginning of the Dutch tulip season in April 2024, I invite you to join me on an extraordinary journey to the Netherlands, a small country best known for windmills and Vermeer, yet now a beacon of hope for sustainable agriculture. Longtime innovators in water management due to their country’s low-lying terrain, the Dutch have turned their fields into laboratories. Holland’s fertile pastures hold a vision of what the future of agriculture can be.

Accompanied by Dr. Dave Stone, Associate Dean of International Programs, this behind-the-scenes program will introduce you to the Dutch trailblazers who are pioneering ingenious new techniques—such as the fusion of energy and agriculture, where solar panels shade crops and generate clean energy. You will exclusively observe their groundbreaking work firsthand as you traverse enchanting Delft, Amsterdam, and the marvelous Friesland region.

Go behind the scenes at the World Horti Center, a crucible of horticultural experimentation, and their state-of-the-art greenhouse research facilities. Meet the leaders developing “green software” in Holland’s famous Seed Valley. On an exclusive tour with the team at Bejo Zaden’s headquarters, see how they’re exporting Dutch agricultural expertise to smallholder farmers all over the world. Our program also features privately guided visits to a technologically advanced vertical farm and sites like Amsterdam’s Gitzels Nursery, where you’ll gain an exclusive glimpse of the future of urban agriculture and young plant production.

You will also celebrate tulip season’s arrival with a privately guided tour of Holland’s legendary Keukenhof, expansive gardens that only open a few weeks a year. Throughout this program, enjoy meals in picturesque settings; guided visits to art museums and centuries-old windmills; and opportunities to mingle with Oregon State study-abroad students at Wageningen University.

Relax in historic accommodations in Delft and magnificent Amsterdam. To reserve your place, please contact our tour operator Arrangements Abroad at 800-221-1944 or trips@arrangementsabroad.com. We hope you join us for this profoundly enriching Dutch adventure to learn, collaborate, and gain insights into the future of agriculture.

Sincerely,

Dr. Staci L. Simonich
Dean for the College of Agricultural Sciences
Dean’s Trip to the Netherlands:
An Exclusive Look at Agricultural Innovations

April 13 – 19, 2024

SATURDAY, APRIL 13: DEPARTURE
Depart for Amsterdam on an overnight flight.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14: AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS / ZAANDAM / DELFT
Make your way from Amsterdam to Zaandam, where you will explore the picturesque, fully functional Zaanse Schans Windmills. During the 17th- and 18th-century Dutch Golden Age, a staggering 600 active windmills turned along the Zaan district in North Holland, one of the world’s pioneering industrialized regions. Ten of these historical windmills continue to spin, toiling away at grinding oil, spices, and colorings, preserved for generations to come at their new home in Zaandam’s Zaanse Schans neighborhood.

After immersing yourself in this scenic beauty, enjoy a delightful lunch by the canal. In the late afternoon, transfer to Delft, the hometown of Dutch master Vermeer, where you will check into our hotel and have some leisure time. In the evening, gather for a reception at the hotel.

MONDAY, APRIL 15: DELFT / NAALDWIJK / BLEISWIJK
In the nearby town of Naaldwijk, embark on a guided morning visit to the World Horti Center, where business, education, research, and government leaders come together to exchange wisdom, leading to horticultural innovations. Discover where cutting-edge techniques and technologies are developed in its state-of-the-art greenhouse research building featuring 36 research sections. Go behind the scenes in the greenhouse demonstration area, where you can witness advanced technologies in action, including automation, shading systems, climate control, remote monitoring, and precise irrigation methods.

After lunch this afternoon, take an inside look at the Wageningen Greenhouse & Horticulture Research Station in Bleiswijk. Its research facilities are truly exceptional, including specialized greenhouses for sustainable crop protection, pioneering energy-saving experiments, and state-of-the-art equipment for investigating greenhouse materials and early detection of crop stress signals. Furthermore, it houses two innovation and demo centers dedicated to energy and water treatment, positioning it at the forefront of agricultural technology advancements.

This evening, gather for a memorable dinner at an acclaimed, inventive restaurant serving Scandinavian cuisine in Delft. B,L,D
TUESDAY, APRIL 16: DELFT / WAGENINGEN / RANDWIJK
Our morning will be dedicated to visiting Wageningen University, where you will enjoy an exclusive tour and a lunch with Oregon State University students. After lunch, visit the Agrovoltaic site in Randwijk (pending confirmation). Learn more about this unique venture, which uses solar panels to cast welcome shade over crops while simultaneously churning out renewable energy. This system, called agrovoltaics, is a groundbreaking marriage of farming and photovoltaics aimed at greening our food system. The panels not only regulate the amount of light plants receive, but they also cut water evaporation by up to 29 percent, elevating soil moisture levels to plant-friendly standards. This evening, enjoy some time at leisure at the hotel or venture to a nearby eatery for dinner on your own. B,L

