

C Future-proofing berryfruit CLIMAFRUIT

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The goal of this transnational project is to secure the long term future of the North Sea Region (NSR) berryfruit industry.

This project will focus on blackcurrants, raspberries & blackberries.

The project will:

- Reduce chemical use & the carbon footprint of horticultural production systems, provide long term economical & ecological solutions around optimal use of water, nutrients & chemicals. Secure the production of locally grown fruit, providing fresh healthy food products & natural ingredients for foods with reduced chemical residues.
- Create new business opportunities that contribute to local economies in the processed & fresh food sector by developing new & improved food products for & from the region.
- Overcome existing risks & demonstrate the opportunity to grow the berryfruit industry in the NSR via increased production of both fresh & processed berry products.
- Develop a cluster of experts within the NSR ensuring the establishment of a world leading berryfruit team focused on delivering sustainable & healthy solutions.



Three PhD projects

Three PhD projects between Aarhus University, Denmark & Scottish Crop Research Institute, Scotland will focus on how berryfruit production & quality & health attributes are influenced by sustainable production practices and changes in climate.

FACTS

ClimaFruit runs for 4 years from 1 October 2009

ClimaFruit is ca. 50% funded from national funds & ca. 50% funded from ERDF (European Regional Development Funds). The total ClimaFruit budget is ca. Euro 6 Million

Project partners are Aarhus University, Denmark & Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden & Bioforsk, Norway & Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway & Scottish Crop Research Institute, Scotland & LWK Niedersachsen Fruit Research Institute, Germany

Outcomes

This transnational project between research institutions & the NSR berryfruit industry will future proof the industry by ensuring that innovative technologies will be implemented for the benefit of the industry & the region.

ClimaFruit will secure, sustain & grow the economic value of the berryfruit industry by attracting investment, by ensuring sustainable use of resources & by the production of healthy foods.

ClimaFruit will ensure that public good outcomes are implemented to create lasting value throughout the NSR; in the short term to secure crops under threat & in the long term to position ourselves to capture future opportunities.



THE CLIMAFRUIT PROJECT HAS 5 WORK PACKAGES (WP) THESE WP WILL DELIVER SHORT & LONG TERM BENEFITS TO THE NORTH SEA BERRYFRUIT INDUSTRY

WP1 - Management Planning & Reporting

WP2 - Communication & Publicity

Website & Branding & Scientific / Industry / Public Communication & Reporting to Political Reference Group & Capability Development

WP3 - Sustainable Practices

- Determine at a national & transnational level the impact of climate on productivity & quality
- Identify superior plant material
- Optimise water & nutrient inputs, strengthen organic production systems & identify sustainable solutions to pest & diseases
- Develop novel technologies for protected & intensive production systems
- Utilise life cycle analysis to target reductions in the carbon footprint

WP4 - Health & Well-being

- Secure knowledge on how sustainability practises impact on health attributes of berryfruit
- Secure knowledge on how climate changes impact on health attributes of berryfruit
- Establish a transnational database of phytochemical composition & variability in berryfruit

WP5 - Adaptive Strategies

- Evaluate the potential for adaptive strategies to temperature extremes
- Evaluate the potential for adaptive strategies to water & nutrient availability
- Identify superior plant material
- Identify critical phases during production that pose the greatest risk to productivity & quality
- Develop web based models based on transnational data