



Bioeconomic evaluation of extended season and year-round tomato production in Norway using supplemental light

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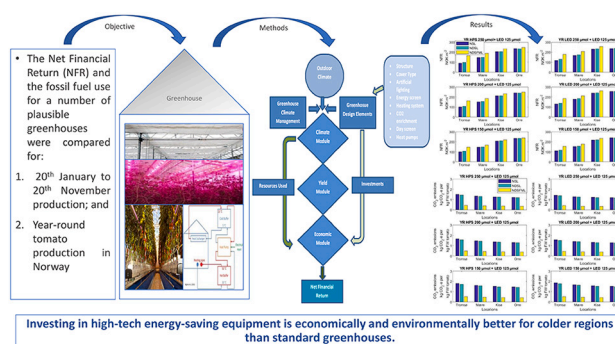
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HIGHLIGHTS

- A simulation model was applied to evaluate greenhouse design elements with artificial light in Norway;
- The economic and environmental performance of extended season and year round tomato production was determined;
- Observed temperature, CO₂-concentration and yield were predicted fairly accurately;
- For year-round, the design with day and night thermal screens, heat pump and top and inter-lighting LED had the highest NFR;
- High-tech energy saving equipment has better results for greenhouse tomato production in colder regions than standard designs.

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



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ABSTRACT

CONTEXT: For high latitude countries like Norway, one of the biggest challenges associated with greenhouse production is the limited availability of natural light and heat, particularly in winters. This can be addressed by changes in greenhouse design elements including energy saving equipment and supplemental lighting, which, however, also can have a huge impact on investments, economic performance, resources used and environmental consequences of the production.

OBJECTIVE: The study aimed at identifying a greenhouse design from a number of feasible designs that generated highest Net Financial Return (NFR) and lowest fossil fuel use for extended seasonal (20th January to 20th November) and year-round tomato production in Norway using different capacities of supplemental light sources as High Pressure Sodium (HPS) and Light Emitting Diodes (LED), heating from fossil fuel and electricity sources and thermal screens by implementing a recently developed model for greenhouse climate, tomato growth and economic performance.

METHODS: The model was first validated against indoor climate and tomato yield data from two commercial greenhouses and then applied to predict the NFR and fossil fuel use for four locations: Kise in eastern Norway,

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Mære in mid Norway, Orre in southwestern Norway and Tromsø in northern Norway. The CO₂ emissions for natural gas used for heating the greenhouse and electricity used for lighting were calculated per year, unit fruit yield and per unit of cultivated area. A local sensitivity analysis (LSA) and a global sensitivity analysis (GSA) were performed by simultaneously varying the energy and tomato prices.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS: Across designs and locations, the highest NFR for both production cycles was observed in Orre (116.9 NOK m⁻² for extended season and 268.5 NOK m⁻² for year-round production). Fossil fuel was reduced significantly when greenhouse design included a heat pump and when extended season production was replaced by a year-round production.

SIGNIFICANCE: The results show that the model is useful in designing greenhouses for improved economic performance and reduced CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel use under different climate conditions in high latitude countries. The study aims at contributing to research on greenhouse vegetable production by studying the effects of various designs elements and artificial lighting and is useful for local tomato growers who either plan to build new greenhouses or adapt existing ones and in policy formulation regarding incentivizing certain greenhouse technologies with an environmental consideration or with a focus on increasing local tomato production.

1. Introduction

Efficient use of energy, effects on the environment and competitiveness of the production process are inherent challenges for the agriculture sector (Pinho et al., 2012). The use of fossil fuel continues to rise at the global level in this sector and has numerous environmental and social consequences, notably significant greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) (Lamb et al., 2016). A recent report by The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (2020) states that in 2017, the percentage contribution of agriculture to world CO₂eq emissions from all human activities was 20%. The anthropogenic pressures along with an increase in the demand for food require energy intensive methods that between 1989 and 2009 have led to the decrease in energy use efficiency (Martinho, 2016). The high dependence of the agricultural sector on energy resources can also make it vulnerable to the fluctuating global energy prices (Taki et al., 2018). Thus, efficient use of energy in food production systems could at the same time reduce their negative environmental impact and increase their economic viability (Rohani et al., 2018). Such positive effects from increased energy use efficiency could be particularly significant for greenhouse production in northern latitude countries whose climatic conditions often necessitate the use of energy intensive methods due to the shortage of light and heat during the winter season. Norway is one of those countries in which short growing seasons and low availability of light and heat, particularly in the winter months, limit the ability to produce fresh greenhouse vegetables and fruits. According to the data from Statistics Norway, the tomato production decreased from 13,763 t in 2014 to 10,574 t in 2017 (Statistics Norway, 2021). Nonetheless, there is high demand and preference for locally produced fruits and vegetables in the Norwegian market (Bremnes et al., 2019) highlighting the need to make local production efficient.

Protected cultivation in greenhouses, as a means to increase the production per area and extend the production period, can include the use of artificial lighting, heating, cooling and CO₂-enrichment in addition to wind and rain protection, depending on the type of crop and its needs (Gupta and Agarwal, 2017; Tap, 2000). An added benefit of protected cultivation is that it enables increased efficiency and variation of resources according to the specific crop needs. This includes efficient use of technologies related to artificial light, heating, cooling, and supply of CO₂ (Hemming, 2009). Artificial light has been used in greenhouses since the early twentieth century, primarily to extend the production season of vegetable and fruit production (Pinho and Halonen, 2017; Pan et al., 2019). Such an extension of the production season by artificial light to fall, winter and early spring season when natural light limits production is especially relevant in high latitude regions (Verheul et al., 2012; Pinho and Halonen, 2017). Annual yield increase of 100 kg m⁻² year⁻¹ (from 40 to 140 kg) with artificial light has been reported for tomato greenhouse production at the 59th parallel north (Verheul et al., 2012; Paponov et al., 2020). Still, only limited production takes place during the winter season from November to

March, with a partial or total dependence on artificial light (Verheul et al., 2012).

The use of supplemental light in greenhouses ensures that electric energy is converted into light and convective heat. For the most part, high pressure sodium (HPS) lamps and light emitting diode (LED) lamps are in use within greenhouses. The efficiency, which is expressed as photosynthetic active radiation (PAR) output per unit of input electric energy, is higher for the latter lamp type (Persoon & Hogewoning, 2014). Moreover, HPS lamps exchange more infra-red, thermal radiation, causing higher temperatures on plants and in the greenhouse air, while LED lamps facilitate cooling and thus loose comparatively more heat through convection. Owing to the high temperatures that the HPS lamps can attain, they are used as top lights i.e., well above the canopy, while the LEDs can be used as both top and between the canopy as inter-lighting.

The capacity of greenhouse lamps can be evaluated by the photosynthetic photon flux densities (PPFD) ($\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$) that they emit, and which can be used by the plants. Previous studies on greenhouse production in high latitude regions recommend lighting capacities of up to 300 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ (Moe et al., 2005), whereas currently, capacities of up to 322 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ are in use as top lights in the Norwegian greenhouses (Righini et al., 2020) as measured below the lamps and above the plants' heights.

Nonetheless, despite the ability to regulate inputs such as light, heat and CO₂ to specific crop demand in greenhouse production, such production still requires large amounts of energy. Greenhouses are energy intensive, with energy as a pre-requisite component that is used throughout the production process, from seed plantation to crop harvesting, and is heavily dependent on fossil fuels (Woods et al., 2010). An increase in artificial light use from current level would further increase the energy use in the greenhouse sector should there be no significant increase in the energy use efficiency. Production designs of greenhouses, which increase the energy use efficiency and can be combined with artificial light, could potentially increase the profitability for individual growers as well as for the horticultural sector in Norway as a whole, while at the same time decrease the negative environmental impact (Verheul et al., 2012). Such production designs could include altered greenhouse construction types as well as different energy sources and production seasons.

Different studies focus on different aspects of the production process, such as prediction of crop yield, optimization of light strategies in greenhouses for different crops using a variation in artificial light, including High-Pressure Sodium (HPS) and Light Emitting Diodes (LED), CO₂ enrichment, and heating and cooling. Slager et al. (2014) developed a model to evaluate the productivity and economic feasibility of greenhouse production of tomato crop and algae with a focus on Dutch conditions without the use of artificial lighting. Some studies have incorporated various optimization techniques using algorithms (the iterative search (IS) and genetic algorithm (GA), ant colony optimization (ACO)) in order to determine the optimum values for artificial light and

the energy used for lamps for greenhouse production (Mahdavian and Wattanapongsakorn, 2017; Xin et al., 2019). Likewise, the GroIMP modelling platform has been used for evaluating different light strategies to reduce the energy use by using a 3D light model in conjunction with a 3D tomato model (de Visser et al., 2014). Likewise, Righini et al. (2020) added artificial lighting and heat harvesting to a greenhouse production model by Vanthoor et al. (2011a, 2011b) in order to validate the model for northern climatic conditions. Naseer et al. (2021) applied the model by Vanthoor et al. (2011a, 2011b, 2012) and adapted different design elements with respect to local climatic conditions to provide an economic and environmental analysis of greenhouse seasonal (from mid-March to mid-October) tomato production for northern climates such as Norway. Another recent study on the optimisation of supplemental light against the net financial return (NFR) in greenhouse production in the Norwegian conditions has found the optimum capacities of supplemental lighting to be in the range of 256 to 341 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ (Wacker et al., 2022).

Currently most of the greenhouse tomato production in Norway takes place in the south-eastern part of the country (Statsforvalteren i Rogaland, 2019) but other greenhouse vegetables such as cucumbers are to a larger extent produced in other regions of the country (<https://www.hridir.org/countries/norway/index.htm>). The conditions for greenhouse production with additional light vary considerably between regions within Norway. Firstly, there are large geographic differences in the outdoor climate, which potentially can have large effect on both the profitability of the production, and the use of energy and emissions of greenhouse gases. These climatic differences could also mean that the suitability of different greenhouses varies between regions. Moreover, the price of electricity, which in Norway is mostly generated from hydropower plants, can vary considerably within the country (Hofstad et al., 2021; Norwell, 2021). To understand the advantages and disadvantages of different greenhouses, production regimes and locations in Norway and hence the prospects of a geographic differentiation of the artificial light-based tomato greenhouse production in Norway, there is a need for further analyses about how the variation in climate and electricity price affects greenhouse tomato production with artificial light.

In our present study, we evaluated different artificial lighting strategies along with design elements in order to determine the impact of the greenhouse design on the Net Financial Return (NFR), energy use and CO₂ emissions for extended season (ES) (from 20th January to 20th November) and year-round (YR) tomato production in several different climate conditions including 4 locations in Norway, thereby identifying suitable greenhouse designs. The study was performed by applying the model by Vanthoor et al. (2011a, 2011b) as modified by Righini et al. (2020) comparing different sets of plausible design elements, greenhouse climate management, light types (LED, HPS) and PPFD gradients. The study also took into account seasonal tomato price differences.

2. Material and methods

2.1. Model overview

The study was based on the model by Vanthoor (2011), and later modified by Righini et al. (2020), in order to identify a greenhouse that generates the maximum profit while reducing the energy use for the production of tomatoes under Norwegian climatic conditions. The applied model comprises of three inter-connected modules including a greenhouse climate module, a crop yield module and an economic module and reproduces the hourly indoor climate conditions of the greenhouse, growth and yield of the tomato crop, and the greenhouse resources used. As a result, it calculates the yearly NFR. The original model as developed by Vanthoor (2011) and its parameter settings have been validated for different climatic conditions including mild and extreme temperature conditions as well as non-optimal and long-term diurnal temperature variations, including indoor temperature and CO₂

and tomato yield data from a greenhouse in southwestern Norway (Naseer et al., 2021). The adaptation to greenhouses with artificial light and heat pumps were developed and validated for Norwegian conditions by Righini et al. (2020). See Vanthoor (2011), Righini et al. (2020) and Naseer et al. (2021) for further details about model developments and validations. We considered the validated parameter settings representative of the conditions included here and hence did not perform any additional model validations.