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17: DELFT / LISSE / AMSTERDAM
Our morning is devoted to industry visits, with details to come. This afternoon, immerse yourself in a special expert-led tour of Keukenhof. A beloved Dutch destination that springs to life during its annual tulip festival, the gardens open their gates for a mere eight weeks from late March to mid-May. Millions of tulips will take center stage (pending seasonal conditions), joined by the fragrant presence of daffodils and hyacinths. Wander through English landscape gardens, find solace in the Japanese country gardens, and browse the historical gardens. A leisurely stroll will unveil breathtaking landscapes at every turn. Venture into the greenhouses, where nature’s artistry is on full display. As you admire the tulips, orchids, and roses, experts will share the secrets of their cultivation and care.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18: AMSTERDAM / JOURE / DOKKUM / WAGENINGEN / LEEUWARDEN
Venture north to the town of Joure in the picturesque Friesland region and take an inside look at HZPC, a global powerhouse in the potato industry, known for seed potato trading, innovative breeding, and concept development. Their trailblazing breeding program, with a focus on hybrid potatoes, seeks to bolster food security in challenging regions. Join the team here for an insightful exploration of their work.

A delightful lunch awaits you in Dokkum, followed by visits to Meine’s Dairy Farm and the Wageningen Dairy Research Center to learn about local dairy production. In the early evening, transfer to Leeuwarden for a guided tour of the Fries Museum (pending confirmation), where you will be guided through its unique collections, including colorful paintings by the 20th-century Dutch artist Gerrit Benner and memorabilia about the life of the Mata Hari, the famous dancer and spy born as Margaretha Geertruida Zelle in Leeuwarden. This evening, gather for a dinner in Leeuwarden before returning to the hotel in Amsterdam. B,L,D
FRIDAY, APRIL 19: AMSTERDAM / HOORN / WARMENHUIZEN / WERVERSHOOF

After breakfast, venture to Seed Valley in the town of Hoorn, where you will get a deeper understanding of the Dutch leadership in “green software.” Within this unassuming hub lies a cluster of forward-thinking companies dedicated to crafting novel flower and vegetable varieties. Their collaborative efforts drive crop quality and yield enhancements, contributing to a flourishing and robust world.

Later on, delve into the fascinating world of seeds on a special visit to Bejo Zaden’s headquarters and facilities in Warmenhuizen. Founded in the 19th century as a small seed company, Bejo Zaden has grown into a global leader in vegetable seed production, boasting over 2,200 employees across 31 countries. Their mission is to support smallholder farmers in developing nations by supplying them with top-notch seeds and agricultural expertise. Meet representatives and learn about the corporation’s partnerships with local and international farmers.

After lunch, visit a vertical farm and witness the innovative Green Simplicity systems, which offer growers the means to conduct precise research on plants and test their own crop varieties in meticulously controlled environments. With variables like LED lighting, humidity, irrigation, carbon dioxide, and temperature under scrutiny, growers can draw conclusions that lead to production upscaling solutions, whether that involves tweaking specific greenhouse conditions or adopting automated multi-layer cultivation systems.

Next, in the West Frisian village of Wervershoof, enjoy a special visit to Gitzels Nursery, which has grown into an international supplier of young plants, serving professional seed companies, breeding stations, and vegetable growers. Collaborating with customers and suppliers, they explore enhancements in areas like climate control, fertilization, organic cultivation, and crop protection. The day concludes in Amsterdam with a special farewell dinner.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20: AMSTERDAM / RETURN

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the Amsterdam airport for your flight home.

PROGRAM RATE

$6,399 per person, double rate
$7,999 single rate

RATE INCLUDES

- Six nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, coffee/tea, wine/beer with all meals; select options for alcoholic beverages available at welcome and farewell dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Taxes, service, and porterage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES

International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

DISCLAIMER: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Oregon State University and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

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HOTEL ARSENAAL DELFT
A quintessential part of Delft’s cityscape, this hotel stands as a symbol of the town’s rich history. This 16th-century complex, with its picturesque charm reminiscent of Johannes Vermeer’s works, has earned its place as a National Monument. Relax in one of its 63 distinct rooms, ranging from comfort rooms to superior rooms and two luxurious suites. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available.

TIVOLI DOLENO AMSTERDAM
Set in Amsterdam’s medieval center, this five-star Eco-certified Luxury Property is the Dutch capital’s oldest hotel, opened in 1883. Situated between the tranquil Kloveniersburgwal Canal on one side and the iconic River Amstel, from which Amsterdam draws its name, on the other, the location exudes a sense of calm and tranquility. Moreover, it boasts a unique connection to the artistry of Rembrandt, with each of its spaces bearing the influence of his masterpieces. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available.