



Kmetijski inštitut Slovenije
Agricultural Institute of Slovenia

Agricultural Institute of Slovenia

LJUBLJANA 2026

Fuji apple trees under agrophotovoltaic panels at
the Brdo IC (Source: Brdo IC)



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Loading DNA samples onto an agarose gel for electrophoretic determination of DNA fragment size (Source: OVR)

Presentation

**The Agricultural Institute of Slovenia
(*Kmetijski inštitut Slovenije* –
hereinafter: KIS) is the leading
research and development institution
in the field of agriculture in Slovenia.**

Since its founding in 1898, the Institute has been addressing issues in agriculture, and in recent decades it has expanded its activities to include ecology and environmental protection. The Institute's mission is to contribute to the advancement of the agricultural sector in the broadest sense by providing scientific, expert, and developmental support to the Slovenian agri-food sector in achieving a competitive and sustainable food system, ensuring healthy and high-quality food for consumers, and improving the well-being of the population. It fulfils its mission by developing cutting-edge knowledge, expert and scientific cooperation with domestic and international organisations, training and knowledge transfer, awareness-raising, and advising on sustainable agricultural production, food security, environmental balance, and rural development.

KIS conducts basic and applied research and fosters the development and operation of infrastructure within the framework of Slovenia's Research and Innovation Strategy. As a member of the Slovenian Open Science Community, it strives to promote and implement open science in Slovenia and increase the share of open-access scientific publications every year. As part of its activities, it also performs expert tasks arising from legal requirements,

laboratory and infrastructure services, the monitoring and quality control of agricultural crops and products, advisory services, the training and postgraduate education of researchers, as well as the publication of the findings and results of research, expert, and inspection activities. Through its work, the Institute creates a database for assessing the state of Slovenian agriculture and lays the foundations for the further formulation of the national development strategy. Active international networking with foreign institutions and related institutes enables the Institute to engage in development cooperation and acquire the most up-to-date knowledge, thus contributing to the achievement of scientific excellence.

The Republic of Slovenia is the founder of the Institute, and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia exercises the founder's rights and obligations, which it implements through the Ministry of Education, Science, and Youth, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. Its activities fall under the formal jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, Science, and Youth.



FIELDS OF ACTIVITY

Genetics and breeding

molecular biology, population genetics, genomics, and phenomics
conventional and organic plant breeding
gene bank and plant genetic resources
plant physiology, interactions of abiotic and biotic stress in plants
metabolomics and the quality of agricultural crops

Crop production, horticulture, and grassland management

variety testing and regionalisation
sustainable crop production technologies
organic farming
grassland management and permanent grasslands

plant nutrition physiology
water balance and nitrogen and other nutrient balances
carbon sequestration
greenhouse gases

Agricultural ecology and natural resources

soil microbiology
preservation of the fertility and quality of agricultural land
soil and environmental geo-informatics
the ecology of plant protection products

integrated weed vegetation management
the study of soil tillage methods
soil mesofauna
the effects of fertilisers and growing media

Cattle production, pig production, and apiculture

origin verification and the identification of monogenic traits and diseases
management and development of databases in livestock production
analysis of the impact of rearing conditions, nutrition, and processing on meat quality

research on local breeds regarding sustainable breeding and the improvement of pork quality
management of herd books
estimation of the energy value of forage for ruminants; grassland trials
monitoring of milk and meat production
monitoring of greenhouse gases and air pollutants
nitrogen and phosphorus balances, and water protection



Agricultural Economics

agriculture microeconomics (crop production, livestock production, cost catalogues)
economics of agricultural holdings (FADN/FSDN, standard output (SO), farm entrepreneurship)

agricultural and food sectors (foreign trade, balances and self-sufficiency, income status, food chains, policy evaluation, and the budget)
agriculture and the environment (agro-environmental indicators, organic farming and climate change, etc.)
rural and regional development (rural development, Leader/CLLD, areas with natural or other specific constraints (ANC), rural tourism, etc.)





