



## Spain: Berries adapted to climate change

The strawberry varieties Candonga and Senga Sengana are part of an ambitious research project led by the University of Malaga, and which aims to find berry varieties that are well-adapted to climate change; that is to say, that they develop in good conditions even in the most adverse situations.

The researcher of the Institute of Agricultural and Fishing Research and Training of the Government of Andalusia, Ifapa, José Sánchez Sevilla, reported the progress made with this research project called GoodBerry. Huelva will play an active role in this European program, since the red fruit varieties tested will be grown in the experimental farm of Ifapa El Cebollar, located in the municipality of Moguer.

The project has a budget of 4.87 million Euro and counts with the participation of 19 institutional research centres and innovative technology companies (including the Huelva-based Viveros California) from 10 countries, mostly from Europe, but also from China and Chile. Germany has a 26% involvement in the project, followed by Spain with 22%, and Italy and France with 11%. Poland, Norway, Belgium and the United Kingdom account for 5% each.

The researchers evaluate strawberry, raspberry and currant varieties that have been selected for their nutritional properties and because they adapt well to climate changes.

Pepe Sevilla explained that one of the factors that have motivated this research work is the temperatures that are being recorded in Europe.

GoodBerry's objectives are basically:

- To identify fruit germplasm that achieves a good balance between production and nutritional quality in the different countries of the EU.
- To seek innovative production systems that make it possible to maintain a high production in a wide range of European environments.
- To develop standardised and accurate analytical methods to evaluate the fruit's production and quality under suboptimal growing conditions.

For strawberries, the varieties chosen are one that is very well-adapted to southern producing areas and another one that achieves the same performance in the north. The Candonga and Senga Sengana have been the ones chosen to carry out crossings and obtain specimens that are already being tested in different areas of Europe, such as Poland, Germany, Italy, France and in Moguer, in Huelva.

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