

Belgium – Wallonia #10REASONS

A Strategic Choice to set up your AgTech company
in Europe



Wallonia.be

EXPORT
INVESTMENT

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Belgium – Wallonia

#10REASONS

A Strategic Choice to set up your AgTech
company
in Europe

#REASON1

A GENEROUS FARMLAND

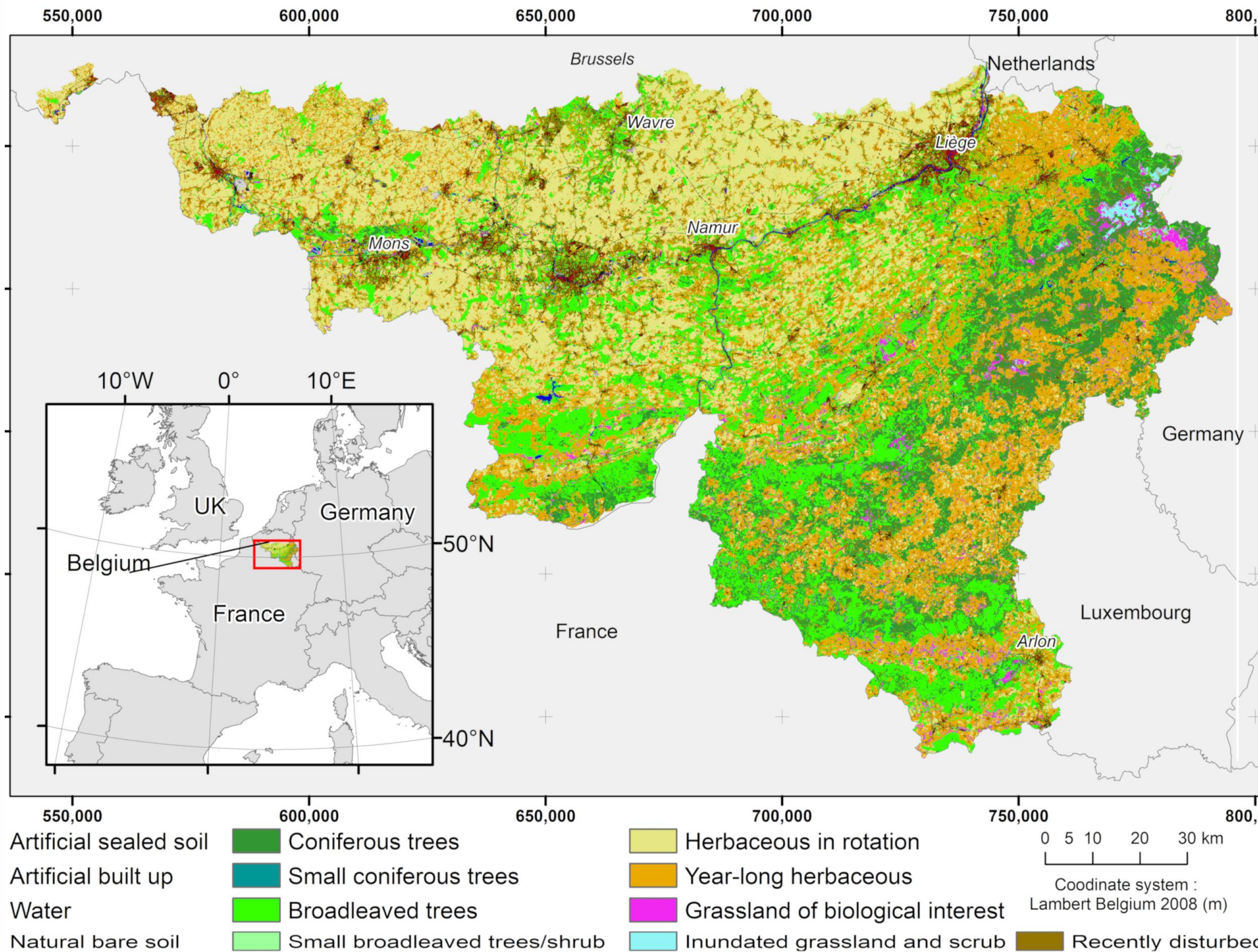
Fertile plains, plateaus, suitable for multiple crops and livestock systems, and the forested Ardennes mountains

- ✓ 44% dedicated to agriculture
- ✓ Organic farming on 13% on agricultural land
- ✓ 90% of forest area are located in the Ardennes (1,1 million ha)

Main crops :

- permanent grassland (35% of the utilised agricultural area UAA),
- cereals (winter wheat, barley,...)- 24% of UAA,
- fodder crops – 21% of UAA, industrial crops (sugar beets, potatoes,...) – about 14% of UAA,
- horticulture occupying about 5 % of the UAA.

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#REASON2

A STRONG AND DYNAMIC AGRIFOOD SECTOR



The **Walloon agrifood cluster**, has over 300 members (agri-food businesses, equipment and service companies, as well as research and training organisations).

Mission: to stimulate innovation and collaboration within the food ecosystem and support players in their responsible development and sustainable transition.

