



Introducing OatFrontiers

OatFrontiers aims to introduce oat cultivation to the Northern periphery area (which includes the West of Ireland).

The OatFrontiers project aims to introduce oat cultivation to the Northern Periphery area (NPA), where this crop's potential is underutilised. This requires the following actions: test cultivars, develop cultivars and find a way to utilise them locally. We will test existing cultivars by organising field trials in several locations representing the variation of growing conditions within the NPA. We seek to find tools for plant breeders to develop suitable cultivars for NPA in the Northern parts of Scandinavia, Iceland, and Western parts of Ireland in the future. Simultaneously, these tools can be used to tackle extreme climatic conditions and improve oat quality. These tools include an understanding of traits such as day-length sensitivity, earliness, disease resistance and straw strength. Furthermore, our project introduces new genetic variation to oat breeding programs, which can be used to improve the traits mentioned above and other quality traits. We also aim to bring together the organisations responsible for oat breeding and oat research and organise events with farmers and entrepreneurs to spread information and good oat cultivation practices and to form networks to tackle the challenges of local cereal production.

Follow us on social media and prepare to join our events locally or online

In 2024, the OatFrontiers project has an exciting lineup of events, including 8 farmer field days in different countries. There are two trial sites in Ireland : (1) Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow & (2) Letterkenny (part of the UCD trial site). This allows us to understand oats' phenological adaptability across contrasting Irish climates. At Teagasc, Oak Park, we will organise a crop walk in 1st week of August (the date will be announced soon). The day's highlight will be the demonstration of the 28 best oat varieties from different European breeding programs to evaluate their performance under the Irish climate. Moreover, there will be an opportunity to visit other ongoing oat research trials on Nitrogen, Plant Growth Regulators and the sowing date X seeding rate of spring oats. Another important event to participate in is the workshop in Iceland on 8.10.2024. There will be an opportunity to join this event virtually. We invite you to join us and participate in these interactive events. If you're interested in receiving more information, please let us know by filling out this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/yy6j5jMBVe>.

Also, you can write to Atikur Rahman (Atikur.Rahman@teagasc.ie) if you have any questions.

Further information about the events can be found from our website and from our social media accounts:

<https://www.interreg-npa.eu/projects/oatfrontiers/>

<https://twitter.com/OatFrontiers>

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Meet the oat experts

One of the aims of Interreg funding is to increase the critical mass of innovators through international collaboration in order to develop solutions for local communities that often are scarcely populated and have limited innovation capacity. OatFrontiers is an effort between three Nordic plant breeding companies who have excellent expertise in spring oat breeding, three Northern European research institutes and four universities with unique expertise. In addition to 10 partners we have numerous associate partners who connect to our work such as local farmers associations and, co-operatives or education or advisors and research collaborators as far as North America. You can learn more about your local partners by following these newsletters.

