

EKOFORM, recovery of organic garden products by means of plant-based fermentations**Summary**

EKOFORM is a project that involves the recovery of products from organic gardens by means of plant-based fermentations, with the primary objective of improving the competitiveness of primary products by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promoting them in local markets and short distribution circuits, producer groups and organisations and professional organisations and improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating their restructuring and modernisation, particularly with a view to increasing their market participation and orientation, as well as diversification.

Objectives

The main objective of the pilot project is to develop innovative plant-based fermented products using organic fruit and vegetables, which are safe, have a high functional value (high content of bioactive bioaccessible compounds) and the sensory properties of a fresh and natural product. These characteristics are aimed at filling a gap on the market for this type of product and satisfying consumer demand.

A case study will be established to serve as an example for small and medium-sized enterprises for the generation of new products with high added value, which will facilitate their competitiveness in the organic market.

The aim is to gain a deeper understanding of the development of plant-based fermented foods and fermented drinks such as kombucha.

Description of the actions planned in the project

1. Selection and study of raw materials, including the different varieties of ingredients, ferments and packaging to be used.
2. Identification and improvement of the critical points of the process through visits and advice to the facilities, as well as the proposal of control measures for improvement.
3. Carrying out concept testing and product design to decide on proportions of ingredients, ferments, treatments to be carried out/used. This will be carried out through the product design of a kombucha, the study of other fermented vegetable products, and the design of an operational diagram.
4. Technological characterisation of the innovative product: includes the study of fermentation evolutions, the analysis of polyphenols and antioxidants in kombucha, as well as the study of other plant-based fermented products.
5. Dissemination actions throughout the project through various technical channels and for the general public, which are detailed in the "Communication/dissemination plan of the project and the results of the innovation".

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Expected results and practical recommendations

Economic sustainability: with the aim of improving the performance of agri-food production, processing and sales, increasing the added value of products.

Technological information will be obtained in relation to the development of fermented vegetable products, specifically a fermented drink, such as kombucha, and other fermented vegetable products.

Social sustainability: to improve the quality of employment in the agri-food sector, promote the creation of synergies across the value chain and increase the appeal of the sector to attract talent and support the empowerment of people with mental health problems.

Environmental sustainability: in order to contribute to the sustainability of the food system through measures that contribute to reducing the impact of food production, minimising waste generation and increasing the reuse of waste and the circular economy.

Leader of the Operational Group

ORGANISATION: DRISSA PRIVATE FOUNDATION

Coordinator of the Operational Group

ORGANISATION: DRISSA PRIVATE FOUNDATION

Other members of the Operational Group (grant recipients)

ORGANISATION: ORIOL MOLIST BAS

Other members of the Operational Group (not recipients of the grant)

ORGANISATION: EURECAT FOUNDATION

ORGANISATION: ÈXIT GIRONA CLUSTER ASSOCIATION

Subject area(s) of application

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Agricultural production system |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Agricultural practice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Agricultural equipment and machinery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Livestock farming and animal welfare |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Vegetable production and horticulture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Landscape / Territorial management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Pest and disease control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fertilisation and nutrient management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Soil management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Genetic resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Forestry |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Water management |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Climate and Climate Change |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Energy management |

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Waste and by-product management |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Biodiversity and environmental management |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Food quality/processing and nutrition |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Supply chain, marketing and consumption |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Competitiveness and agricultural and forestry diversification |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | General |

Geographical area(s) of application

| PROVINCE(S) | REGION(S) |
|-------------|-----------|
| Girona | Gironès |

Dissemination of the project (publications, conferences, multimedia, etc.)

The Communication Plan of this project involves all members of the Operational Group and includes the following activities:

- At least one seminar for the transfer and dissemination of results within the Annual Technology Transfer Plan (PATT) of the Ministry of Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda.
- Presentation of the project, its objectives and follow-up of the anticipated results on the digital media of all members of the Operational Group.
- Informative article in the newspaper ARA, with which the Drissa foundation has an agreement in place for the publication of news items about its projects.
- Explanation of the project, follow-up and results at the collaborating entities/companies of all the members of the Operational Group.
- Explanation of the project, follow-up and results to the general public during the activities programmed throughout the implementation of the project by the member entities of the Operational Group (BIO week, Welcome to the Farm, etc.).
- Two dissemination seminars for trainees.
- Production of a short information video about the project, explaining the main objectives and the results obtained.
- Presentation of the project on the radio programme *Ens patina l'embrague*, broadcast live on 97.7 FM on Ràdio Salt and on other stations in the Girona region.

In addition to all of the above, The Drissa Foundation has a communication plan at entity level that includes:

- The annual report of the entity in which we explain the evolution of the service during the year, the activities carried out both internally and externally to disseminate and raise awareness of the group.
- The news section on our website.
- News on Facebook and Twitter through social media actions.
- External communication service that disseminates information to the media (press, radio and television).

Project website

www.fundaciodrissa.com / www.lafeixadenfeliu.com / www.eurecat.org

More information on the project

| PROJECT DATES | TOTAL BUDGET |
|---------------|--------------|
|---------------|--------------|

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Starting date: July 2021 | Total budget: €87,586.10 |
| | DACC funding: €40,504.44 |
| Current status: Under way | EU funding: €30,555.98 |
| | Own funding: €16,525.68 |

With funding from:

Project funded through Operation 16.01.01 (Cooperation for Innovation) through the Catalan Rural Development Programme 2014-2022.

Order ARP/113/2021 of 20 May, approving the regulatory bases for grants for cooperation for innovation by promoting the creation of European Association for Innovation operational groups in the areas of agricultural productivity and sustainability and the execution of innovative pilot projects by those groups, and Resolution ACC/1660/2021, of 27 May, announcing the call for the grant.

