### **Get involved**

Fertigation and irrigation are integral parts of modern sustainable horticultural production.

The effects of climate change and population growth on the demand for water, and concerns over water quality due to environmental contamination are drivers for new legislation and the development of innovative technologies to deliver more sustainable water use for fertigated crops.

The project consortium would like to invite you to participate in the project to help to build an efficient knowledge exchange platform of the latest developments in fertigation best practice.

# The right time is now!

Identifying, evaluating and investing in the best available technologies for use at farm level is not always done easily or quickly. Therefore the **FERTINNOWA** consortium, involving 23 partners across 9 EU member states and South-Africa, has been established with industry and science communities to collect and exchange information on methods and technologies for the sustainable production of fertigated horticultural crops.

Participation in **FERTINNOWA** will allow you to:

- Share your business challenges
- Stay updated on fertigation techniques get to know the latest fertigation technologies and see what they can mean for your crops
- Adopt those practices within your business or research area ahead of your competitors
- Take steps toward having a more environment friendly growing system
- See what is going on in the other European Member States

Your experience is crucial to the success of FERTINNOWA: the FERTINNOWA experience could be crucial to the success of your business.

Becoming a stakeholder has no financial obligations.

For more information on what **FERTINNOWA** offers its stakeholders, please visit the webpage below:

http://www.fertinnowa.com/get-involved/

or contact Veronika Valentar: Veronika.Valentar@kmetijski-zavod.si

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Transfer of INNOvative techniques for sustainable WAter use in FERtigated crops





A knowledge exchange platform to evaluate existing and novel technologies for fertigated crops to disseminate promising technologies and best practices

The supply sector and growers working together

# Transfer of **INNO**vative techniques for sustainable **WA**ter use in **FER**tigated crops



# About the **FERTINNOWA** project

In European countries, the economic production of high-value horticultural crops relies on applications of water and fertilisers (together called fertigation) to ensure that the quality of fresh produce meets consumer requirements. However, water scarcity and concerns over the impact of intensive horticulture on water body quality in many European production regions mean that more sustainable growing systems are needed.

Our FERTINNOWA project includes various stakeholders (researchers, growers, policy-makers, industry, environmental groups etc.) at several levels including the socio-economic and regulatory level (national and European) with a special focus on the implications of the EU Water Framework Directive and Nitrate Directive. A major objective of the FERTINNOWA project is to create a database of innovative technologies and practices that could improve the environmental and economic sustainability of high-value vegetable, fruit and ornamental crops.

We are currently evaluating existing, novel and emerging technologies used in fertigated crop production in different climate zones throughout Europe in a benchmarking exercise. We will then inform growers of the range of technologies and practices that could help to improve on-farm efficiencies and economic returns in vegetable, fruit and ornamental production. A selection of the most promising technologies will be showcased on our partners' sites across Europe to demonstrate to growers the benefits of integrating these into commercial production.

All tools, databases and other resources generated will be shared within the consortium and the stakeholder group, and will be made available to the broader farming and scientific communities, policy-makers, the industry and the general public. FERTINNOWA will help growers to implement innovative technologies and new approaches to improve on-farm decision-making, increase resource use efficiency, and to enhance the economic and environmental sustainability of intensive horticulture.

#### We aim to:

- Educate growers in the efficient and sustainable use of water by sharing best technologies and practices in fertigation
- Support to action: including water reuse and recycling, water and waste water treatment
- Manage natural resources to increase horticultural productivity and sustainability
- Increase the application of water-related solutions to validate at least 8 innovative technologies and best practices
- Showcase relevant exchanged technologies to local growers during field visits
- Provide growers with effective dissemination tools in different languages so that they can implement and use those technologies.

## **FERTINNOWA's actions**

#### Phase 1:

Gain knowledge of the current situation (growers) Assess needs and bottlenecks (all stakeholders)

#### Phase 2:

Find solutions by exchange of knowledge and technologies (all stakeholders)

#### Phase 3:

Bridge the gap between knowledge and implementation (all stakeholders)

