

Call for participation to LivlabPProFruit

We firmly believe that the best innovations arise through collaboration. That is why we are inviting fruit growers, technology companies and other relevant stakeholders to actively contribute to this project by participating in stakeholder group meetings. As part of this LivLabPProFruit project, we are establishing three stakeholder groups:

- **What?** One meeting per year for pears, one for viticulture, and one for blueberries.
- **Where?** As part of this project, we are working across borders at various locations in the Meuse-Rhine region. During the meetings, we will accommodate multilingualism (Dutch, French, German).
- **When?** We are organising the following meetings in 2026:
 - For viticulture: 29th of June 2026 (Location: CPFAR, Rue Jean Stassart 21A, 4367 Crisnée)
 - For pear: 1st of July 2026 (Location: pcfruit, Fruittuinweg 1, 3800 Sint-Truiden)
 - For blueberry: September 2026 → Exact date and location will follow later.We start with a lunch at 12u. This meeting will be finished at 16u.
- **Who is it for?**
 - Fruit growers
 - Technology companies
 - Other supporting organizations
- **Objective:**
 - To foster interaction between tech companies, fruit growers and other relevant stakeholders regarding innovative techniques, ensuring these are well-aligned with market needs.
 - To select innovative techniques/components to be tested within the LivLabPProFruit project in a digital and physical test infrastructure. Co-creation groups will be set up around these innovative techniques/components, in which you can also become actively involved if you are interested.

Participation in the stakeholder group meetings offers clear added value for all parties: your practical experience or technological expertise contributes directly to better and more practical solutions for the sector.

Interested? You can register until the 25th of June 2026 via:

- For English: this [link](#)
- For Dutch: deze [link](#)
- For German: diesen [Link](#)
- For French: [ce lien](#)

Would you like more information? Contact details can be found at:
<https://www.interregmeuserhine.eu/en/projects/livlabprofruit/>

We look forward to shaping the future of fruit growing together with you!

LivlabPProFruit

In addition to the well-known risks posed by the weather, diseases and pests, the fruit sector faces major structural challenges: a labour shortage, rising costs and increasingly stringent environmental requirements. This creates a clear opportunity: with smart technology and better collaboration, fruit growing can become more efficient, more precise and more future-proof. The sector is evolving rapidly and there is a clear demand for new, efficient solutions.

Suppliers have been working on solutions for years – from precision applications and harvesting robots to autonomous sprayers. Yet, so far, these technologies have only been adopted to a limited extent. New developments are perceived as complex by users, and growers often lack an understanding of the added value these techniques generate. Potential users also lack the knowledge to make informed decisions and the best practices needed to successfully deploy these new techniques. This creates hesitation about purchasing the technology, with the result that innovations which could genuinely help the sector are scarcely applied in practice – a situation that is unfavorable for both growers and suppliers.

In this context, various centers for applied fruit research and knowledge institutions have joined forces to launch the project '**LivLabPProFruit – Living Lab Precision and Robotisation in Fruit Growing**'. This project is supported by the European Union and the Interreg Meuse-Rhine programme (NL-BE-DE). In this project, we aim to establish concrete collaboration between fruit growers, suppliers, and other stakeholders. On the one hand, we want to provide growers with the necessary knowledge and practical experience, and on the other hand, we want to give suppliers the opportunity to put the grower at the center of their development and thus contribute to the widespread adoption of new technologies.

The **approach in the LivLabPProFruit project** is based on **three pillars**:

- **Co-creation:** Collaborating with growers and suppliers to develop or refine equipment/machinery that meets growers' actual needs in practice.
- **Field trials:** Technology is independently tested under realistic conditions, ensuring that performance is clearly and reliably assessed. In this way, growers are provided with the necessary data to make the right decisions for their business situation.
- **Demonstrations:** Companies and staff are given the opportunity to experience and try out innovations for themselves and to better understand how they can be used to best effect

The project is scientifically supported by KU Leuven, RWTH Aachen and the University of Liège. Researchers and consultants from pcfruit, Agra-Ost, CSIA, Compas-Agro, CPFAR and Yookr are responsible for setting up the trials and conducting the field tests.