The indoor climate of the greenhouse and the resource usage are determined by the climate module based on the effects of the outdoor climate, indoor temperature set-points, CO₂-concentration, humidity, and the greenhouse design elements and calculated in the greenhouse climate module. While the crop yield module determines the growth and yield of the tomato crop based on the indoor climate, the economic module predicts the NFR of the production, which is influenced by the resources used and the yield of the crop. For a more detailed explanation see Vanthoor et al. (2012). Equations for artificial light were obtained from Righini et al. (2020).

2.1.1. Economic module

The following equation is used to calculate the yearly net financial return P_{NFR} (NOK $\text{m}^{-2} \text{year}^{-1}$):

$$P_{NFR}(t_f) = -C_{fixed} + \int_{t_0}^{t_f} \dot{Q}_{CropYield} - \dot{C}_{Var} \text{ (NOKm}^{-2} \text{Year}^{-1}) \quad (1)$$

where t_0 and t_f denote the beginning and the end of the production season respectively, C_{fixed} (NOK $\text{m}^{-2} \text{Year}^{-1}$) represents the fixed costs for investments for greenhouse structure, artificial lights ((LED, HPS), which includes bulbs, fixtures and cables), climate computer, cooling system, heating system and structure (i.e. construction elements) and maintenance and interest costs, C_{Var} (NOK $\text{m}^{-2} \text{Year}^{-1}$) denotes the variable costs including costs for the resources used, labor costs and other production related costs (plant material, slabs, crop protection equipment), while $Q_{CropYield}$ (NOK $\text{m}^{-2} \text{Year}^{-1}$) represents the economic value of the crop yield.

2.1.1.1. Fixed costs. The annual fixed costs are determined on the basis of the entire investments of the construction elements and the interests, C_{fixed} (NOK $\text{m}^{-2} \text{Year}^{-1}$), which also include costs for maintenance and depreciation. Moreover, the costs for the artificial lights depend on the kind of light used (LED or HPS) and their depreciation costs depend on how much they are used. Fixed costs are calculated by:

$$C_{fixed} = C_{interest} + \sum_{i=1}^N C_{construction,i} + C_{Rem} \text{ (NOK m}^{-2} \text{year}^{-1}) \quad (2)$$

where $C_{interest}$ (NOK $\text{m}^{-2} \text{Year}^{-1}$) denotes the interest costs of the entire investments, i stands for the construction elements, and N denotes the overall set of design elements used in the construction of the greenhouse. $C_{construction}$ (NOK $\text{m}^{-2} \text{Year}^{-1}$) represents the depreciation and maintenance costs and C_{Rem} (NOK $\text{m}^{-2} \text{Year}^{-1}$) represents the remaining costs of construction and equipment. For a detailed explanation of how the interests, costs of construction elements and remaining costs are calculated, see Vanthoor et al. (2012). The fixed costs associated with the design elements used in our study are shown in Table 1.

2.1.1.2. Variable costs. The variable costs are the costs for the plants and plant materials (including slabs, fertigation), water usage, CO₂, the types of energy used (fossil fuel and electricity) and are denoted by:

$$\dot{C}_{var} = \dot{C}_{plant} + \dot{C}_{Water} + \dot{C}_{CO2} + \dot{C}_{Fossil\ fuel} + \dot{C}_{Electricity} \text{ (NOKm}^{-2} \text{h}^{-1}) \quad (3)$$

where \dot{C}_{plant} (NOK $\text{m}^{-2} \text{h}^{-1}$) represents the costs related to the production (labour, packaging, sales, bumblebees for pollination and the protection of crops), \dot{C}_{Water} (NOK $\text{m}^{-2} \text{h}^{-1}$) represents the costs for the usage

Table 1

The fixed costs associated with the greenhouse design elements and element alternatives. e_j in the second column represent the number for each design element option. $E^* = 10\%$ extra costs for transportation expenses and exchange rate (7th Column). Growers** = The data was obtained from interviews with commercial tomato growers, whose production is representative for Norway, by advisors at NIBIO.

Design element/Fixed costs	e_j	Investment (NOK m ⁻²)	Investment (NOK unit ⁻¹)	Depreciation (% year ⁻¹)	Maintenance (% year ⁻¹)	Construction (NOK m ⁻² year ⁻¹)	Source
Structure							
Venlo 5760 m2		519.0		5.0	0.5	28.5	Vermeulen (2016) + E^*
Covers							
Glass		93.5		5.0	0.5	5.1	Growers**
Day screen	2	35.5		25	0	8.7	
Night screen	3	100		15	5	15.5	
Structure screens		130		7.0	5	10.5	
Boiler							
Boiler: 0.5 MW	1		620,530	7.0	1	9.0	Vermeulen (2016) + E^*
Boiler: 1.12 MW	2		660,000	7.0	1	9.3	
Heating pipes		65		5.0	0.5	3.8	
Grow pipe		45		5.0	0.5	2.5	
Mechanical Heating							
No	1		0	0.0	0	0.0	Vermeulen (2016) + E^*
Mechanical heat and cool: 25 W/m ² unit ⁻¹	2		2,688,000	7.0	2	37.0	
Cooling systems							
No	1	0	0	0	0	0	Vermeulen (2016) + E^*
Fogging: 200 g h ⁻¹ m ⁻²	2	65		7.0	5	5	
CO₂ supply							
Pure: 130 kg ha ⁻¹ h ⁻¹	1		48,763	10.0	0	0.9	Vermeulen (2016) + E^*
CO ₂ : from boiler	2		31,700	10	5	0.6	
CO ₂ distribution system		5		10.0	5	0.7	
Remaining costs for irrigation, crop protection, internal transport							
Crop protection			50,000	10.0	5	1.3	Growers
Packaging and sorting			150,000	5	5	3.1	
Emergency power supply			80,000	7	7	2.2	
Water collection tank			250,000	7	5	5.2	
Fertilizer system			150,000	7	5	3.1	
Gutters	70			7	1	5.6	
Artificial lighting							
HPS bulbs NOK/W			0.3	36*10 ⁶ h	1		Growers
HPS fixture NOK/W			2.13	15	1		
HPS cable NOK/W			0.25	10	1		
LED fixture NOK/W			12.9	126*10 ⁶ h	0.5		
LED cable NOK/W			0.25	10	1		

of water and \dot{C}_{CO_2} (NOKm⁻²h⁻¹) denotes the costs for pure CO₂, $\dot{C}_{Fossil\ fuel}$ (NOKm⁻²h⁻¹) denotes the costs for the natural gas used and $\dot{C}_{Electricity}$ (NOKm⁻²h⁻¹) represents the costs for electricity used in heating, cooling and artificial lighting in the greenhouse. The variable costs used for our study are shown in Table 2. For details about how the equations for the variable costs are calculated, see Vanthoor et al. (2012).

2.2. Selected locations, description of evaluated greenhouses and greenhouse climate controls

In order to determine the greenhouse design that accrued the highest NFR and the lowest use of energy, we used the model summarized in the previous section for two scenarios: 1. Extended seasonal production (from 20th January to 20th November), and three combinations of design elements with the addition of LED inter-lighting, and 2. Year-round production and three combinations of greenhouse design elements with multiple light strategies including HPS and LED with various

power capacities. Two inter-plantings of tomato production were considered for year-round production, however, for the simulation the leaf area index (LAI) of 3 was kept constant, and the initial crop stages were adjusted accordingly. Information about the locations, greenhouse structure and settings, and economic settings are explained in the following sections along with a detailed explanation of the different design elements.

2.2.1. Selected locations

The suitability for extended season and year round greenhouse production of tomatoes under conditions representing Norway was evaluated against the NFR, energy use and CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel for four locations across the country that included Orre in southwestern (SW) Norway (lat. 58.71, long. 5.56, alt. 18 m a.s.l.), Kise in eastern (E) Norway (lat. 60.46, long. 10.48, alt. 130 m a.s.l.), Mære in mid (M) Norway (lat. 63.43, long. 10.40, alt. 18 m a.s.l.), and Tromsø in northern (N) Norway (lat. 69.65, long. 18.96, alt. 60 m a.s.l.) (Fig. 1.). These locations represent different light conditions and coastal and inland climates (Fig. 2.). Moreover, the regions around these locations have existing tomato production or may have the possibility of greenhouse

Table 2

Variable costs used in our simulations. * = The data was obtained from interviews with commercial tomato growers, whose production is representative for Norway, by advisors at NIBIO.

Resource	Value	Unit price (NOK)	Unit	NOK /m ²	Source
Area	5760		m ²		
Plants	2	25.0	Plant	50	Hovland, 2018
Growth medium	2.5	10.4	Slab	26	Hovland, 2018
Fertilizer	1.0	30.0	m ²	30.0	Hovland, 2018
Pollination	1.0	12.0	m ²	12.0	Hovland, 2018
Pesticides	1.0	10.0	m ²	10.0	Growers*
Packaging	6.7	3.0	Box	20	Growers
Natural gas		0.39	kWh		Norsk Gartnerforbund, 2016
Light		0.39	kWh		Norsk Gartnerforbund, 2016
Marketing	1.0	3.0	%		Growers
Interest		5.0	%		Growers
Operating assets	1.0	15.0	m ²	15.0	Growers
Water		8	m ³		Growers
Other	1.0	20.0	m ²	20.0	Growers
Labor costs	1.2	180.0	m ² h		Growers
Insurance	1	15.0	m ²	15.0	Growers



Fig. 1. The four locations in Norway, representing coastal and inland climates, for which the greenhouse designs were evaluated.

tomato production based on the local market demands. Before these evaluations, the model's ability to predict the internal temperature, CO₂ concentration and the fresh weight of tomato was verified against observations under extended season and year-round production and with artificial HPS and LED light in the two greenhouses: the first in Orre, and the second in Mære. (See section 2.3 for details about the design of these two greenhouses). The external weather data (air temperature, wind speed, global radiation (iglob) and relative humidity) that were input to the greenhouse climate module were obtained from the *LandbruksMeteorologisk Tjeneste (LMT)* (lit. Agricultural Meteorological Service) of Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) (<http://lmt.nibio.no/>) for each of the four locations.

2.2.2. Description of evaluated greenhouses

The greenhouse construction that was assessed in all locations was a Venlo type greenhouse (Fernandez and Bailey, 1992) that is commonly in use in cold-temperate climates, with standard glass roofs and natural ventilation. Natural ventilation comprised of different roof vents on both sides that equalled to around 15% of the total floor area. The side wall of the greenhouses did not have any ventilation. The total floor area of the greenhouse was around 5760 m² and the greenhouses were rectangular in shape (90 × 64 m). Standard Rockwool slabs irrigated by a drip irrigation system were used to grow plants. Bumblebees were used in the greenhouse for pollination during the entire growing season. Above 95% of the total fresh weight predicted yield was considered to be the marketable yield, i.e., 1st class fruits, and at light red ripening stage.

Two types of artificial lights were introduced within the greenhouses i.e., HPS and LED. Likewise, two kinds of heating systems were assessed, both using steel rail and grow pipes, filled with hot water. One system comprised a boiler heating that utilized natural gas and the other system comprised a heat pump that utilized electricity that was generated in a hydropower plant. It is worth mentioning at this point that electricity is primarily generated by water in Norway and is considered a green resource since CO₂ emissions for the use of electricity is much lower than that of natural gas. The supply of CO₂ to the greenhouse was ensured through the boiler, by burning natural gas, or as pure CO₂ from a tank. CO₂ was supplied primarily from the boiler during the day and when the boiler was off, pure CO₂ was supplied from the tank. The pure CO₂ distribution system had a capacity of 130 kg CO₂ ha⁻¹ h⁻¹, however, CO₂ supplied from the boiler to the greenhouse was not registered by the grower. The supplied amounts of CO₂, heating and moisture were influenced by the global radiation, indoor greenhouse temperature and ventilation along with the artificial light.

2.2.3. Greenhouse climate control for the two production periods

The study used the same set points for the indoor greenhouse climate across all designs and all four locations (Table 3).

