

IIRB-News 01/2014

This January newsletter gives an overview on IIRB activities in the past half year and an outlook on the 74th IIRB Congress at Dresden. We look forward to your attendance.

Study group meetings

SG Agricultural Engineering (13-14/6/2013, Zollikofen)

The group discussed results from recent sugar beet harvester tests at 'Beet Europe'. Comparing these, today's differences in harvest quality seem to be mostly a matter of technical adjustments. The instruction of harvester drivers is crucial. Field visits in the area of Zollikofen focused on no-tillage or strip tillage-based growing of corn and sugar beets. In a long-term crop rotation trial, sugar beet in no-till and shallow on-land ploughing systems obtained similar beet yields.

SG Pests & Diseases (10-13/9/2013, Fargo, USA)

Following an invitation of colleagues from NDSU, the Pests & Diseases meeting was held at Fargo, USA. Next to a rich programme of presentations and intensive discussions, field visits gave insight into Rhizoctonia and Cercospora trials, a sugar factory with storage facilities for frozen beet, a bioethanol plant, and trials on Glyphosate resistant weeds.



SG Genetics & Breeding (26-27/9/2013, Laon)

The Laon meeting allowed the group to see the ITB's new beet reception station and quality analysis laboratory for trial beets. Breeding requirements for sugar beet of the future were presented by several invited speakers from different European countries. These were discussed together with differences in trial management for variety registration and recommendation, e.g. strong differences in pesticide treatment of variety trials.

SG Seed Quality & Testing (21-22/10/2013, Angers)

The meeting was held at GEVES, the French Group for the Study and Inspection of Varieties and Seeds. The seed and plant phenotyping facilities were presented. Participants visited the laboratories of Physical Analysis, Pathology and Germination and installations of X-ray tomography and automated monitoring of seed germination.

SG Communication Techniques (26/11/2013, Brussels)

This group is a small but motivated team discussing ways to transfer information to the grower. With the rapid change of today's media (social media, smartphones, Apps) it is a constant challenge to keep up to date regarding today's communication requirements, eg. with Apps for field diagnosis.

National membership in the IIRB

So far 26 countries support the IIRB as national members. In 2014, Poland as third ranking producer of sugar beet in Europe will join as 27th member. IIRB is looking forward to the enhanced exchange with Polish sugar beet experts.

74th IIRB Congress

We invite you to attend the 74th IIRB Congress, 1st to 3rd July 2014, at the Hotel Westin Bellevue Dresden. Over 30 oral presentations and more than 80 posters will highlight the newest research findings and challenges of sugar beet cultivation.

The sugar beet research sector of the host country Germany will present its networking activities with politics, industry and agricultural practice. The technical programme focuses on breeding and soil-borne diseases, and the control of weeds and leaf diseases. The congress will close with an outlook on future needs in sugar beet cultivation, the impact of science, and the social acceptance of agriculture.

Field trips to the JKI Institute for Breeding Research on Horticultural and Fruit Crops at Pillnitz and an agro-cooperative in the periphery of Dresden are part of the programme. These will provide an enriching insight into scientific, agricultural and cultural features of the area.

An attractive pre-congress and accompanying persons programme includes sightseeing in Saxony, visits to historic places, and opera performances at the Semper opera house.

Please note places are limited.

Registration is possible by 30 April 2014.

There is discount for registration by 15 February.

Visit our website www.iirb.org for more detailed information

IIRB Meetings agenda 2014

SAC/AC	6-7/3/2014, Paris
SG Beet Pulp & Molasses	26-27/3/2014, Amsterdam
SG Plant & Soil	12-13/5/2014, Bergen op Zoom
SG Weed Control	27-28/5/2014, Norwich
SG Agr. Engineering	12-13/6/2014, place not fixed yet
SG Beet Quality & Storage	17/6/2014, Tienen
74 th IIRB Congress	1-3/7/2014, Dresden
SG Pests & Diseases & Genetics & Breeding	18-19/9/2014, Söllingen
SG Seed Quality	7-8/10/2014, Tienen

