

UV-ROBOT – Innovative UV-robotics to improve existing IPM strategies

Stef Laurijssen

Project Manager, Research Centre Hoogstraten, Hoogstraten, Belgium

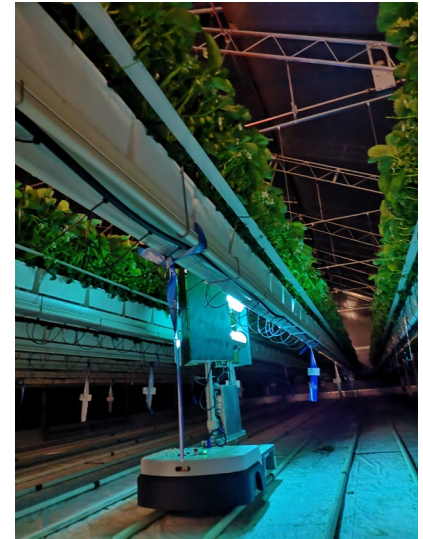


Investing in Opportunities

The UV-ROBOT project

What were the objectives of your project?

- Control mildew with UV-C (ultraviolet light) in 5 crops
- Reduce the use of chemicals in horticulture
- Demonstration of the UV-C strategy in NWE



What successful result(s) is your capitalisation initiative building on?

- Use of the autonomous robots
- Promising strawberry, tomato and cucumber results
- Promising side-effects of UV-C to other common pests and diseases

UV-ROBOT capitalisation initiative

In what ways does your capitalisation initiative support roll out and uptake?

- New target group: Strawberry plant breeders
 - ✓ Reduce chemical treatments in strawberry as a whole
- New geographical areas: The Netherlands, Germany and France
- Increase potential of robot to other diseases and pests
 - ✓ Botrytis (strawberry and cucumber)
 - ✓ Tomato russet mite (tomato)
 - ✓ Spider mite (tomato and cucumber)
- Knowledge exchange between projects (UV-ROBOT and OïdiUV)



UV-ROBOT cap initiative partnership



How did you adapt the initial project's partnership to reach your capitalisation initiative's objectives?

- Focus on crops on which mildew control is most successful
- Increase impact in NWE: 5 new partners
 - ✓ 4 located in the Netherlands: horticultural hotspot (tomato, cucumber and strawberry breeding)
 - ✓ 1 located in France: exchange knowledge with French project (OïdiUV)



UV-ROBOT cap initiative results

Which results are you expecting from the capitalisation initiative?

- UV-C strategy to control mildew in strawberry as a whole (from 40% to 0-10% of the active ingredients on the fruits)
- Enlargement of demonstration area: The Netherlands (+660 growers), France (+780 ha) and Germany (+800 ha)
- Chemical input will be reduced by 30-50% in each crop

UV-ROBOT feedback from the 1st call for capitalisation

Any hints and tips or points of attention for applicants?

- Start on time!
- Get in contact with the Contact Points
 - ✓ Assistance during capitalisation initiative development
 - ✓ Questions about the application form
- Keep in mind: **increasing impact** of the project's results