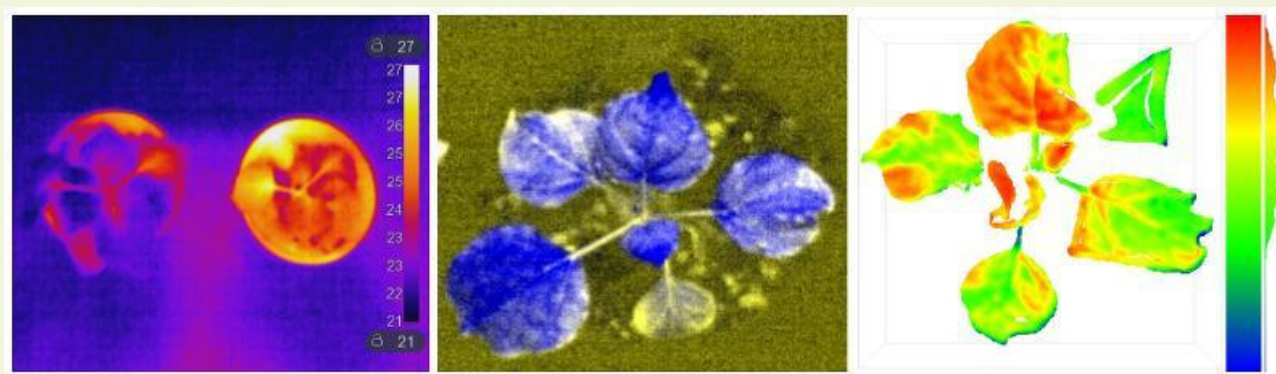
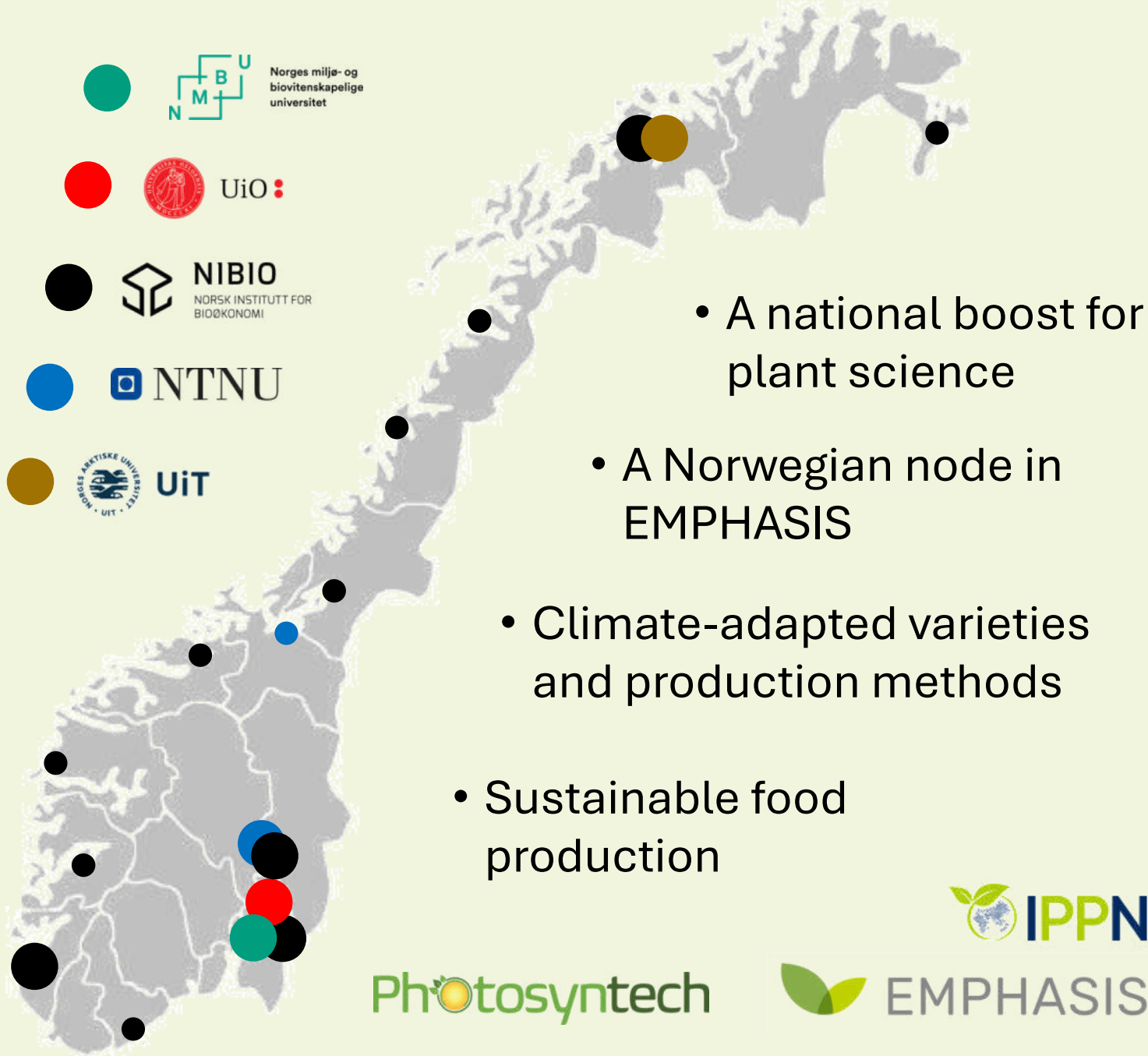




Opening a new era for plant research in Norway

Morten Lillemo

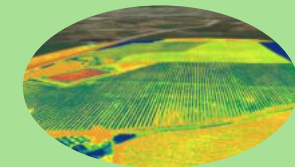




Research facilities and services in:



Controlled environment phenotyping



Field phenotyping



Seed phenotyping



Data analysis



What is phenotyping?



Addressing national priorities

- «**Grøntsatsingen**»
 - increase self sufficiency in fruits and vegetables to 50% by 2034
- «**Matkornpartnerskapet**»
 - 90% self sufficiency in food grains by 2030
- «**Langtidsplanen for forskning og høyere utdanning**»
 - Strengthening of basic science to support innovation
- «**Bærekraftig fôr**»
 - all animal feed should come from sustainable sources
- «**Tiltaksplan for renere Oslofjord**»
 - a cleaner Oslo Fjord demands change in regional farming practices



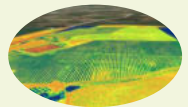
PheNo objectives

To provide the plant science community in Norway with **state-of-the art research facilities** and equipment for **precise fenotyping** under **controlled environment** and **in the field** as well as **seed phenotyping**

PheNo is a **distributed infrastructure** with installations across the country:



- Controlled environment phenotyping: NMBU, UiO, UiT, NIBIO



- Field phenotyping: NMBU, NIBIO



- Seed phenotyping: NMBU, UiO



- Data analysis and data management services: NTNU, UiT



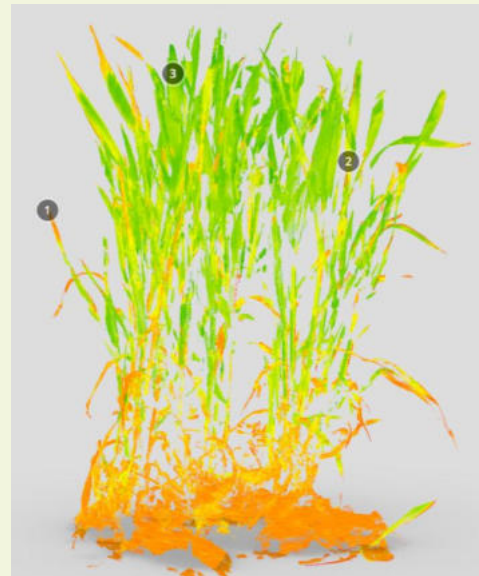
Controlled environment phenotyping

- Multispectral laser scanning of plants in greenhouses



Phenospex TraitFinder installed at NMBU and UiT in September 2025

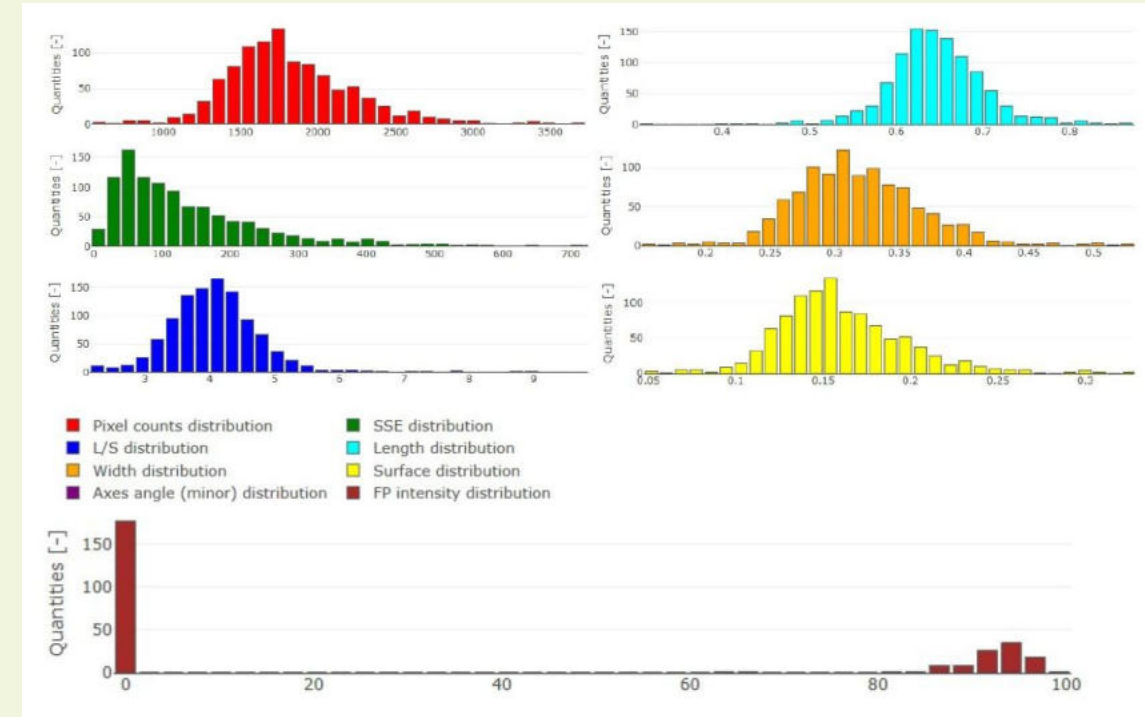
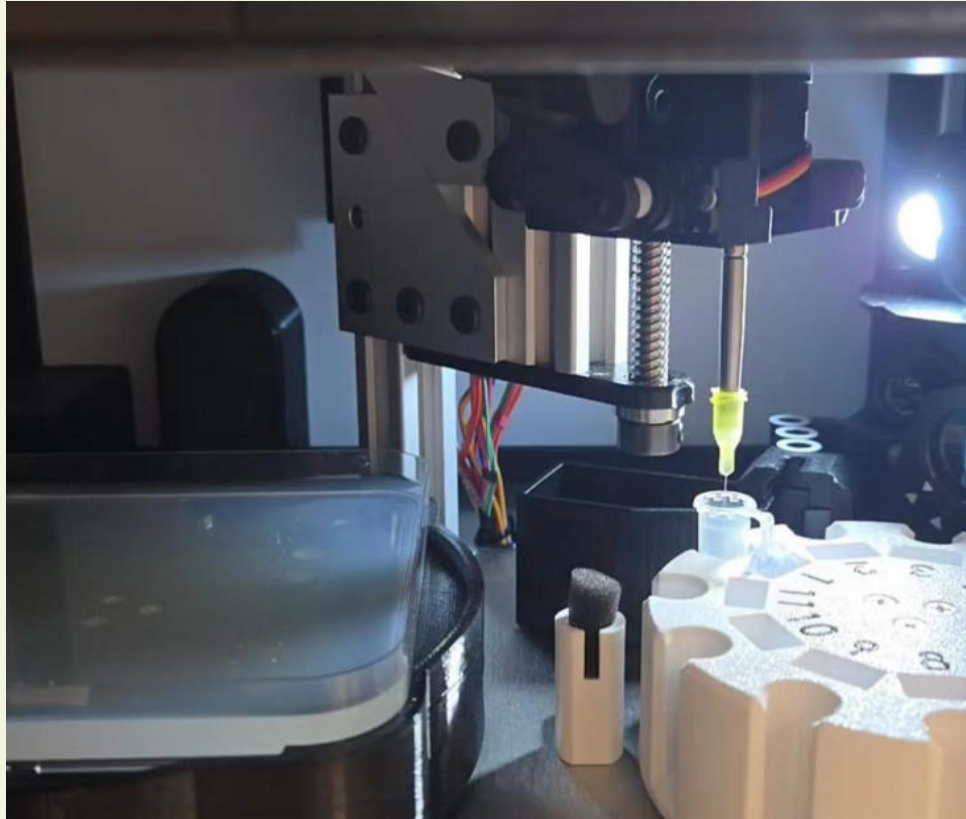
- Sensors for greenhouse research



NMBU and NIBIO



Controlled environment phenotyping



Boxeed2.1 installed at UiO
Summer 2025



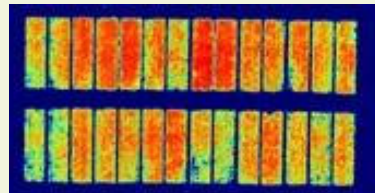
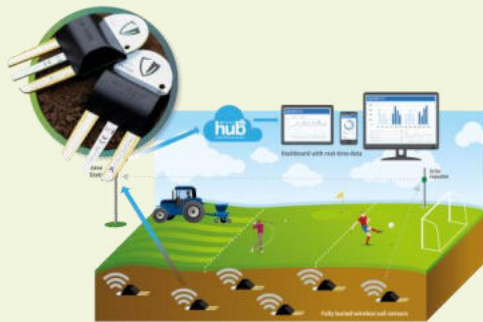
- Automated small plant seed phenotyping and seeding:

Field phenotyping

- Upgraded field trial equipment with automation and GPS steering, network of wireless soil sensors and new forage trial harvester (NMBU)
- Spectrometric soil analyses (NIBIO)
- UAV- and robot-based field phenotyping (NMBU and NIBIO)

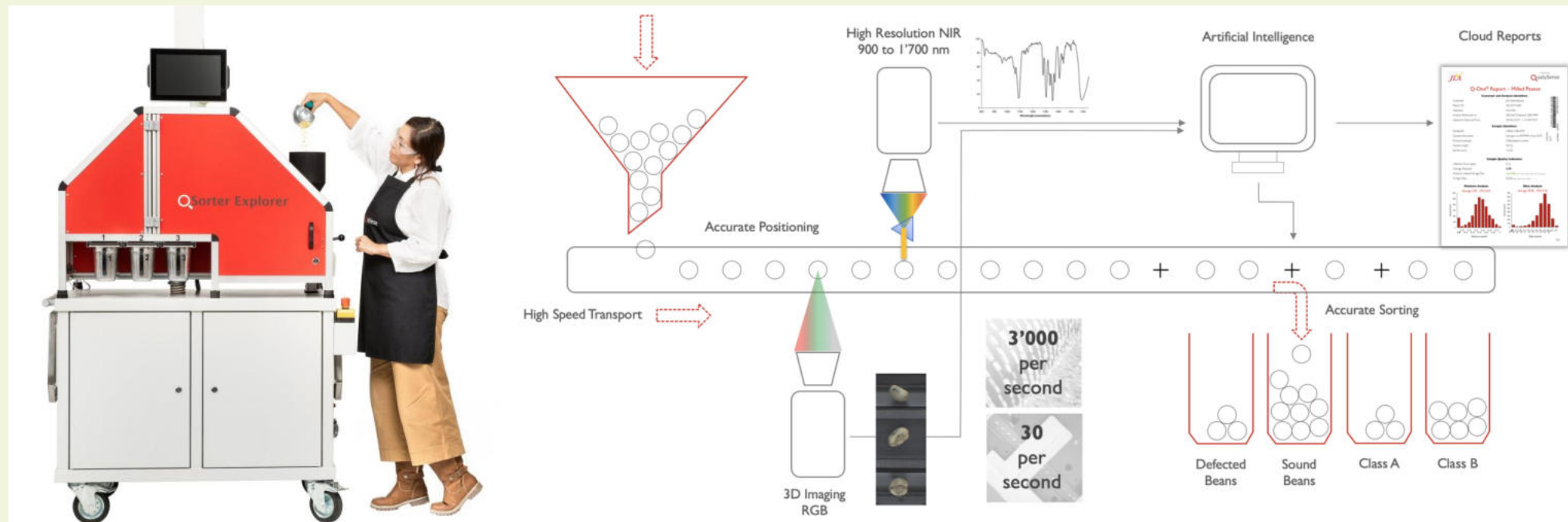
2025 summer season at NMBU:

- UAV phenotyping services offered to 9 research projects
- 550 UAV missions in total
- Automated data processing pipelines