The transmission of light through the rooftop and above and below the HPS lamps in the greenhouse was 68% and 63%, respectively based on measurements in the existing greenhouse in Orre, where measurements were taken simultaneously by one sensor inside the greenhouse for measuring the indoor global radiation and one outside the greenhouse for measuring the external global radiation. In order to ensure correct measurements, we first calibrated the two sensors by placing them outside the greenhouse and taking the difference in account afterwards. The global radiation was measured with a Kipp solarimeter, which was placed outside of the greenhouse. Light transmission of total photosynthetic active radiation (PAR, mol m⁻² d⁻¹) was calculated based on measurements in the empty greenhouse and the outdoor global radiation. CO₂ of greenhouse air was measured at 5 min interval with a gas analyzer (Priva CO₂ monitor Guardian +). Measurements of the air temperature and relative humidity were recorded by dry- and wet-bulb thermocouples placed in ventilated boxes that shielded against direct solar radiation and placed in the middle of the canopy. Thermocouples were calibrated before the start and controlled at the end of the experiment. Temperature (°C), relative humidity (%), CO₂ concentration (ppm) and window opening (%) were registered using a Priva computer (Priva Connect). The maximum concentration of the CO₂ applied was 1200 ppm if the temperature and global radiation corresponded to the criteria for CO₂Air_ExtMax as given in Table 3, and the windows were closed. It decreased linearly if the global radiation decreased, internal temperature decreased and the rate of ventilation increased to the lowest value of 410 ppm with 100% window opening (Magán et al., 2008). The measurements for the greenhouse temperature, CO₂ concentration and humidity were taken every five minutes, although only the hourly average values were used in the simulations.

2.2.4. Economic settings

We acquired the tomato price history for the year 2019 from

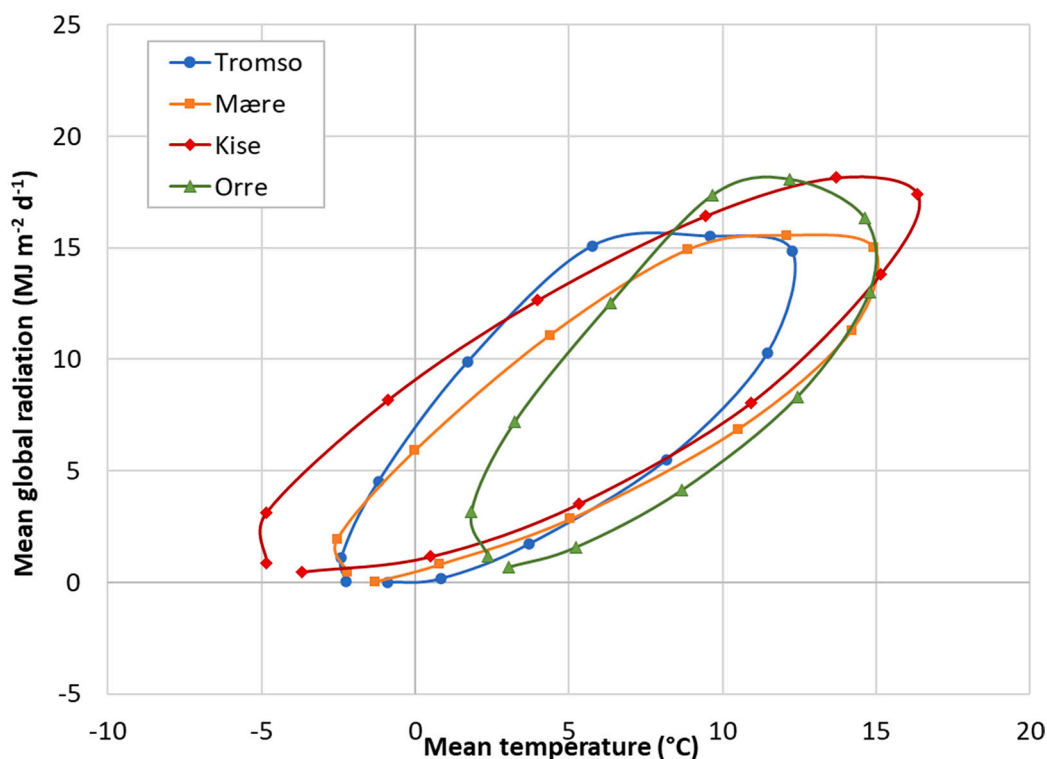


Fig. 2. The mean air temperature and global radiation (iglob) recorded in the four locations during the last 30 years (from 1989 to 2019). Months are shown clockwise from January to December.

Grøntprodusentenes Samarbeidsråd (lit. The Green Growers' Cooperative Marked Council) (Markeds- og prisinformasjon, 2019) and applied it for all the greenhouse designs and locations. Similarly, we set the same fixed and variable costs per unit related to the construction and production conditions in Norway throughout the four locations and greenhouse designs as obtained from literature and from interviews with tomato growers across the country conducted by advisors at NIBIO (Table 1 and Table 2).

2.3. Description of the evaluated design elements and greenhouses

Greenhouse designs for the extended season and year-round production that were evaluated for the four locations in Norway with different design elements are presented in Table 4 and Table 5. These designs were considered as a result of our discussions with advisors at NIBIO and a review of literature (Verheul et al., 2012; Ahamed et al., 2019; Singh and Tiwari, 2010; Zhang et al., 1996; Von Elsner et al., 2000; Verheul et al., 2022). We considered the design with HPS lighting, one thermal screen, boiler pipe for heating and CO₂ from two sources (from boiler and pure from tank) as our basic design. This is the design of the existing greenhouses in Orre and Mære. In Mære HPS lighting was supplemented by LED inter-lighting for which model outputs were verified. For the subsequent designs, for extended season and year-round production, we used a variation in design elements including type and capacities of light and their positioning, number of thermal screens and source of heating (heat pump and boiler) as shown in Tables 4 and 5.

The growing season for unlighted tomato production in Norway is from March to October and in order to extend the growing season artificial is necessary. For the extended season, only low intensity LED inter-lighting was used with an installed amount of 125 μmol (43.7 Wm⁻²). For the year-round production season, a variation of HPS and LED was used as top lights with only LED as inter-lighting. In designs where HPS was used as top light in combination with LED inter-lighting, its capacity varied between 150 μmol (87 Wm⁻²) and 350 μmol (203.5Wm⁻²). In

designs where LED was used both as top-light and inter-lighting, its capacity as top-light ranged from 150 μmol (52 Wm⁻²) to 350 μmol (122.8 Wm⁻²) while the capacity of LED inter-lighting was kept the same, i.e., 125 μmol (43.7 Wm⁻²). The capacities of top lights have been varied in designs containing both HPS and LED in order to find the best combination of top and inter-lighting within the greenhouses that yield best results.

We used two types of thermal screens: i. 100% Polyethylene (PE) and, ii. 50% Polyethylene and 50% Aluminium (Alu). The former was considered as a day screen since it has high light transmission and the latter as night screen since it has high energy saving power. Heat was provided to the greenhouse by a natural gas-powered boiler with a capacity of 1.12 MWunit⁻¹ and by an electric-powered heat pump with a capacity of 25 Wm⁻² and having a cold and hot water buffer of volumes 0.02 m³m⁻². The heat pump can store excess heat produced during the day or when the artificial lights are on in the greenhouse in a cold buffer to be used later through a hot buffer.

2.4. Prediction accuracy evaluation

The prediction accuracy of the internal relative humidity, concentration of CO₂ and fresh tomato weight yield was evaluated by the relative root mean squared error (RRMSE):

$$RRMSE = \frac{100}{y_{data}} \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_{Mod,i} - y_{Data,i})^2}$$

where y_{data} denotes the average of calculated data over the entire growing period, n denotes the number of measurements, $y_{Mod,i}$ represents the simulated yield at time instant i and $y_{Data,i}$ represents the measured value at time instant i .

2.5. CO₂ emissions

The CO₂ emissions for two main input variables i.e., natural gas used

Table 3
A description of internal climate set-points for the two production seasons.

Greenhouse climate management	Production seasons		Unit	Explanation
	Extended season	Year-round		
Tair_vent_on	23	23	(°C)	The indoor greenhouse temperature above which the greenhouse is ventilated during the daytime
RHair_vent_on	90	90	(%)	The indoor greenhouse relative air humidity above which the greenhouse is ventilated
Tair_heat_on (night/day)	17/19	17/20	(°C)	The heat is turned on below this temperature for night and day respectively
Tair_fog_on	24	24	(°C)	The indoor temperature above which fogging is used
Tair_heat_pump_on	21	22	(°C)	The heat pump is turned on if the indoor air temperature reaches above these points
Tout_ThScr_on	12	14	(°C)	Night thermal screen is used below this outdoor temperature
Tout_Day_EnScr_on	10	10	(°C)	Day thermal screen is used below this outdoor temperature
iglob_Day_EnScr_on	150	150	(Wm ⁻²)	Day thermal screen is used below this global radiation
CO ₂ Air_Min	410	410	(ppm)	The CO ₂ concentration below which CO ₂ is added
CO ₂ Air_Max	1200	1200	(ppm)	Set point for maximum amount of CO ₂ if all lights are on
Time_Led_on	04:00	04:00		LED's are switched on at this time after 5 weeks' planting in greenhouse
Time_Led_off	22:00	22:00		LED's are switched off at this time
Time_HPS_on		04:00		HPS is used from the first day of planting at this time.
Time_HPS_off		22:00		HPS are switched off at this time
iglob_HPS_on		350	(Wm ⁻²)	HPS are switched off if the global radiations are above this value
Crop conditions				
LAI_start (Initial)	0.3	0.3	(-)	Initial leaf area index
LAI_max	3	3	(-)	Maximum leaf area index

Year-round Production

Table 3 (continued)

Greenhouse climate management	Production seasons		Unit	Explanation
	Extended season	Year-round		
Start growing period		October 1st		
End growing period		September 31st		
Extended season duration				
Start growing period	January 20th		(-)	
End growing period	November 20th		(-)	

for heating the greenhouse and electricity used for lighting, were calculated per year, unit fruit yield and per unit of cultivated area. Previous studies (Verheul and Thorsen, 2010) have shown that the environmental impact of greenhouse production is mainly related to the global warming potential due to the use of fossil fuel. Other environmental impacts, like Ozone depletion, acidification, eutrophication, depletion of resources, toxicity and pollution and land use, in greenhouse production are very low compared to other agricultural production systems. This also applies to the production of elements like greenhouses, screens and lamps and is mainly due to the high yields in greenhouse production. For this reason, we have only taken in to account the CO₂ emissions from heating and lighting. The total natural gas and electricity used were simulated by using the greenhouse climate module. The CO₂ emission as a result of burning the natural gas and electricity per m², as predicted by the climate module, was calculated per kg of fresh weight tomato yield.

2.6. Sensitivity analysis

With regards to the economic value of the crop yield, the temporal electricity, natural gas and tomato price variation were taken into account. These are the variables that have the most impact on the NFR for extended and year-round production. In Norway there is a significant difference in off-season and seasonal tomato whole-sale price mainly due to seasonal variation in import duties for tomatoes (Import tariffs for agricultural products, 2016). From week 19 to week 41 during the year 2019 the tariff rate for tomatoes ranged from 10.21 NOK kg⁻¹ and 6.86 NOK kg⁻¹, while for the rest of the year the tariff rate was zero NOK (Markeds- og prisinformasjon, 2019). The range of tomato prices (Fig. 3.) that was applied throughout the greenhouse designs and locations was acquired from Grøntproducentenes Samarbeidsråd (Markeds- og prisinformasjon, 2019).

We carried out a local sensitivity analysis (LSA) (Tian, 2013) in order to analyse the effect of tomato prices on the NFR. Since the LSA does not take into account the relationship between the various input variables, we also carried out global sensitivity analysis (GSA) (Tian, 2013; Ahamed et al., 2018) by simultaneously varying the electricity, natural gas and tomato prices. To be precise, we varied the electricity and natural gas prices from 0.3 NOK kWh⁻¹ to 0.65 NOK kWh⁻¹, with a step size of 0.05 NOK kWh⁻¹ and the tomato prices from 14 NOK kg⁻¹ to 21 NOK kg⁻¹, with a step size of 1 NOK kg⁻¹.

3. Results

3.1. Results from the Model evaluation

The model predicted air temperature and yield with fair accuracy. The relative root mean squared error (RRMSE) for temperature, CO₂-concentration and fresh weight tomato yield was less than 10%. The predicted and measured indoor air temperature for the commercial greenhouses in Orre and Mære are shown in Fig. 4a and b respectively,

Table 4

The different greenhouse designs for the extended seasonal (ES) production. The greenhouse design with one thermal screen was extended with various combinations of thermal screens, CO₂ enrichment (i.e., from the boiler and pure) and with heat pump. PE refers to Polyethylene Screen; Alu stands for Aluminium; inter stands for inter-lighting. Costs for the design elements are given in Table 1.

