The Netherlands

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2009 Highlights for The Netherlands

Several Dutch Arabidopsis groups are now effectively exploiting systems biology approaches; examples are:

- The construction of transcriptional networks for the transition between vegetative and floral development (Kaufman et al., PLos Biology 7, 2009)
- Studies on phenotypic buffering using genetical metabolomics/genomics (Fu et al Nature Genetics 41, 2009).
- Emerging insight into how auxin generates specificity (Lokerse and Weijers, Curr.Opin. Plant Biol, in press, 2009).
- The combination of computational modeling and experimental analysis to analyze lateral root formation (Laskowksi et al., PLos Biology 6, 2008)

The Dutch Government approved the second phase of the CBSG project which supports Arabidopsis research, including bioinformatics and enabling technologies, with 4.5 M€. This program involves collaborative projects between Universities and research institutes of Groningen, Wageningen and Utrecht.

Ben Scheres (University of Utrecht) obtained a 2.2 M€ Advanced Investigator Grant for Arabidopsis research from the European Union, to be spent on a combination of experimental and computational approaches for the study of root development and plant architecture.

Major funding sources for Arabidopsis functional genomics:

- Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (www.nwo.nl)
- The Netherlands Genomics Initiative (www.genomics.nl)
- The Netherlands Plant Genomics Network (www.cbsg.nl)
- Foundation for Technology funded by Ministries of Economic Affairs and Education (www.stw.nl)
- ERA-PG: www.erapg.org/
- Human Frontiers Science Program (http://www.hfsp.org/)
- EC Framework 7 RTN
- EMBO fellowships (http://www.embo.org/fellowships/index.html)