Aim of the project:
to meet the needs of the organic vegetable sector comprising ecological intensification, resilience, fertilization, resource-efficiency and biodiversity.
Introduction

SUREVEG will develop and implement new diversified, resource-efficient and intensive vegetable cropping systems.

The systems are based on strip-cropping and fertility strategies combined from recycling of waste and plant-based soil-improvers and fertilizers.

The purpose is to meet the needs of the organic vegetable sector comprising ecological intensification, resilience, fertilization, resource-efficiency and biodiversity.

Field experiments are conducted in seven countries (NL, B, I, FI, LV, ES, DK). The partners will by a combination of on-station and on-farm trials test the use of strip-cropping and fertility strategies for organic vegetable production.

Background

The demand for organic vegetables is rising rapidly but cannot be met by current agronomic methods. The lack of attention for biodiversity and soil fertility of current practices damages the credibility of organic products. Conventional sources of fertilizers need to be replaced by organic sources. Resource-efficiency and biodiversity need to be improved. There is a clear need for new agronomic methods.

Expected results

Increase of agro-ecological services:

- Functional biodiversity (above- and belowground) for biocontrol
- Role of vegetable fields for pollination and biodiversity
- Local recycling of organic plant-based nutrients
- Carbon for soil fertility and storage
- Nutrient use efficiency of crops
- Decrease N losses to the environment
- Less dependency of production on external inputs
Societal and long term benefits

The project aims to develop production methods based on sustainable use of soil and landscape resources in order to ensure European citizens with balanced and safe food.

The impact will be to significantly decrease the dependency on biocides and non-organic fertilizers, and enhancing the positive environmental impacts on water and soil quality and landscape biodiversity. This will boost credibility and productivity of organic vegetables.

How to reach target groups

The systems will be adjusted to local needs and barriers by early and continuous involvement of stakeholders. The outputs will be a database of crop traits and specific advices for farmers' and advisors' implementation of strip-cropping systems and fertility strategies. Other outputs will be field visits, national and transnational meetings, stakeholder-oriented and scientific publications and YouTube videos.
This transnational project is funded via the ERA-net CORE Organic Cofund based on funds from participating countries and funding from the European Union.

CORE Organic Cofund is a collaboration between 26 partners in 19 countries/regions on initiating transnational research projects in the area of organic food and farming. CORE Organic Cofund has initiated 12 research projects. Read more at the CORE Organic Cofund website: http://projects.au.dk/coreorganiccofund/