Seed phenotyping

- Image and NIR-based phenotyping and sorting of seed samples

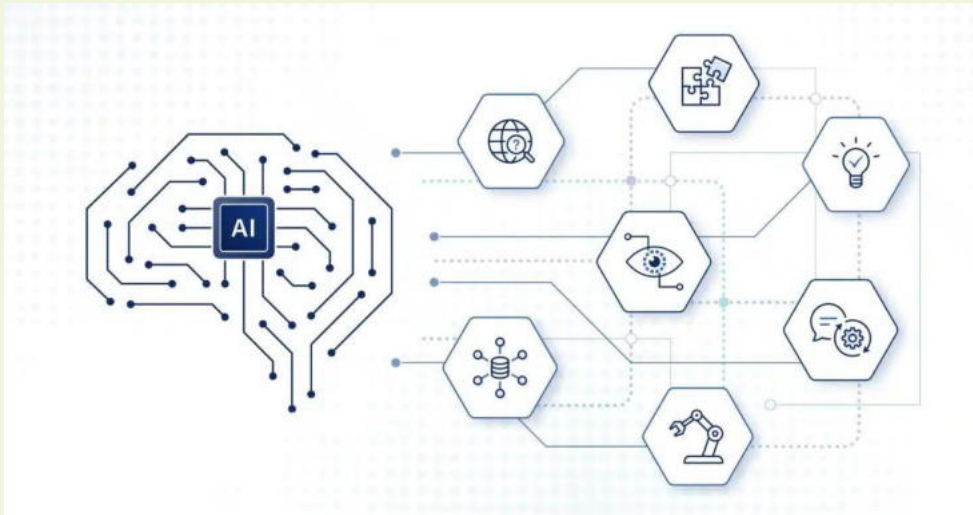


Qsorter Explorer coming to NMBU in December 2025



Data management, analysis and modelling

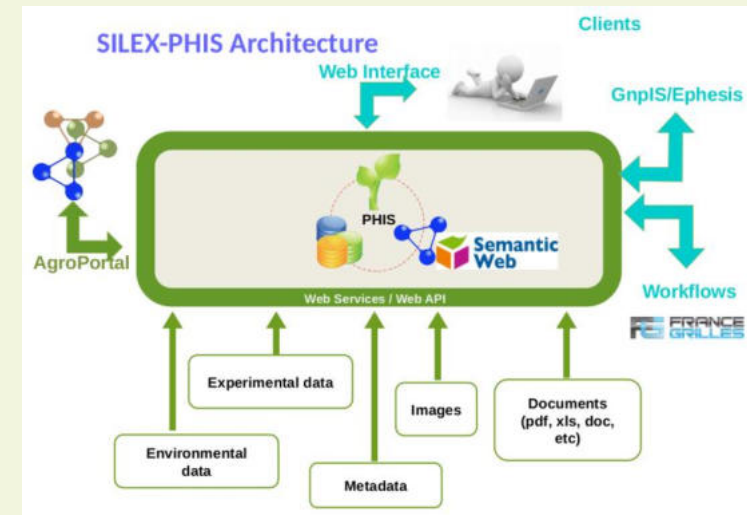
- Internet of things (IoT) sensors, image analysis and AI



Coordinated by NTNU



- Data management solutions

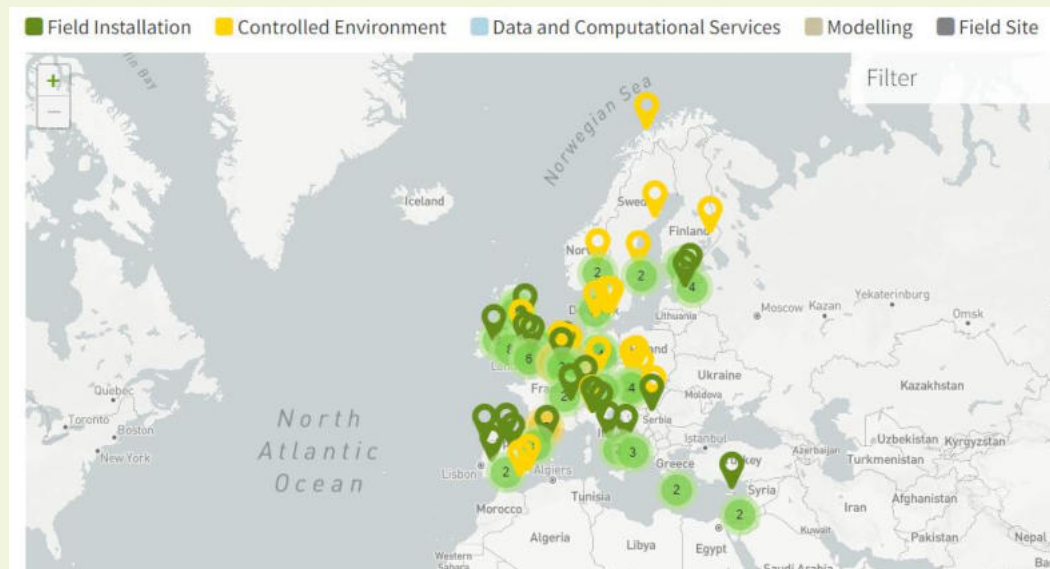


Coordinated by UiT



National and international networks

- A Norwegian node in EMPHASIS



- International Plant Phenotyping Network



- Close connections to industry

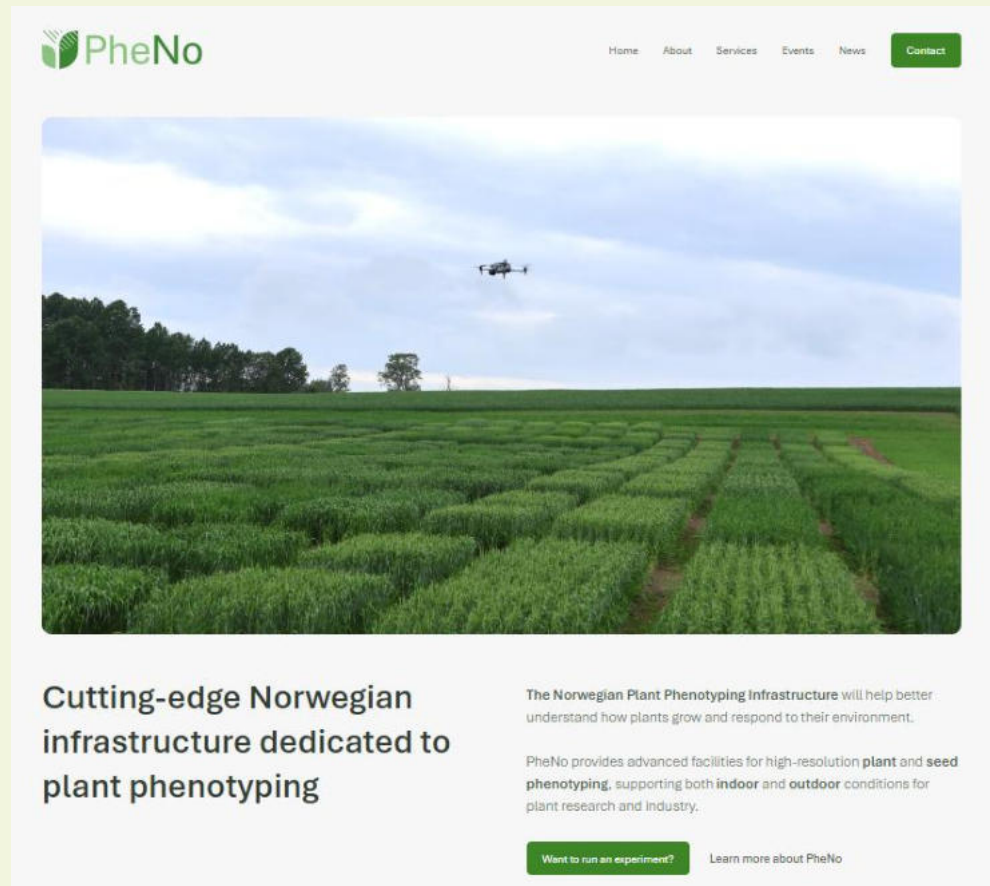


- National research school in plant sciences

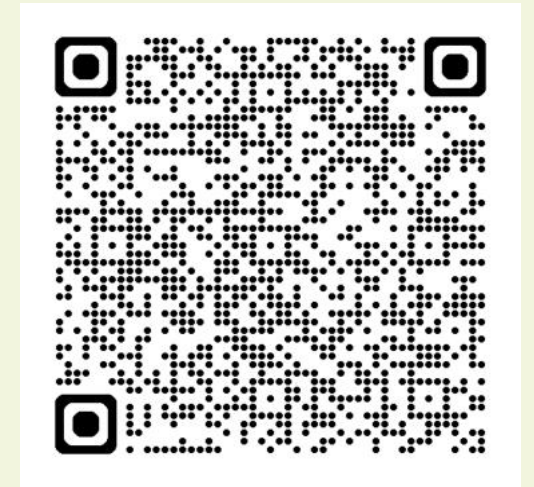


Follow us on digital platforms

- www.pheno.no



- Social media





Centre for Plant Research in Controlled Climate- Technology upgrades and facilities



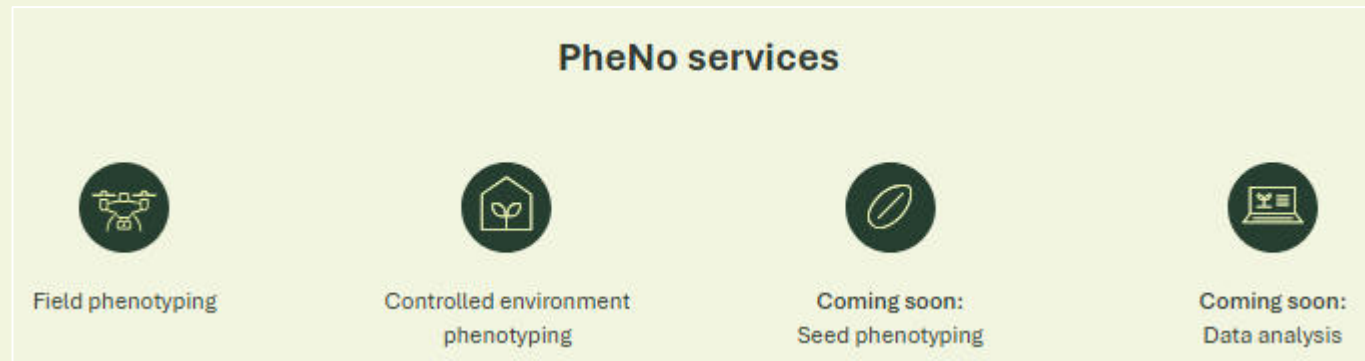
About -Centre for Plant Research in Controlled Climate (SKP)

- National service centre at NMBU providing research infrastructure for plant research with interdisciplinary facilitation
- We offer facilities and services for research and education in controlled climate and for fields trials on arable land
- Almost 200 climate-controlled units- Greenhouses, phytotrons, climate chambers, climate rooms, freeze-/thaw-chambers, freeze rooms, cold rooms, semi-controlled polytunnels.
- 50 hectares of arable land and more than 50 equipment units for field trials
- 13 employees with biological and technological competence and experience.
- High focus on continuous improvement and development of modern infrastructures according to the user needs



Supporting Research and education

- As a partner in PheNo our mission is to support research and education through the PheNo services
- Our target is to contribute to all 4 areas of service through our existing infrastructure, technology upgrades, new equipment and digitalization



Technology upgrades- field trials and field phenotyping

- Field trial planning fully digitalized- RTK-GPS precision on most work operations
- Permanent soil sensor network field trials- collecting data 365 -to be installed spring 2026- complementing existing sensory networks- API and project solution
- Upgrading forage plot harvester for forage research
- Digital control of field irrigation in process



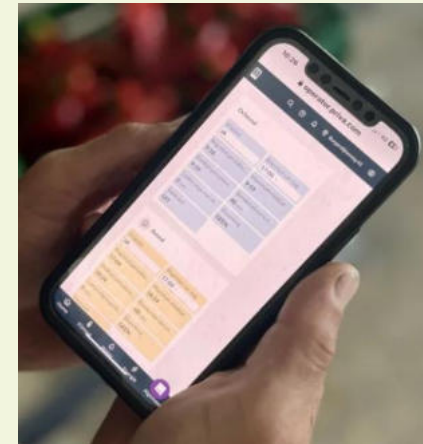
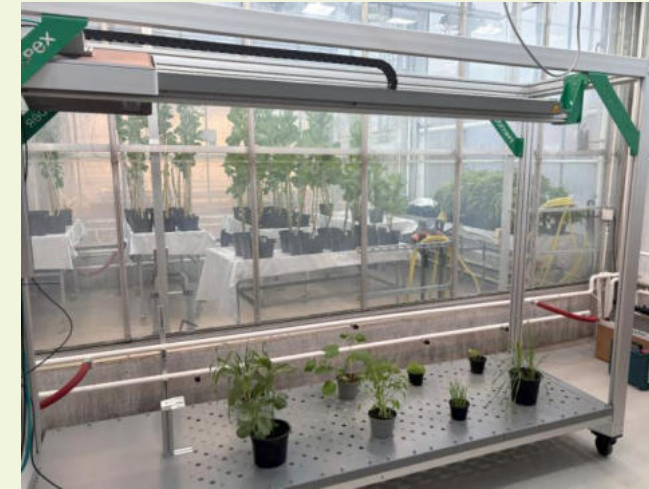
Technology upgrades- polytunnels

- Upgrade climate-control system (Priva)- weather station, sensors
- Full sensory controlled automation of roof, walls and end-gables
- Gantry system for phenotyping in process
- Automation of drip irrigation
- Soil sensors in grid- 18 per tunnel



Technology upgrades- greenhouses and climate chambers

- Upgraded climate control system (Priva)-cloud services, weather stations, hardware and sensors
- Dedicated facility for Phenospex traitfinder- installed and tested
- New LED plant growth light under implementation (2024-2028) – all facilities
- Aranet sensory network installed and under expansion- multiple climate and environmental parameteres



Future ambitions

- Continuous improvement optimizing quality of infrastructure
- High quality services provided to existing and new users – customer service and support
- Investing for the future on a sustainable level - financial balance
- With new technology comes new needs for competence development- team effort



Thank you!



PheNo infrastructure – a key resource for developing new climate- adapted plant varieties

Kick-off PheNo 13. nov 2025

Vidar Skagestad, PhD.

Department Director.

**Department of Food and the Bioeconomy.
Research Council of Norway.**

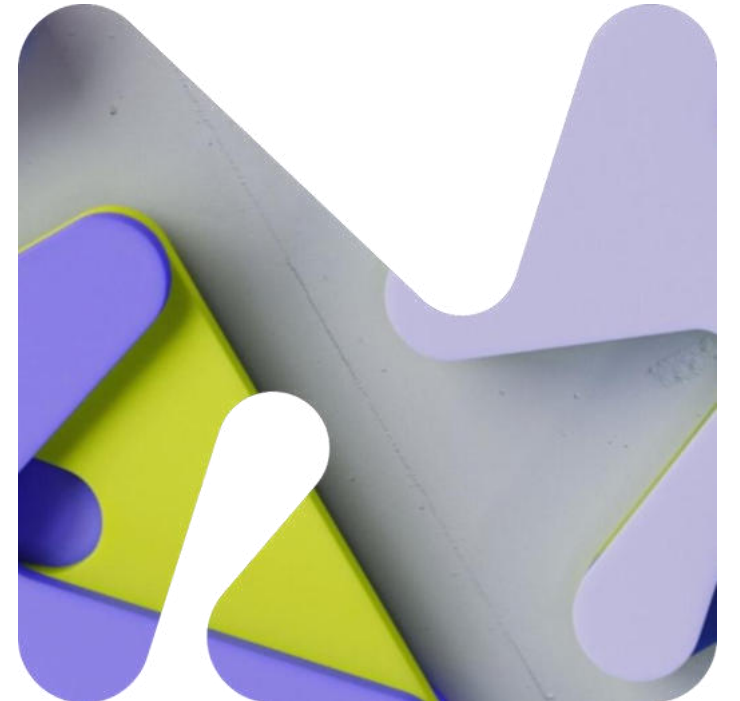
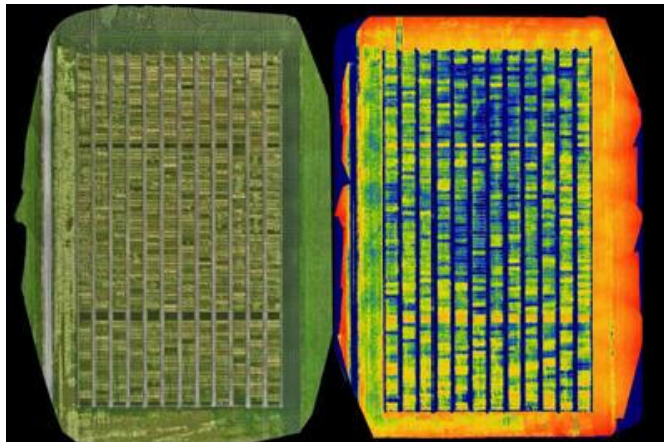




We appreciate the invite

Happy to be part of this kick off event and to say a few words

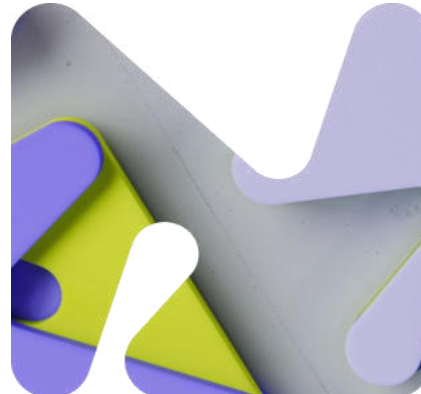
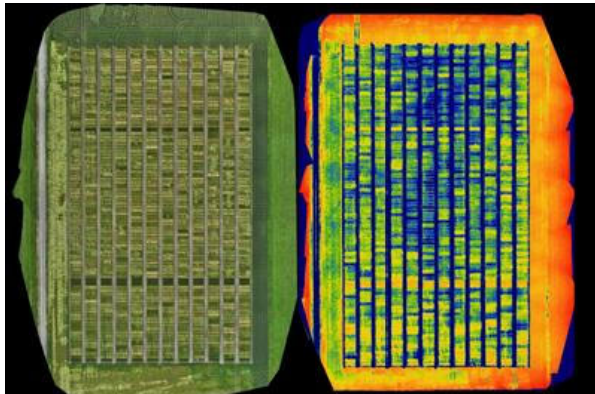
1. Our expectations to the PheNo infrastructure
2. Briefly on the infrastructure funding scheme at RCN
3. Briefly on the roadmap for research infrastructure at RCN





Congrats to PheNO – you ended up among the selected few!

- you applied for the INFRASTRUCTURE call in 2023
- on an open call with a budget of 1,3 billion NOK
- where 122 applications were submitted and asked for 10 billion NOK and
- where 22 projects- included you- were granted after a tough selection process.



Expert panel assessment:

...«PheNo will make a very significant contribution to the standard of Norwegian science and have potential to achieve a step change in breeding science, with positive consequences for food security and climate resilience»...

Administrative assessment:

... «PheNo aligns very well with national strategies and priorities. It will provide significant benefits for society and industry and contribute to the development of research communities within plant science in Norway and abroad»...