Greenhouse designs evaluated for extended season tomato production				
Design Elements	Type/Capacity	NSL _{LED,ES}	NDSL _{LED,ES}	NDSFML _{LED,ES}
Light type and capacity		LED (inter) 125 μmol (43.7 Wm ⁻²)	LED (inter) 125 μmol (43.7 Wm ⁻²)	LED (inter) 125 μmol (43.7 Wm ⁻²)
Boiler- Pipe	Boiler	Yes	Yes	Yes
Screen	Indoor Day Screen (100% PE)	No	Yes	Yes
	Thermal Screen (50% PE+50% Alu)	Yes	Yes	Yes
CO₂	Boiler (if on during the day)	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Pure (130 kg ha ⁻¹ h ⁻¹)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Humidification/ Dehumidification	Fogging	No	No	Yes
	Heat pump (25 Wm ⁻²)	No	No	Yes

and Fig. 5 shows the predicted and measured yield at Orre and Mære. At the start of the production season (from February 24th to March 5th) and the end of the production season (from September 26th to October 6th) for the year-round production season, the model predicted the temperature with high accuracy. However, in the middle of the production season, when the outdoor global radiation and the temperature were high, the prediction was less accurate than at the start and end of the season.

3.2. NFR for different designs and locations

The results showed clear differences for the NFR and CO₂ emissions between the designs and locations (Figs. 6-11). Of the four locations, the greenhouse in Orre, in SW Norway, resulted in the highest yield and NFR with the production process having the lowest CO₂ emissions from natural gas and electricity use throughout all the selected designs and lighting strategies. Tromsø, in N Norway, had the lowest NFR, yield and the highest energy use and the maximum impact on the environment regardless of the selected designs and lighting strategies. These results were also consistent across the two production seasons, extended season, and year-round production.

Orre had the highest yield: 81.9 kg m⁻² for extended season in the design NDSFML_{LED,ES} and 136.8 kg m⁻² for year-round production in the design NDSFML_{HPS+LED,YR} (Fig. 6.), and NFR: 116.9 NOK m⁻² for extended season and 268.5 NOK m⁻² for year-round production (Fig. 7.). Meanwhile, Tromsø had the lowest yield and NFR for both production seasons (74.8 kg m⁻² in extended season and 102 kg m⁻² in year-round production and -1.2 NOK m⁻² for the extended season and 7.5 NOK m⁻² for the year-round production) (Fig. 7). Moreover, the designs with LED as top lighting with capacities 300 μmol or lower (105.26 Wm⁻² or lower) resulted in higher NFR than the designs with HPS as top lighting having same capacities. On the contrary when the capacities of LED as a top light were increased, it did not result in significant yield increase and in fact led to a decrease in the economic performance due to high investment costs and higher energy use.

With the exception of the design NSL_{LED,ES} in Tromsø, all other designs across all locations resulted in positive NFR for extended seasonal production. NFR for year-round production was higher compared to NFR for extended seasonal production. The design NDSFML_{LED200μmol+LED125μmol,YR} had the highest NFR for all locations (Fig. 7).

3.3. Fixed and variable costs

The fixed and variable costs varied across different designs, with the variable costs also varying among locations (Fig. 8). The fixed costs were highest for the design NDSFML_{LED125μmol,ES}, (336 NOK m⁻²) for extended season, and for NDSFML_{LED350μmol+LED125μmol,YR} (728 NOK m⁻²) for year-round production in Tromsø due to the high investment costs in LED lights and heat pump. Fixed costs were the lowest in the

design NSL_{LED125μmol,ES} (280 NOK m⁻²) for extended season and for NSL_{HPS150μmol+LED125μmol,YR} (around 388 NOK m⁻²) for year-round production in Kise because of the low investment costs of lighting. This was due to the lower light capacities used in these designs as compared to the other designs along with the lesser energy-saving equipment used. Meanwhile the variable costs were the lowest for the design NDSFML_{LED125μmol,ES} for extended season and for NDSFML_{LED150μmol+LED125μmol,YR} because of the lowest energy use in this particular design, and highest for the design NSL_{LED125μmol,ES} during the extended season and for NSL_{HPS350μmol+LED125μmol,YR} during year-round due to the high fuel usage.

3.4. Energy use

For the extended season, the design NDSFML_{LED,ES} used the lowest amount of natural gas across all locations, with the lowest in Kise (262 kWh m⁻²) (Fig. 9.). Regarding electricity used, the designs NSL_{LED,ES} and NDSL_{LED,ES} used the lowest amount of electricity for the extended season, with the lowest in Kise (197 kWh m⁻²), while for the year-round production, the designs NSL_{LED+LED,YR} and NDSL_{LED+LED,YR} had the lowest electricity use, with the lowest in Kise (485 kWh m⁻²) (Fig. 10.).

3.5. CO₂ emissions

CO₂ emissions from natural gas and electricity varied between the production seasons, designs and the types of lights used (Fig. 11). The emissions were highest for the design NSL_{LED125μmol,ES} at Tromsø, (2.4 kg CO₂eq kg⁻¹ fresh weight), and lowest in Orre and Kise for the design NDSFML_{LED125μmol,ES}, (0.9 kg CO₂ eq kg⁻¹ fresh weight), in extended seasonal production. For the year-round production kg CO₂ emissions were highest in Tromsø for the design NSL_{HPS350μmol,YR} (1.8 kg CO₂ eq kg⁻¹ fresh weight), and the lowest in NDSFML_{HPS150μmol+LED125μmol,YR} in Orre (0.6 kg CO₂ eq kg⁻¹ fresh weight).

3.6. Sensitivity analysis

The study showed a linear relationship between the tomato prices and the NFR, and that the lower the electricity prices and the higher the tomato prices, the higher the NFR. For the extended season, for Tromsø the minimum off-season tomato price needed for the NFR to be positive for all designs was 16.5 NOK kg⁻¹ assuming an electricity price 0.4 NOK kWh⁻¹. This is the same price of electricity that we have used for our simulations for both production seasons (Fig. 12.). A price of 17 NOK kg⁻¹, or higher, garnered profit for all designs in all locations, with the same energy prices. Likewise, price of 13 NOK kg⁻¹ or lower resulted in net losses for all greenhouse designs across all locations. For the year-round production, off-season tomato price of 14 NOK kg⁻¹ or higher will result in positive NFR for all locations and designs, considering the

Table 5

The different greenhouse designs for year-round (YR) production season. The greenhouse design with one thermal screen was extended with various combinations of thermal screens, CO₂ enrichment (i.e., from the boiler and pure) and with heat pump. PE refers to Polyethylene Screen; Alu stands for Aluminium; inter stands for inter-lighting. Prices used for the design elements are explained in Table 1.

Greenhouse designs evaluated for year-round tomato production										
Design Elements	Type/ Capacity	NSL _{HPS_YR}	NSL _{HPS+LED_YR}	NSL _{LED+LED_YR}	NDSL _{HPS_YR}	NDSL _{HPS+LED_YR}	NDSL _{LED+LED_YR}	NDSFML _{HPS_YR}	NDSFML _{HPS+LED_YR}	NDSFML _{LED+LED_YR}
Light		HPS (top 350 µmol (203.5Wm ⁻²))	HPS (top 150 µmol (87 Wm ⁻²) to 350 µmol (203.5Wm ⁻²)) + LED (inter 125 µmol (43.7 Wm ⁻²))	LED (top 150 µmol (52 Wm ⁻²) to 350 µmol (122.8 Wm ⁻²)) + LED (inter 125 µmol (43.7 Wm ⁻²))	HPS (top 350 µmol (203.5Wm ⁻²))	HPS (top 150 µmol (87 Wm ⁻²) to 350 µmol (203.5Wm ⁻²)) + LED (inter 125 µmol (43.7 Wm ⁻²))	LED (top 150 µmol (52 Wm ⁻²) to 350 µmol (122.8 Wm ⁻²)) + LED (inter 125 µmol (43.7 Wm ⁻²))	HPS (top 350 µmol (203.5Wm ⁻²))	HPS (top 150 µmol (87 Wm ⁻²) to 350 µmol (203.5Wm ⁻²)) + LED (inter 125 µmol (43.7 Wm ⁻²))	LED (top 150 µmol (52 Wm ⁻²) to 350 µmol (122.8 Wm ⁻²)) + LED (inter 125 µmol (43.7 Wm ⁻²))
Boiler- Pipe Thermal Screens	Boiler	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Day Screen (100% PE)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Night Screen (50%PE+50% Alu.)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CO ₂	Boiler (if on during the day)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Pure (130 kg ha ⁻¹ h ⁻¹)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Humidification/ Dehumidification	Fogging	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Heat pump (25 Wm ⁻²)	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

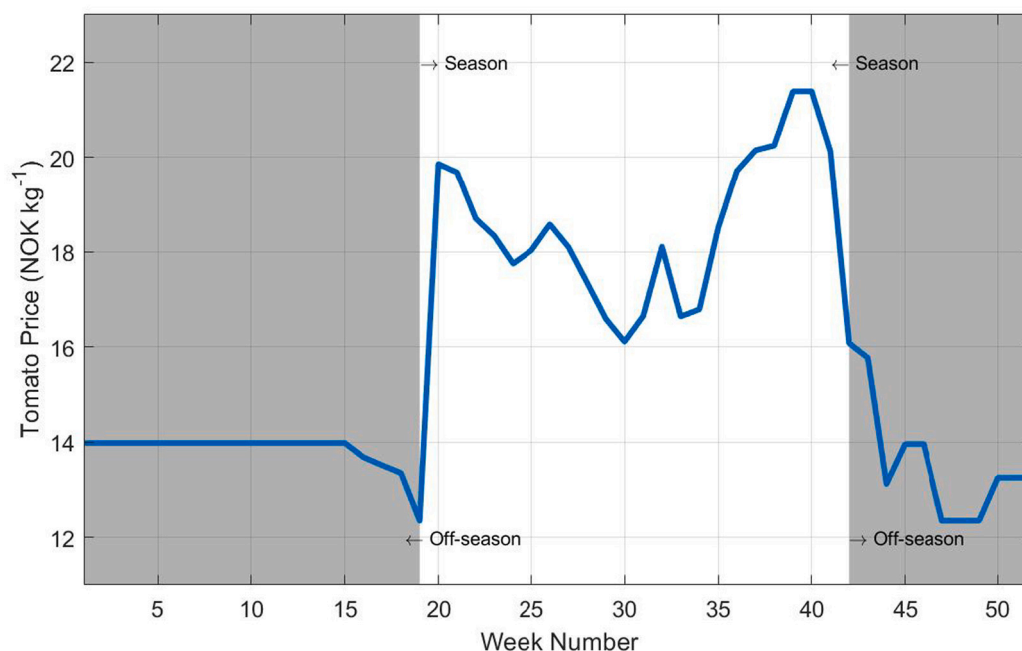


Fig. 3. Tomato prices used for season and off-season production period. The dark area depicts the off-season tomato price while the light area depicts the seasonal tomato price.

energy prices remain the same (Fig. 13.). Likewise, the NFR remained negative for all locations and designs if the tomato prices were 12 NOK kg⁻¹ or lower, with the same energy prices. Moreover, it was found that if the energy prices increased the design with energy-saving elements resulted in higher NFR as compared to the design NSL.

For greenhouse tomato production in Norway, the biggest costs of production are due to energy and labour while other costs such as pesticides, fertilizers and pollination etc. have a negligible effect, for the year-round production. Since labour costs were outside the scope of our study, we have only conducted a sensitivity analysis on energy prices. Furthermore, the biggest impact on the NFR in year-round production is of the electricity prices and tomatoes prices. The reason being that in year-round production, electricity is primarily used for the supplemental

lighting along with energy-saving equipment such as heat pump, while the use of natural gas is lower as compared to the overall use of electricity within the greenhouse. With regards to natural gas prices, it was found that of the four locations, Tromsø was the most sensitive to any variations in the natural gas prices for the year-round production. For instance, for the design NSL in Tromsø, a minimum tomato price of 15 NOK kg⁻¹ or higher with the natural gas price of 0.4 NOK kWh⁻¹ was needed for the NFR to be positive. Moreover, it was found that the design without the heat pump i.e., NSL was the most sensitive to variations in natural gas prices, as shown in Fig. 14.

