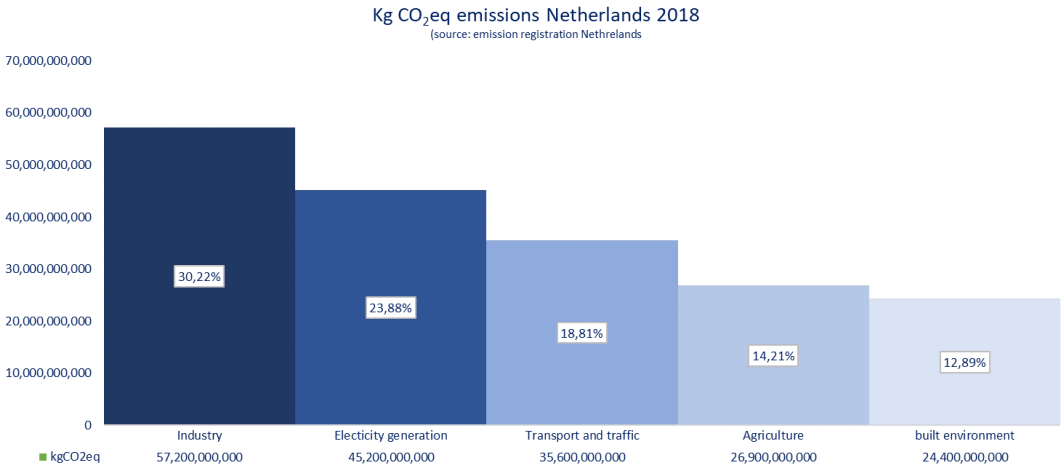


# Dutch Agricultural CO<sub>2</sub> emissions under fire, a comparison

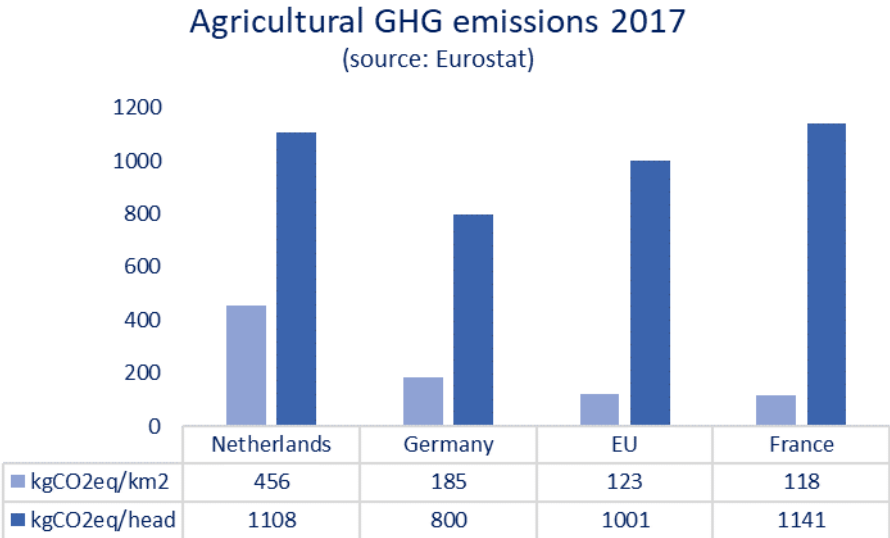
It hasn't gone unnoticed that the Dutch Agri sector is under fire in the debate about reducing Green House Gasses(GHG's)

The sector is certainly not beyond criticism and much could be improved but, according to the Emission Registration 2018, Dutch agriculture is one of the least polluting compared to other industrial activity:



The sector works around the clock to point out that Dutch agriculture is one of the most efficient compared to other countries. But, regardless whether these claims are correct, there is no point in producing efficiently while producing exponentially more than others as, in doing so, the entire efficiency advantage gets lost.

Maybe emissions per kilo product isn't the best benchmark in reaching GHG reduction targets. Policy is made on absolute emissions generated. Below table illustrates Dutch agricultural emissions, using as units KM<sup>2</sup> land surface of the Netherlands and population:



Using these benchmarks, it is clear that Dutch agriculture generates disproportionately more GHG emissions compared to other countries.

But, the same goes for other Dutch sectors too, it is the problem of small country with a high population density.

When we forget about other countries for a moment, we may wonder what the basis of Dutch policy making is exactly. Members of the Dutch coalition parliament call for a halving of the Agricultural sector, but when have we heard politicians asking the same from Tata Steel or the Chemical companies on Chemelot?

To put Dutch agriculture in perspective, it makes sense to compare it with other industrial sectors in the Netherlands.

Sector	staff	contribution to GNP	GNP in Eurobijdrage bbp in €	GHG emissions	KG CO2eq/worker	KG CO2eq/EURO GNP
Agriculture	235,000	1.40%	€10,155,600,000	26,900,000,000	114,468	2.65
Aviation	22,000	0.5%	€3,627,000,000	12,942,000,000	588,273	3.57
Metal	19,000	0.33%	€2,400,000,000	7,920,000,000	416,842	3.30
Refineries	5,000	0.23%	€1,700,000,000	10,000,000,000	2,000,000	5.88
Petro chemicals	5,500	0.59%	€4,300,000,000	9,500,000,000	1,727,273	2.21

(Source: CBS en \*PWC min. EZK)

Agriculture provides 235,000 jobs, significantly more than any of the other sectors. Emissions/worker from Agriculture are less than 20% of those in Aviation, 25% of those in Metals, 6% of Refineries and 7% of those in Petrochemicals.

The data for Agriculture concerns only the primary sector. If we'd add the whole Agrocomplex (services, transport, processing etc), the contribution to the GNP increases to 7,5% (Source: CBS) while associated GHG emission stay behind disproportionately.

However disproportional emission from Agriculture are, they pale when compared to other industrial sectors.

The current focus on Agriculture to reduce Dutch emissions lacks rationale and appears to be more indicative of the strength of other sectors' political lobbies.