

Phytosanitary risks of newly introduced crops (PRONC)



Funding

Non-competitive funding mechanism. Each funder only pays for the participation of their own national researchers. Total funding € 280 000

Research consortium

ILVO (BE), JKI (DE), NVWA (NL), Fera (GB), AFBINI (GB)

Contact information

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Goals

In recent years, a tendency towards the cultivation of “new”, “forgotten” or “exotic” crops has been shown. These crops represent an opportunity for growers to sell niche market products. But the phytosanitary status of “new”, “forgotten” or “exotic” crops is rarely checked. This poses a threat to traditional crops, besides hampering the cultivation of the new crops. The project will develop knowledge to better define the phytosanitary risks associated with these “new” “forgotten” or “exotic” crops.

Objectives

The project will focus on a selection of vegetatively-propagated tuber producing crops that are gaining a lot of interest: yacon (*Smallanthus sonchifolius*), ulluco (*Ullucus tuberosus*), sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*), crosne (*Stachys affinis*), mashua (*Tropaeolum tuberosum*), oca (*Oxalis tuberosa*) and Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*). The main objectives of the project are:

- To gather information on the “new”, “forgotten” or “exotic” crops grown in the partner countries (e.g. types, distribution);
- Determine the phytosanitary status of the crops, in particular for the presence of viruses and nematodes;
- Assess the phytosanitary risks of the crops;

Key outputs and results

The expected outputs of the project are:

- Knowledge on the crops, their varieties, distribution *etc.*;
- List of suppliers, growers and food stores that could represent a phytosanitary risk;
- Knowledge on the viruses and nematodes identified in the various crops;
- Guidelines for the management of pests associated to the newly introduced crops.