Tools : R&D projects, networking events, leader/contributor of several European projects, ...

[Wagralim](#)



Fevia Wallonie is the Walloon aisle of the Belgian Food and Beverages federation. It represents its members – food and drinks companies- and is an active lobby for the sector at the different level of governments and administrations.

The trademark [food.be](#) gathers together the Belgian companies and product offer on a unique web page [food.be](#)



#REASON3

A Dense Network of Food Transformation Companies

In 2022, the food transformation sector represented:

→ **10,5 billion €** turnover (biggest industrial sector of Wallonia, about 20,2% of the total turnover)

→ **6 billion €** export

→ **499 billion €** investment (about 25% of the total of investment in industry)

→ **25 298** directs jobs

Structure of the sector :

- ❑ **20 very large companies (more than 500 workers)**
- ❑ **around 600 SME's**
- ❑ **Main sub-sectors in terms of employment :**
 - Bakery, Potatoe processing, Meat processing, Chocolate and derived product manufacturing, Dairy Industry

Agri-food



#REASON4

AN ATTENTION DRAWN TO TALENTS & R&D

5 major universities (bio-engineering, sciences,...)

Dedicated Applied Research centres

- Foodtech & Agtech



CRA-W | Official website of Walloon Agricultural Research Center (wallonie.be)

- Researches about farming techniques
- Food technology and quality



<https://www.celabor.be/>

CELABOR offers scientific and technical support to companies in the field of agri-food (nutrition and extraction), the environment, packaging, paper/cardboard and textiles.

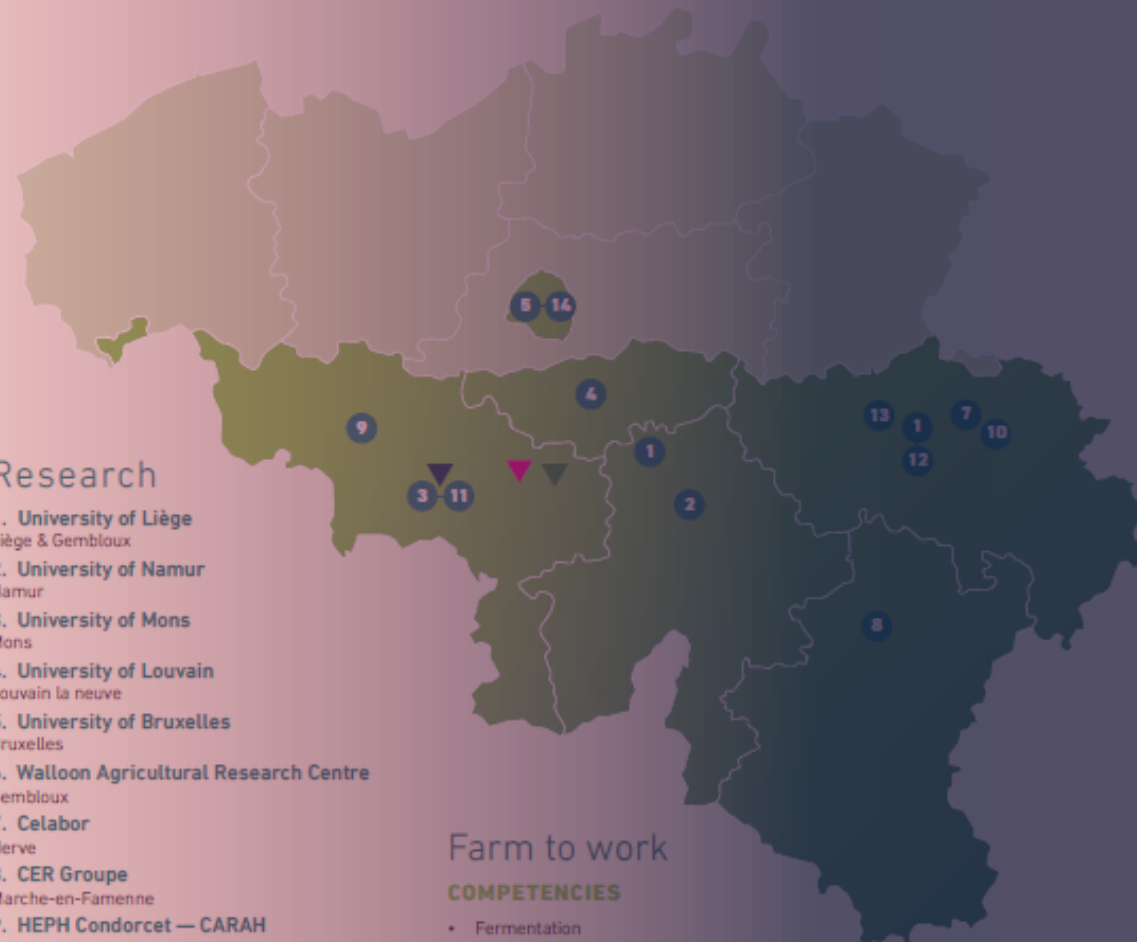


Our technology platforms | Réseau LiEU (reseaulieu.be)