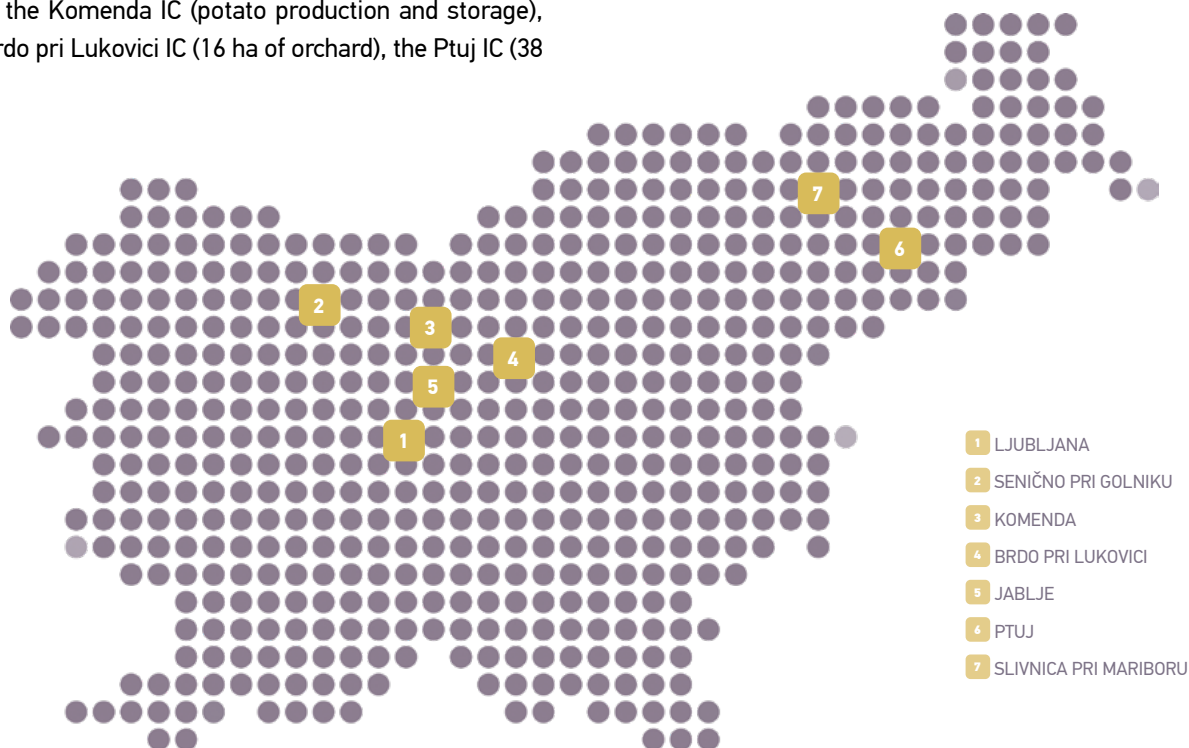
Experimental plots at the Jablje IC
(Source: Jablje IC and ORP)

LOCATIONS

In order to carry out research and expert work, the Institute continuously acquires both experts and additional infrastructure (indoor and outdoor areas and equipment). These dispersed locations with associated infrastructure play a key role in the development of innovations and the transfer of acquired research findings into agricultural practice, as well as in connecting with the local environment.

The Institute's work takes place on nearly 500 ha of fields, orchards, and plantations dedicated to experiments, maintenance of selection and variety breeding, seed production, and the transfer of knowledge to agricultural practice. Infrastructure Centres (IC) are organised across Slovenia: the Jابلje IC (420 ha for field crops and vegetables), the Komenda IC (potato production and storage), the Brdo pri Lukovici IC (16 ha of orchard), the Ptuj IC (38

ha for field crops and vegetables), within which the Centre for Berry Fruit in Slivnica pri Mariboru has operated since 2024. Among the smaller locations, we should mention the Selection and Experimental Station for Bees in Senično pri Golniku. Modern field laboratories ensure a direct connection between research work and experiments in fields, orchards, etc. In Ljubljana, where the Institute's administration is also headquartered, there are laboratories for seeds, agrochemistry, oenology, genetics, nematology, entomology, mycology, virology, bacteriology, and microbiology, as well as laboratories for remote sensing, animal nutrition, meat, and NIR spectroscopy, as well as apiculture, fruit growing, viticulture, and oenology laboratories, a micro-vinification cellar, etc.



DEPARTMENTS

Research, expert, and advisory work, as well as commercial activities, take place in ten departments, supported by the Project Management Office, the Technology and Knowledge Transfer Office, and the Institute's Administration. The Service for Official Certification of Seed and Plant Propagation Material also has its headquarters at KIS, as an independent organisational unit.

The Department of Infrastructure, Research, and Knowledge Transfer (OIRPZ) connects science, agricultural practice, and the economy. In four infrastructure centres (Jablje, Komenda, Brdo, and Ptuj), it develops, introduces, tests, and independently evaluates modern technologies and production systems in real production conditions and ensures their transfer to practice. Particular emphasis is devoted to robotics and autonomous systems, precision and data-supported agriculture, advanced sensors, water and irrigation management, protected and soilless production systems, agrophotovoltaics, and climate-resilient production technologies. OIRPZ also provides research areas, infrastructure, equipment, and expert support for carrying out interdisciplinary experiments, demonstrations, and research for other KIS departments.

The Plant Protection Department (OVR) represents the central scientific-research centre for plant health protection in Slovenia. It is engaged in the study and in-

spection of plant diseases and pests that directly threaten plant health and production. The staff study environmentally friendly plant protection methods based on reducing the risk associated with the use of phytopharmaceutical preparations, holistic inspection of harmful organisms (integrated plant protection), biotic plant protection methods, and plant protection approaches in organic farming. The department is engaged in diagnostics and determining the spread of, and solving problems related to, plant diseases and harmful organisms. It issues risk assessments and expert opinions and provides expert support to ministries, agricultural advisors, and producers. The department also performs the tasks of the national reference laboratory and the official laboratory for specific areas of plant pests.

The Animal Production Department (OŽ) is the leading expert research team in the field of livestock production in Slovenia, covering cattle and pig production and apiculture. Through research work, it addresses current issues in animal production and processing, and through studies on feed and pollination by pollinators, it is indirectly linked to the field of plant production. Expert knowledge is directed towards the development of a central database in the fields of genetics, selection, nutrition, and breeding. In recent years, intensive digitalisation of data databases and the development of tools for various users – both breeders and decision-makers – has been taking place.

