

Lantmännen receives European Innovation Award for its unique biological method - ThermoSeed

Lantmännen has received the European Award for Cooperative Innovation in the category “Environmental value creation – Biodiversity and Natural resources” for its unique ThermoSeed heat treatment method. The crop production process is an innovative, highly efficient and environmentally friendly seed treatment technology with a proven track record, equivalent to the best chemical products on the market.

On Friday 2 July, Lantmännen received the European Award for Cooperative Innovation in the category “Environmental value creation – Biodiversity and Natural resources” for the unique ThermoSeed project and its environmentally friendly heat treatment method that is both organic and highly efficient.

More than 100 agricultural and forestry cooperatives participated in the 5th edition of the European Award for Cooperative Innovation. The award, organized by Copa Cogeca and supported by the Spanish cooperative bank Cajamar Caja Rural, aims to recognize innovations that deliver value under the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainability.

“I was delighted to receive the news of our win. It confirms our beliefs in our method and is proof of that my colleagues and I have been working in the right direction for many years. I’m also grateful to have had the support of our owners, partners and customers during this time”, says Kenneth Alness, CEO ThermoSeed Global.

ThermoSeed is a method that treats seeds against seed-borne infections, reducing the need for pesticides within agriculture, benefiting the environment as well as adding value for the farmer. For more information on Lantmännen’s work on sustainable plant protection, please see the [Farming of the Future report](#).

Today, Lantmännen operates three facilities in Sweden and licenses the method to nine facilities handled by external partners around Europe and in the United States. Within the Swedish facilities more than 50 000 tons of seed are being processed annually, comprising approximately 40 percent of the Swedish seed market.

Huge demand calls for expansion

Globally, actors within food production and agriculture are working hard to find sustainable solutions that lowers carbon emissions and reduces chemical use. Hence, the demand for ThermoSeed is ever-growing. Two new facilities will be installed and fully operational in July 2021, operated by two new partners, Fenaco in Switzerland and Vihervakka in Finland.

”In the process we use nothing but hot moist steam while producing a product that is equivalent to chemically treated seed, both in respect to the effectiveness in making crop free from seed-born infections and financially. Therefore, we are happy to see more farmers start using our seed, it is the right way to go for both the farmer and the environment”, says Anders Krafft, CEO Lantmännen BioAgri.

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About Lantmännen

Lantmännen is an agricultural cooperative and Northern Europe's leader in agriculture, machinery, bioenergy and food products. Owned by 19,000 Swedish farmers, we have 10,000 employees, operations in over 20 countries and an annual turnover of SEK 45 billion. With grain at the heart of our operations, we refine arable land resources to make farming thrive. Some of our best-known food brands are AXA, Bonjour, Kungsörnen, GoGreen, GooH, FINN CRISP, Schulstad and Vaasan. Our company is founded on the knowledge and values acquired through generations of farmers. With research, development and operations throughout the value chain, together we take responsibility from field to fork. For more information: www.lantmannen.com