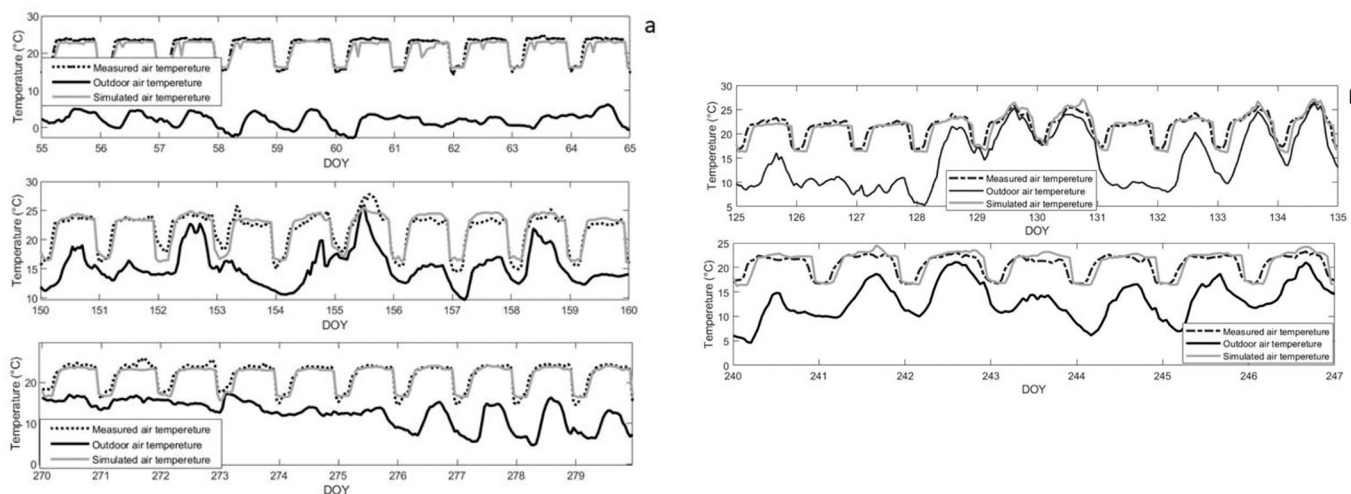


Fig. 4. Prediction of temperature for the commercial greenhouse in Orre (Southwestern Norway) with HPS top light at the beginning of the year (Day of the year (DOY): 55–65), Mid-year (DOY: 150–160) and end of the growing period (DOY: 270–280). The dotted line represents the measured indoor air temperature; the light solid line represents the simulated indoor air temperature while the solid dark line is the measured outdoor temperature (figure a). Figure b represents prediction of temperature for the commercial greenhouse with HPS top and LED inter-lighting in Mære (mid Norway) at the DOY: 125–135 and DOY: 240–247. DOY = day of the year. The dotted line represents the measured air temperature; the light solid line represents the simulated temperature, while the dark solid line is the outdoor air temperature.

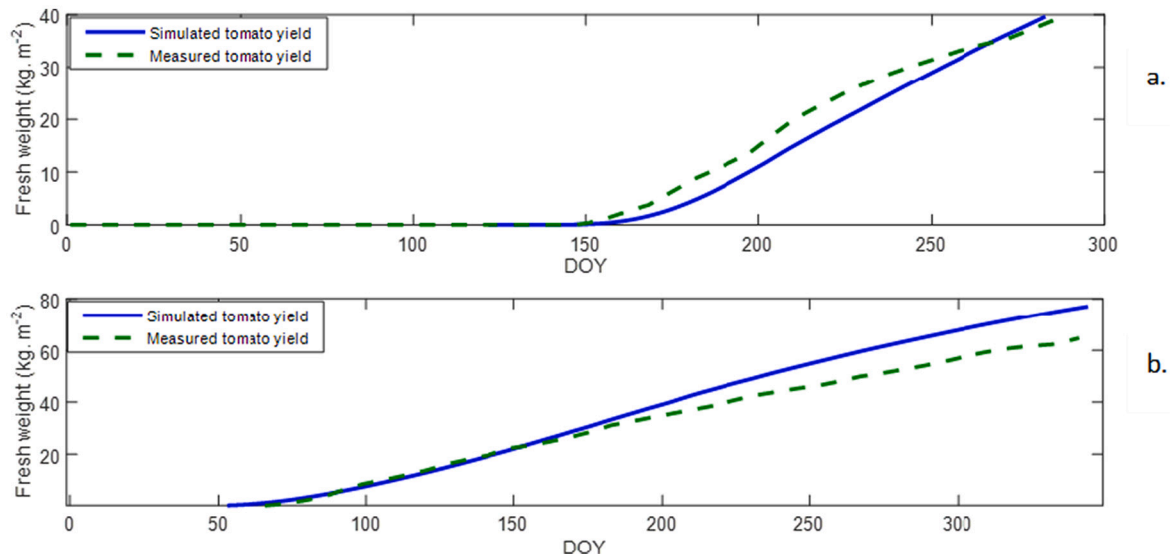


Fig. 5. Measured (dashed line) and predicted (solid line) yield for southwestern Norway (Orre) greenhouse for the year-round production (figure a.). The figure presents the measured yield for second crop cycle for the year-round production for the year 2016. Measured and predicted yield for Mære (mid Norway) greenhouse for the extended season production (figure b.). DOY: day of the year

4. Discussion

The effects of different design elements, especially the thermal screens, heat pump and the type of light, on NFR that were found, highlight the need to take into account these elements, input costs and tomato prices when designing greenhouses for tomato production in Norway and other regions having similar climate. The NFR sensitivity to the electricity price, which was higher in the year-round production than in the extended season production, indicates that energy saving equipment including day thermal screen and mechanical heating and cooling would become more useful should the fuel and electricity prices increase.

The greater need for heating and electricity in colder climates makes Tromsø the least favourable location -both economically and environmentally- for greenhouse tomato production, while the milder coastal areas such as Orre being the most favourable location for both extended season and year-round production. This is in contrast to greenhouse summer season production from March to October in Norway, which has been shown to generate higher NRF and lower energy use under inland climate conditions than under coastal climate conditions (Naseer et al., 2021). It goes without saying, of course, that changes in the outdoor conditions in a particular year could yield different results.

Our results show that for year-round production in higher latitude countries such as Norway, greenhouses with high-tech energy saving equipment yield far better results than simple greenhouse designs without energy-saving equipment due to the high amount of energy saved especially during winter, which results in positive NFR. For instance, the significantly better performance of the NDSFML greenhouse as compared to other designs, as reflected in the NFR across all locations is in contrast to the studies on the summer season tomato production in Norway (Naseer et al., 2021). In total, the better economic performance and the lower CO₂-emissions from fossil fuel use in the NDSFML design greenhouse than in the other greenhouses indicate that in colder climates investing in high-tech energy saving equipment can have positive environmental effects while also being economically efficient.

The type of lighting used within the greenhouse affects its performance since different types of lamps consume different levels of energy. Our study notes that LED as top and inter-lighting improves the economic performance of greenhouses in the year-round production and

that the performance can be improved further through performing the optimization of inter-lighting capacities in both production seasons since it reduces the variable costs and increases the crop yield. It was found that an appropriate level of light is crucial in order to achieve optimal NFR and that both lower capacities and higher capacities than that, which in this case was found to be about 200 μmol (70.2 Wm^{-2}) for LED top light and 125 μmol (43.7 Wm^{-2}) for LED inter-lighting, can either result in lower levels of yield, and lower NFR or higher investment and variable costs and not enough yield, and thereby lower NFR. While we kept capacities for inter-lighting the same for both seasons in our present study, our simulations showed (data not shown) that for the extended season, the inter-lighting capacities can also be varied in order to achieve better results.

The high fixed costs in the designs containing LED lights at the top and inter-lighting for year-round production are due to the high investment costs associated with the LED lights. One possible reason for the relatively lower fixed costs in Kise as compared to other locations for these designs is the low artificial light use due to the high global radiation during summer and the resultant low depreciation costs of the lamps in Kise. The lower investment costs associated with the HPS notwithstanding, the designs with LED top and inter-lighting perform better since they are more efficient than HPS and affect the yield positively along with reducing the energy use, making it a better choice for lighting in existing greenhouse production keeping in mind the current investment costs of LEDs. Moreover, with the global prices of LEDs decreasing steadily, the option of LEDs could prove to be more practical in the future greenhouse tomato production (Van Iersel, 2017).

During the extended season, despite the use of same lighting throughout all designs, there was a variation in NFR due to different design elements that require different investment costs, and variations in amounts of energy saved. For instance, day and night energy screens performed better in milder regions while night and day screens along with mechanical heating and cooling performed better in colder climate (Tromsø). For the year-round production, across the four locations and the selected designs, the design $\text{NSL}_{\text{HPS+LED}}_{\text{YR}}$ had the highest variable costs due to the addition of LED along with the existing HPS lights and the resultant electricity and natural gas used by the combination. On the other hand, the design $\text{NDSFML}_{\text{LED+LED}}$ had the lowest variable costs due to the LEDs being more energy efficient and lower amounts of natural gas used due to the addition of energy saving equipment.

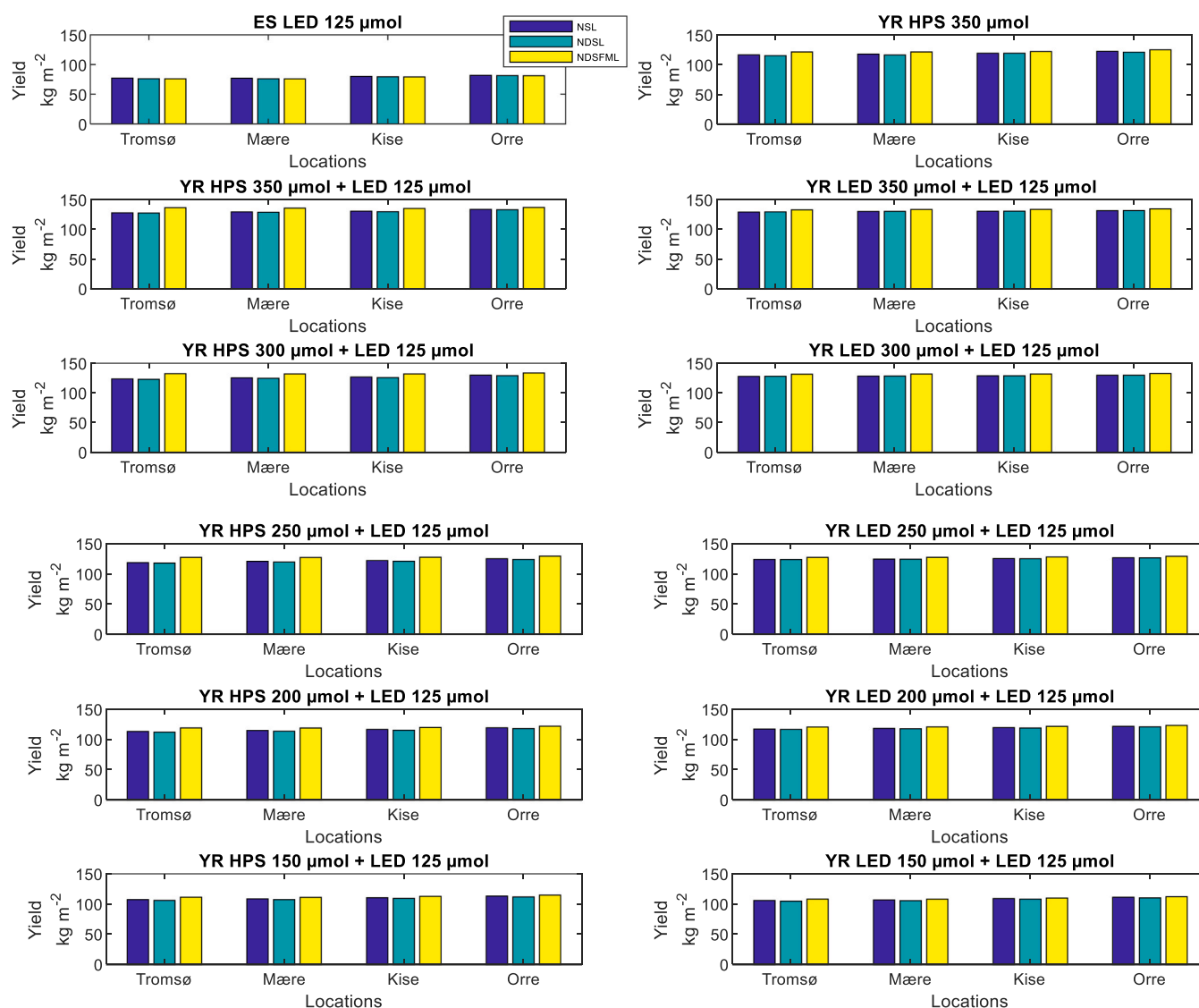


Fig. 6. Predicted marketable yield for greenhouse designs with different light strategies for extended season (20th January to 20th November) and year-round production, where ES denotes extended season and YR denotes the year-round. NSL (blue bar) denotes the design with night screen; NDSL (green bar) denotes the design with day and night screens; NDSFML (yellow bar) denotes the design with day and night screens along with fogging and heat pump. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

