



Supported by:



Start: September/2017  
End: April/2021

Budget: 380.595 €

## Operational Group:

CompetitiveSouthBerries – Innovative, competitive and sustainable off season small fruits production systems.

*CompetitiveSouthBerries - Pequenos frutos competitivos e sustentáveis: técnicas culturais inovadoras para o alargamento da época de produção.*

## Practical problem

Increase the competitiveness of the small fruit sector in the Southern region through the development and demonstration of innovative production technologies ensuring the sustainability of systems and the enhancement of endogenous genetic resources.

## Partners

### Type:

Research/ Teaching  
Agri association  
Agri enterprise

### Name:

INIAV, I.P. – Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária  
COTHN - Centro Operativo e Tecnológico Hortofrutícola Nacional  
Beira Baga - Sociedade de Produção e Comercialização Pequenos Frutos, Lda;  
FirstFruit - Produção e Comercialização, Unipessoal, Lda.; Campina Produção Agrícola, Lda.; Mirtisul - Produção de mirtilos, Lda.

## Project

### Objectives:

Taking advantage of the excellent climatic conditions of the southern regions the objective is to develop innovative production technologies for different berry crops. This will allow the extension of berry production season and obtain fruit for the off season export market at competitive prices.

### Expected results:

Raspberry - optimization of the long-cane production system for three crops a year;  
Blackberry - long-canens with a very early harvest and high yields. Strawberry - new substrate technologies with tray and motte plants;  
Blueberry - growth cycle manipulation for an early and late fruit harvest;  
Endemic species - establish genotypes of interest based on fruit quality and yield for the export market.

### Results so far/first lessons:

The project is just starting but with the scientific team knowledge and all growers' partners it was possible to build up a project that will allow innovating and developing the opportunity that this initiative proposes to address. From the meetings already organized it was possible to recognize the bottlenecks of the berry industry and gather the new technologies that will develop it further.

### Who will benefit:

Results will be disseminated to technicians and berry growers at national level, based on reliable technical results.

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