



Dr. NIELS LOUWAARS

Dr. Niels Louwaars is an expert in seed systems and the diversity of policies and regulations affecting them. He launched the concept of Integrated Seed Sector Development, creating (policy-) space for formal and farmers' seed systems and linkages between them. He holds a PhD from Wageningen University (2007) with a dissertation on "Seeds of Confusion: the impact of policies on seed systems" (2006) and an MSc in Plant Breeding (1982) from the same institution. He developed the concept of Integrated Seed Sector Development, providing space for formal, farmers and intermediate seed systems, which is used in a number of countries to guide their seed policies. After some 8 years working on seeds in Asia and Africa, and 18 years at Wageningen University and Research he became director of Plantum, the Netherlands association for seeds and young plants in The Netherlands, retired in 2025, he is currently involved in various international projects and is still connected to his university as Fellow of the Law Group.