

OPPOTUNITY

Oppotunity conducts NGT Field Trials and Potato Seed Multiplication of starch potatoes with improved late blight resistance

21 Oktober, 2025

Project Oppotunity informs that we have successfully conducted the first field trials in Sweden and Denmark with starch potatoes that have been improved via CRISPR-CAS (a NGT, New Genetic Technologies) to increase resistance to late blight infection. In parallel, seed multiplication took place to harvest more and larger seed potatoes, enabling evaluation of the effects of these improved late blight resistance events in dedicated field trials in 2026.

Project Oppotunity is an agreement of 12 European parties active in the potato starch value chain who are seriously engaged in getting new breeding techniques approved in Europe. Hans Berggren, secretary of Oppotunity: "I am honestly proud that we have managed to conduct the improvement via NGT in such an engaged group of companies via this cooperation. Only last year we created the first seedlings and cultivated them in greenhouse to produce seed-tubers and have now grown these so-called mini-tubers therefrom in field during the 2025 growing season. I'm very optimistic to be able to show stakeholders in 2026 and onwards, the power of NGT's in the field via enhanced potato genotypes, tolerant to a plant disease as severe as late blight. We have proven the speed this technology brings to adapt potatoes to urgent and changing requirements in our environment.

"It will still take some years to verify the effects and from the events produced, select the single event that will deliver an appropriate increased late blight tolerance so that it contributes to a more sustainable starch potato cultivation. It needs to be stressed that the overall process is probably 8-10 years faster than what can be achieved with traditional breeding" says Sjefke Allefs, potato breeder at Agrico (Party to Oppotunity). Agrico made available Kuras a widely used starch potato variety that has now been improved via NGT in the project Oppotunity.

Pictures of the fieldtrials can be found on our website
oppotunity.eu

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About Oppotunity

Project Oppotunity is an agreement between 12 European Parties active in starch potatoes, seriously engaged to get New Breeding Techniques (CRISPR-CAS) approved in Europe soonest. As the potato starch industry is a small European industry with 11.000 farmers making a living here from, it is key to be able to improve the potato varieties in such a manner that sustainability and competitiveness are maintained, threatened under the Green Deal. The project Parties will invest directly in one variety that will be accessible to the members, having an increased late blight resistance, one of the most severe diseases in potatoes.

Media enquiries

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