


Title of case study	New variety of blackcurrants to survive mild winters
Name of organization(s)	GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) (Ribena) and Scottish Crop Research Institute
Business sector	Agriculture; Food and Beverages
Region(s) relevant to case study	<input type="checkbox"/> All regions <input type="checkbox"/> Africa and the Arab States <input type="checkbox"/> Asia and the Pacific <input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean and Central America <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Least Developed Countries <input type="checkbox"/> North America <input type="checkbox"/> Polar regions <input type="checkbox"/> Small Island Developing States <input type="checkbox"/> South America
Country(s) relevant to case study	United Kingdom
Adaptation sector(s) relevant to case study	<input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Education and training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food security, agriculture, forestry and fisheries <input type="checkbox"/> Human health <input type="checkbox"/> Oceans and coastal areas <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science, assessment, monitoring and early warning <input type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial ecosystems <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism <input type="checkbox"/> Transport, infrastructure and human settlements <input type="checkbox"/> Water resources <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
Adaptation activity	<p>The effect of climate change - more extreme and variable weather - is having a major impact on the British farming industry. Fruit farmers in particular will need to use more resilient and adaptable varieties of crops with plenty of disease resistance in order to ensure their livelihood.</p> <p>Ribena is one of the UK's most popular soft drinks brands, producing a number of fruit juices, mostly based on blackcurrants. The majority of blackcurrants are grown in the UK, and it has been noted that changing weather patterns have started to affect blackcurrant harvests with increasingly mild winters and erratic weather during</p>

	<p>spring and summer causing many crops to fail. Despite the fact that blackcurrants have been grown in the UK since the 1800s, in some areas of the country such as Kent and Somerset, two varieties of blackcurrants - Baldwin and Ben Lomond - could disappear in the future.</p> <p>The Scottish Crop Research Institute's Blackcurrant Breeding Programme, in partnership with GSK and Ribena, is developing new strains of blackcurrant that will be suitable for the changing climate over the next 70 years. Recommendations for release are made after three years' trialing. The aim is to produce a range of cultivars with superior fruit quality, pest and disease resistance and environmental adaptability in a changing climate. Two new varieties, Ben Vane and Ben Kilbreck, were successfully grown on a farm in Gloucestershire in 2008 and are now being grown commercially. Part of the success of this project was due to a good relationship between the partners and the UK farming community, which helped enable the trial and uptake of this new species.</p> <p>This example highlights the need for new species of crops that can survive changing and increasingly erratic weather patterns. While these are most urgently needed in developing countries where changes in weather patterns can often be most extreme, the agricultural industries of developed countries are also highly vulnerable. Furthermore, there is an increased risk of new crop disease emerging as weather patterns change, so disease-resistant species will also be increasingly important.</p>
<p>Cost-benefit</p>	<p>The development of these more resilient blackcurrant varieties is critical to safeguarding Ribena's supply chain. As GSK has built good relations with UK farmers, it is important for it to continue to source the fruit domestically. Also, the drive to be efficient means that the number of farms that blackcurrants are sourced from has been reduced. Therefore, failure of crop in one place becomes more damaging. GSK and Ribena's proactive adaptation efforts will help to ensure the continued production of high quality British blackcurrants.</p>
<p>Case study source(s)</p>	<p>UK CIP Business Cases: Ribena</p> <p>Ribena's website</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CLICK FOR MORE INFO</p> 	



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