

Consortium

Innovative Organic fruit Breeding and uses

CIHEAM-IAMB	Italy
INRAE	France
CRA-W	Belgium
CREA	Italy
CTIFL	France
GRAB	France
CEP Innovation	France
UNIPI	Italy
ÖON	Germany
SERIDA	Spain
IRTA-CERCA	Spain
VSUO	Czech Republic
INNOGESTIONA	Spain
CRSFA	Italy
UCPH	Denmark
Boku	Austria
AEGILOPS	Greece
ARCADIA	Belgium
WBF	Switzerland
FIBL	Switzerland
Poma Culta	Switzerland



<http://www.innobreed.eu/>



The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe programme under Grant Agreement No 101061028.




The project

The rising market demand for organic products along with the vulnerability of the organic fruit production result in a continuous pursuit of measures to ensure the quality and sustainability of the production. Furthermore, the European Green Deal objectives and the "Farm to Fork" set the target of at least 25% of EU's agricultural land under organic farming by 2030.

In this context, InnOBreed, a collaborative research project funded under Horizon Europe, aims to foster organic crop breeding and improve the performance of the fruit sector, by enhancing Innovative Organic fruit Breeding and uses. Through nine workpackages and during a period of four years, InnOBreed will evaluate, implement and aggregate innovative solutions (IS) to promote the organic fruit industry by the development and deployment of suitable cultivars.

Objectives and scope

The main objective of the project is to identify specific fruit cultivars and/or selection-evaluation processes that are better suited for organic production cultivars compared to the cultivars that are currently used, and that meet organic farming requirements, by:

-  Breeding with new organic approaches;
-  Evaluating local genetic resources, (pre-) breeding material and cultivars; and
-  Introducing these varieties through the organic fruit supply chain.

Besides a clear technological and scientific ambition, InnOBreed plans to gather national and EU stakeholders of the fruit chain, including breeders, evaluators and collection curators of Fruit Tree Genetic Resources (FTGR), innovation providers, farmers, and consumers, in order to ensure the pertinence and durability of the project.



Activities

The following activities and tasks will be conducted throughout the project:



Identification and definition of current lock-in in organic fruit farming systems;



Co-designing new ideotypes fitting with local OFS;



Identification of performant ISs already available;



Development of new climate change ISs but also for fruit quality, pests and diseases tolerance, low input fitness and robustness, and their application by FTGR curators;



IS's validation process and implementation by several public-private case-studies in different regions for evaluating their efficiency; and



Checking sustainability and consistency with actual regulations before being disseminated for maximizing IS impacts on the value chain.

InnOBreed is dedicated to fruit perennial species including citrus, grape, pome fruits (apple, pear), and stone fruits (peach, almond, apricot, Japanese plum, European plum) with a focus on apple and prunus species.

With the aim of supporting the activities of the project, as well as testing and validating the innovative solutions identified, 12 case studies have been selected representing different regions and species.

