

## Eggplant (*Solanum melongena*)

Eggplant is a very nutritional vegetable but sometimes is not preferred by kids or even adults because of bitter taste. “Tsakoniki” eggplant from the town of Leonidion (Greece), very well-known for its delicate, sweet flavor and tender skin. “White eggplant of Santorini” (Greece) is a rare product with many comparative advantages.

### Nutritional value

- Rich in Manganese
- Minimal calories
- High antioxidant content

### Environmental impact

- Resilient
- Reduced water needs compared to tomato and pepper plants

### Uses

Both genotypes could be eaten in most classic cooking ways (grilled, fried) as well as alternative ways such as eggplant dip or even spoon dessert.

### Current status – Future perspectives

Leonidion town and Santorini Island in Greece. It could be extended in protected environments (greenhouse) from South to North Europe.



**Picture 1:** ‘Tsakoniki’ eggplant open filed cultivation



**Picture 2:** ‘Tsakoniki’ eggplant (up) and ‘White eggplant of Santorini’ (down)

## Eggplant (*Solanum melongena*)

Vertical Leader: Estonian University of Life Sciences EMU



Bioland Beratung GmbH  
(BIOLAND) - Germany



Cyprus University of Technology  
(CUT) - Cyprus

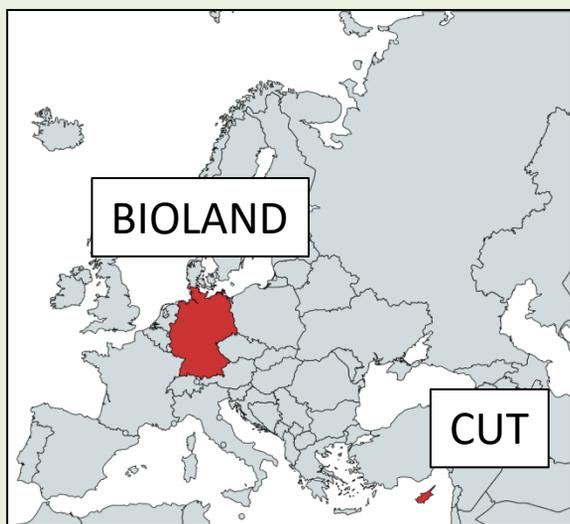
The two pilot cases' locations were selected for their high heterogeneity. The two locations can be compared with respect to different growing systems such as greenhouse versus field growth and conventional versus organic farming.

**Germany (BIOLAND)** represents a region where eggplants have to be grown under cover in controlled conditions due to the relatively harsh climate.

**Cyprus (CUT)** is a typical Mediterranean country where environmental conditions are similar to the crops' location of origin (Leonidion and Santorini island). This location is ideal to test the crop's adaptation to similar climatic conditions and to widen its distribution.

### Project progress

Plants from the two genotypes are cultivated to acquire seeds for the establishment of the pilot cases, according to **Task 7.1**.



Picture 3: Pilot cases' locations



Picture 4: White eggplant cultivated for seed acquisition