The Crop Science Department (ORP) consists of the Group for Genetics and Breeding and the Group for Crop Production, Horticulture, and Grassland Management. Work is carried out at the Institute in Ljubljana and at the Infrastructure Centres in Jablje, Komenda, and Ptuj. The department conducts research linking genetics, phenomics, genomics, and NGS technologies. It studies the genetic diversity and biological potential of plant genetic resources in order to understand their evolution, adaptive traits, and breeding potential. In the breeding of new varieties, priority is given to resistance to biotic and abi-

otic stresses, higher quality, better nutritional suitability, and adaptability to new production technologies and changing climatic conditions. The department's work also includes various agrotechnical experiments and findings on the impact of different crop rotations.

Given that soil is of key importance for plant growth, biodiversity, nutrient cycling, and carbon storage, which directly affect food security and the ability to adapt to climate change, the Department of Agricultural Ecology and Natural Resources (OKENV) is engaged in carrying out research and expert tasks in the field of agricultural ecology, sustainable use of natural resources, and environmental protection, with the aim of supporting agricultural production and protecting the environment and promoting responsible and sustainable management of agricultural areas and ecosystems.

At the Department of Fruit Growing, Viticulture, and Oenology (OSVV), interdisciplinary work is carried out by researchers and expert associates from a wide range of natu-

ral sciences. The department's activities comprehensively contribute to the quality, sustainability, and competitiveness of the production of Slovenian fruit, grapes, and wine. It studies physiological and microbiological processes, the action of bioregulators, the residues of contaminants, and the impact and mitigation of the consequences of climate change, introduces modern technologies (digitalisation, agrophotovoltaics), and deals with the introduction of varieties, selection, the preservation of genetic diversity, etc. Work takes place in laboratories in Ljubljana, at the KIS experimental orchard in Brdo pri Lukovici, and at the fruit plantations and vineyards of producers throughout Slovenia.

The Department of Agricultural Economics (OEK) is among the leading public expert research actors in the field of agrarian economics and policy in Slovenia. The department's key activities include comprehensive monitoring, evaluation, and analysis of the state and development of the Slovenian agri-food sector, income status in agriculture at various levels, measures and budget



Legume crop at the Ptuj IC
(Source: Ptuj IC)

expenditures under the agricultural policy, and production costs for individual agricultural markets. It also deals with analyses related to sustainable agriculture, climate change, the environment, and rural areas, as well as the development of modern methods of economic analysis in agriculture. Its activities significantly contribute to solving the challenges in the sustainable development of Slovenian agriculture and to the preparation of sectoral development documents, policies, and measures.

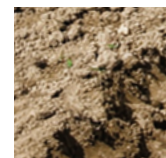
The work of the Department of Agricultural Engineering and Energy (OKTE) is directed at the development of technologies for energy-efficient and more environmentally friendly production and processing of food. Experts are studying the areas of efficient energy use in agriculture, renewable energy sources, the operational use of agricultural machinery and agricultural process technology, and the reduction of the carbon footprint of agriculture due to the use of agricultural mechanisation. In the field of the development and testing of new machines and devices, they work under laboratory conditions and in real environments, collaborating closely with the Slovenian economy. The department offers advisory services to end-users regarding the selection, use, and maintenance of agricultural machinery and mechanisation. Special attention is devoted to safe work with agricultural machinery, and numerous presentations and lectures are organised in this field.

The Central Laboratory (CL) is divided into the Agrochemical and Oenological Laboratories. It participates in scientific research projects and expert tasks and provides services for customers on the market and performs tasks for the competent ministries. The Agrochemical Laboratory is the official laboratory for the analysis of animal feed, honey, PPPs, and the national reference laboratory for the analysis of organochlorine pesticides in animal feed. It carries out analyses of soil, organic and mineral fertilisers, and agricultural crops. Within the framework of operational monitoring of the state of soil, it is the laboratory authorised to carry out soil analyses. It evaluates

chemical documentation for the registration of PPPs and biocidal products, in cooperation with the Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Medicine, and Plant Protection and the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Chemicals. The Oenological Laboratory, in addition to research projects and Institute tasks, carries out analyses of wine and distilled spirits (e.g. the issuance of laboratory reports for wine trade, reports on the testing of distilled spirits, etc.). It has been appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture as the organisation authorised for the evaluation of must, wine, and other grape and wine products.

The Beekeeping Academy of Slovenia (SČA) organises informal education and practical training, promotes Slovenian educational institutions in the field of beekeeping, improves employment opportunities for vulnerable social groups, and raises awareness of the importance and role of bees, biodiversity, and pollination. It ensures the transfer of rich knowledge about beekeeping, especially abroad. SČA educational programmes are implemented by highly qualified beekeeping instructors, who transfer knowledge and experience to students in Slovenian, English, and other foreign languages. The SČA participates in national and international frameworks in disseminating new findings in connection with research and development work in the field of beekeeping.

