

Opportunity to Participate in a Blackberry Breeding Programme

Blackberries are said to be leading the charge when it comes to the worldwide growth in demand for soft fruit and they are expected to register a considerable increase in cultivation over the next five years.

The demand for blackberries in Europe continues to rise and in addition, restrictions on the use of crop protection products and increasing variability in climatic conditions means that there is going to be an increasing demand for new varieties with improved yields, pest and disease resistance and improved resilience to environmental conditions. There is little limit to the future growth of the sector.

An opportunity has arisen for companies to invest in a blackberry breeding programme at the James Hutton Institute, Scotland.

This programme will build on many years' experience of breeding blackberries, including Loch Ness which is grown extensively in many territories, and underpinning research in blackberry genetics. There is already significant material in the pipeline so funders would be ensured early access to material for trialling in their own environment.

Companies that fund or co-fund this programme, will play a strategic role in determining the breeding objectives so that their commercial objectives will be met. The ability to deploy recent advances in genomics coupled with access to extensive blackberry germplasm set this programme apart from other breeding programmes around the world.

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