



***“Replacing microbiology and biodiversity by chemicals is like cutting off two legs of a chair and replacing it by just one fragile leg”***

### **Challenge**

To cut a least 75% of the agrochemicals and salty fertilizers by 2020. Nils Andersen (CEO) of Splendor Plant Sweden explains: “I simply feel very uncomfortable seeing employees working in crops that have been treated with chemicals a few days before. So that’s why we are changing back to a system with stable chairs, with four legs.”

### **Approach**

Nils has started taking Soil Balance Analysis of Soiltech a couple of years ago. Of each paddock he knows what minerals are lacking or are abundantly present in the soil’s storage. Based on these figures, he is balancing every paddock with its own recipe of stable biology friendly inputs. To get decent levels of stable organic matter Nils uses compost and Fytaforce biofertiliser. Furthermore, the crop guidelines of Soiltech serve like a base, from which tailor made crop programs for Splendor are derived.

### **Result**

Although Nils works only just a few years with the new approach, he sees good results already. The Swedish soils, containing many stones, obviously have just got a better structure. “With every step I take in the field, I can feel the soil is softening over the recent years”. Also Nils’s plants seem to approve the new approach, since they seem to be much susceptible to stress factors at the nursery itself, but at Splendor’s client’s locations too.

“It’s amazing what you can reach by this approach and it would be selfish to keep this knowledge and experience for my own – all together we *have to* change our production systems – and it is possible!”

### **Company info**

Nils Anderson from Splendor Plant in Sweden is growing nursery crops on a rather large scale. A couple of years ago he came in contact with Soiltech in a search for an effective alternative for his conventional, rather agrochemical based cultivation system. Nils, fully convinced that healthy crops can only grow in healthy soils, changed quite some practices recently. Strengthened by the positive results he has seen already, Nils set the goal for Splendor to cut a least 75% of the agrochemicals and salty fertilizers by 2020: “And we’re going to reach this goal!”. Besides improving its own growing activities, Nils is making other growers enthusiastic too.

Project code: BMK007



## Shared vision

Nils uses two chairs to demonstrate what he has figured out last couple of years (see picture below). A chair stands model for a growing system, with each leg representing a fundamental factor of that growing system.

“What we are aiming for, is metaphorically seen a steady chair with 4 strong legs, being 1) balanced soil nutrients, 2) good soil structure, 3) abundant micro biology and 4) high biodiversity of all groups of species around the plant. Over the decades we, or I, have mistreated legs 1 and 2 and have replaced leg 3 and 4 for a new type of leg based on agrochemicals. Generally spoken, we are sitting on a very instable chair (production system), which is vulnerable for all kind of external influences and has a negative impact on our employees, our environment and our clients. I simply feel very uncomfortable seeing employees working in crops that have been treated with chemicals a few days before. So that’s why we are changing back to a system with stable chairs, with four legs. Soiltech helps us with this transition a great deal”.