Your PheNo activities line up well with the government's goals for the Norwegian food and agriculture policy



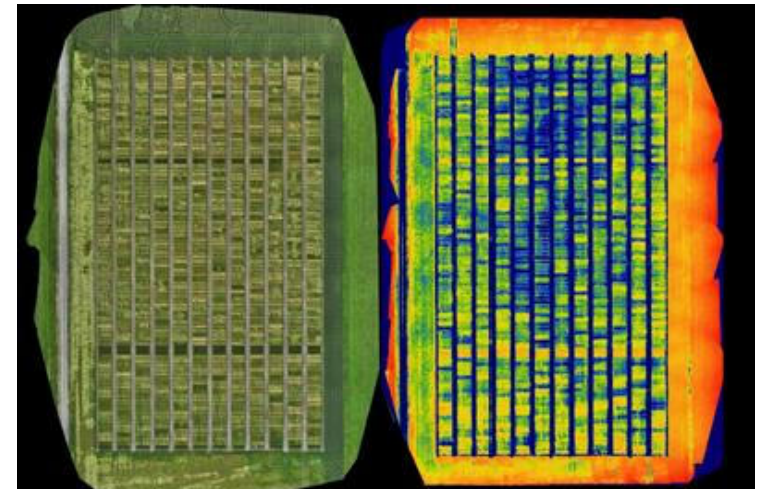
1. Food security, preparedness, and self-sufficiency in food production- with an increasing emphasis on the production of vegetables and fruits
2. An active agriculture sector and sustainable food production across the country
3. Utilize national resources and preserve diversity
4. Good animal welfare
5. Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture





What we're hoping to see from PheNo - in brief

1. Strengthen the science and the science community- in the field of agriculture, including education
2. Strengthen national and international collaboration
3. Secure access for all relevant Norwegian R&D
4. Secure good cooperation with industry
5. Promote data sharing and open science
6. Encourage for interdisciplinarity- crossing different scientific fields, actors and sectors
7. Deliver on the host as a Norwegian node in the common European infrastructure "EMPHASIS"
8. And last but not least- support the development of a sustainable biobased economy in Norway- in the face of climate changes



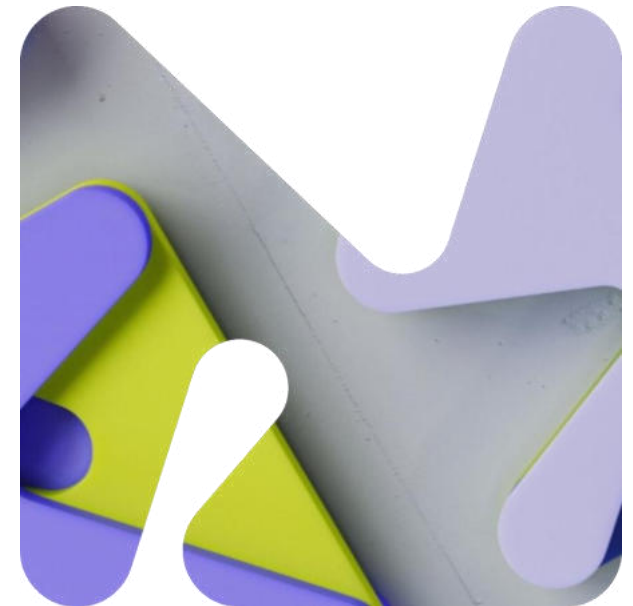


RCN's INFRA funding scheme — the very short version

The initiative was **introduced in the White Paper** "Climate for Research" (2008–2009), which laid the foundation for a national roadmap for research infrastructure.

Main objectives

- Establish modern and relevant research infrastructure accessible to both research communities and industry
- Strengthen international research collaboration, including participation in projects listed on the ESFRI roadmap (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures)
- Increase the quality and efficiency of Norwegian research, and facilitate groundbreaking research and innovation.





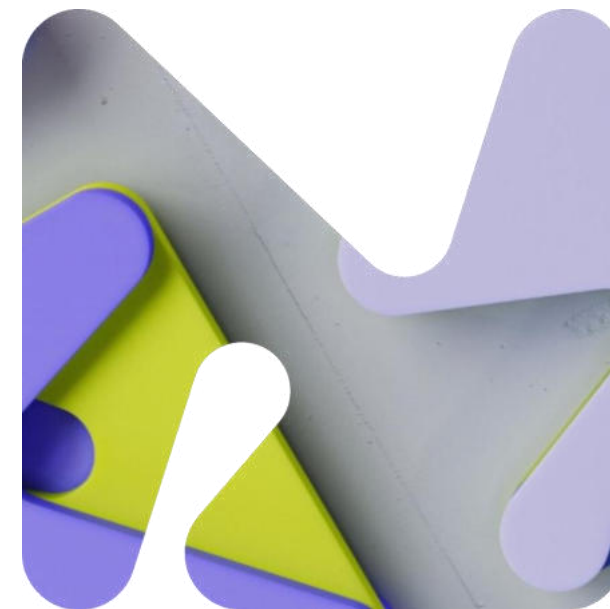
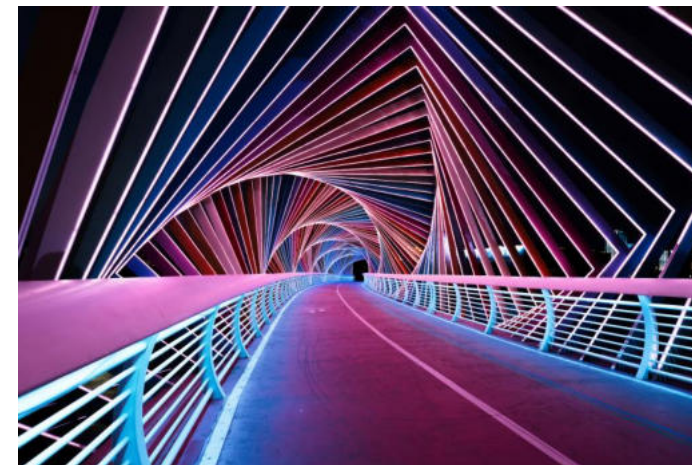
Let's take a quick peek at the facts and numbers

More than **200 state-of-the art research infrastructure projects** have been awarded a total of **7.4 billion NOK** (2009-2024)

- National infrastructures
- Norwegian nodes in international infrastructures

Covering a wide range of disciplines - from climate and health to energy, food and digitalization- and sharing some similarities:

- they support high quality research
- they are of broad national importance
- they are established in one or few locations
- they are made accessible to the entire Norwegian research community, including trade and industry





The Norwegian roadmap for research infrastructure – what's it all about?

The roadmap, developed by RCN and carried out on behalf of Ministry, provides strategic guidance and support decision-making for new investments in large national research infrastructure.

It **highlight** the need for new national research infrastructures and for **Norway's participation** in international infrastructure initiatives.

It's **updated prior to every new call** on large infrastructure, typically every second to third year.

Norsk veikart for forskningsinfrastruktur





The roadmap- a «three-part structure»

- **Guidelines and recommendations**

- i.a description of guidelines for how the Research Council finances national research infrastructure
- ii.recommendations to ministries and R&D institutions.

- **Strategic basis**

- i. a description of the strategic basis for the Research Council's thinking and priorities regarding national research infrastructure for various subject, thematic and technological areas.

- **Infrastructure Overview**

- i.a description of the current up- and running landscape of national research infrastructures funded under the infrastructure initiative, including both national and international facilities.

Norsk veikart for forskningsinfrastruktur





2025 roadmap just got better: PheNo included!

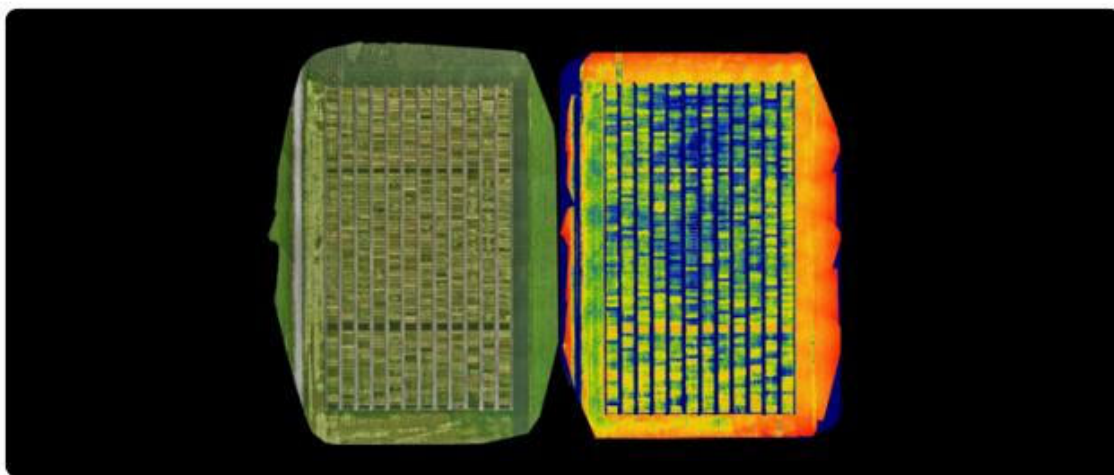


Foto: Muhammad Fahad Ijaz

Internasjonal

Nasjonal infrastruktur for plantefenotyping

PheNo

Infrastruktur: Norwegian Plant Phenotyping Infrastructure

Status: Under etablering.

Internasjonal infrastruktur: Fra etableringen som ERIC i 2026 vil PheNo få status som norsk node i EMPHASIS.

Nasjonal koordinator: NMBU

Partnere: UiO, UiT, NTNU, NIBIO

Finansiering: Forskningsrådet bevilget 69 millioner kroner til infrastrukturen etter utlysningen i 2023.

Mer informasjon: www.nmbu.no/forskning/prosjekter/phe-no, emphasis.plant-phenotyping.eu



Forskningsrådet

Norsk veikart for forskningsinfrastruktur 2025





The 2025 roadmap just dropped is meant to guide for the 2025 INFRA call – with deadline yesterday!

Financial scheme: Research Infrastructure

Application deadline: 12 November 2025, 13:00 CET

Relevant thematic areas for this call: [Research infrastructure](#)

Target groups: Research organisations

Funding scale: NOK 2 000 000-200 000 000

Amount of funding presumed available for this call for proposals:
NOK 1 400 000 000

Contact for the call: Infrastruktur | forinfra@forskningsradet.no

Create application

Download all files ▾

Important dates

24 SEP 2025



Webinar about the call

[You can see the webinar here.](#)

01 OCT 2025



Open for applications

12 NOV 2025



Application deadline



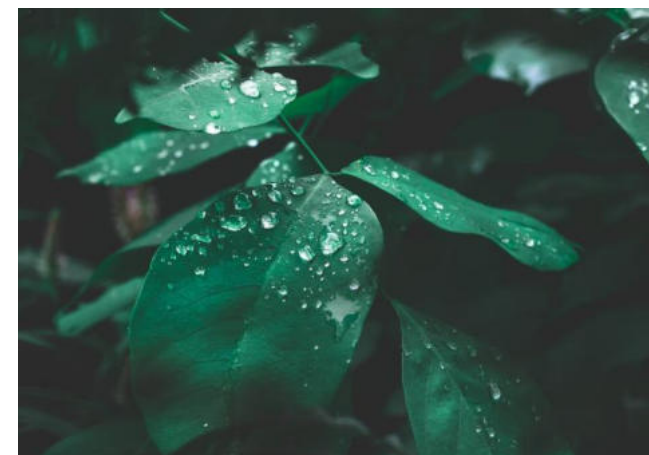
Norsk veikart for forskningsinfrastruktur 2025



Thanks for having me

We at RCN wish you all the best of luck with this important work.....

- that will hopefully lay foundation for new discoveries and a faster development of new plant varieties and sustainable plant production systems adapted to the changing climate in Norway.....
- and in doing so, help achieve our common national aim of improving food security.





EMPHASIS

EUROPEAN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PLANT PHENOTYPING



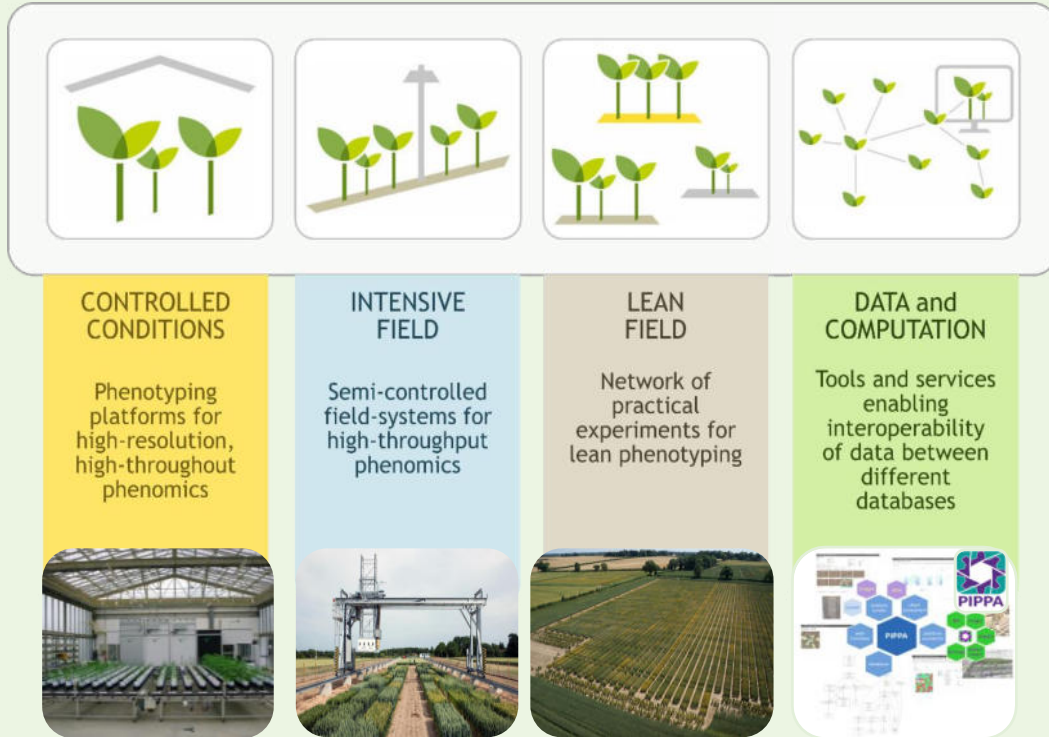
Dr Stijn Dhondt

Interim Director-General, EMPHASIS

PheNO meeting, Olso, November 13th 2025

Mission

Facilitate multi-scale plant phenotyping to analyse genotype performance in diverse environments and to quantify crop traits to promote future food security in a changing climate.



Coordinated from within Belgium/VIB

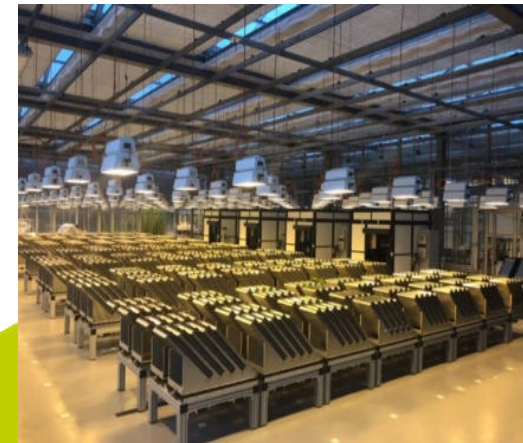
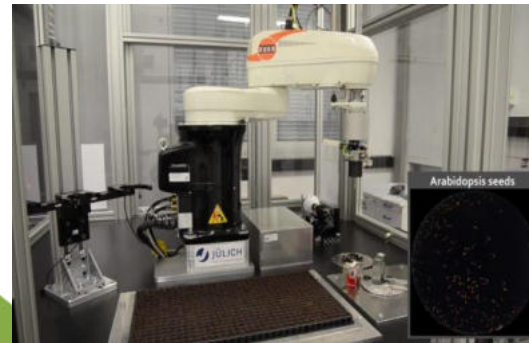


Controlled conditions facilities



CONTROLLED CONDITIONS

- ✓ Greenhouses and growth chambers with high level of automation
- ✓ Facilitate the study of plant traits in response to well-defined environments
- ✓ Throughput typically consists of between 100-1000s plants

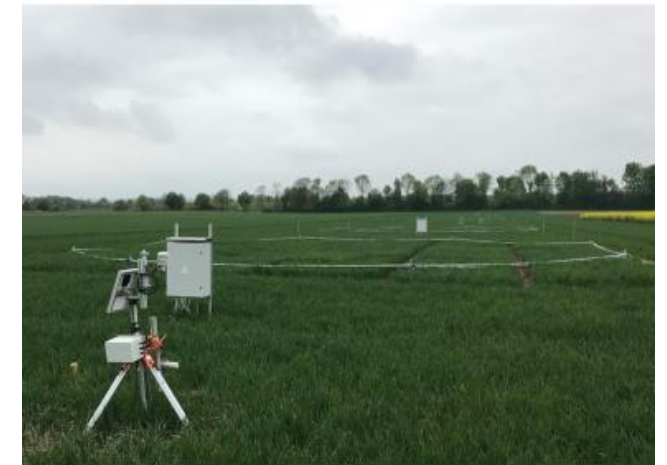


Intensive field facilities

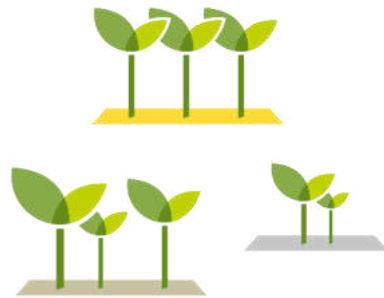


INTENSIVE FIELD

- ✓ Field sites enabling environmental simulations
- ✓ Highly equipped installations for accurate monitoring of both plant phenotype and environment
- ✓ High quality observations and measurements