The Service for Official Certification of Seed and Plant Propagation Material (SUP) operates on the basis on the public authorisation of the Ministry of Agriculture – Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Medicine, and Plant Protection. As an independent unit, it carries out the official certification of seed and plant propagation material of field crops (cereals, forage plants, beet, oilseeds, fibre crops), vegetables, seed potatoes, vines, fruit plants, and hops, and performs post-certification inspection of seed and plant propagation material of agricultural plants (field crop seeds, vegetable seeds, and seed potatoes) and the storage of standard seed samples (field crops, vegetables). The Seed Laboratory, which is part of SUP, carries out seed quality analyses defined by regulations in the field



of the marketing of seed material of agricultural plants. The laboratory performs accredited services (such as the sampling of seed lots and the determination of moisture content, purity, germination, etc.). The Seed Laboratory is the only laboratory with international accreditation for seed quality control in Slovenia that is a member of the international ISTA association.

IN NUMBERS

The Agriculture Institute of Slovenia in 2025

Employees as of Dec. 31	281
Women	164
Men	117
Researchers	104
Women	62
Men	42
Young researchers	12
Researchers involved in pedagogical processes	19
Research programmes	4
Infrastructure programmes	1
Research projects	93
Public services	32
Expert tasks	23
Total revenue	18,1 mio EUR
Share of revenue from commercial activities	21,4 %
Share of revenue from cooperation with the economy	15,4 %

Multipurpose robot for autonomous tasks in vegetable production (Source: OIRPZ)





Germination of GL Rustikal oil pumpkin seeds in sand and the growing medium (Source: S-lab)

KIS confirms its commitment to the quality and independence of the results of research and expert work also by acquiring and maintaining certificates and accreditations according to various quality standards and schemes.

QUALITY SYSTEM

KIS Accreditations and Quality Certificates

Field/Activity	Standard or Quality Scheme	Certificate	Year of Award
Agricultural Institute of Slovenia	SIST EN ISO 9001:2015	SIQ, Certificate No. Q-1120	2007
Agricultural Institute of Slovenia	Family-Friendly Company	DPP, basic certificate	2024
Agricultural Institute of Slovenia – Animal Production Dept. and Administration Service	ISO/IEC 27001:2022	SIQ, Certificate No. I-0206	2026
Central Laboratory	SIST EN ISO/IEC17025:2017	Slovenian Accreditation, Accreditation No. LP-020	2002
Seed Laboratory	ISTA Accreditation standard	ISTA Accreditation	2001
Plant Protection Department	Good Experimental Practice	GEP U3433-11/2016/8	2012
Plant Protection Department	SIST EN ISO/IEC17025:2017	Slovenian Accreditation, Accreditation No. LP-020	2022
Experimental orchard in Brdo pri Lukovici and the Infrastructure Centre Ptuj	Good Agricultural Practice GLOBAL G.A.P.	RINA Services S.p.A., SI/GBG/85	2010
Experimental orchard in Brdo pri Lukovici	"Selected Quality" Slovenia	IKC, Certificate No. 217-25-05	2018
Experimental orchard in Brdo pri Lukovici	Integrated Production	IKC, Certificate No. 353-26-06	2016
Infrastructure Centre Jablje	Certified Organic Production	IKC, Certificate No. 746-25-01	2016

INICNI ETANOL
kuzevanje površin



The rearing of honeybee (*Apis mellifera carnica*) larvae under controlled conditions (Source: OŽ, Apiculture Group)

Research activity

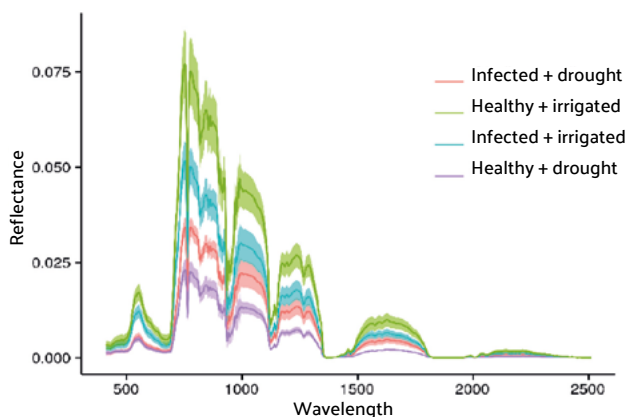
Multidisciplinary scientific research at the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia includes a wide range of biotechnological, natural, and technical sciences.

Research activities are based on various national and European programmes, resolutions, and strategies (e.g. the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy 2023–2027, the Resolution »Our Food, Countryside, and Natural Resources« from 2021, the Resolution on the National Environmental Protection Programme for the period 2020–2030, the European Green Deal, and EU framework research programmes: Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, etc.). The Library and INDOK operate in support of research work at the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, supporting the expert, research, pedagogical, and advisory work of employees. They help KIS staff and external users ensure that, in accordance with the principles of open science (as derived from the Research and Innovation Activity Act and the Decree on the Implementation of Scientific Research Work), access is enabled to scientific publications, research data, and other research results under the principle »as open as possible, as closed as necessary.«

KIS demonstrates scientific excellence through research and expert achievements in the fields of sustainable plant and animal food production, plant protection and agroecology, plant and animal genetics and genomics,

genetic improvement (selection) and the preservation of genetic resources in agriculture, food quality, and animal breeding and nutrition, including feed sources. It is also distinguished by achievements in the field of digitalisation (e.g. precision agriculture tools, national databases, etc.). Research results directly support agricultural practice and the formulation of agricultural policies.

Spectral signatures of four plants under different treatments.



RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Researchers are involved in the research programmes Agrobiodiversity, Sustainable Agriculture, Next Generation Agriculture, and Agri-Food and Natural Resources Economics, as well as infrastructure program Technology Development and Production Control in Agriculture.

The Agrobiodiversity research programme (P4-0072) deals with the fields of plant genetics and breeding, plant physiology, plant interactions with pathogens and disease vectors, and agricultural crop production technologies. Research in plant genetics is directed toward the successful identification of functional and gene-linked markers for agronomic and nutritional traits in selected agricultural plants. An important area of research relates to the mechanisms of plant resistance to abiotic and biotic stress. In order to determine long-term environmental impacts and preserve the fertility of agricultural land, various studies of production technologies are carried out in permanent trials, etc.

The Sustainable Agriculture research programme (P4-0133) carries out research in support of competitive and environmentally sustainable production of high-quality and healthy food of animal and plant origin. It addresses the challenges of transitioning to sustainable and resilient agricultural systems, emphasising adaptation to climate change, efficient use of resources, circular bioeconomy approaches, and the quality of agricultural products. Research activities cover issues in the breeding, nutrition, and management of cattle and pigs, the biology and breeding of the honeybee, fruit growing, viticulture, and oenological technology, with a special emphasis on technological factors, product quality, and the development of model approaches for evaluating the sustainability of agriculture.

The Next Generation Agriculture research programme (P4-0431) focuses on soil management, agroecology, innovative plant protection, and invasive pests. It is divided into three research areas: Agroecology and Natural Resource Conservation, Innovative Plant Protection, and Next Generation Crop Systems. Research relates to the functioning of agroecosystems, soil and plant microbiology, soil biodiversity, and the sustainable management of natural resources, as well as the adaptation of production to environmental changes, sustainable plant protection approaches with an emphasis on integrated, non-chemical, and biotic methods, and the treatment of invasive and new pests.

The Economics of Agri-food and Natural Resources research programme (P4-0022) brings together agrarian economists from four research organisations, including the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, and is coordinated by the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana. The programme is directed toward studying the socio-economic and political challenges of agricultural production, food processing, and consumption, as well as natural resource management and rural development. It is divided into thematic blocks: Evidence-based Agricultural Policy, Sustainable Agriculture Management, Agri-



culture and Biodiversity Conservation, Rural Partnerships and Circular Bioeconomics, and Specific Studies of Consumer Habits.

The »Development of Technologies and Production Monitoring in Agriculture« infrastructure programme (IO-0011) provides infrastructure support for research programmes and projects in the fields of agriculture, ecology, and environmental protection, as well as the implementation of public services and other services. It provides technological support for the operation of crop variety testing, seed production, plant protection, fruit growing, livestock production, the agricultural plant gene bank, agricultural crop quality, and ecology. The programme includes experimental fields and research centres, specialised laboratories, and databases and information systems, which ensure the research infrastructure for carrying out scientific research work for both the Institute and other research organisations and faculties.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project contents cover the fields of crop and vegetable production with seed production, genetics, breeding, maintenance selection, and the gene bank in agriculture, livestock production, fruit growing, viticulture and oenology, plant and environmental protection, soil use and protection, agricultural technology, agricultural economics, and the analysis of soil, mineral and organic fertilisers, animal feed, honey, plant protection product residues, wine, must, and distilled spirits. In 2026, the Institute is participating in 88 projects, including 54 European projects or projects funded by EU funds, 19 general ARIS projects, and 15 projects of targeted research programmes (CRP).

KIS projects in 2026 88

KIS lead	34
KIS partner	54

ARIS projects: 34

Basic research projects	4
Applied research projects	4
Postdoctoral research projects	2
International projects funded by ARIS	5
Citizen science projects	1
Bilateral collaborations	3
CRP (KIS lead 7, KIS partner 8):	15

European projects and other international projects: 33

Horizon 2020 projects	2
Horizon Europe projects	12
INTERREG projects	6
COST projects	7
LIFE projects	3
Other international projects	3

European Structural and Investment Funds research projects: 21

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) projects	3
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) projects	13
Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) projects	3
European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR) projects	1
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) projects	1



In 2026, the Institute will successfully conclude the following projects as lead partner:

- DigŽiv: Digitisation of livestock databases; SKUPP: Cooperation to strengthen the efficiency of project offices (both from the Recovery and Resilience Facility, RRF);
- Carbon Farming CE: Boosting carbon farming in Central Europe; CARBON 4 SOIL QUALITY: Capturing and storing atmospheric CO₂ for improvement of soil quality (both from the INTERREG programme);
- Novel biocontrol fungi for sustainable strawberry production (ARIS basic research project);
- RESENS-VITIS: Early detection and management of important grapevine diseases; Wine provenance: geo-climatic, microbiological or human construct? Example of Slovene blaufrankish wines; Emulsifiers, alternative thinning agents for sustainable apple production (ARIS applied research projects);
- Genomic breeding for meat quality in local Krškopolje pig breed (ARIS postdoctoral research project);
- Possibilities of introducing biomethane obtained from the processing of waste agricultural biomass for powering agricultural tractors and reducing greenhouse gas emissions; The content of vitamins and pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables (both ARIS targeted research projects);
- Digitalisation in viticulture for a better understanding of terroir (ARIS citizen science project).

