



Foundation Van Dam Nutrition Plan Stichting Van Dam Voedingsplan Policy Document 2024-2029

General information

The van Dam Foundation is established on 12 September 1994 by Mrs. Berthe Elvire (Ninette) van Dam. She specialised in the area of food and nutrition. Mrs Van Dam started to work for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Until retirement, she worked for the FAO. Her ideas about good nutrition and the importance of education of the population in developing countries to support a balanced diet were rather innovative at that time. Later in life she decided to establish the Van Dam Foundation in support of improving food and nutrition of the population, especially in developing countries.

The Van Dam Foundation in accordance with the ideas of Ninette van Dam focuses on increasing the knowledge about nutrition, the health and agricultural aspects of nutrition as well as the historical and socio-cultural context of nutrition, especially in developing countries. She passed away on the 25th of January 2014. After her death, she left her capital to the Foundation with the request to continue to support projects in areas of her interests. The foundation's capital is invested in securities with a sustainable character. The capital is hosted by a certified independent private banker.

Policy 2024 - 2029

Malnutrition in all its forms (undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and overnutrition) remains widely present and the number of people affected stays persistently high, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, threatening the world's sustainable development ambitions. The most vulnerable period in life are the first 1,000 days, from pregnancy into the first two years of a child life. Malnutrition happening in this period often has irreversible consequences for survival and health throughout the human life course. These consequences affect the cognitive, social and economic development of individuals and societies. Therefore, ending malnutrition will drive the Sustainable Development Goals reflecting the development ambitions of all nations to be reached in 2030.

Poor quality diets characterized by low diversity, nutrient inadequacy and low food safety, often play a major role in the development of malnutrition. Existing food systems are drivers of what people consume. Food systems refer to the full set of processes, activities, infrastructure, and environment that encompasses production, processing, distribution and consumption of food. The food system incorporates the dynamics of both supply (involving both complex, sophisticated supply chains, and shorter, simpler chains) and demand (what people can afford to buy and the choices they make). Food systems are shaped by the historical and socio-cultural context of a population and are therefore location specific. In low and middle income countries, agriculture forms the basis of many food systems. Making agriculture more nutrition sensitive will help to improve leveraging for better health and nutrition through providing a platform for delivering messages on improved nutrition.

1. The Foundation aims to contribute to the improvement of the nutrition status of vulnerable groups, especially in low- and middle-income countries.
2. The Foundation focuses her activities on increasing knowledge in nutrition in general, and specifically in the area of historic and socio-cultural context of nutrition, food systems and nutrition, nutrition sensitive agriculture, the agriculture-nutrition-health nexus, nutrition behaviour change communication

3. The Foundation makes effort to achieve her aim by making financial support available for:

Study travels (in part or complete) for longer or shorter duration for persons originating from the Netherlands or from low- and middle-income countries, for capacity development through training, symposia, conferences and training in The Netherlands or abroad. Max 5,000 Euro

Development projects, in the areas of interest mentioned in point 2, aiming to improve nutritional status in low- and middle-income countries, established through local initiatives of organisations – both governmental as non-governmental.

Publications (both scientific as general) in the context of point 2 mentioned areas of interest.

Small research projects (for example MSc studies) in the context of point 2 mentioned areas of interest. Travel costs of European students are not taken into consideration.

Organisation of small symposia, working group sessions, conferences in the context of point 2 mentioned areas of interest.

4. Some examples of recent subsidies/grants are:

- Nederlandse Akademie van Voedingwetenschappen: contribution to the public lecture of Saskia van Osendarp (Executive Director of the Micronutrient Forum): *Nutrition in Crisis and how science can make a difference* on January 26, 2023;
- CEAL (Ghana): promoting mother and child nutrition security through mother to mother approach (M2M) in 2023-2024;
- North West University/Centre Excellence for Nutrition (South Africa): two grants for participation in the PhD Support Programme 2023 for 1st year human nutrition PhD students;
- WUR, Centre for Development Innovation (Wageningen, NL): two grants for participation in workshop Food Systems for Healthier and Sustainable Diets - February 2024;
- RIDA (Ethiopia): grant Competitive MSc Research Grant Scheme 2023-2024 aimed at helping in the development of research abilities and confidence, acquiring the knowledge required to conduct food system research, and improving comprehension of food environment study.

5. The yearly amount available for support is about 60.000 euro. The aim is to have a broad portfolio of projects that are diverse and contribute to the aim of the Foundation. Applications to the Foundation can be sent to the board members or through the website. There is no deadline, and applications can be sent throughout the year.

6. During the annual meeting of the Board in June, projects will be selected for funding and decisions made. If applications are sent earlier or later than June, the Board will decide through email whether the proposed project is eligible for funding.

7. The members of the Board carry out their activities on a voluntary basis and do not receive any financial compensation for the activities related to the Foundation. The Board is supported by an administrative assistant who receives an annual volunteer fee in accordance with the tax-standard.