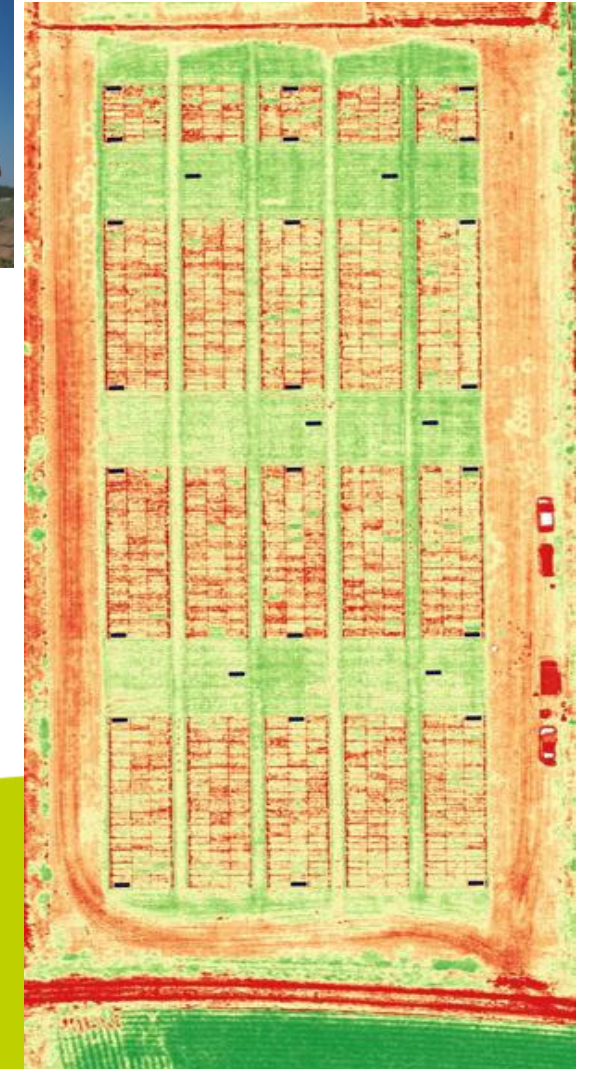
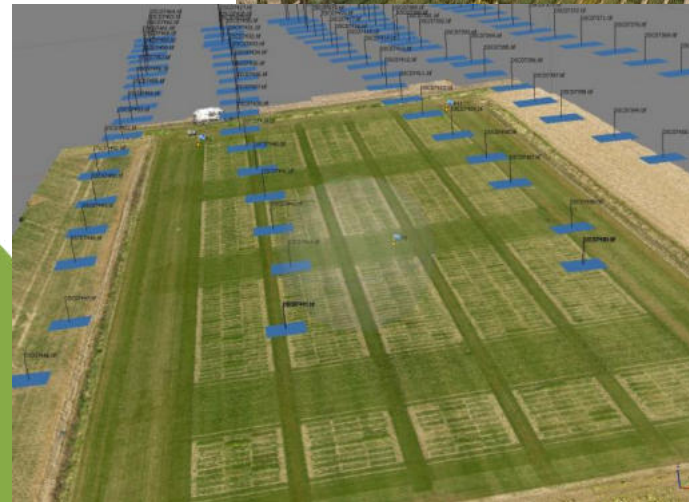
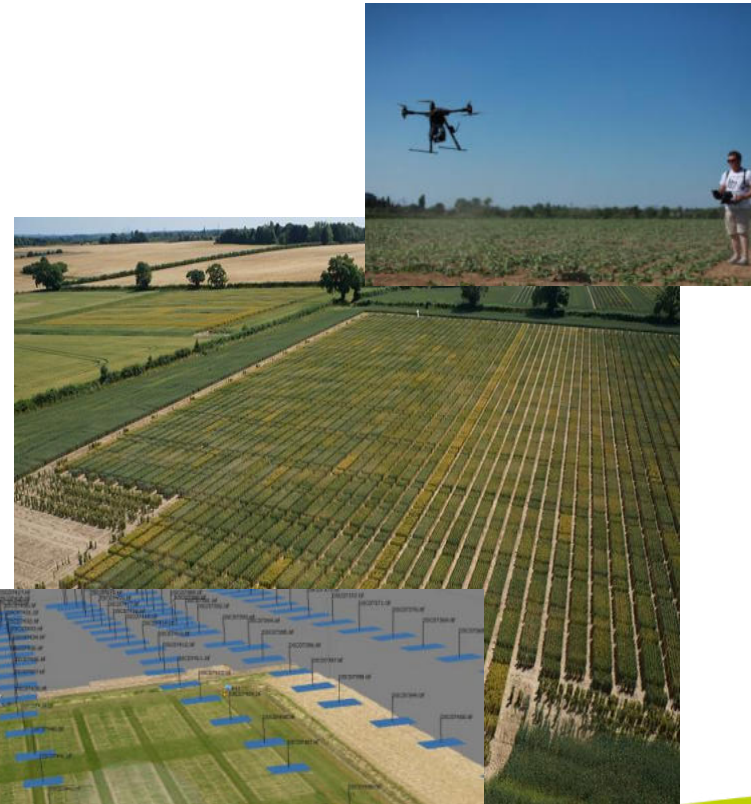


Lean field facilities

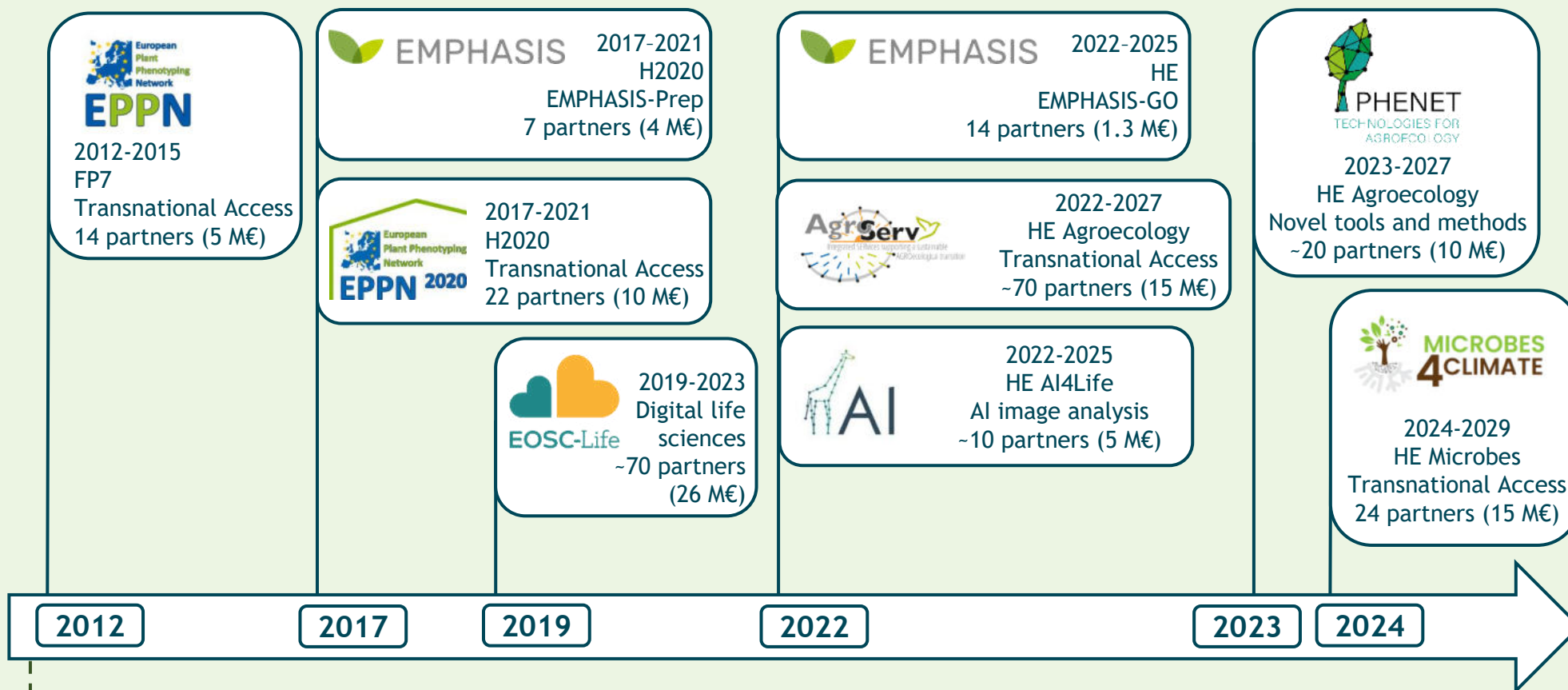


NETWORK OF
FIELD EXPERIMENTS

- ✓ Field sites equipped with temporary, portable phenotyping equipment for environmental monitoring with ground-based or airborne sensing systems
- ✓ Enable efficient phenotyping for breeding
- ✓ The formation of field networks allow the assessment of genotypes along climatic gradients



International initiatives as key building blocks for EMPHASIS

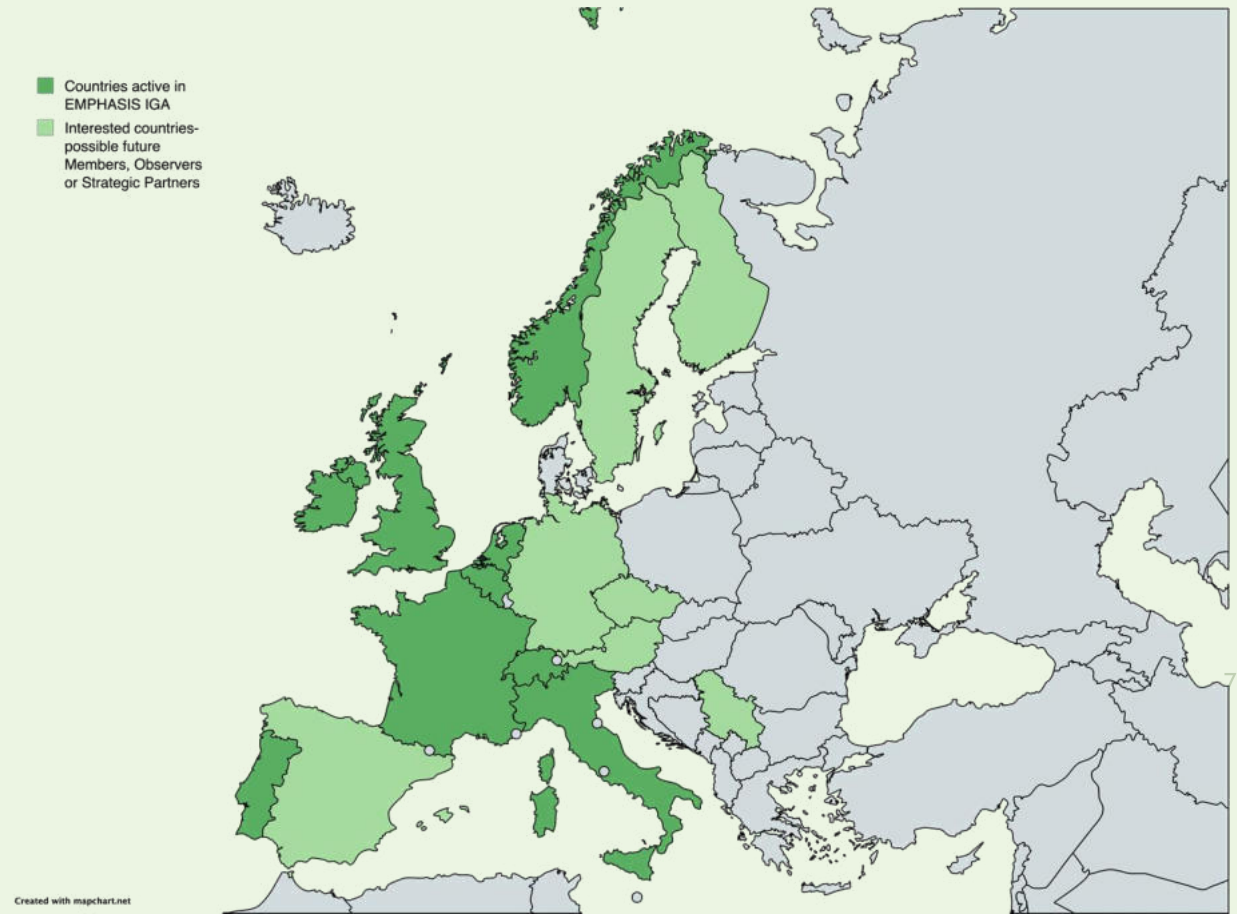


National communities as a backbone for EMPHASIS



EMPHASIS today:

- 10 countries support the development of EMPHASIS within an Interim General Assembly (IGA), with ministry and scientific representatives
- Additional 7 countries interested in future Observership or Membership.



Final preparations to set up an international organization, approved by the EC and coordinated from Belgium, running on financial contributions from its country member states.

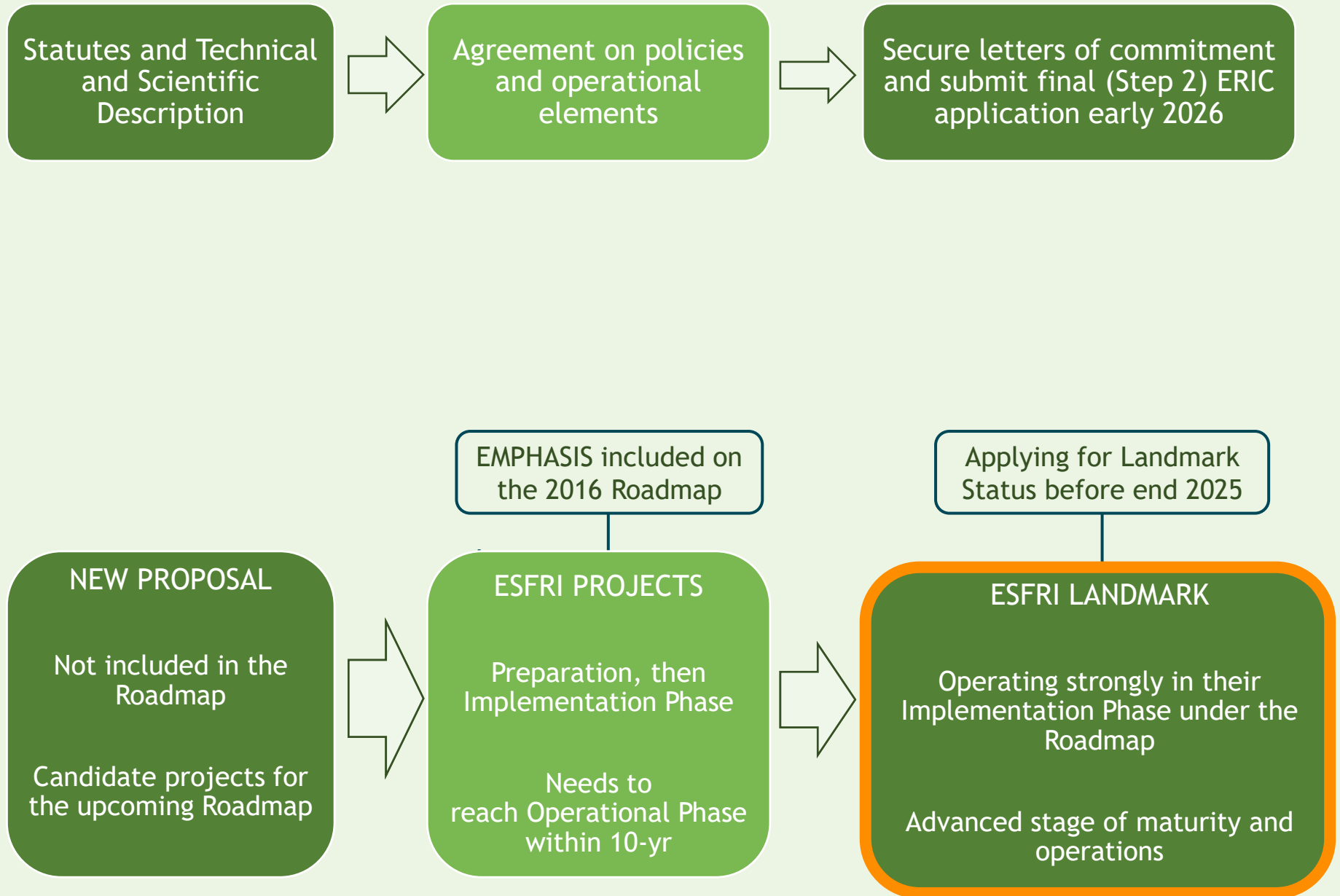
EMPHASIS...(long) road to Operation



ERIC
application



ESFRI
application



ERIC+ ESFRI Landmark status equals...



