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KL2: Breeding of horticultural plants in Lithuania: an overview

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At Institute of Horticulture, Lithuanian Research Centre of Agriculture and Forestry (IH-LRCAF) orchard plant breeding is focused mainly on pome fruits (*Malus domestica*; *Pyrus communis* L.); stone fruits - sweet cherry (*Prunus avium*), sour cherry (*Prunus cerasus*), plum (*Prunus domestica* L.); small fruits - blackcurrant (*Ribes nigrum*), strawberry (*Fragaria annanassa*; *Fragaria vesca*), wild strawberry (*Fragaria vesca* L.), raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*); japanese quince (*Chaenomeles japonica*) and others. Over 90 new improved fruit cultivars is developed in IH-LRCAF. Research is focused on improving cold hardiness, resistance to diseases and insects, and yield as well as shipping and shelf life qualities; as well as on fruit quality, plant development and biotechnology applications. The preservation of genetic resources is also the primary goal.

49 new vegetable cultivars and hybrids were created at IH-LRCAF since 1987 and the result of all breeding work is more than 70 cultivars of vegetables and rare plants. Vegetable breeding is focused on: onion (*Allium cepa*), garlic (*Allium sativum*), radish (*Raphanus sativus*), tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*), cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*), bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), pepper (*Capsicum annuum*), red beet (*Beta vulgaris*), carrot (*Daucus sativus*), cabbage (*Brassica oleracea*) and others. More than 60 species are grown in the collection of rare vegetable and spice plants.