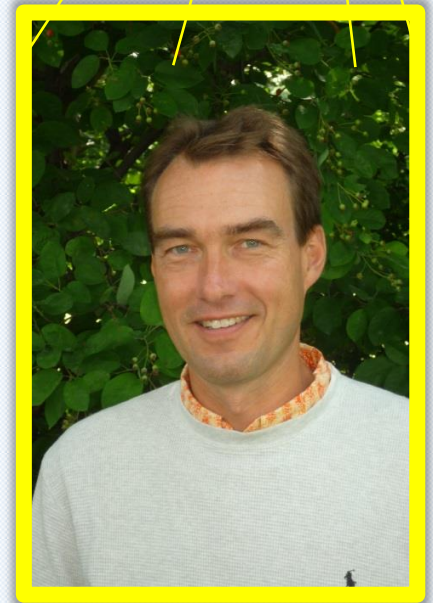


# PlantLink Researcher in the spotlight

## Per Hofvander

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*This month, we turn the spotlight to **Dr Per Hofvander** at the Department of Plant Breeding, SLU. Per Hofvander has been a researcher at SLU since 2008. Before that he worked at Plant Science Sweden developing among other things the Amflora potato, which is genetically modified to have altered qualities for the potato starch industry. In 2013 he appeared before the European Parliament presenting on “New methods and tools in plant breeding”. In Alnarp he is investigating the carbon flow for altered and increased oil and starch production in for example potato, sugar beet and Camelina (“oljedådra”).*



*-What is currently on top of your research agenda?*

Much focus at the moment is to get a project on transcriptional regulation of oil accumulation in endosperm and tuber tissue running smoothly. A new PhD student, Per Snell, is a welcome addition to this project.

*-Tell us about your latest publication?*

We investigated impacts of homologs to an Arabidopsis transcription factor, WRINKLED1, derived from different plant species and tissues via expression in tobacco leaf tissue. This way we could pinpoint many common effects of this transcription factor in vegetative tissue which were independent of plant species and tissue origin of expression.

*-What led you into your particular field of research?*

In the beginning, I must say that it was more by chance. My research history is not very typical in that I started in a private company right after university studies and did my PhD while working in company research and now I'm doing research in academia.

*-What are the implications of your research for the society?*

Many of the directions of my research involve genetic modification. We are trying to provide society with plant derived high quality, renewable products which are attractive to the industry. In many parts of the world this is seen as a good strategy but so far it has been difficult with acceptance in the EU.