The availability of light and heat during the cold winter months in high latitude countries such as Norway is a persistent concern for greenhouse production. Verheul et al. (2020), Paponov et al. (2018) and Paponov et al. (2020) have shown that by adding supplemental lighting in greenhouse production, the yield of tomatoes grown in Norway can be increased significantly. Likewise, Paucek et al. (2020), Li et al. (2014), Tian (2016) and Liu et al. (2012) have shown that supplemental LED inter-lighting also enhance tomato yield in the Mediterranean region. Likewise, our study noted that certain combinations of capacities of LEDs as top and inter-lighting not only reduce fuel use, increase the yield but also are an economically viable option for existing greenhouse tomato production due to the lower variable costs associated with them, which is also reflected in other studies (Verheul et al. (2022); Van Iersel and Gianino, 2017). Moreover, combining LED top and inter-lighting with a heat pump can be even more economically and environmentally feasible especially for Northern areas such as Tromsø. Therefore, in order for the year-round greenhouse production in northern latitude countries to be both economically efficient and environmentally

friendly, our study highlights the importance of designing relevant economic policies that enable and encourage the local growers to use LEDs and other energy-saving equipment, such as thermal screens and heat pumps.

4.1. Limitations

The study attempted to analyse the economic viability and CO₂ emissions of greenhouse tomato production in colder climates such as that of Norway for both the extended season and year-round production. Our results indicate that achieving economic efficiency along with the production being environmentally friendly is a difficult task since the climatic conditions in high latitude regions dictate energy intensive production systems, requiring both light and heat, particularly in the cold winter months, and likewise high investment costs in order to install energy-saving equipment.

Previous studies have shown that in closed greenhouses, higher levels of CO₂ can result in great increase in yield (De Gelder et al., 2012;

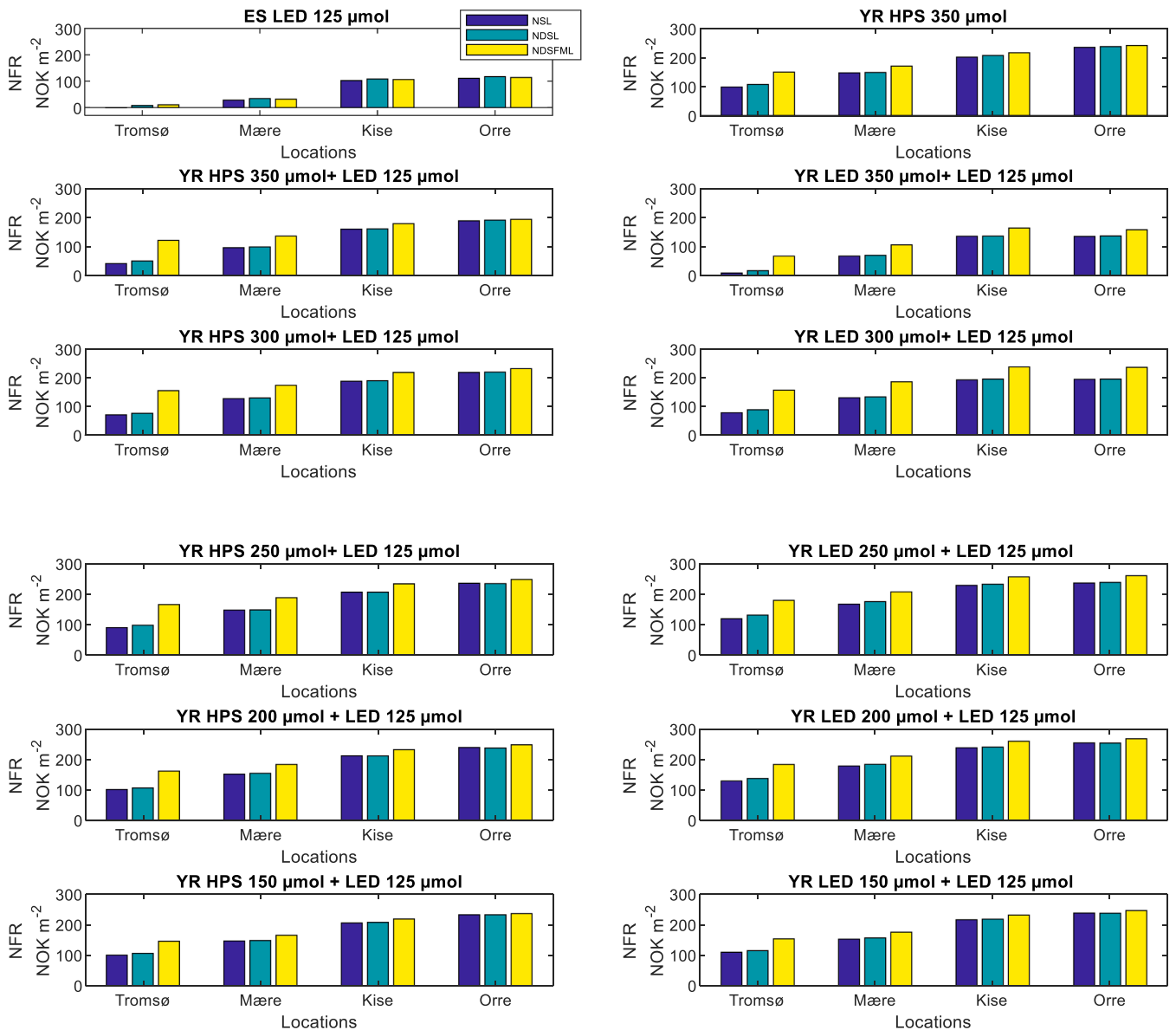


Fig. 7. Net financial return (NFR) for different designs and locations for the extended seasonal (20th January to 20th November) and year-round tomato production, where ES denotes extended season and YR denotes the year-round. NSL (blue bar) denotes the design with night screen; NDSL (green bar) denotes the design with day and night screens; NDSFML (yellow bar) denotes the design with day and night screens along with fogging and heat pump. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

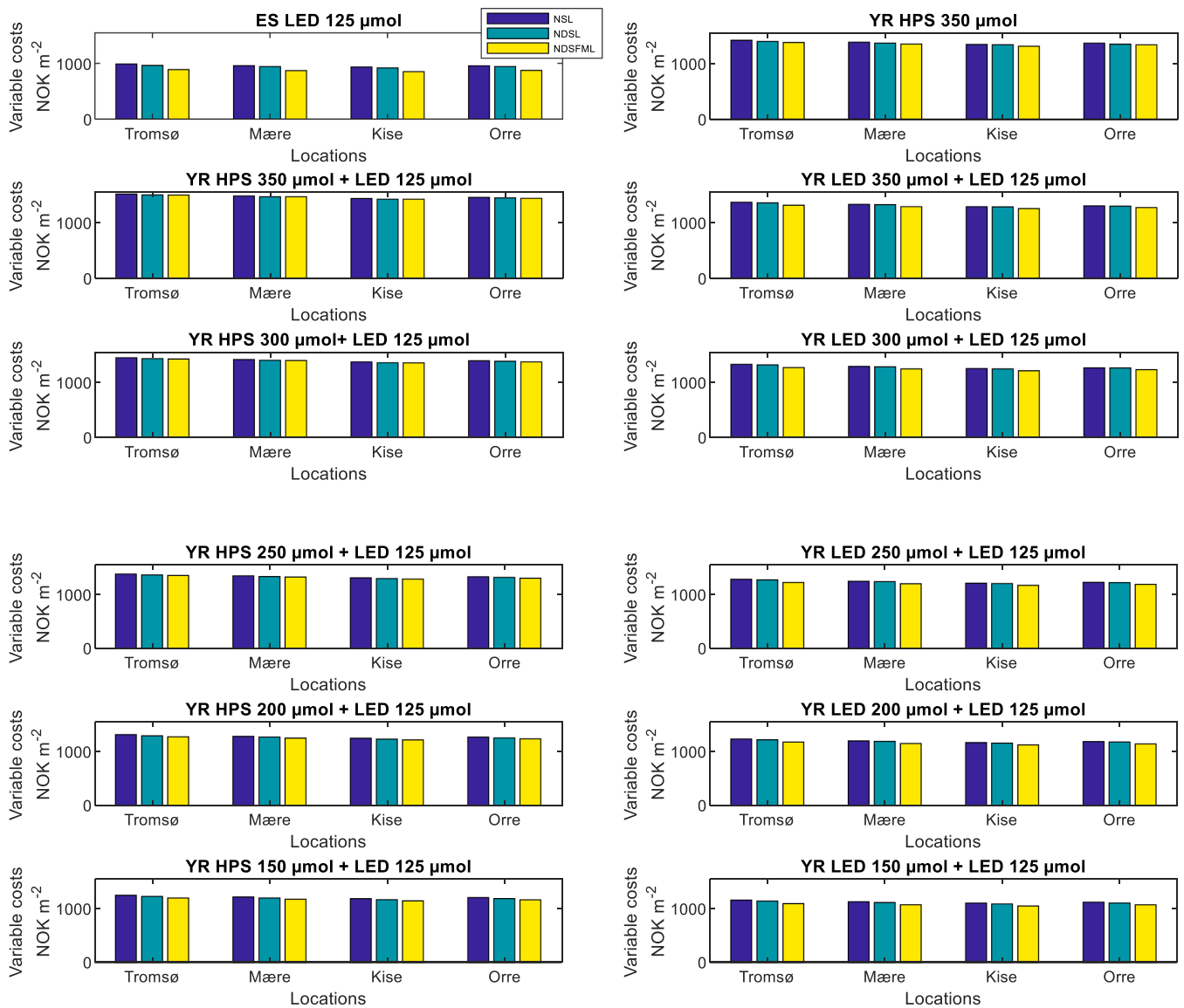


Fig. 8. Total variable costs for the designs and the light strategies for the extended season (20th January to 20th November) and year-round production for the four locations, where ES denotes extended season and YR denotes the year-round. NSL (blue bar) denotes the design with night screen; NDSL (green bar) denotes the design with day and night screens; NDSFML (yellow bar) denotes the design with day and night screens along with fogging and heat pump. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

