

The **innovation cluster Wagralim** brings together businesses from the food and agricultural industries, as well as stakeholders in research and training. It oversees innovative and ambitious partnership projects involving R&D, investment & internationalization and training. This means that Wagralim can help its members achieve critical mass, become more competitive and accelerate their growth.

Wagralim encourages the development of projects and partnerships, whether they are related to technology or not, in Belgium and around the world.

The cluster has defined **four interconnected strategic** themes to provide a framework for cooperation between Wagralim's businesses and partners:

- "Health" foods and nutritional quality
- Industrial efficiency
- Packaging
- Development of a sustainable network in the agro-industry.

The agricultural industry cluster is keen to turn these themes into areas in which Wallonia can excel by giving businesses in the sector the tools they need to incorporate these strategic skills. The research/innovation, training, investment and export support projects fit perfectly with these themes.

(T) +32 81 728 540 - info@wagralim.be
www.wagralim.be

Wagralim, driving forward growth and innovation in the food and agricultural industries

Wallonia Export - Investment Agency, your gateway to Wallonia - Europe

Wallonia Export-Investment Agency is your one-stop shop and partner starting from the very onset of your research and European development. With us, you'll find scientific, fiscal and business expertise to prepare, launch or develop your activities. With us, you'll find the key that opens the door to academic, scientific and industrial networks.



Wagralim joins Wallonia Export-Investment Agency to create a team of specialists dedicated to making your project a success. **Contact us!**

Wallonia Export-Investment Agency
Pierre HEYMANS - Agro-food Expert
(T) +32 81 33 28 68 | pheymans@investinwallonia.be
www.investinwallonia.be - www.awex.be

Wagralim
Isabelle GROMMET
International & Communication Manager
(T) +32 81 728 543 | isabelle.grommet@wagralim.be
www.wagralim.be



Invest in **Wallonia**

Appetite for Innovation!

Wallonia- Belgium

The place to innovate in the agro-industry

Wallonia, the southernmost region of Belgium, has grown into a **center of agro-food companies** through its know-how, the excellence of its traditional products and major investments in R&D. The ongoing efforts to improve the business environment in the region enable companies to improve their competitiveness through cost reductions and easier access to facilities and a highly skilled workforce. Furthermore, companies have been largely **benefiting from the financial support offered by Wallonia in the form of R&D subsidies, advances and tax reductions for research.**


8 reasons to establish your business in Wallonia:

- **Unique location** at the very heart of Europe
- A European **leader in gut health**
- **Worldwide leaders** place their trust in us: Mc Cain, Yildiz, Ferrero, Coca-Cola, Bongrain
- **Availability of storage capacities** for rental and distribution services
- Wallonia is an **excellent "test market"**: many consumers in a small area, different cultures (Latin and Germanic) and significant purchasing power
- **Qualified workforce** and training centers nearby
- **Agro-industry cluster** connected to first-class clusters and organizations around the world
- Favorable **tax environment and R&D incentives.**



21,000 
DIRECT JOBS
 IN AGRO-FOOD SECTOR

1,500 AGRO-FOOD COMPANIES
 GENERATE **€4.2 BILLION**
 IN ANNUAL TURNOVER 

AGRO-FOOD SECTOR RANKED
 **2nd** IN TERMS OF **WORKFORCE** &
3rd IN TERMS OF **ADDED VALUE**

MORE THAN **50%**
 OF AGRO-FOOD GDP
 GENERATED **BY EXPORTS**

Wagralim Innovation Cluster
 (since its creation in 2006)

MORE THAN **1,200**
 RESEARCH & INNOVATION
 **JOBS CREATED**

1,500 JOBS
 CREATED THROUGH
FOREIGN INVESTMENT

100 NEW PRODUCTS 
 & **35** NEW PROCESSES

24 RESEARCH & INNOVATION
PROJECTS

 **128 MEMBERS :**
 SMEs, LARGE COMPANIES
 AND 42 RESEARCH UNITS

“Agro-food companies located in Wallonia enjoy the advantage of receiving **scientific or technical support from research centers**. Their mission is to promote innovation and to help companies develop new products, improve processes, solve problems for example, related to functional and healthy food, longer shelf life, extraction of high value molecules, food packaging ... Wallonia provides **attractive subsidies** to companies that want to develop R&D projects.”

Pierre LEFEBVRE,
 General Manager CELABOR Scrl

“Wallonia is **“the place to be” to develop activities in the agro-food sector**. Indeed, our Region has many strengths:

- Its location in the center of Europe with all the necessary infrastructure for our business.
- The natural resources needed for production.
- The competence of its workers.
- The many research centers and universities working closely with businesses.
- A strong political will to make the agro-food sector one of the pillars of the Region.
- A food safety system (AFSCA) among the best in Europe.”

Vincent Crahay,
 CEO of Belourthe

“Wallonia is very attractive for the agro-food industry due to its **geographical location and the skill level of its workforce**. The fact that a foreign company can join innovation networks such as clusters, which strengthen cooperation between companies and universities, is an additional success factor.”

Bernard Leduc,
 Business Line Manager NaturalSpecialities,
 S.A. Ajinomoto OmniChem N.V.

“Thanks to our **strategic location in Wallonia** we have access, within a radius of less than 100 km, to world-class experts in Microbiota, Biotechnology and Food Science. For our company, the support of this **highly competitive cluster** has been a driver for real innovation and commercial successes.”

François Blondel,
 CEO of KitoZyme

“Our core business is the transformation of locally sourced agricultural products into healthy food ingredients. Our company is the world leader in pea proteins and the pioneer in the prebiotic chicory fiber. Among the competitive advantages Wallonia has to offer, I should mention the best **agro-natural resources, a dense logistical network and highly skilled human capital**.”

Jacques Crahay,
 CEO of Cosucra-Groupe Warcoing,
 Chairman of Wagralim

“The link between universities and Extense Pharma through Wagralim was helpful for a small company such as Extense-Pharma. Also thanks to Wagralim our participation in Benefiq last year in Canada was a huge success: an agreement has been signed with a major Canadian company, which will introduce our products on the North American market. The **B2B sessions organized by Wagralim are very well targeted** and they really understand the needs of a growing innovative company...”

Christel Wullaert,
 CEO Extense Pharma