



Webinar

Berry production for the local and international market

Date:
November 7, 2023

Time:
15:30 CET

Platform:
Zoom

Participation:
free
with previous registration

Speakers

Frederique Vogel Valery Lashinsky Stiyka Ukraina	Facilitators
Nico de Groot ABBreeding	Future Raspberries
Leon Schrijnwerkers Schrijnwerkers	How to keep your blueberry plantation profitable



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Stiyka Ukraina project is supported by the Dutch Government within the Private Sector Development program



November 7th, 2023
Our fifth webinar

“Berry production for the local and international market”

[LINK for registration](#)

October 24th, Sityka Ukraina had a Webinar “Balanced and vital crop”

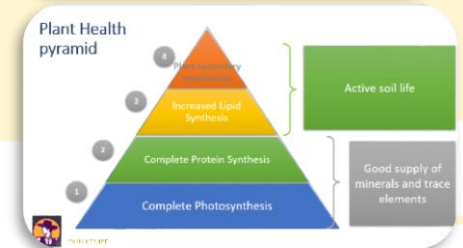
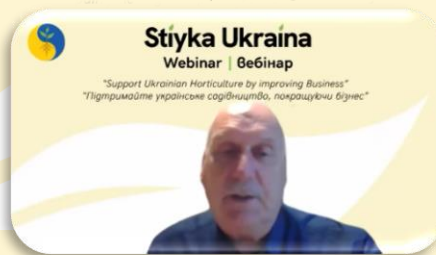
This webinar drew the highest attendance; participants stayed with us online until the very end. There were questions directed at the speakers following their presentations, and after the event, we received numerous calls from those who couldn't join online, inquiring about the availability of the video recording. We can see that Ukrainian farmers are eager for knowledge, and topics related to agricultural technologies and the latest advancements in agriculture generate significant interest.

Our first speaker, **Adri Streef** from **Delphy**, delivered a presentation on 'Nutrient Uptake in Soft Fruits'. Adri highlighted that soft fruit crops such as strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries have special requirements and demand special attention compared to other field crops.

When establishing a new plantation, it's crucial to assess the soil quality, the quality of water, and the prevailing climate conditions. He then delved into the discussion about macro and key microelements, outlining specific feeding requirements for strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries and how fertilizers can be applied when growing in soil and in pots.

Marcel de Jong from **Bodem&Groen** presented on 'Why Regenerative Horticulture is the Future'.

Marcel explained that by improving soil health, we also enhance plant health. According to John Kempf's plant health pyramid, the vitality of plants relies not only on a rich supply of minerals and trace elements but also on the presence of an active soil life, which is often overlooked. By balancing Magnesium and Calcium levels in the Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) of the soil, we can significantly enhance soil life and structure. In return, with an optimal balance, soil biology can provide up to 80 kg of nitrogen per hectare. Soil biology not only enhances plant health but also leads to cost savings on fertilizers, resulting in increased profitability. The vitality of the soil is intricately tied to its fertility!



October 19-20, Stiyka Ukraina participated Seminar in Mukachevo «World experience in the use of innovative technologies in berry growing and prospects for the development of berry growing in Ukraine»

The conference program was divided into three main blocks: 'Innovations in Berry Farming', 'Modern Berry Technologies', and 'Tools for Implementing Modern Berry Technologies'.

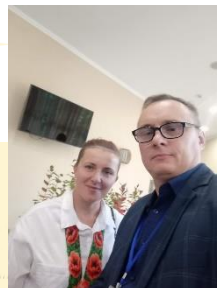
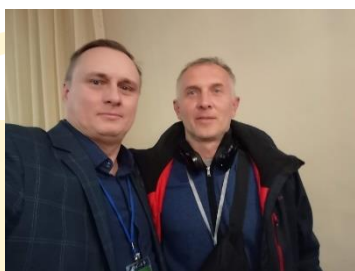
In total, the conference hosted approximately 80 participants, including farmers and companies involved in various aspects of berry cultivation, such as suppliers of planting material, chemical products, and machinery.

The event featured several engaging presentations on berry production. Notably, many speakers from Europe joined online through platforms like Zoom. Among the foreign companies that delivered presentations were AZU (Spain), UniferX International GmbH (Germany), Niva (Poland), and Sustainable Agro Solutions S.A.U. (Spain).

