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Ed graduated at Agricultural University Wageningen, the Netherlands and also defended his PhD thesis at the Agricultural University Wageningen, the Netherlands on the degradation of lignocellulose by white-rot fungi (1993).

He has been research associate for 3 years at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada at the group of Jack Saddler, on the use of softwood species for biofuels application.

He has been Head of the Department of Fibre and Paper Technology, Food and Biobased Research, Wageningen University & Research Centre, The Netherlands.

He is co-chair of the IEA-Bioenergy Task 42 on biorefineries.

He joined Avantium Chemicals in 2007. He is currently VP Development – responsible for Public-Private partnerships of Avantium, feedstock selection and Catalytic Biomass Conversion of carbohydrates into building blocks for polyesters such as PEF a improved replacement of PET. He is involved in site selection for the first commercial demonstration plant for the YXY technology.