Political and strategic leverage



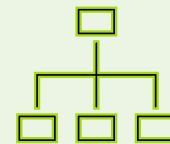
Longevity and sustainability



Financial and funding opportunities



Critical mass and visibility



Governance and structure

Functional Units: Key activities of EMPHASIS

Access



Advanced
Phenotyping
Practices

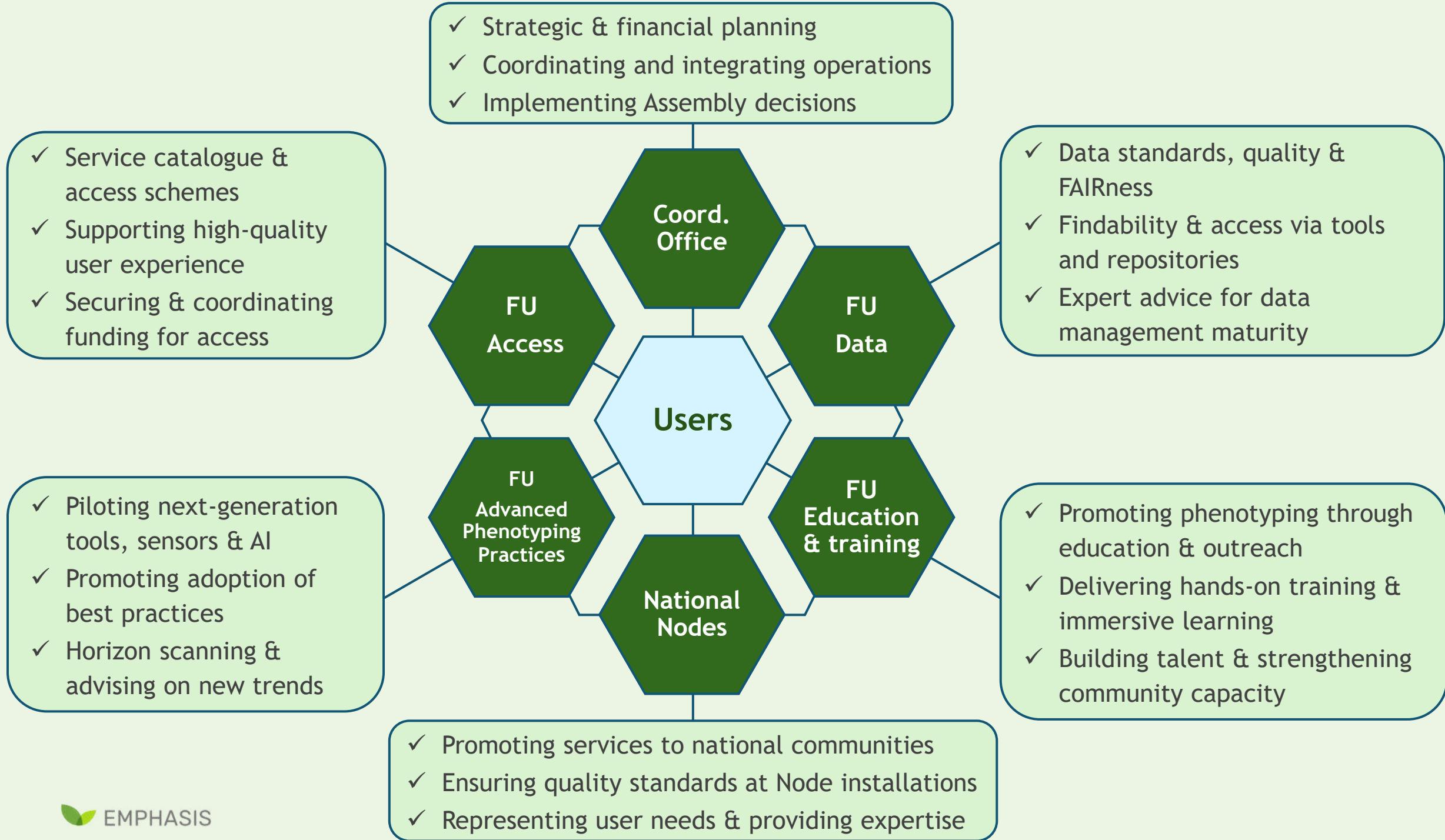


Data



Education
&
Training





EMPHASIS-Belgium: Multi-scale phenotyping

Expanded indoor phenotyping

Consolidation into belowground phenotyping and expansion into satellite imaging



Automated precision phenotyping
Individual treatments per plant



Automated phenotyping
at scale for
research valorisation



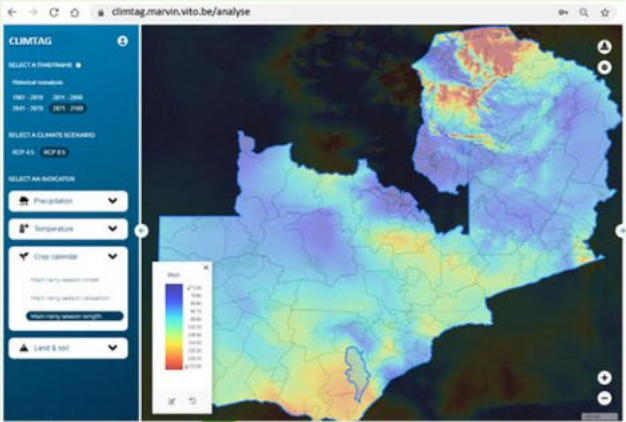
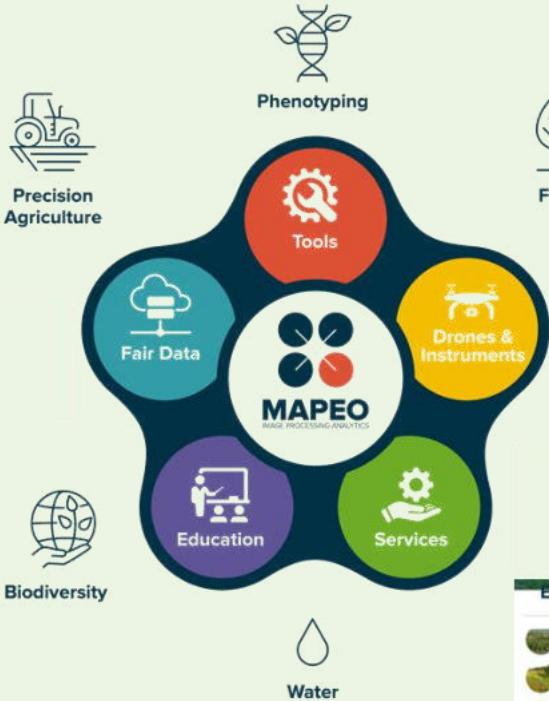
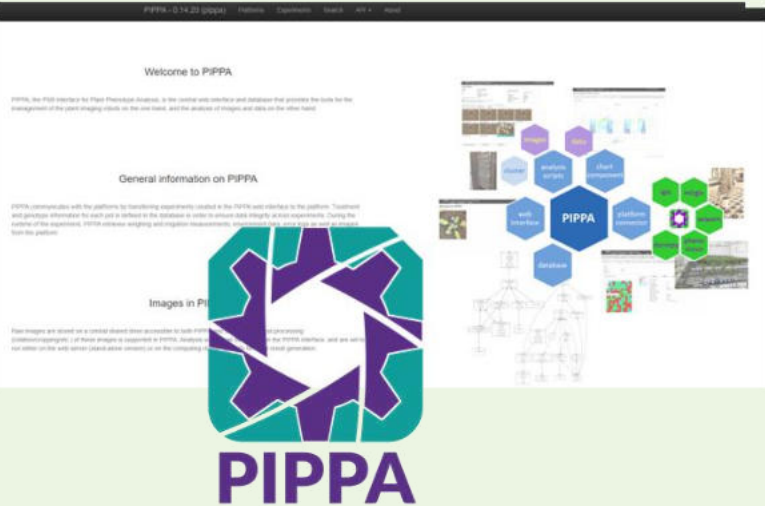
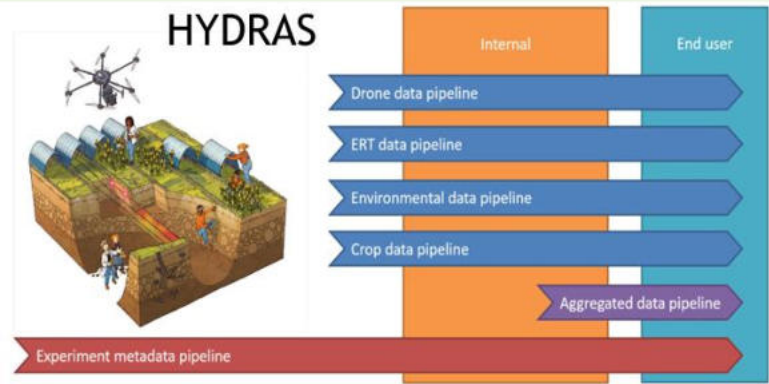
Phenotyping above and
belowground in field



Drone-based phenotyping and
access to satellite images



EMPHASIS-Belgium: data management systems and digital services



CLIMTAG

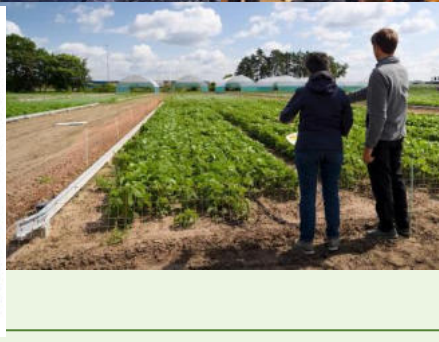


EMPHASIS Belgium community - BPPN

<https://emphasis-belgium.sites.vib.be/en>



Vlaanderen zet ondergrondse elektroden in tegen droogte



Questions?



emphasis@vib.be



emphasis.plant-phenotyping.eu



[EMPHASIS_EU](https://twitter.com/EMPHASIS_EU)



[Emphasis on Plant Phenomics](https://www.linkedin.com/company/emphasis-on-plant-phenomics)

A Decade of Finnish National Plant Phenotyping Infrastructure

Kristiina Himanen

University of Helsinki, Finland

PheNO kick-off meeting, 13.11.2025

Ås, Norway



Evaluation of Finnish plant science by Academy of Finland 2011

Recommendations by the
evaluation panel:

Enhance both fundamental
and translational
plant research

Build shared **infrastructures**
to support **collaboration**

Move to **systems analysis**



Solution from the Finnish plant
researcher:

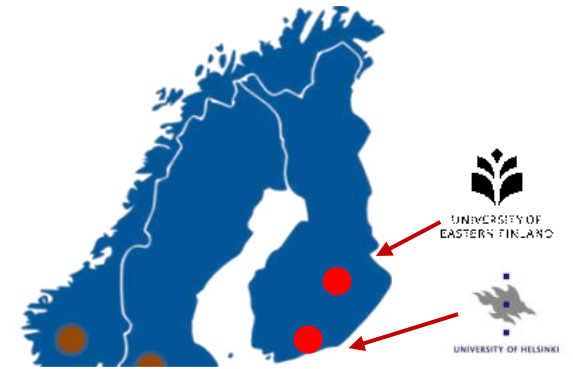
Establishment of a quantitative,
non-invasive, **high throughput**
plant phenotyping
research infrastructure

NaPPI has been on the Finnish Research Infrastructure (FIRI) roadmap since the beginning

- NaPPI is a **distributed infrastructure** with two nodes

University of Helsinki with high throughput facilities, controlled environment, model plants, access to molecular omics

University of Eastern Finland (Joensuu) with high precision spectromics instruments, ecophysiological reach



Alexandersson E., Keinänen M., Chawade A. & Himanen K. (2018).

Nordic research infrastructures for plant phenotyping.

Journal of Agriculture and Food sciences.

doi.org/10.23986/afsci.68870

High throughput Phenotyping Infrastructure at the University of Helsinki, Viikki campus, Finland



Small plant unit



Large plant unit



Capacity

1080 plants

270 plants

Cameras

PAM Chl Fluorescence
Thermal imaging
RGB/visible light

PAM Chl Fluorescence
RGB/visible light

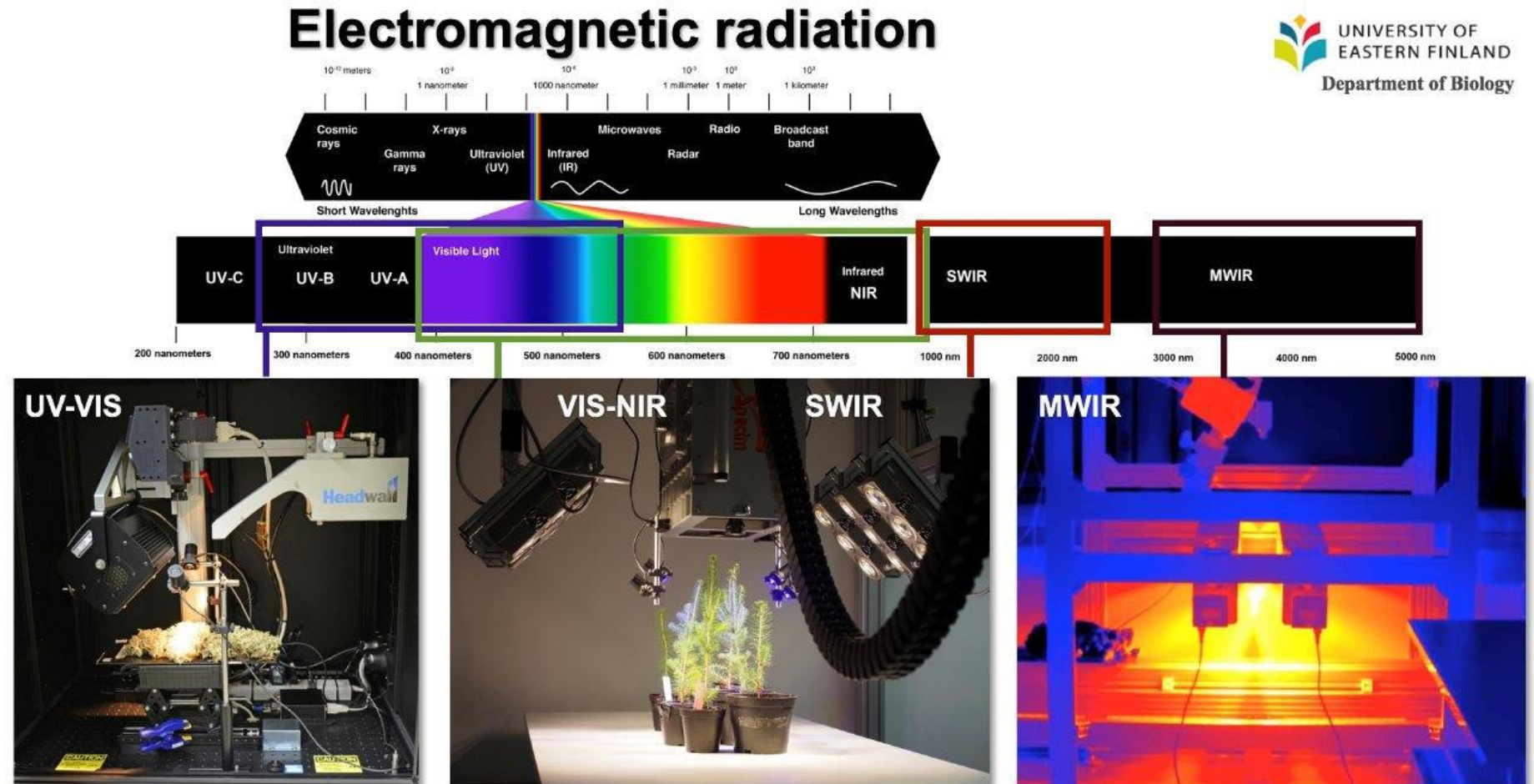
Plant types

Plants up to 40 cm,
Arabidopsis, herbs, in vitro
plates, red berries, GMO

Crops, legumes, cereals, rosette
plants, trees (spruce, birch), up to
120 cm, GMO

Spectromics laboratory at the University of Eastern Finland, UEF, Joensuu campus, Prof Markku Keinänen

“First spectral imaging research environment in Finland with focus on plant imaging”



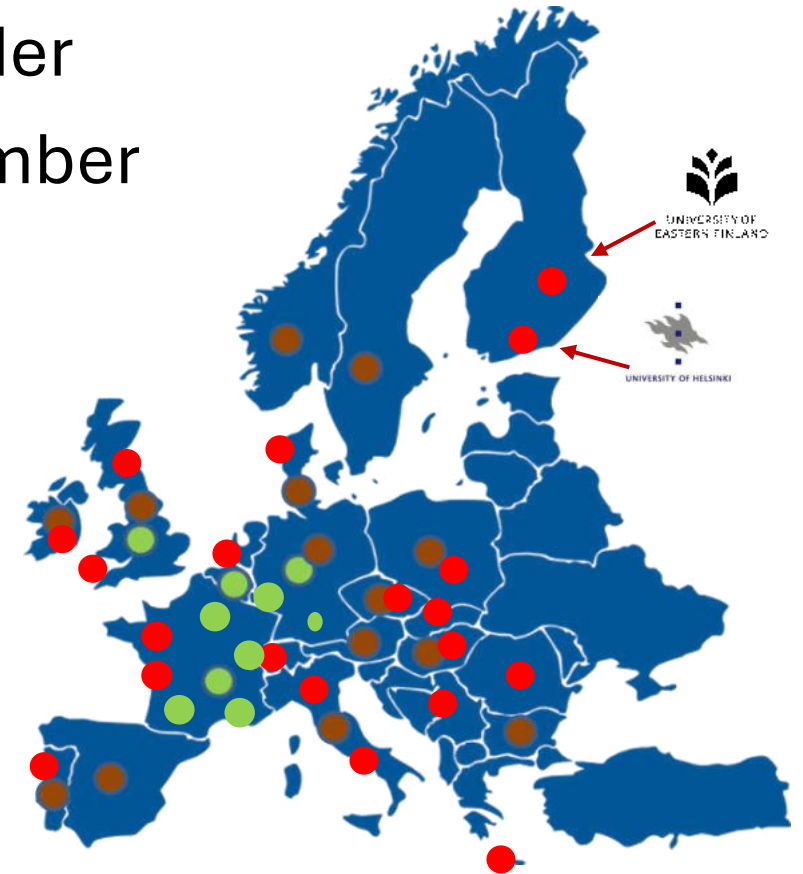
Imaging spectrographs of the UEF Spectromics Lab (www.spectromics.org)

Finnish Research Infrastructure (FIRI) roadmap status opened networking opportunities



European projects and networks:

- EPPN2020 partner, TNA provider
- EMPHASIS support group member



Nordic network resources



NordCrop on multistress

NBPPN



Plant phenomics
courses since 2018-



Nordic networks for Nordic challenges

- Agriculture at the edge of cultivation zones for most crops
- Shifting vegetation zones
- Ecophysiological responses to climate change
- Forest productivity
- Farm2Fork goals to reduce agrochemicals



Roitch T., Himanen K., Chawade A., Jaakola L., Nehe A., Alexandersson E. (2022). **Functional phenomics for improved climate resilience in Nordic agriculture.** Journal of Experimental Botany <https://doi.org/10.1093/jxb/erac246>

Alexandersson E., Poque S., Resjö S., Armoniene R., Roitsch T., Eklundh L., Jaakola L., Himanen K. (2023). **Plant phenotyping and remote sensing for a sustainable and competitive Nordic agriculture.** Fast Track to 2023. Eds. NordForsk. No 82.

National Biocenter Finland FIRI network

**Biocenter
Finland**

Network of universities with **bioscience** units

Conducts yearly evaluations of each facility

- Users, **user groups**, national, international
- **Outputs**, publications, education, patents etc

Coordinates Research Council of Finland

funding applications within the FIRI roadmap calls

“ BF provides state-of-the-art technology services that cover key technologies in life sciences and biomedicine. The infrastructure services are organized into 17 Technology Platforms, which provide services annually for ~3000 research groups in academy, healthcare, and industry. All services are provided with an open-access policy.”

Local Helsinki Institute of Life Science network



University of Helsinki research infrastructure network

Conducts yearly evaluations of each facility individually on projects, income..

