



Interreg

2 Seas Mers Zeeën

Horti-BlueC



European Regional Development Fund



NIAB EMR

NIAB EMR is the leading horticultural research organization in the United Kingdom. We provide high quality applied and strategic research and development services to public and private customers. NIAB EMR's research on fruit trees, strawberries and raspberries, water use efficiency, substrate health and integrated pest management is internationally renowned. In this project, NIAB EMR will focus on the use of agricultural by-product derivatives to extend the life of coir substrate in strawberry production.

We are experts in the application of next-generation sequencing methods to determine composition and infer function of root colonizing microorganisms including plant growth promoting bacteria and mycorrhizal fungi. We are renowned for excellent large scale field experiments to understand plant physiology, pest and pathogen management to improve crop production systems. We will use these approaches to investigate causes and sustainable solutions for poor performance of recycled coir as a growing substrate, and the effects of biochar and chitin amendments. Our extensive experience of In this project we will apply the will be used to explore the effect of. The incorporation of these approaches will To ensure sustainable high yields and quality in sub-optimal environments. Knowledge transfer to industry

A key issue in the UK strawberry production is to extend the lifetime of coir substrate. By the extending coir lifetime, we will not only reduce agriculture waste but also reduce production cost. By participating in this project, NIAB EMR will aim to extend the coir lifetime for strawberry production by using agricultural by-product derivatives, and also exploit possible routes of recycling used coir with other project and industry partners.