Current projects (to be implemented after 2026) led by KIS:

- Insect-IMP: Improved knowledge transfer for sustainable insect breeding (COST action);
- CARBON 4 SOIL QUALITY PLUS: Testing and evaluation of carbon farming practices in different Mediterranean agro-ecological conditions; Carbon 4 Bioeconomy: Use of low-carbon agricultural practices for the development of bioeconomy products (both INTERREG programmes);
- The influence of agrophotovoltaic panels on the physiological response of apple trees and the physicochemical properties of the resulting fruit; APIQUALIS: The influence of climate change on the composition and quality of selected bee products (both ERDF);
- EIP PRIJAZNA: Berry fruit production in protected areas; Robot4Plants: AKIS partnership for the introduction of digital and robotic technologies in plant production; PRIRAST: The introduction of sustainable, environmentally friendly production technologies and modern approaches in plant breeding and seed production to mitigate the effects of climate change (all EAFRD and CAP 2023–2027);
- GenoTrot: Genotyping of drone sperm for a better understanding of the reproductive characteristics of the honeybee; BEEography: Understanding the evolutionary history of honeybees for a sustainable improvement of present and future populations (both ARIS basic research projects).
- RajonSI: Regionalization of agricultural production in Slovenia for the needs of sustainable use of agricultural land, reduction of environmental and economic risks of production and adaptation of agriculture to climate change; Development of sustainable method for potato haulm desiccation; Measures to reduce the content of cadmium in vegetable and potato crops; Digitalisation of Slovenian vineyard terroirs; Fly4IPM: The use of unmanned aerial vehicles for precise application of pesticides, biostimulants and biocontrol agents for sustainable agriculture and integrated pest management (all ARIS targeted research projects).

INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Innovation programmes are directed toward the development of new varieties, the improvement of sustainable production systems, and research in the field of advanced technologies and precision agriculture.

KIS employees have registered European and international patents as independent innovators or as part of collaborations with other organisations. Most innovations are in the field of breeding field crops and vegetables, where the Institute is a leader in breeding new va-

rieties of potatoes and beans. New potato varieties (KIS Mangart, KIS Tamar, KIS Blegoš, KIS Slavník, KIS Krka, KIS Vipava, KIS Kokra, KIS Sora) and common bean (KIS Amand, KIS Marcelijan, KIS Pavlin) are available on the market and popular among Slovenian producers.

KIS represents the central hub of agricultural knowledge in Slovenia. The Institute's infrastructure centres are key platforms for knowledge transfer and the exchange of good practices; they enhance the Institute's visibility and significance in the broader regional context through the introduction of innovations, pilot and demonstration activities, as well as exhibitions and thematic events for various target groups, ranging from growers, the professional community, students, and decision-makers, to businesses, hobby farmers, and gardeners.

Demonstration of modern agricultural technology at the "Day of Agrorobotics and Advanced Technologies in Agriculture" event at the Ptuj IC (Source: OIRPZ)



Expert and advisory work

Expert work is carried out within the framework of public services and tasks performed under authorisation and other expert tasks. In terms of the volume of work performed, it is equivalent to the research work and accounts for approximately one-third of the Institute's revenue. KIS performs public services as both the lead entity and a subcontractor in collaboration with other organisations.



Public services in fruit growing:

Berry and nut introduction and production technology

Public services in viticulture and oenology:

The introduction and technology of grapevine growing

Public services of the KIS plant gene bank (JSRBG-KIS):

Forage plant collection

Potato collection

Vegetable collection

Berry collection

Grapevine collection

Expert and technical coordination of gene bank tasks

Public services regarding plant health protection:

Observation and forecasting services for plant protection

Integrated plant protection

Public services involving expert tasks in livestock production:

Expert tasks in the field of cattle production

Expert tasks in the field of beekeeping

Expert tasks in the field of pig production

Exercise of public authority for the collection and processing of data and the preparation of estimates of emissions of greenhouse gases, ammonia, and other air pollutants in agriculture



PUBLIC SERVICES

The Institute takes the lead in carrying out tasks within the framework of the following Public Services:

Public services in the crop-production segment:

Breeding of field crops

Crop introduction and the determination of the value thereof for processing

Crop production technologies

Expert and technical coordination in crop production

Public services in horticulture:

Vegetable breeding – breeding of common bean

Vegetable introduction and the determination of the value thereof for processing

Vegetable production technologies

Expert-technical coordination in horticulture

TASKS PERFORMED UNDER PUBLIC AUTHORITY AND OTHER EXPERT WORK

- Expert tasks in the field of plant variety registration and seed production (official certification and post-certification inspection of agricultural plant seed material, variety testing as part of the process for entering varieties into the Variety List of the Republic of Slovenia, verification of variety maintenance during the renewal of registration, verification of the conditions for registering an additional variety, and verification of the conditions for registering garden and conservation varieties in the Variety List, as well as the storage of standard samples of varieties listed in the Variety List and protected in the Republic of Slovenia).
- Expert tasks in the field of viticulture and oenology (isotope analysis of samples of Slovenian wines with a geographical indication).
- Expert tasks in the field of plant health (monitoring, detection, and inspection of quarantine and new harmful organisms; laboratory testing; the information system regarding plant health and remote sensing; the agrometeorological information system, detection of the presence of harmful organisms, the inventory of beneficial organisms for biotic protection).
- Expert tasks in the field of agricultural technology and energy (analysis of the state of agricultural machinery in Slovenia, dissemination activities related to machinery and equipment, etc.).
- Expert tasks in the field of agricultural economics (monitoring the development of agriculture in Slovenia, the Climate Report on the State of Agriculture, preparing environmental and agricultural indicators, calculating the standard income of agricultural holdings, preparation of guidelines for evaluating local development strategies, determination of the methodology and calculation of lump-sum support amounts for hay-fed meat under the “Traditional Specialty Guaranteed” quality scheme, sectoral assessments of climate vulnerability and risks to agriculture at the national level, etc.).
- Expert tasks in the field of the agricultural environment and natural resources (analyses of soil fertility and the content of hazardous substances in soil and crops in specific water protection areas, soil quality in urban gardens and orchards, soil sampling and measurements of hazardous substances and nitrate nitrogen in soil as part of the official IRSKGLR monitoring programme, and the provision and adaptation of nutrient balance data and data on organic fertilisers for agriculture in accordance with the requirements of EU legislation, monitoring the condition of agricultural soils, analysing agriculture and the agricultural landscape within the Triglav National Park, and updating pedological data on agricultural soils in the Pedological Map of Slovenia 2024–2026).
- The expert tasks of the Central Laboratory (in the areas of soil analysis, animal feed, mineral and organic fertilisers, foodstuffs (honey, meat), pesticide residues in agricultural crops, and analysis of grapes, must, wine, and distilled spirits; tasks in the field of evaluating chemical documentation for the registration of plant protection products and biocidal products).



Commercial activities

The sale of agricultural crops and products, conducting laboratory analyses, preparing various studies, carrying out measurements, and providing advisory services.



The Institute also offers for sale milk and cattle (Holstein Friesian calves; bulls and breeding heifers) raised at the Infrastructure Centre Jablje. In recent years, production for pre-identified customers has been increasing, and cooperation with the agricultural sector has been strengthening.

The SERVICES provided by KIS as part of its commercial activities for businesses, local communities, inspection authorities, producers, and other clients include the following:

A significant part of KIS's activities consists of diverse commercial activities, which are also important in terms of providing an indispensable source of funding for the Institute, as they account for more than one-fifth of its revenue.

Agricultural CROPS AND PRODUCTS from the Institute's own production—for planting, human consumption, and animal feed:

- seeds of spring and winter cereals (buckwheat, barley, oats, spelt, etc.),
- seeds of forage plants (multiflorous ryegrass, crimson clover, red clover),
- seeds of oilseeds (common rapeseed),
- fodder cereals and bread-making cereals (wheat, corn, barley, millet, etc.),
- vegetable seeds (common bean KIS Marcelijan, KIS Amand, and KIS Pavlin, peas, faba beans, corn salad, etc.),
- fruit (apples and pears) and apple juice,
- flour (wheat, spelt, buckwheat), barley, and porridge,
- honey (linden, silver fir, wildflower).

- seed sample analyses,
- animal feed analyses,
- analyses of organic and mineral fertilisers,
- analyses of plant protection products and the residues thereof,
- analyses of grapes, must, wine, and distilled spirits,
- analyses of honey,
- genetic analyses and pedigree verification of cattle,
- soil analyses and fertilisation consulting,
- biological testing of the efficacy of plant protection products,
- soil sampling and soil measurements (for hazardous substances, nitrate nitrogen) as well as analyses of soil quality, suitability, and contamination (soil quality and condition monitoring),
- analyses of the energy consumption and operating parameters of agricultural machinery, as well as the design and manufacture of vegetable oil processing systems,
- the development and maintenance of web applications and databases in the field of agriculture (e.g. the LABKIS web application), and
- numerous other services in the fields of agriculture and the environment.

Wheat variety trial at the Jablje IC
(Source: Jablje IC and ORP)

Research, expert, and advisory work, as well as commercial activities, are carried out in nine departments, with support from the Project Management Office, the Technology and Knowledge Transfer Office, and the Institute's Administration. The Service for Official Certification of Seed and Plant Propagation Material also operates as an independent organisational unit and is headquartered at KIS.

Organisational Structure

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Director Prof. Dr Andrej Simončič

The Governing Board is a KIS body whose tasks and responsibilities are determined in the Decision on the Establishment and the Statutes of KIS. The KIS Governing Board for the 2026–2030 term consists of*:

- Dr Antoaneta G. Kuhar, employee representative at KIS, Interim President pending the appointment of all members of the Governing Board,
- Anita Jakuš, M.Sc., Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, Interim Vice-President pending the appointment of all members of the Governing Board,
- Prof. Dr Emil Erjavec, University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty, Member,
- Assoc. Prof. Dr Primož Simončič, Slovenian Forestry Institute, Member.

** As of August 2026, three members had not yet been appointed upon the recommendation of the Ministry of Education, Science, and Youth, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning*

The **KIS Scientific Council** is the Institute's expert body responsible for addressing issues related to the Institute's scientific and expert activities. In accordance with the KIS Statutes, the Scientific Council has both elected and appointed members. The members of the KIS Scientific Council for the 2026–2030 term are the following:

- Prof. Dr Marjeta Čandek Potokar, President,
- Dr Jaka Razinger, Vice-President,
- Prof. Dr Andrej Simončič, Director of KIS,
- Dr Peter Dolničar, Member,
- Dr Maja Kožar, Member,
- Dr Klemen Lisjak, Member,
- Dr Janez Prešern, Member,
- Dr Barbara Pipan, Member,
- Dr Špela Velikonja Bolta, Member.