Develops **evaluation**: utilization rate, user base (excellency), cost efficiency

Grants funding for personnel and equipments to promote excellent science

Has **developed RI career paths** with RI specific job descriptions

Has established Life Science **Data Competence Center**

Topics to promote in the long term:

- Multiomics approaches
- Platform collaboration
- Implementation of AI tools

54 research groups at the Viikki campus

315 researchers

Research topics spanning ecophysiology, agriculture, developmental biology, genomics, computational biology, and plant-environment interactions

All Finnish plant research institutions associated

High Throughput Plant Phenotyping, HTPP



1. **High throughput** system for (relatively) high sample numbers
 - Hundreds of samples
 2. Automation of growth, morphology and physiology measurements
 - **Multisensor** imaging
 3. **Time series** resolution
 - from seedling to seed set
 4. Critical mass of data
 - Effective **data management**
- Through NaPPI research examples:



Barley germplasm screen in drought (Prof. A. Chawade, SLU)

NaPPI research examples, HTPP



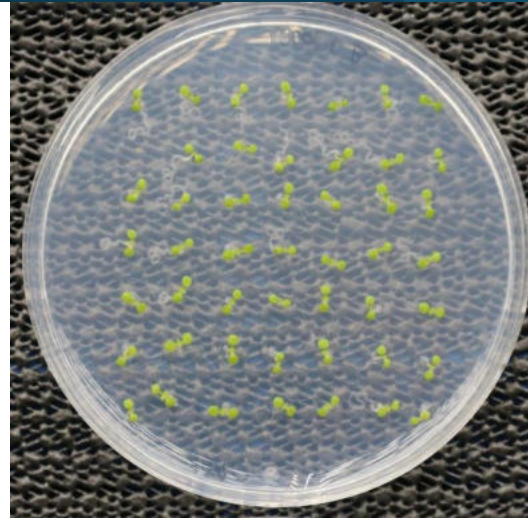
Pavicic, M., Wang, F., Mouhu, K., Himanen, K.
High throughput in vitro seed germination screen identified new ABA responsive RING-type ubiquitin E3 ligases in *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

***Plant Cell Tissue & Organ Culture* 139, 563–575 (2019).**

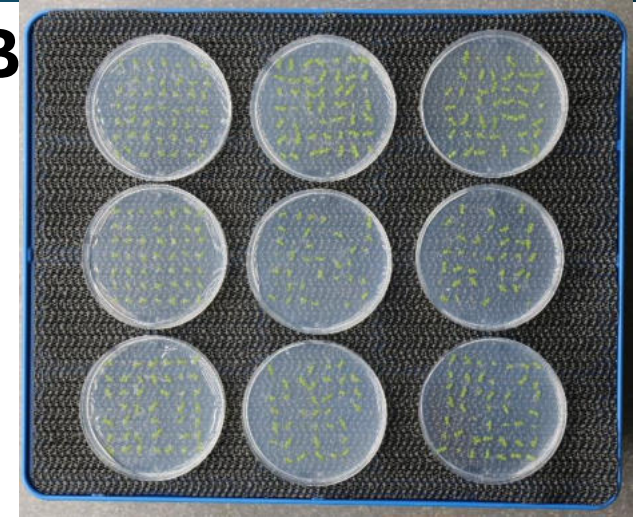
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11240-019-01700-9>

Figure. Automated ABA screening setup. **A)** Plants sown in an array of 7 x 7. **B)** Plates distributed on one tray. **C)** Conveyr belt feeding trays to the Chlorophyll fluorescence imaging system.

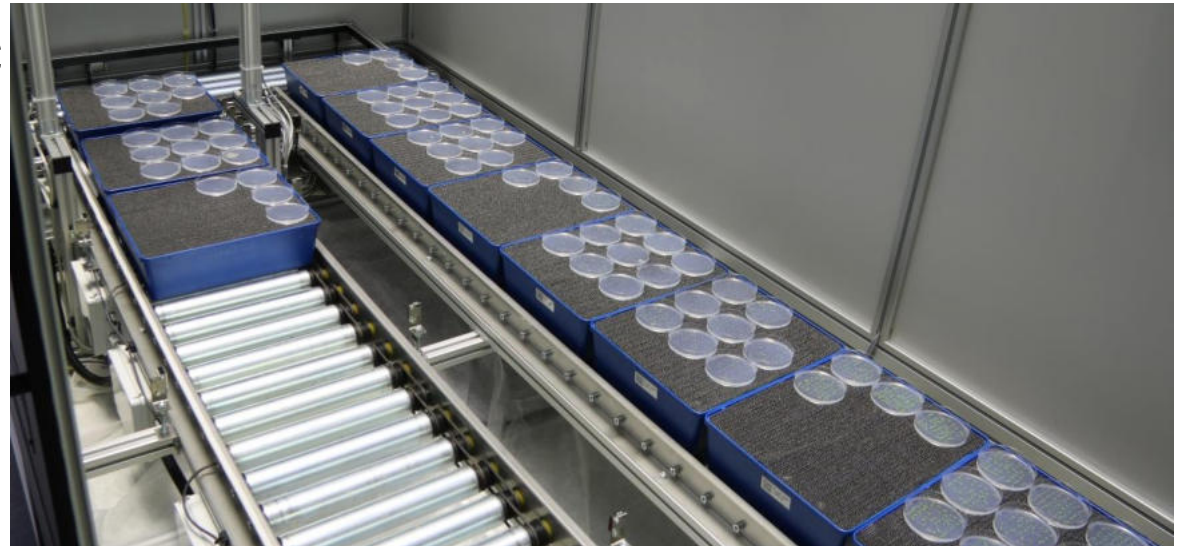
A



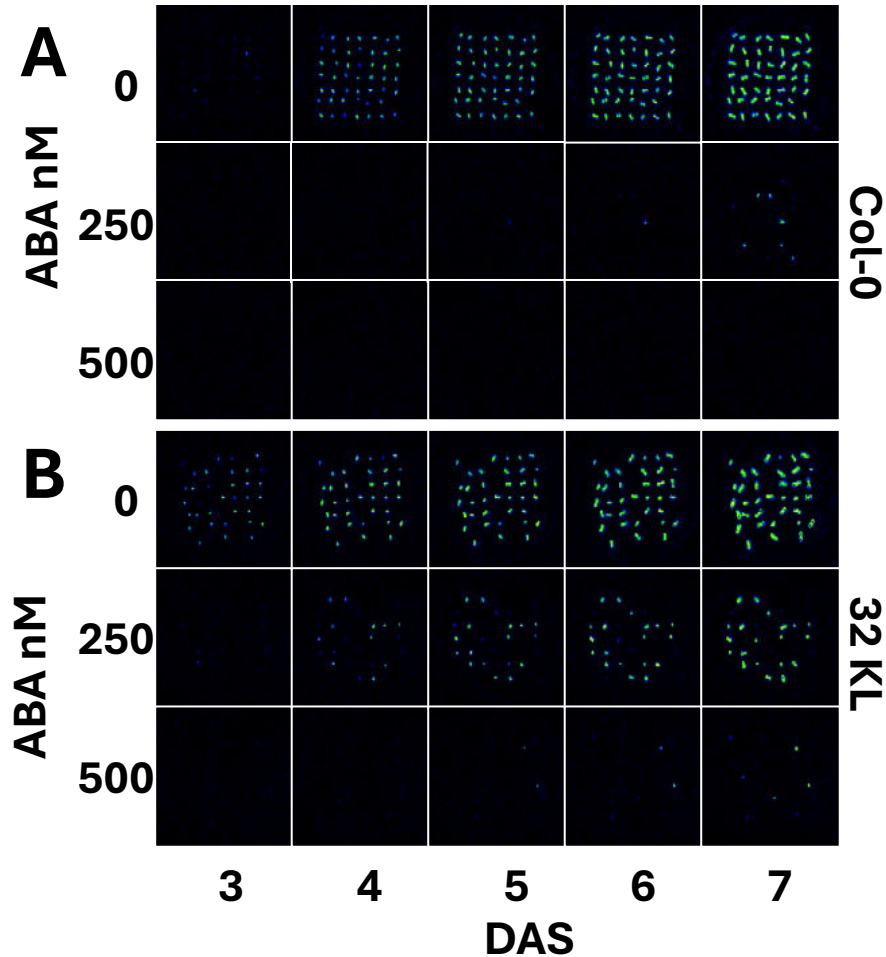
B



C



Cotyledon emergence on ABA treatment, HTPP



Green cotyledon under fluorcam

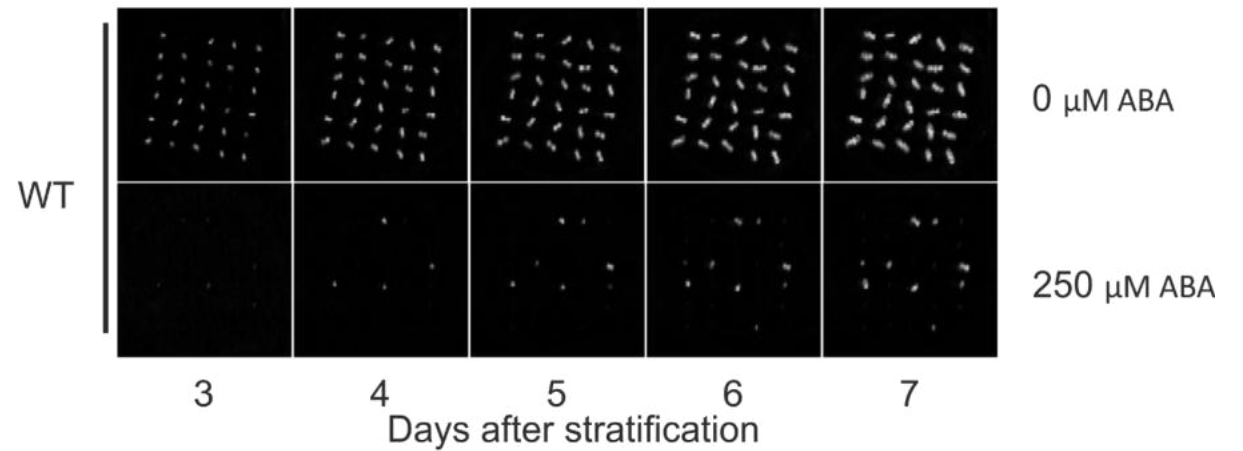
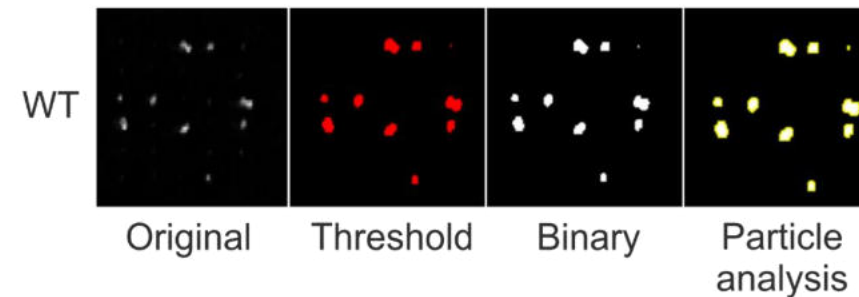
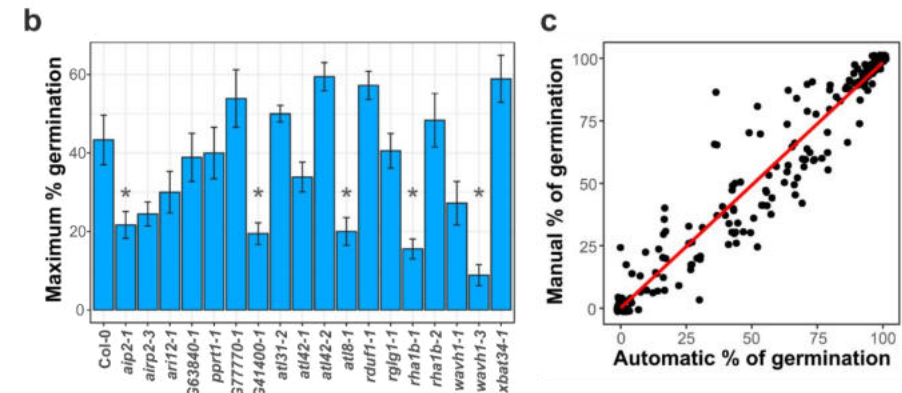
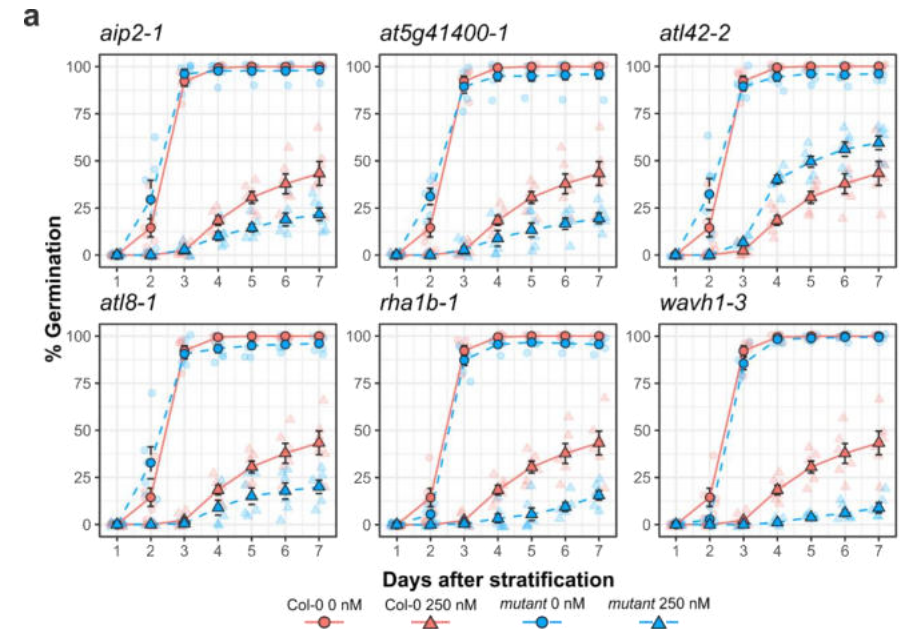
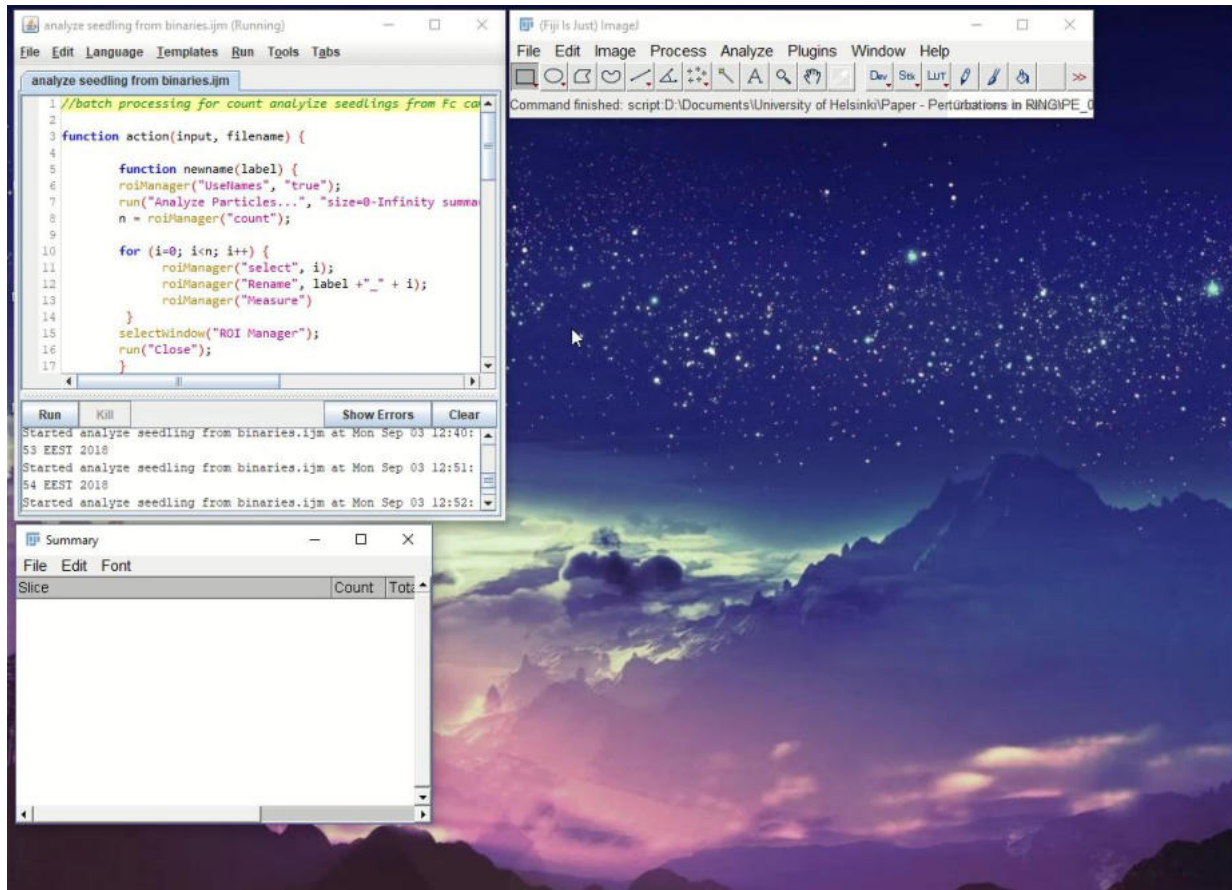


Image processing workflow



Automated seedling count from binary images, HTTP



Pavicic, M., Wang, F., Mouhu, K., Himanen, K. (2019). High throughput in vitro seed germination screen identified new ABA responsive RING-type ubiquitin E3 ligases in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *Plant Cell Tissue & Organ Culture* 139, 563–575 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11240-019-01700-9>

