

ABAC Holland

More than 25 years of experience with Crocus sativus

ABAC Holland B.V. harbours more than 25 years of experience in Saffron bulb and Saffron cultivation, harvesting, selection, certification, processing, packaging, transporting, sales and marketing. Mr. Marco Minnes, CEO of ABAC Holland, has a unique position as the major Saffron grower and marketeer in the Netherlands. He has built up experience in the Saffron sector in 3 continents: Europe (The Netherlands, France, Spain, Portugal and Italy), Africa (Morocco) and Asia (India and Afghanistan).

The company has built up experience in the following projects and activities:

- 1988 - today **management** of own Saffron bulb farm and cultivation of other bulbs (tulips, daffodils, etc. in the Netherlands)
- 1990 - today **exports** of Saffron and Saffron bulbs
- 1991 - today **training** of Saffron farmers in more than 15 countries world-wide
- 1991 - today **training** and **advising** Saffron growers in Spain (La Mancha)
- 2000 - today intermediary in Saffron and Saffron bulb **sales** world-wide (wholesale)
- 2002 - today direct **sales** of Saffron and Saffron bulbs (retail) (see: www.crocussativus.nl)
- 2004 - 2008 **training** and **implementation** of Saffron fields in Herat, Afghanistan (12 HA) (PSOM Project, € 800,000)
- 2005 - 2006 **training** managers of Dacaar (Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees) in the Netherlands in Saffron cultivation
- 2005 - 2007 **research** Saffron bulb cultivation in heavy soils
- 2005 - 2009 **training** farmers in Saffron cultivation in Uruzgan, Afghanistan
- 2006 - 2007 **training** Saffron growers in Morocco
- 2006 - 2007 **training** and **implementation** of a Saffron farm in Portugal (Algarve)
- 2006 - 2007 **feasibility study** Saffron in Iran ¹
- 2006 - 2008 **research** Saffron production in nets
- 2007 - 2009 **implementation** of an Organic Saffron farm in India (Kashmir)
- 2007 - 2009 exports of 200,000 kgs Saffron bulbs to Uruzgan, Afghanistan (Project Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, value of € 5,200,000) (see also: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUMOrWX1zx4&feature=relmfu>)
- 2007 - today **management** of Organic Saffron farm
- 2010 implementation of Organic Saffron fields in France
- 2010 establishment **Foundation 1MoreTime**: structuring collaborations with strategic partners and knowledge centres
- 2011 feasibility study Saffron cultivation in Iraq
- 2012 - today research on biological pest control (lice) for Saffron bulbs (ongoing for Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (€ 750,000)
- 2013 research on biological pest control for flower bulbs (ongoing for Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs,

¹ Please note that since 2007, due to the developments in the country, ABAC Holland has no longer been active in Iran.

AGRO BUSINESS AND CONSULTANCY HOLLAND

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- Agriculture and Innovation (€ 500,000)
- 2013 development of **Containerised Drinking Water and Mango Fresh Fruit Juice Processing Unit** for KVDA in Kerio Valley, Kenya
- 2013 **feasibility study** on algae problems in Asia
- 2013 **feasibility study** on water hyacinth problems in Asia, Africa and Latin America.
- 2013 PSI project Belgium - Afghanistan
- 2013 development new Saffron-infused vodka (Oké Vodka)
- 2013 - 2014 study and trial with mobile containers aimed at biological control of pests
- 2014 start development of food supplements based on Saffron
- 2014 - 2015 research and trial on Saffron as anti-depressant (Belgium, www.crocussativus.be)
- 2015 start development "All-in-One" machine (planting bulbs, removing weeds, harvesting Saffron bulbs, harvesting Saffron)
- 2015 feasibility study Saffron in Georgia
- 2015 advise in several countries on Saffron cultivation
- 2015 research introduction drones in agriculture
- 2015 research water hyacinth in Thailand
- 2015 research protection against mosquitoes with paint
- 2015 research energy from water hyacinth and other agricultural waste
- 2016 improvement Saffron cultivation including development of prototype of "All-in-One" machine
- 2016 development of Saffron sector in Bulgaria
- 2016 various seminars in Bulgaria and elsewhere
- 2016 development of Saffron sector in Chile
- 2016 advise in several countries in 4 continents on Saffron cultivation.

Apart from the above projects, ABAC Holland is continuously active in developing and improving the Saffron Value Chain in a broad range of countries. ABAC Holland is generally regarded by Saffron growers world-wide as a major expert and knowledge base for both Saffron bulb production and Saffron production. The company is continuously approached by farmers from 5 continents for advice, training, supply of new high quality bulb material, assistance in marketing & sales as well as partnerships. Moreover, the company has been awarded several times with subsidies by the Dutch government, both for executing projects in Afghanistan and for groundbreaking research projects in the Netherlands.

Over the last 6 years in particular, ABAC Holland has developed several added value products based on the active ingredients of Saffron. These products are in the fields of medicinal products, wellness and culinary products.

Besides its activities in Saffron, ABAC Holland is also active in sectors such as strawberries and other soft fruits, fruit trees, processed foods (juices) as well as the development of and research on biological treatment of diseases in horticultural and agricultural crops. Apart from its agricultural activities, the company is also active in water purification and related environmental issues such as water hyacinth and algae domestication, creating innovative solutions by connecting new and existing technologies and know how in collaboration with strategic partners.

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