



## Database for imported strawberries created in Finland

The Finnish Food Safety Authority (EVIRA) and Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) have created a database that will help distinguish Finnish strawberries from imported ones. The new technology will help prevent infringements on the part of retailers who sell the imported produce under the guise of being local fruit.

"Farmers want their strawberries to compete with the strawberries of other domestic producers. Imported strawberries, of course, can be sold in the Finnish market, but people must be honest about their origins," says Miika Ilomäki, head of the Union of Fruit and Berry Producers.

Inspectors collect samples at the places where the strawberries are sold. Last year, samples were collected for the database in Finland as well. The country was divided into 50 squares of the equal size. "With the help of the database, we can compile a profile of Finnish strawberries. If the strawberry is different from the indicators in the database, it is imported," said director of the EVIRA research department, Janne Nieminen.

According to fruitnews.ru, a similar technology is actively used in Sweden and in some EU countries. In the future, the database will be adapted for other food products as well.

Lien article : <http://www.freshplaza.com/article/197688/Database-for-imported-strawberries-created-in-Finland>