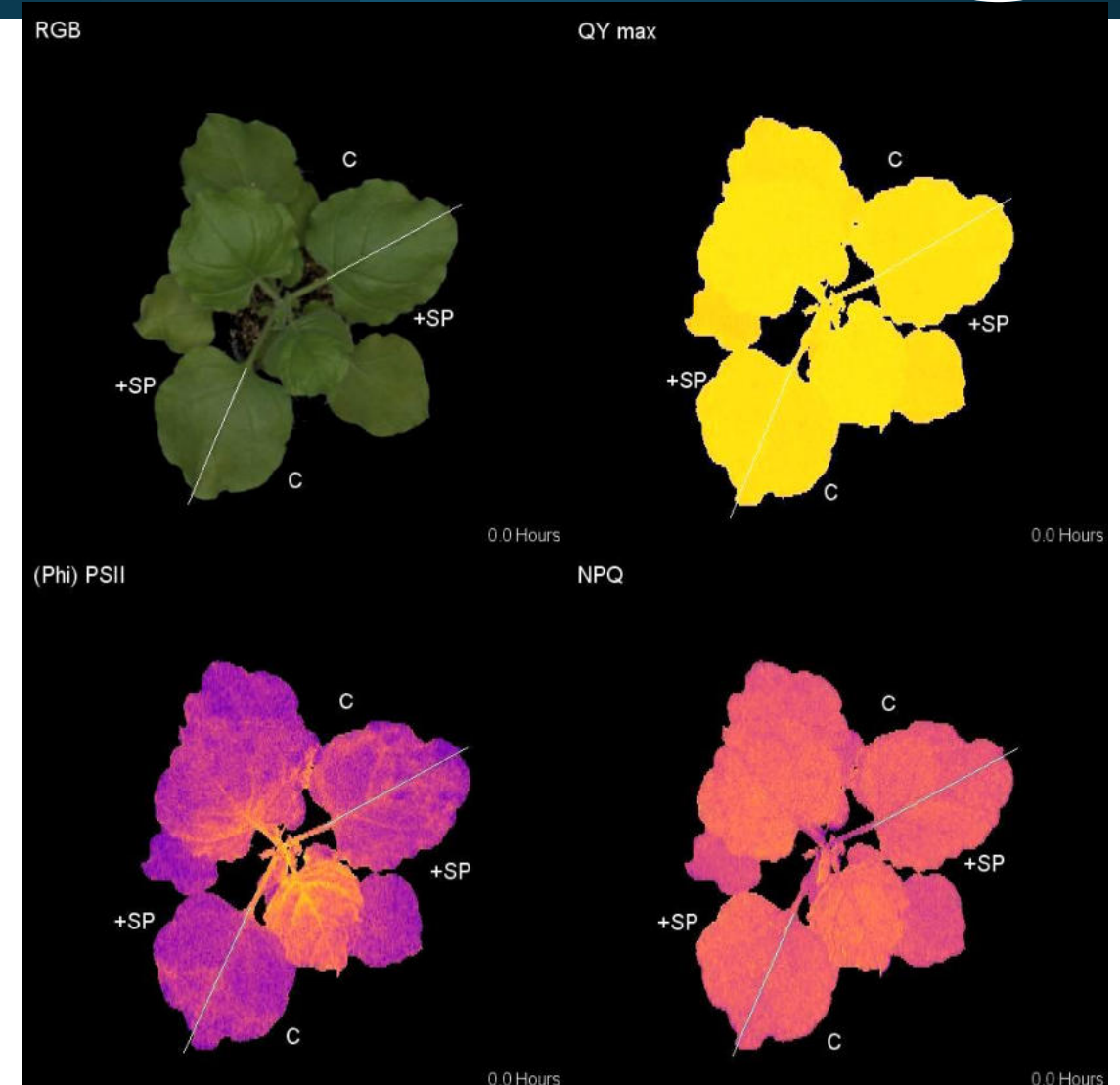
NaPPI research examples, multisensor



Multisensor imaging for high throughput analysis of disease progression

Chlorophyll fluorescence imaging for monitoring effects of *Heterobasidion parviporum* small secreted protein induced cell death and in planta defense gene expression

Wen Z., Raffaello T., Zeng Z., Pavicic M. & Asiegbu F. (2019). *Fungal Genetics and Biology*. 126, p. 37-49



Growth measurements, time resolution



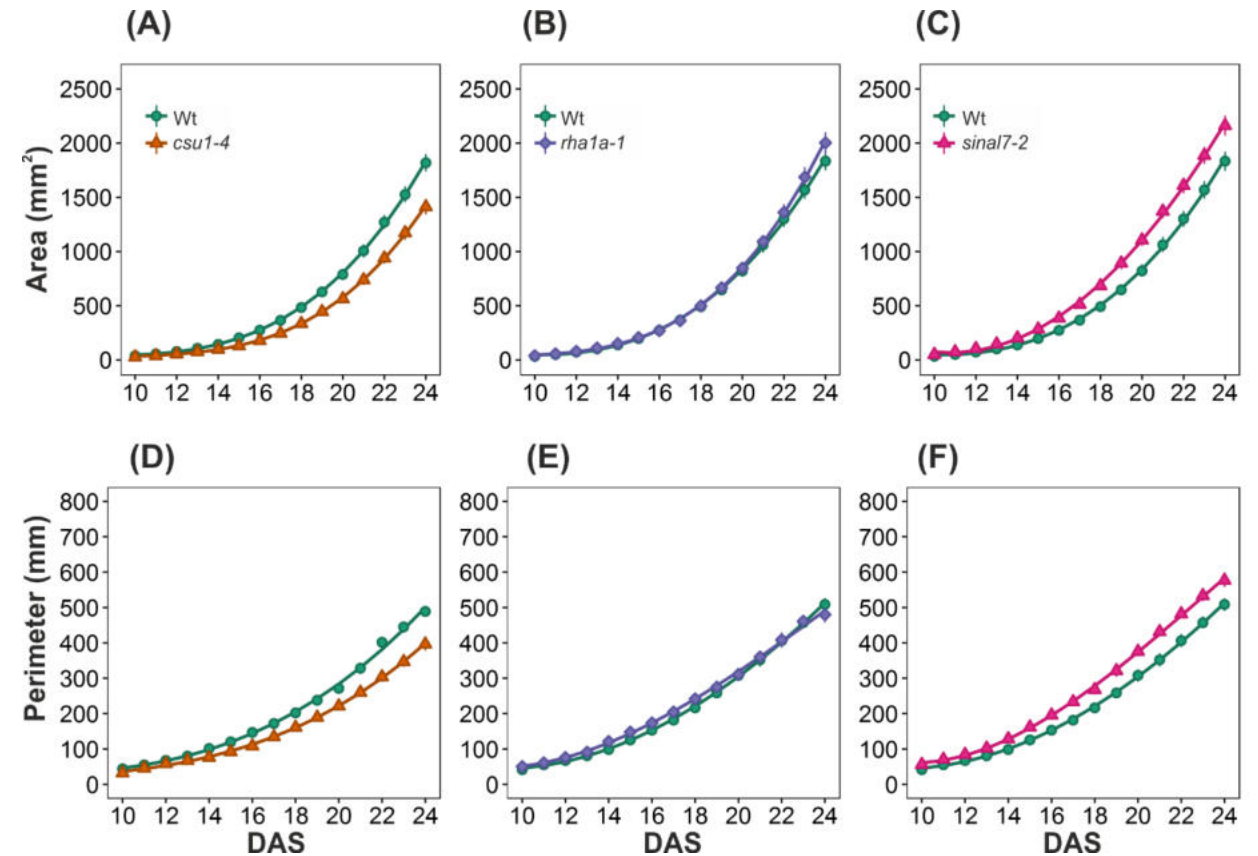
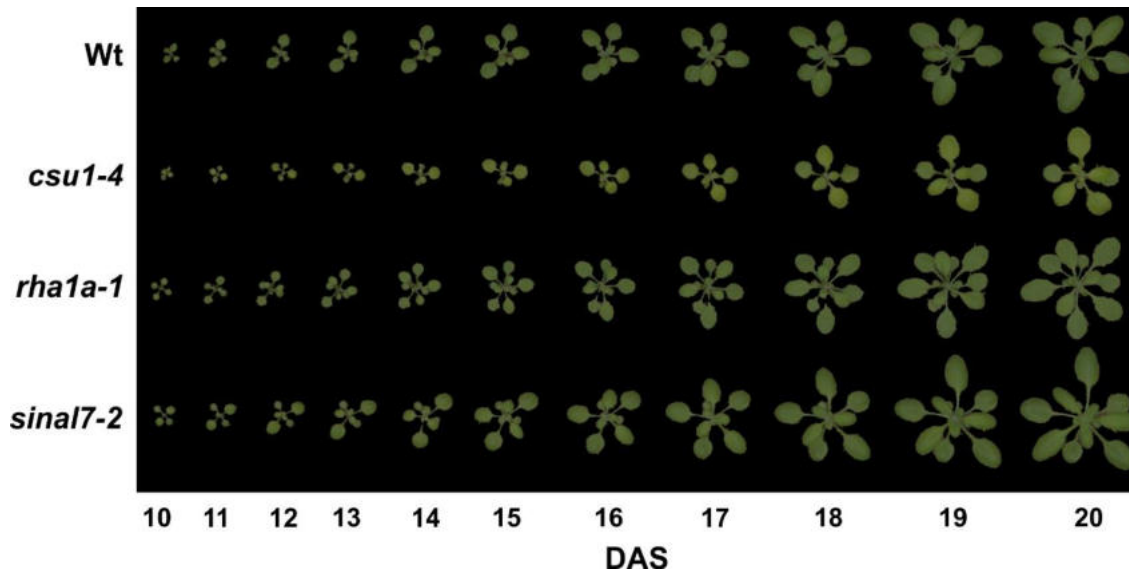
Genomic And Phenomic Screens for Flower Related RING Type

Ubiquitin E3 Ligases In Arabidopsis.

Pavicic M, Mouhu K, Wang F, Bilicka M, Chovancek E and Himanen K (2017)

Frontiers in Plant Science 8:416.

[doi: 10.3389/fpls.2017.00416](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2017.00416)



Growth measurements, morphology

Oil crops, *Brassica rapa*

wild type



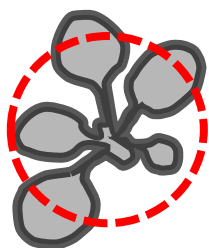
semi dwarf



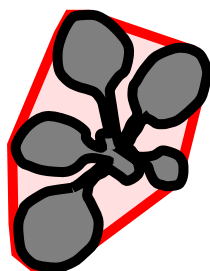
dwarf



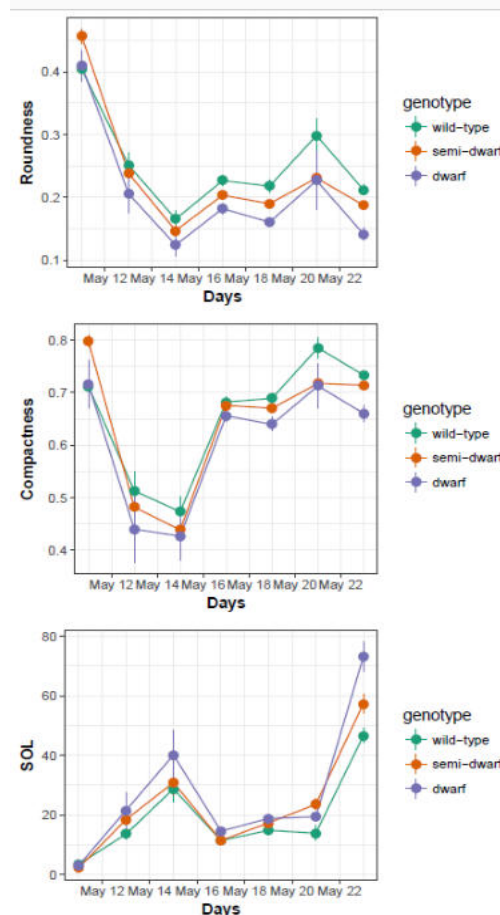
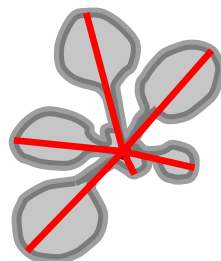
Roundness



Compactness



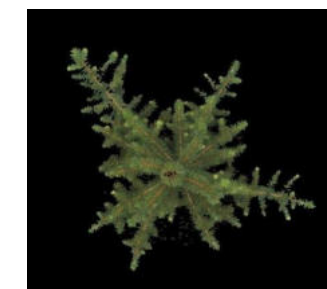
Slenderness of leaves



Cereals (oats)

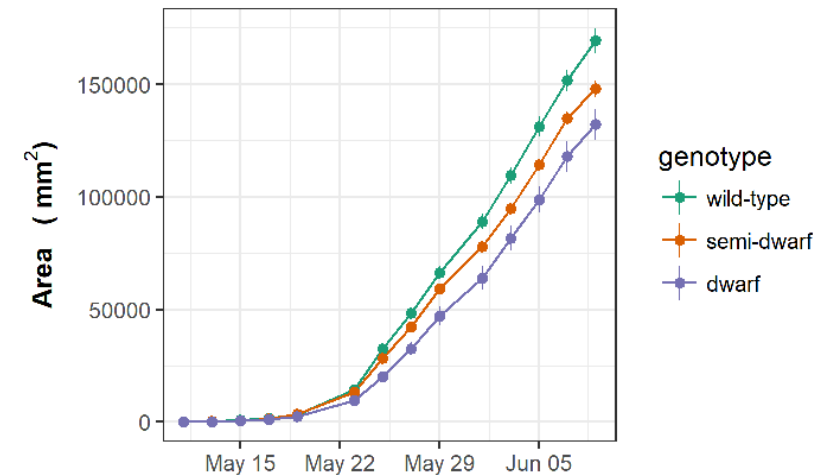
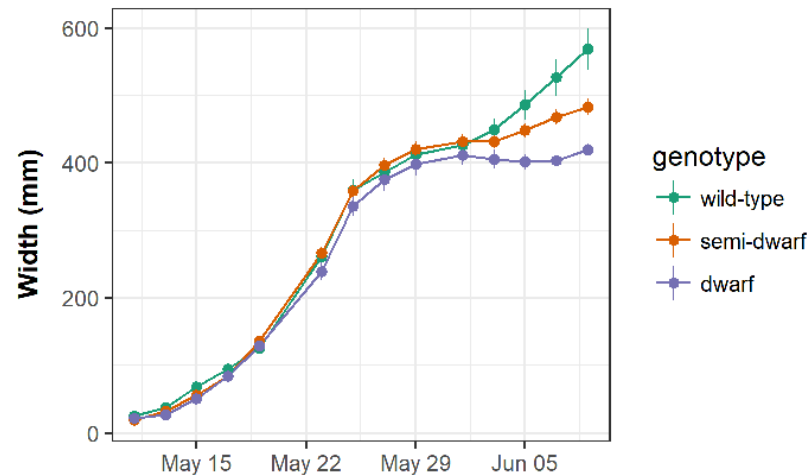
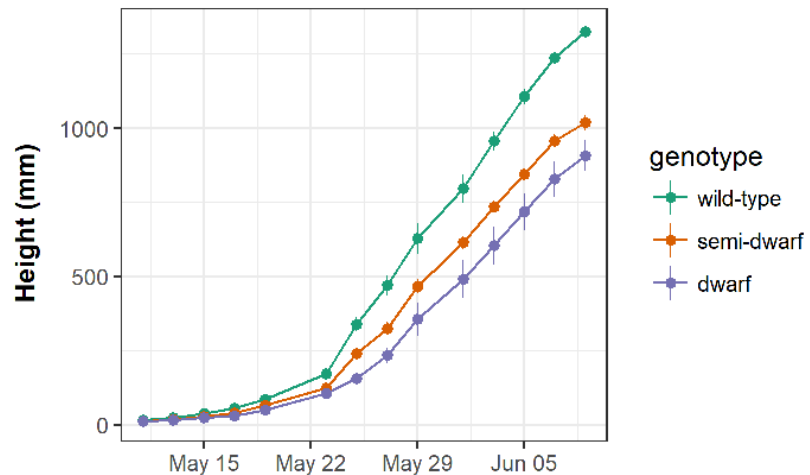
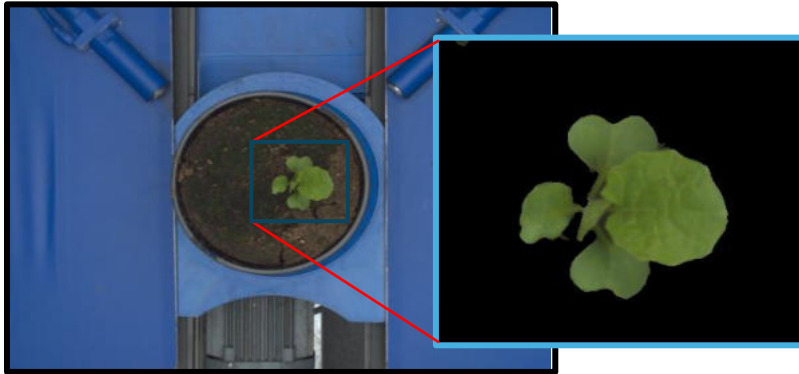


Trees (birch, spruce)



Time series analysis indicates developmental transitions

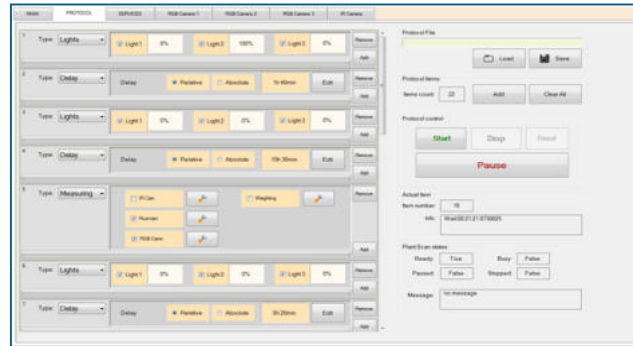
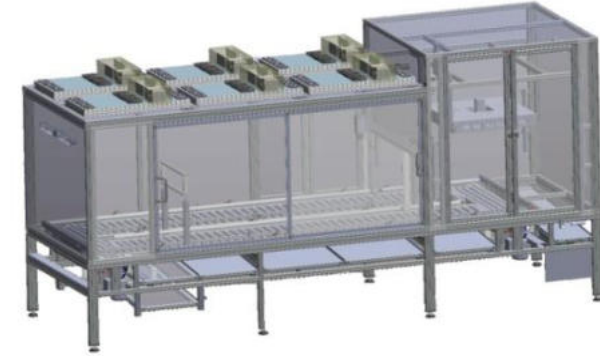
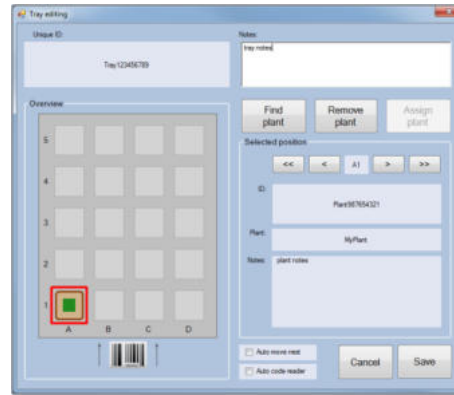
*Pavicic, Poque, Heinonen,
Niemelä, Himanen, in preparation.*



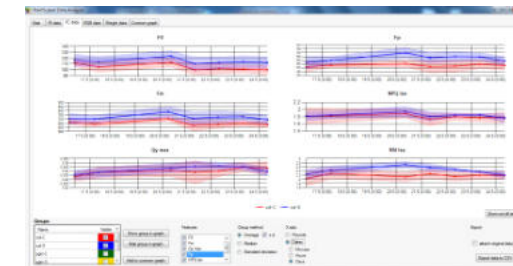
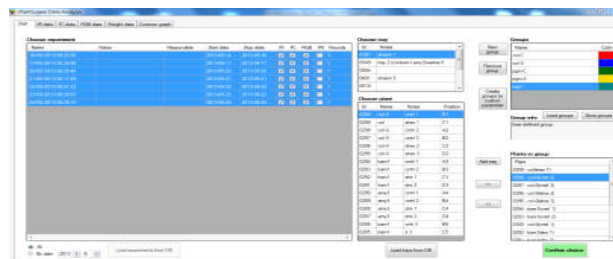
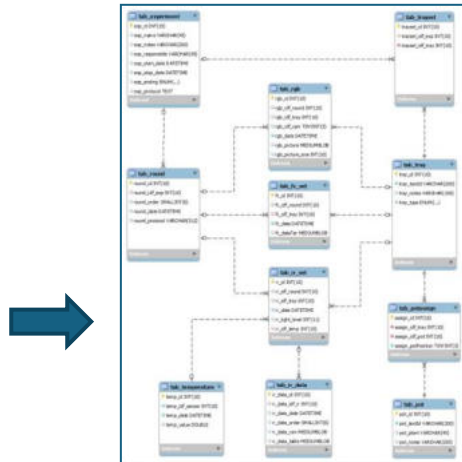
Big Data to Manage



