

## Plant breeding of oats is taking new leaps

**Researchers at Lantmännen's research company CropTailor and at ScanOats in Lund have sequenced the entire genome of oats. This opens new opportunities for developing oats that are healthier and that can be grown in a more sustainable way.**

Lantmännen-owned research company CropTailor has, together with researchers from ScanOats at Lund University, mapped and characterized oats and their entire genome. The results are now published in the highly reputable journal *Nature* and can be downloaded here [[link](#)].

"Lantmännen already has a very successful plant breeding program on oats. As we now gain increased knowledge about the oat genome, we have a new and strong tool that consolidates our position as a world-leading entity in oat research and breeding," says Annette Olesen, Plant Breeding Director at Lantmännen.

In parallel with the work at ScanOats and the publication in *Nature*, Lantmännen is driving the development in the field of plant breeding with a particular focus on Nordic conditions and right now major investments are being made at the facilities in Svalöv, Skåne.

"New cultivation chambers, new instruments for reading DNA sequences and enhanced computing power will make Lantmännen's plant breeding facility one of the world's most advanced. Gaining knowledge about a crop's entire gene set is an important piece of the puzzle to be able to develop improved crops with the help of modern technology. In this way, we can become faster and more efficient in our work to provide Swedish farmers with oat varieties that can withstand a changing climate, that can be grown in a sustainable way and that are healthier for the consumer," says Alf Ceplitis, Population breeding Manager at Lantmännen and CEO of CropTailor.

Plant breeding is crucial for a sustainable and viable agriculture sector and an innovative and forward-looking food industry. Within this field, new knowledge about the crops that are grown and consumed, play a vital role.

"Plant breeding is currently undergoing a technological shift and the research carried out here shows that we, in Sweden, are at the forefront of this development. That is truly promising for the future," concludes Alf Ceplitis.

The project has been funded by CropTailor, Lantmännen's Research Foundation, the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF) and Lund University.

### Fact box

#### About CropTailor

- CropTailor was founded in 2007 and Lantmännen entered as majority owner in 2015.
- The company focuses on trait development of oats through advanced technology tests. By taking advantage of mutagenesis, advanced biochemistry and genomic tools, new niche oat varieties with enhanced agronomic and/or health promoting properties will be developed.
- Crop Tailor's vision is simple: to unlock the huge potential of oats for the benefit of people and planet.

#### About Scanoats

- ScanOats is an industrial research center between Lantmännen, Oatly and Swedish Oat Fiber, Lund University of Technology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, RISE, that was founded in 2017.
- The overall goal is to contribute to a competitive industry, a sustainable society and healthier food. The operations within ScanOats are divided into five areas: genomics, development of new varieties, cultivation, finishing and health effects. The project has funding until the end of 2024. Read more on <https://scanoats.se>
- ScanOats is funded by the Strategic Research Foundation and the parties involved.
- At earlier stages of the process, the project was funded by CropTailor and Lantmännen's Research Foundation.

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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 48 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](http://www.lantmannen.com)