EMPLOYEES

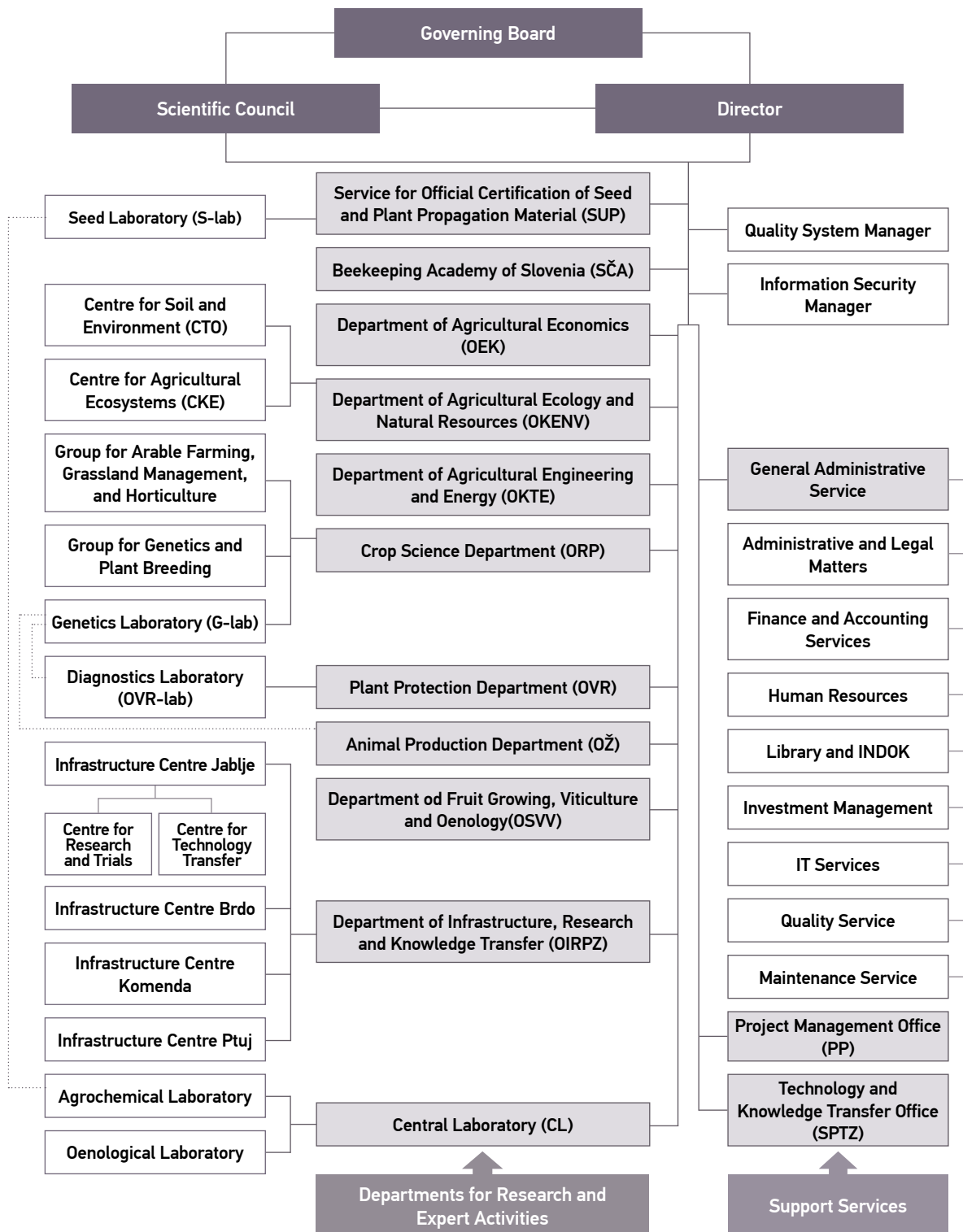
Over the past 15 years, the Institute has seen significant growth in the number of employees. In 2008, there were 150 employees; a decade later, the number had risen to nearly 200. In line with the growth in the scope and complexity of its tasks, at the end of 2025 the Institute had 281 employees. The educational structure shows that 72 employees hold a Ph.D., 11 have an MSc., and 148 have a bachelor's or master's degree under the Bologna Process. The largest share of employees pertain to the 30–39 age group, and the average age of employees is 42.6 years, reflecting a stable and experienced work environment. The turnover rate in 2025 was 5.42%. Given the observed moderate trend of an aging workforce, the gradual replacement of senior experts with younger professionals presents a particular challenge; therefore, the transfer of knowledge and experience to new generations is one of the Institute's top priorities for its operations and development. KIS strives to provide a safe and high-quality work environment, and as a recipient of the "Family-Friendly Company" certificate, it adopts and implements measures to facilitate an appropriate work-life balance.





Biodiversity in agricultural areas also encompasses life in the soil (Source: OKENV)

ORGANISATIONAL CHART



Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, 2026



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