Network of walloon universities providing technological support for the agrifood sector

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Belgium – Wallonia, a hub of excellence for agri-food players



Research

1. University of Liège
Liège & Gembloux
2. University of Namur
Namur
3. University of Mons
Mons
4. University of Louvain
Louvain la neuve
5. University of Bruxelles
Bruxelles
6. Walloon Agricultural Research Centre
Gembloux
7. Celabor
Herve
8. CER Groupe
Marche-en-Famenne
9. HEPH Condorcet — CARAH
Ath
10. HE Charlemagne
Verviers
11. HELHa — CeREF
Mons
12. HEPL — CECOTEPE
Liège
13. HELMo — HELMo Link (ex-CRIG)
Grâce-Hollogne
14. HE Lucia de Brouckère (HELdB) –
Meurice R&D
Bruxelles

Farm to work

COMPETENCIES

- Fermentation
- Nutrition and health
- Ingredients
- food and beverage
- Animal health
- Protein
- Sustainability
- Biosolutions
- Food safety
- Microbiome
- Consumer
- Agrifood biotech
- Food packaging

DIGITALISATION

- ▼ Certech
Seneffe
- ▼ Multitel
Mons
- ▼ Cetic
Gosselies

#REASON5

EFFICIENT POLICY LEVERS & INCENTIVES

From incentives and financial support available at all development stages to taxation and access to public investment, we provide tailor-made support to all projects in Wallonia.

- ✓ R&D support - lower taxes on research employees
- ✓ Grants for job creations
- ✓ Grants for sustainable investment – CO2 emission reduction, water use, wastewater treatment
- ✓ Lower corporate tax rate



#REASON6

AN ATTRACTIVE AND AVAILABLE REAL ESTATE



Prices of land



Attractive real estate costs

Dedicated industrial areas to AgTech and Food processing



#REASON7

A WELCOMING BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Setting up a business in Belgium is quick and simple. It only takes 4 days and 4 start-up procedures to take off, making Belgium one of the fastest places in Europe to establish a business



#REASON8

A CENTRAL LOCATION IN EUROPE

SAVE TIME THANKS TO A DENSE NETWORK OF ROAD, RAILWAYS, WATER WAYS AND AIRPORTS

BY TRUCK

- ✓ LONDON : less than 6 hours drive
- ✓ PARIS : 4 hours drive
- ✓ FRANKFURT : about 3 hours drive

AIRPORT

LIEGE AIRPORT : benefits of specific infrastructure for fresh food transport to reach the entire world as well as a unique horse inn for horses transport

BRUSSELS AIRPORT : major passengers airport



#REASON9

A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE

You will enjoy a high quality of life in BELGIUM-WALLONIA thanks to :



health care



housing



Gastronomy and culture



#REASON10

AWEX, YOUR ONE STOP SHOP for setting & developing your business in Wallonia and beyond



INFORMATION
INTRODUCTION TO
THE DECISION
MAKERS



SUPPORT MEASURES



TAX AND LEGAL
ASSISTANCE



REAL ESTATE
SEARCH – SITE
SELECTION



STAFF RECRUITMENT



EXPORT

- 80 AWEX Counsellors at your disposal around the world

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The #10REASONS AT A GLANCE

#1 A GENEROUS FARMLAND

#2 EFFICIENT POLICY LEVERS & INCENTIVES

#3 A DENSE NETWORK OF FOOD TRANSFORMATION COMPANIES

#4 A STRONG AND DYNAMIC ECOSYSTEM

#5 AN ATTENTION DRAWN TO TALENTS & R&D

#6 AN ATTRACTIVE AND AVAILABLE REAL ESTATE

#7 A WELCOMING BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

#8 A CENTRAL LOCATION IN EUROPE

#9 A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE

#10 AWEX, YOUR ONE STOP SHOP for setting & developing your business in Wallonia and beyond

Wallonia export and investment agency (AWEX) is committed to strengthening Wallonia's position as the premier gateway for international investors seeking success in the heart of Europe. With its strategical location and tailor-made AWEX support, Wallonia is the perfect place for a company to settle and develop in Europe. AWEX informs and advises the investors in every stage of their development, through a personalized, innovative, and sustainable approach. AWEX also supports companies settled in Wallonia in every step of their international endeavors. This includes exports, technological partnerships, and development abroad.

Feel free to contact us, we will be more than happy to help you!

AGRIFOOD : Lucie Lejeune L.lejeune@awex.be DEN HAAG : Laurence Martaux l.martaux@awex-wallonia.com

<https://www.investinwallonia.be>

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Soft landing program

Tailored solutions for startups and innovative companies [IGNITY - Soft Landing Program](#)



Why?

To penetrate the European market from a central region by developing an economic activity in a dynamic environment.



How?

Courtesy of a one-stop shop that allows the rapid creation of a legal structure and checks the most important aspects (market, intellectual property etc.).



Under what conditions?

The Soft Landing Program can be activated at any time through AWEX or IGNITY.



What services?

A long-term assistance, from the launch of the company to its growing phase.

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