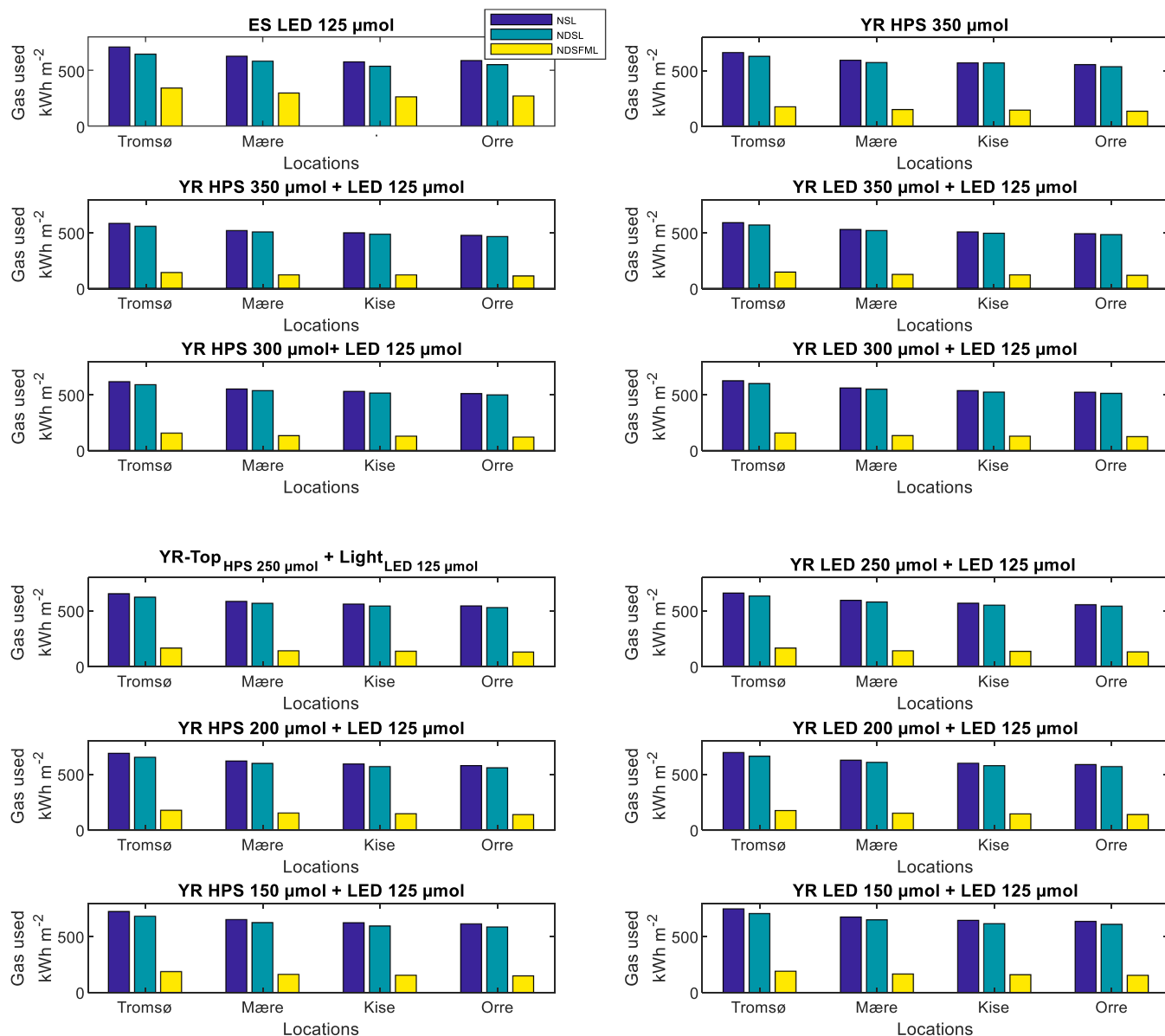


Fig. 9. Natural gas used for the different designs, light strategies, and locations for extended season (20th January to 20th November) and year-round production. ES denotes extended season and YR denotes the year-round; NSL (blue bar) denotes the design with night screen; NDSL (green bar) denotes the design with day and night screens; NDSFML (yellow bar) denotes the design with day and night screens along with fogging and heat pump. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

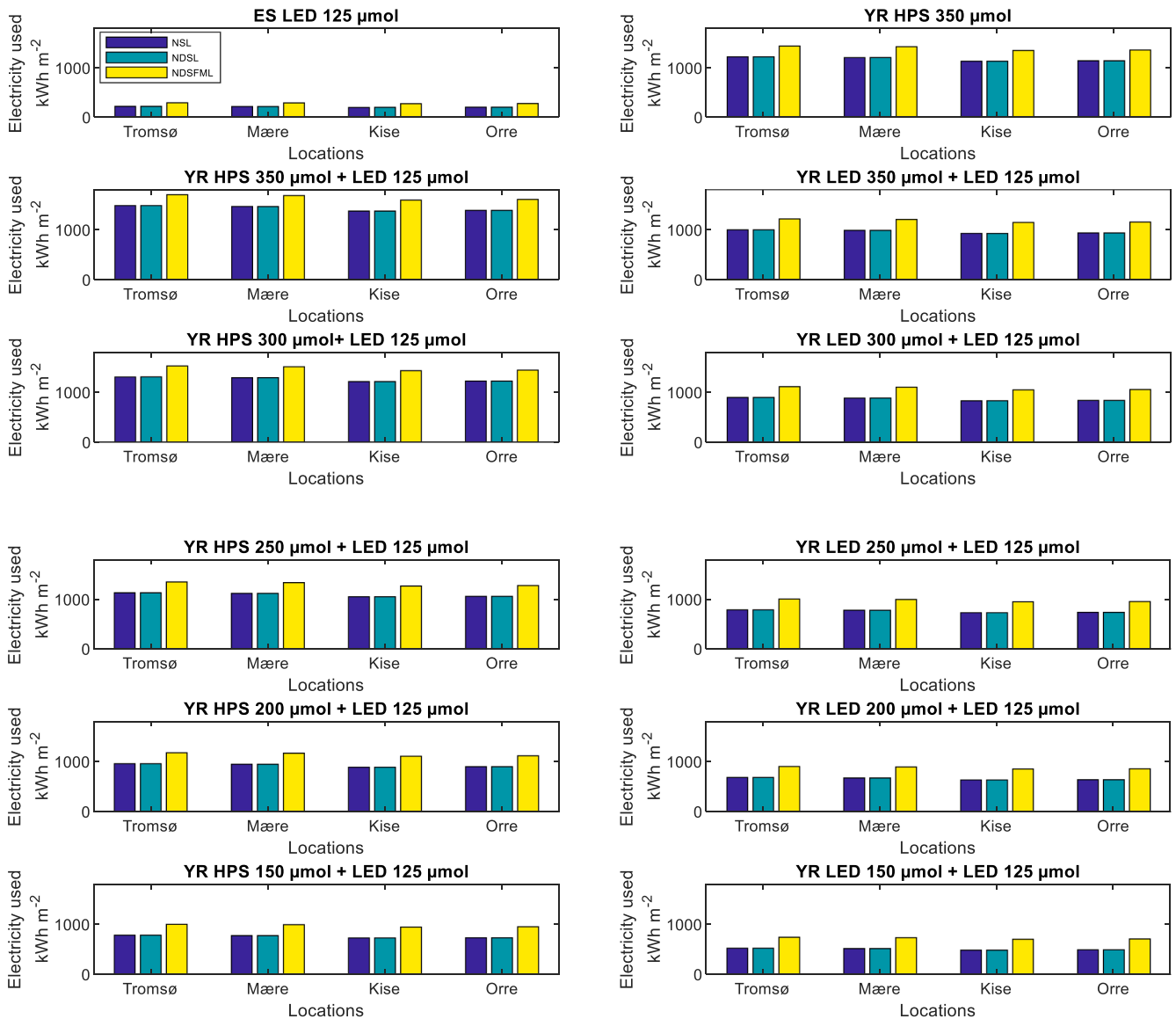


Fig. 10. Electricity used for the different designs, light strategies, and locations for extended season (20th January to 20th November) and year-round production. ES denotes extended season and YR denotes the year-round; NSL (blue bar) denotes the design with night screen; NDSL (green bar) denotes the design with day and night screens; NDSFML (yellow bar) denotes the design with day and night screens along with fogging and heat pump. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

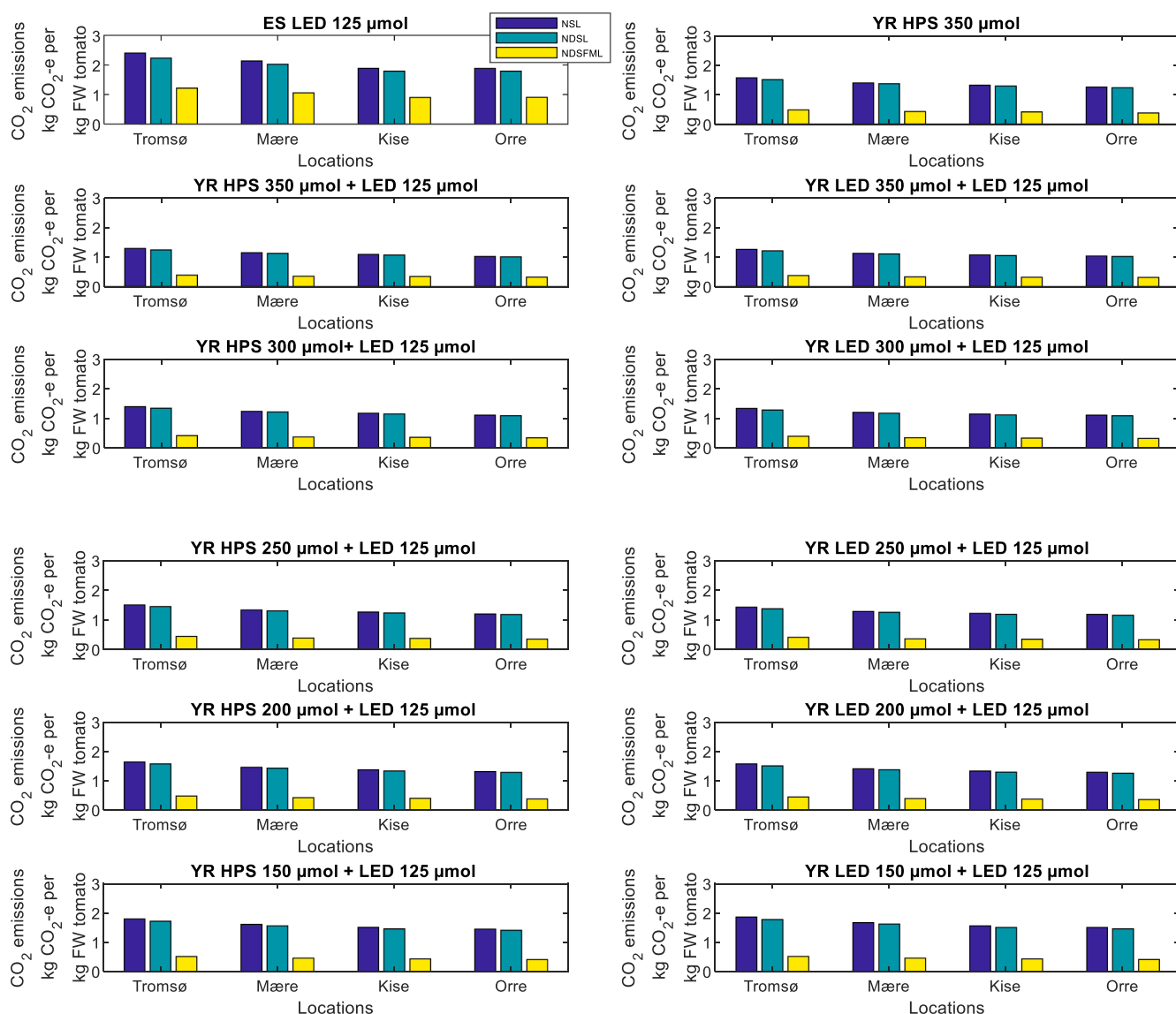


Fig. 11. CO₂ emissions for different designs, light strategies, and locations for extended season (20th January to 20th November) and year-round production. ES denotes extended season and YR denotes the year-round; NSL (blue bar) denotes the design with night screen; NDSL (green bar) denotes the design with day and night screens; NDSFML (yellow bar) denotes the design with day and night screens along with fogging and heat pump. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

Huber et al., 2021; Sánchez-Guerrero et al., 2005). However, during our simulations, levels of yield did not increase to the extent as expected in the closed greenhouse design NDSFML, making the prediction for this design somewhat uncertain. This is because the model used is not particularly sensitive to CO₂, which lowers the accuracy of outputs from simulations of closed greenhouse designs, pointing toward the need for further modifications in the model. Another challenge with closed greenhouse systems is that the levels of humidity within the greenhouse can increase due to the high intensity of artificial lighting. This can substantially affect the marketable yield, which was seen during our simulations, while also bringing about changes within the indoor climate of the greenhouse. Thus, windows must be opened, which in turn lead to the energy and CO₂ losses. One possible solution can be the introduction of an advanced and responsive climate control system to handle excess humidity, and temperature control such as the GreenCap Solution process technology (<https://greencap-solutions.com/>), but its possible impact on the economic performance and the environment needs to be studied further.

