More sustainable, resilient, and competitive food systems through the development of intermediate food value chains

FAIRCHAIN

PRACTICE ABSTRACT No: 44

Berry Count - a user-friendly ICT tool for efficient forest berry collection and improved stakeholder collaboration

Berry Count is an ICT tool that can be used on mobile phones to find berries and to collaborate with others on berry picking. The ICT tool is an innovative application that combines GPS mapping, seasonal forecasting and real-time updates to improve berry picking. It offers value through color-coded heat maps to locate berries, community sharing for collaboration, and customizable privacy settings.

By combining berry harvest data and remote sensing data, the tool can predict the most potential bilberry picking locations in the forest landscape. These locations are shown in heat maps, created by combining a map layer and a database where the observations are stored together with the predictive models.

The map layer currently covers an area between Vännäs and Nordmaling in Västerbotten. In the database, observations of cloudberries, lingonberries, bilberries and other berries can be registered based on the presence of shrub, flowers and different degrees of ripe berries. There is also a function to register areas and comment on them. This makes it easy to communicate with others about, for example, where there are berries, where berries are picked and to distribute the work of picking. This function can also be used for other information, such as where hunting is taking place, terrain that is difficult to access and areas with ongoing logging.

In practical terms, the app can be used by berry pickers organised in associations by allowing them to plan and communicate where and when they pick. It can also be used by berry companies who want to improve berry traceability by having the pickers report in the app where the berries are picked.

The ICT tool is hosted on a website that can be accessed by logging in via a mobile phone. The design and functionalities of the service are user-friendly and easy to use. The tool can already be used on a limited scale. MapBox is used as a mapping tool and it can be used all over the world, which gives great potential to develop Berry Count further. The design of the ICT tool is flexible and well-suited for furhter scale-up. For example, functions for data sharing in smaller groups may be desirable to add.

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End Users

Organised berry pickers and berry companies

Country

Sweden

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Links for additional information

HTTPS://FAIRCHAIN-BERRIES.FIREBASEAPP.COM/

FairchainEU

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www.fairchain-h2020.eu

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ABOUT FAIRCHAIN

The FAIRCHAIN project launched in 2020 and coordinated by INRAE, is developing intermediate food value chains in the fruits and vegetable and dairy sectors. Through technological, organizational and social innovations and by developing business models FAIRCHAIN will enable small and mid-size stakeholders to scale up to supply fresh, sustainable and high-quality food products to consumers at a regional level.

FAIRCHAIN PARTNERS

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LICENCE

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