Valeriy Lyashynsky, the liaison of **Stiyka Ukraina**, represented our cluster during the event.

During interactions with growers, there was a significant interest in European expertise, and everyone was encouraged to participate in our future events.

Overall, in western Ukraine, there is a growing interest in raspberry and strawberry cultivation. People are eager to cultivate berries efficiently with an eye on potential exports to Europe. Despite the ongoing challenges posed by the war, businesses remain active, and farmers are actively seeking new opportunities. Labor availability has emerged as a major challenge in recent times, along with financial considerations.



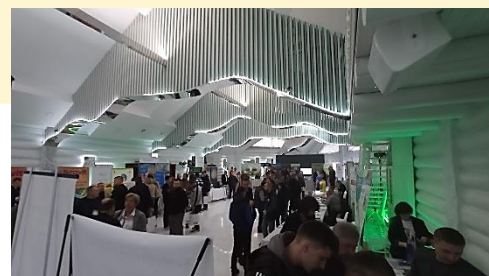
October 26-27, Stiyka Ukraina participated Seminar in Vinnytsia «From Land -To The Finished Product" (Stone and Pome fruits Vegetables growing and juice processing)

The conference was held near city of Vinnytsia, representatives from the fruit and vegetable sector from all over Ukraine gathered: from Lviv to Kharkiv, from Kyiv to Odesa. In total, around 100 participants attended, and they were greeted with a rich program: presentations by experts in the field of horticulture and vegetable growing, a panel discussion supported by the NGO 'UKRSADVYNPROM', dedicated to the challenges of wartime, negotiation tables with representatives of the USPA, an exhibition of processed products, a public tasting of freshly squeezed juices, an exhibition of equipment and technologies for horticulture and vegetable growing, and a charity auction to support the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The next day, on October 27, a business tour took place to the companies 'Agrokomplex', 'Frukhona VN', and 'Ivanivska Kalyna' in Vinnytsia region

Valeriy Lyashynsky, the liaison of **Stiyka Ukraina**, represented Stiyka Ukraina during the event.

At this event special attention was paid to processing.

In particular, Ivan DEGTYAR, co-owner of the Horticultural Society "Mriya",



shared his experience in developing a relocated business from Donetsk to Poltava. The speaker also highlighted the prospects of producing apple cider vinegar and juice as a business.

During the conference, there was a presentation-tasting of freshly squeezed juices and other processed products such as: fruit pastille, dried plums and tomatoes, tomato sauces, cold-pressed natural oils, pumpkin candied fruits, apple vinegar, strong beverages, and more.

Next day, everyone interested took part in a business tour and visited the horticultural and processing company "Agrokomplex," the enterprise specializing in freezing fruit and berry, as well as vegetable products "Fructona VN," and the pear-growing farm "Ivanska Kalina."



Transfer of Knowledge

On Monday, October 30th, 2023, **Stiyka Ukraina** held a **practical session at the demo field of 'Rosetta Agro'**. Students from **Bila Tserkva National Agrarian University** and the **National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine** were invited to participate in a hands-on workshop covering the planting and cultivation of berry, fruit, and vegetable crops, as well as the fundamentals of fertigation and crop protection.

The session provided a comprehensive overview of key aspects related to plantation establishment, including site selection (considering soil quality), assessing water quality, planting material, understanding fertigation systems, calculating water requirements, and addressing certain aspects of plant nutrition and protection.

It was a productive and engaging hands-on session in the field. We hope that future agronomists will find a strong interest in horticulture as they pursue their professional careers.





First-ever global estimation of the impact of disasters on agriculture

Natural disasters over the past 30 years have led to crop and livestock production losses totaling approximately \$3.8 trillion, averaging \$123 million per year, or 5% of the annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the world's agriculture sector

This information comes from [a new report](#) released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

"Agriculture cannot function without natural resources and is entirely dependent on climatic conditions, making it more susceptible to risks and more vulnerable to disasters than many other industries. Repeated disasters can undermine achievements in food security and reduce the resilience of agri-food systems," said FAO Director-General QU Dongyu.