Another limitation with our study is that it excludes costs and CO₂

emissions related to transportation. Previous studies show that environmental burden of transporting fresh vegetables long distances can be considerable (Verheul and Thorsen, 2010). Hence, should such transportation aspects have been taken into account, especially the NFR and CO₂-emissions for the distant Tromsø location may have been relatively better compared to the other locations.

4.2. Practical implications

Of the regions in Norway having existing facilities for seasonal tomato production, our study found that southwestern Norway seems to be the best region for greenhouse tomato production in both the extended and year-round production given the current tomato and energy prices, with it being the location that had greenhouses with the highest NFR in both production seasons. The fact that NDSFML in Tromsø resulted in a much higher NFR as compared to other designs, is an interesting finding since it points to the possibility of using energy saving equipment such as energy screens and heat pumps under conditions that are similar to this. Nonetheless, regarding the CO₂ emissions

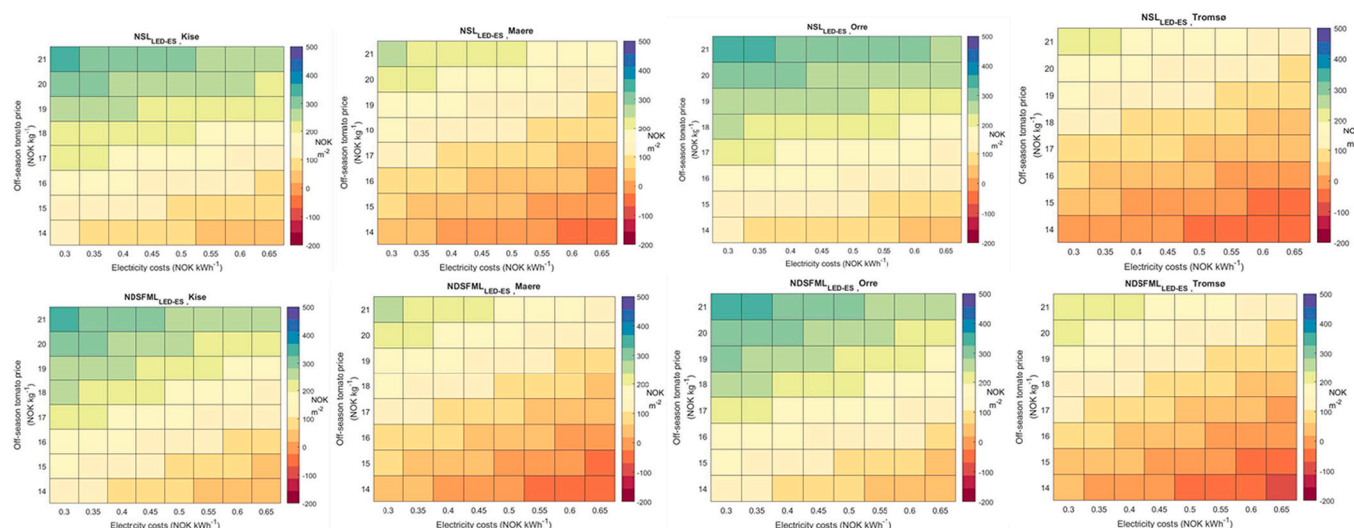


Fig. 12. The effect of tomato price and energy costs on the NFR for the designs NSL and NDSFML for extended seasonal greenhouse production in all four selected locations in Norway. The figure shows that if the energy prices increase, the design with energy-saving elements results in higher NFR as compared to the standard greenhouse in Norway. NSL denotes the design with night screen; NDSFML denotes the design with day and night screens along with fogging and heat pump. The type of light in each design along with the production season is given in subscript.

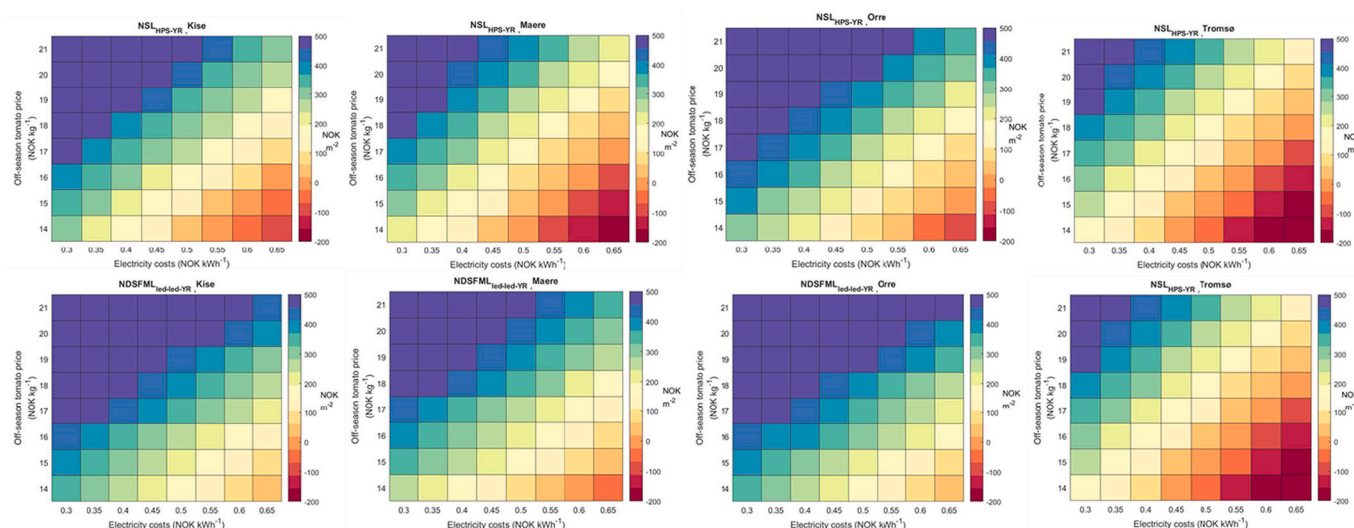


Fig. 13. The effect of tomato price and energy costs on the NFR for the designs NSL and NDSFML for year-round greenhouse production in all four selected locations in Norway. The figure shows that if the energy prices increase, the design with energy-saving elements results in higher NFR as compared to the standard greenhouse in Norway. NSL denotes the design with night screen; NDSFML denotes the design with day and night screens along with fogging and heat pump. The type of light in each design along with the production season is given in subscript.

from natural gas and electricity, and keeping in mind the current costs of different types of supplemental lighting, our study recommends the design NDSFML_{LED+LED}_{YR} in high latitude countries such as Norway for the year-round tomato production.

Our study aimed at identifying a design out of several possible designs that gives the highest NFR and lowest energy use for extended season and year-round greenhouse tomato production. The findings of our study point toward the need for governments to formulate relevant policies, such as the regulation of electricity prices and investment costs of LED lighting and heat pump.

4.3. Way forward

The particular emphasis on energy saving design elements along with a consideration of increased profitability would be beneficial for

not only the governments by promoting sustainable greenhouse production but also prove to be valuable in terms of opening up new directions for further research related to the off-season greenhouse production. With regards to the CO₂ emissions, the combination of LED as top and inter-lighting with heat pump and the resulted lower CO₂ emissions, due to a low energy use as compared to other light strategies, implies the need for the formulation of relevant policies that provide incentives to growers in order to encourage them to use LED lighting with energy saving equipment in greenhouses which would make the production process not only economically viable but also environmentally friendly.

Nonetheless, further work may be conducted to vary the indoor climate set-points, amend the model used in this study to make it more sensitive to variables such as CO₂ and relative humidity in order to achieve further accuracy in simulated scenarios and on optimizing

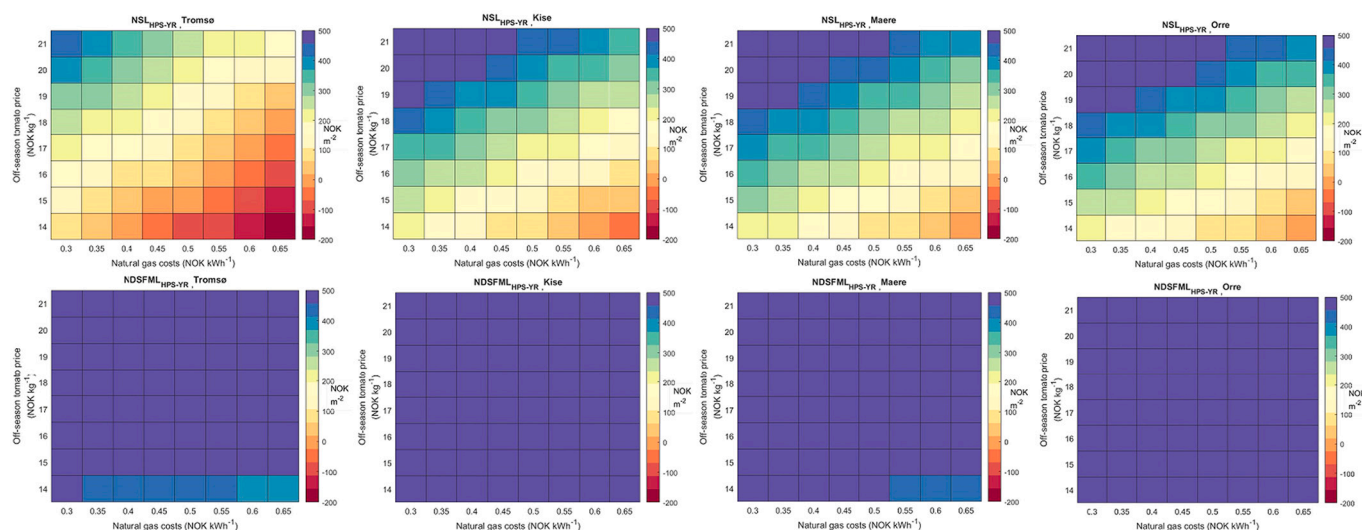


Fig. 14. The effect of tomato price and natural gas costs on the NFR for the designs NSL and NDSFML for year-round greenhouse production in all four selected locations in Norway. The figure shows that if the natural gas prices increase, the design with energy-saving elements results in higher NFR as compared to the standard greenhouse in Norway. NSL denotes the design with night screen; NDSFML denotes the design with day and night screens along with fogging and heat pump. The type of light in each design along with the production season is given in subscript.

capacities of inter-lighting along with top-light for different production seasons. To further understand the prospects of greenhouse tomato production in different regions, aspects such as the economic cost and environmental burden of transporting the tomato from the production sites to the consumers also need to be taken into account.

5. Conclusions

The study showed that for year-round production even though the HPS lamps had lower investment costs, in the long run the LED lamps are still the better choice since it not only saved energy significantly but also were more efficient in yield increase. Moreover, the study noted that the capacities of supplemental lighting have a significant impact on the NFR and if the lighting strategies and the capacities are not optimised, it can result in negative NFR despite low investment costs, as is apparent during extended season in our study, for which the lighting capacities were not varied.

The study also showed that adding a night and day screen increased the economic performance of all selected designs across all locations for the two different production seasons. With regards to the CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel and electricity use, the design with the two thermal screens, fogging and mechanical heating and cooling with LED light had the most positive outcome. This implies that investing in high-tech energy saving equipment could be a better option than the standard greenhouses for greenhouse tomato production especially in the colder regions, since they not only help in saving energy but also yield in better NFR. Of the two different production seasons, the year-round production was more sensitive to variations in the prices of tomato and energy. The results of the study are useful for growers in order to select appropriate greenhouse designs according to the production season and local climatic conditions and can help facilitate future research in order to maximise the advantage of greenhouse technology that is both economically efficient and energy efficient. The results can also assist policy makers in formulating appropriate policies that can encourage growers to increase local tomato production while also keeping the production environmentally sound.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence

the work reported in this paper.

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