PlantScreen™ Phenotyping System fully integrated



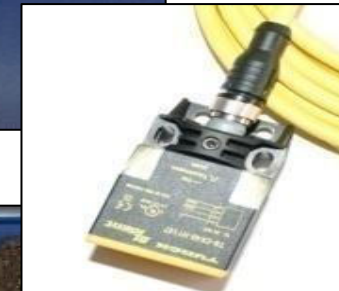
Imaging
Weighing
Watering



Data structure

Every plant has unique identification (ID) code

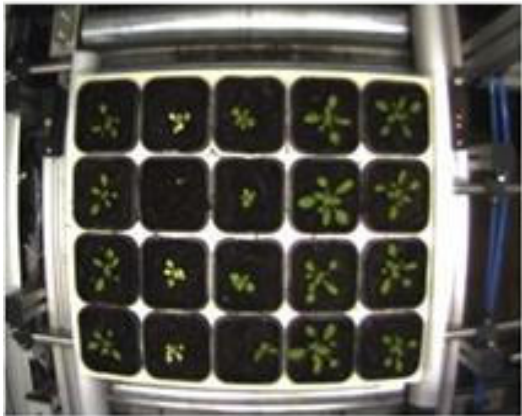
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Demo_1	note	Tray 5x4	A2	Demo_02	Demo_02_1	mex1-1
Demo_1	note	Tray 5x4	A3	Demo_03	Demo_03_0	Col-0
Demo_1	note	Tray 5x4	A4	Demo_04	Demo_04_1	mex1-1
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Demo_1	note	Tray 5x4	B1	Demo_06	Demo_06_3	cch1-1
Demo_1	note	Tray 5x4	B2	Demo_07	Demo_07_3	cch1-1
Demo_1	note	Tray 5x4	B3	Demo_08	Demo_08_3	cch1-1
Demo_1	note	Tray 5x4	B4	Demo_09	Demo_09_0	Col-0
Demo_1	note	Tray 5x4	B5	Demo_10	Demo_10_3	cch1-1
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Demo_1	note	Tray 5x4	D1	Demo_16	Demo_16_2	npq1
Demo_1	note	Tray 5x4	D2	Demo_17	Demo_17_2	npq1
Demo_1	note	Tray 5x4	D3	Demo_18	Demo_18_1	mex1-1
Demo_1	note	Tray 5x4	D4	Demo_19	Demo_19_2	npq1
Demo_1	note	Tray 5x4	D5	Demo_20	Demo_20_0	Col-0



Automated image processing

To allow quantitative pixel count from binary images

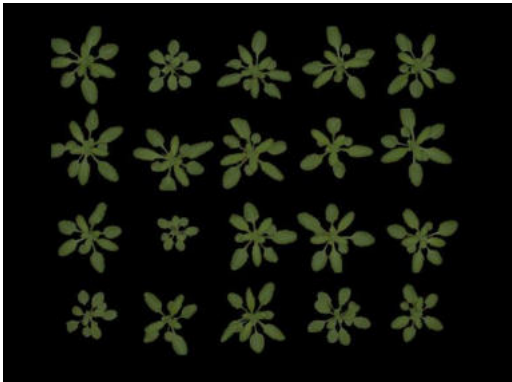
A



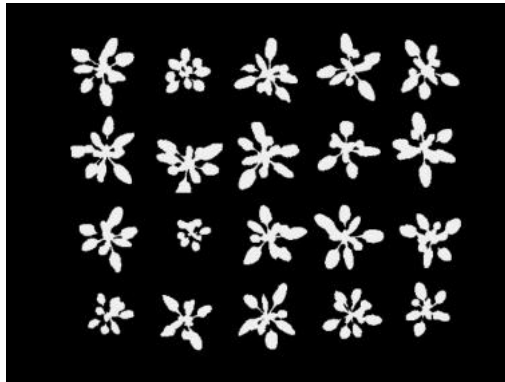
B



C



D



A: Barrel distortion correction

B: Tray detection and cropping

C: Background subtraction

D: Binary images

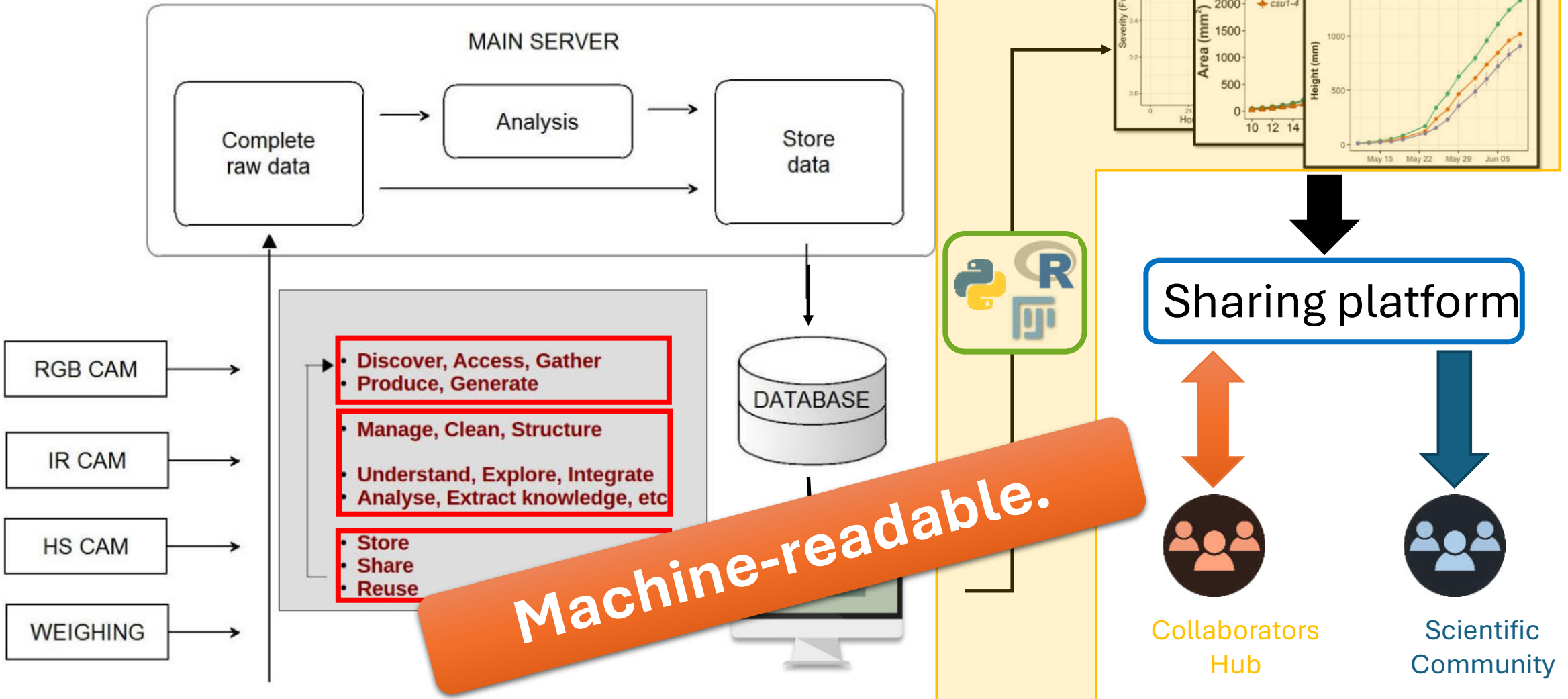
Data output



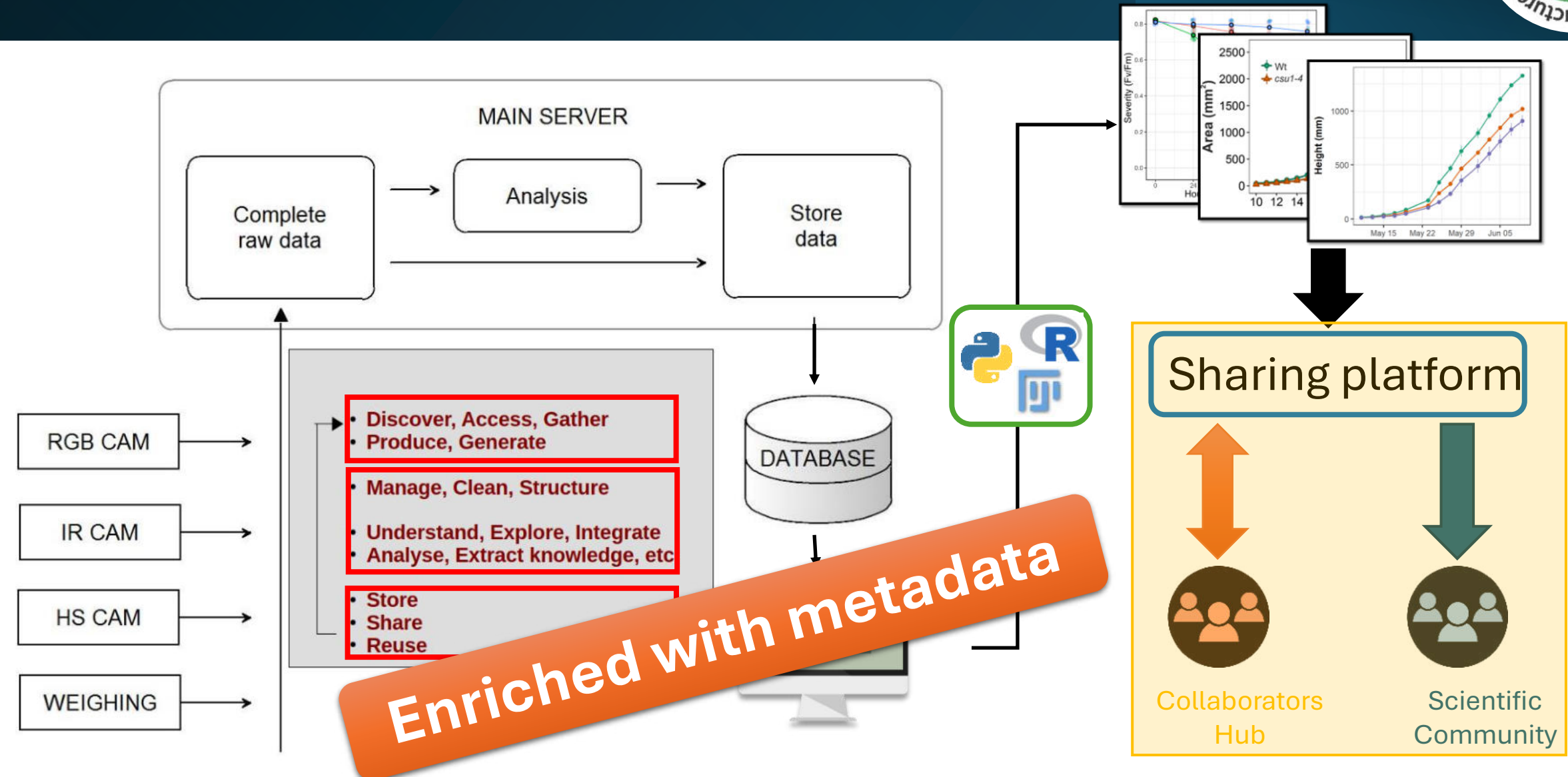
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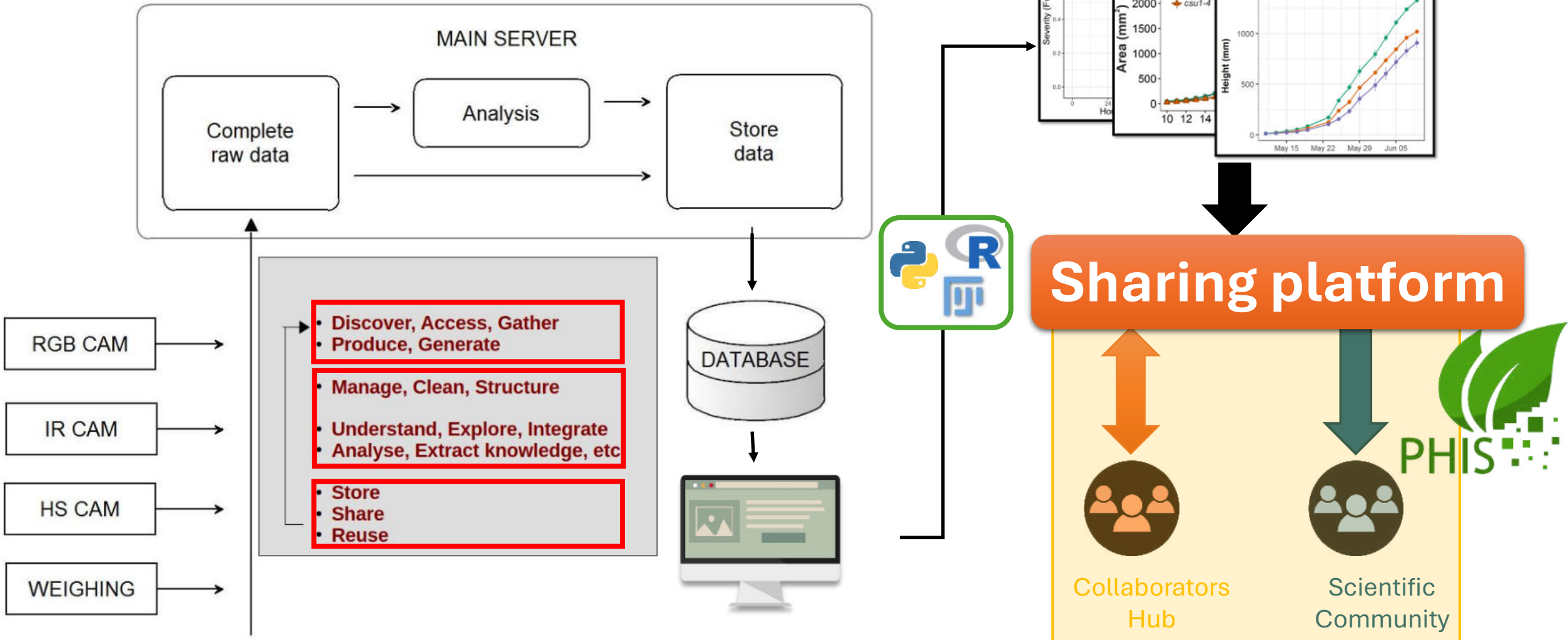
Data collection



Data management



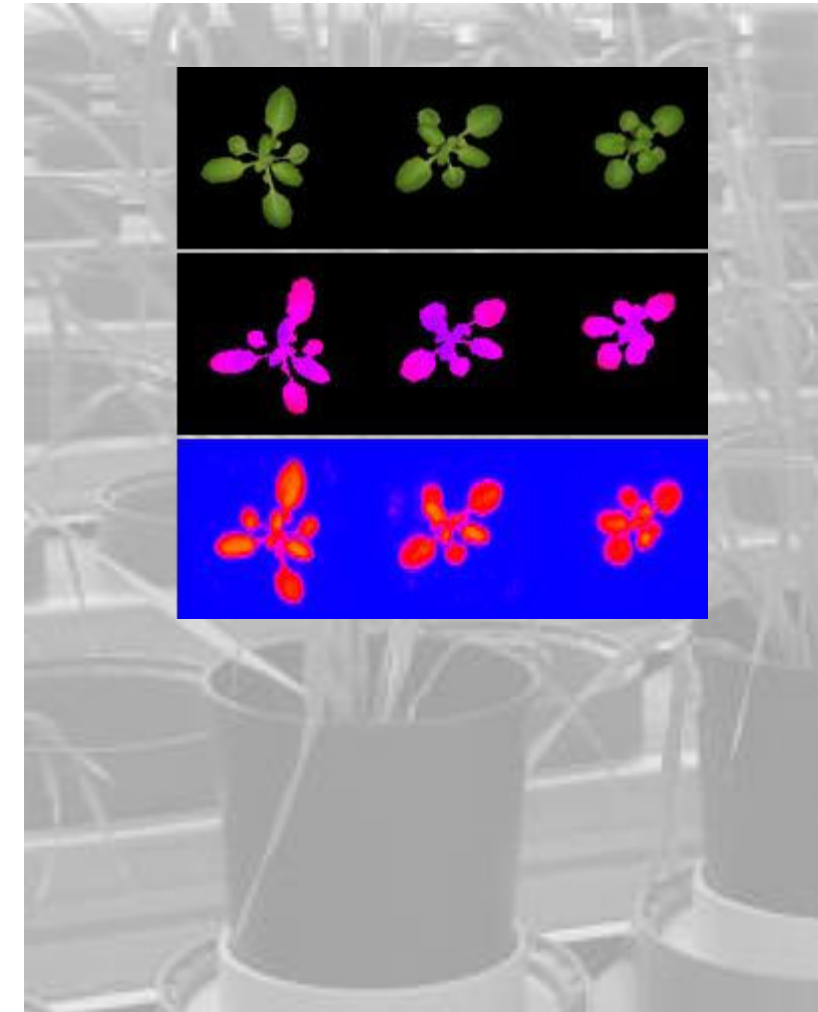
Data management



High Throughput Plant Phenotyping



- **Comprehensive** trait assessment in time series
- **Systematic** study upon given treatments
- **Multisensor** analysis for growth and physiology
- **High capacity** by automation and standardization
- **Data** processing, visualisation, storage **and sharing**



NaPPI team



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Researcher, **Mirko Pavicic**, Doctoral Program in Plant Sciences
Current affiliation: Oak Ridge Laboratories, USA



NaPPI partners and networks



National:



Maa- ja metsätalousministeriö



**Biocenter
Finland**

Nordic:



NBPPN

NOVA
UNIVERSITY NETWORK

European:



International:



IPPN