Call for Interest

Digitalization and automation in fruit production

Demonstrations and jointly planned field trials for the 2027 growing season

The Kompetenzzentrum Obstbau Bodensee (KOB) invites companies from Germany and around the world to demonstrate and test technologies for fruit production within BONA-X (**B**odensee **N**ext-**G**en **A**utomatisierung - **X**). We offer demonstration space on our orchard trial sites and the opportunity to plan a field trial together for the 2027 growing season.

About KOB and BONA-X

Based in Ravensburg, Germany's second largest fruit production region, KOB connects applied fruit research with commercial orchard practice. Through field demonstrations, advisory activities and knowledge transfer, we provide growers in the Lake Constance region with practical information on production methods and new technologies. BONA-X is establishing a hub for automation and artificial intelligence in fruit production, helping technologies progress towards practical use and reduce labour requirements.

We welcome technology providers, manufacturers and start-ups developing solutions for:

- Precision thinning and digital decision support for crop load management
- Blossom and fruit counting, yield estimation and maturity assessment
- Data platforms and interfaces that connect orchard technologies
- Geolocation and mapping of individual fruit trees, with a focus on apple orchards

What we offer

Our open-air laboratory provides suitable apple orchards with training systems suited to automation, including multi-leader orchard systems. KOB contributes its expertise in applied fruit research and field trials, while you bring your technology and knowledge of its application. Together, we plan a suitable trial and agree on the respective responsibilities. We also define the data to be collected for evaluation and the technical requirements of the trial, including power supply, connectivity and data integration. Depending on the research question, we assess how accurately and reliably your technology performs under practical orchard conditions. Where relevant for the evaluation, we compare the data collected by your technology with reference data gathered on-site by KOB. We analyse the results and draw conclusions about their implications for the application and further development of the technology.

KOB can also showcase the technology at field days and other professional events, sharing the findings with fruit-growing businesses and technical advisers. The scope and schedule of each trial are agreed jointly, considering the project's relevance and available capacity.

Express your interest

Please email a short company profile, a description of your technology and its development stage, your proposed orchard application, and your requirements and availability for 2027. We would be pleased to discuss a suitable demonstration or trial and answer your questions. Deadline for expressions of interest is 28 February 2027.

Contact:

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Project partners and funding

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