In terms of food product groups, annual losses of cereals averaged 69 million tons, equivalent to the total production volume of France in 2021. Losses of fruits and vegetables, as well as sugar crops, amounted to 40 million tons per year. Regarding fruits and vegetables, their losses were equivalent to the total volume grown in Japan and Vietnam in 2021.

The losses of meat, milk, and eggs averaged 16 million tons per year, equal to the entire production volume of these products in Mexico and India in 2021.

Source: [FAO.ORG](https://www.fao.org)

Water in the South has Become Unsuitable for Horticulture



The quality of fresh water in the southern regions has significantly deteriorated following the collapse of the Kahovka Hydroelectric Power Station. This is being observed by horticulturists.

Due to the lowering of water tables and active processes of mineralization, the electrical conductivity of water (EC) has dramatically increased. Currently, in the Mykolaiv region, EC ranges from 3 to 11. In the Odesa region, there are places with 3-4 EC. This indicator may further rise next year.

Furthermore, the level in artesian wells has significantly dropped, and horticulture in the South is impossible without irrigation.

These consequences of the environmental disaster will affect fruit-growing and viticulture, primarily in terms of volume and quality of production.

In the first or second year, this might go unnoticed, but after two years, a problem might arise. It will be necessary to install reverse osmosis filters – which means tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional expenses.

Source [AgroTimes](#).

The German government has allocated €5.6 million for grants to small-scale processors in Ukraine.

Small and medium-sized processing enterprises can receive grant support from the German government in the amount of €5.6 million. This marks the second phase of the grant project "Access to Financing and Support for SME Sustainability in Ukraine – Phase II."

As a result of the first phase, 136 micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises received grant support totaling €1.5 million. These enterprises went on to secure loans for the implementation of investment projects amounting to €11.2 million.

The grant support from the German Government is implemented within the framework of the international cooperation program ReACT4UA (Resilience/Recovery – Accession – Competitiveness – Trade), which is carried out by the German federal company Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (GIZ Ukraine).

Source [Facebook of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine](#)



Pilot Project for Mass Land Valuation to be Launched in Ukraine

The government has approved Resolution No. 1078 "Certain Issues Regarding the Implementation of the Pilot Project for Mass Land Valuation." The document was developed by the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine

The pilot project includes:

1. Creation of a geoinformation system for mass land valuation integrated with the software of the State Land Cadastre.
2. Construction of a mathematical-statistical model for mass land valuation.
3. Establishment of an automated system for calculating and updating indicators for mass land valuation.
4. Development of proposals for using the results of mass land valuation for taxation purposes.

The project's implementation duration is 11 months.

The resolution was developed in accordance with point 1-2 of Section VI "Final Provisions" of [the Law of Ukraine "On Land Valuation,"](#) which stipulates the approval of the Procedure for implementing the pilot project for mass land valuation.

Source [ProAgro GROUP](#).



Findings of Botany trial aiming for energy reduction in the greenhouse



Rijk Zwaan presents the first findings of Botany trial:

“Finding innovative ways for energy reduction in the cultivation process”

Recently, Rijk Zwaan informed the industry about a trial at Botany, a research and development partner, that aims for energy reduction in the cultivation process. “Many growers worldwide are affected by increasing energy prices, making it an important topic within the industry. As a vegetable breeding company, we collaborate with research companies such as Botany in finding innovative ways to support growers to face this challenge,” explains Marcel van Koppen, Crop Coordinator Cucumber at Rijk Zwaan. In this video, Rijk Zwaan shares the first findings.

Energy-saving trial at Botany

In this trial, Botany researches the impact on the cucumber production of low CO₂ concentration and less ventilation in the greenhouse. Therefore, in the so-called trial greenhouse, Botany steered on the ratio temperature and assimilation, reduced ventilation, and did not add CO₂. This approach is compared to a standard CO₂ and ventilation strategy in the reference greenhouse (HNT). Rijk Zwaan participated in the trial by testing different cultivars and sharing their expertise. Watch the video to get a sneak peek of the first findings. The final results will be presented by Botany on November 8, 2023.

[Click here to see short Video about this research in Dutch and English](#)

Source: [FreshPlaza](#)

