

Welcome to this review of past IIRB activities as well as outlook on major IIRB events to come.

SG PESTS & DISEASES

(7-8/9/2016, Landskrona/Borgeby, S)

The 2-day programme of this meeting at Syngenta and NBR covered a majority of current topics in pest and disease control in sugar beet. Contributions of the first day were dedicated to the monitoring and screening of fungal leaf diseases, physiological aspects of disease development, and leaf disease control in the field, also with view to fungicide resistance. The next day focused on root rots caused by *Fusarium*, *Alternaria*, *Rhizoctonia solani* but also bacteria, as well as on latest research on virus interactions and mycoviruses. A visit of NBR field trials on nematodes and leaf diseases in sugar beet complemented the meeting.

SG SEED QUALITY & TESTING

(29-30/9/2016, Einbeck, D)

The group met at KWS to discuss the mechanisms underpinning seed vigour and seedling performance upon stress, a topic highlighted by invited speaker G. Leubner (Univ. of London). Results of a comparative test of three germination and vigour testing methods tested in 10 different labs were presented. The test had been initiated by the group to evaluate differences in the determination of seed vigour and seedling performance; it is continued in 2017.

IIRB SEMINAR 'PREVENTION OF SOIL COMPACTION AT HARVEST'

(28/10/2016, Estrées-Saint-Denis, Compiègne, F)

The seminar, organised in cooperation with IRBAB and ITB, was linked to the harvester demonstration Beet Europe/ Better-avenir. The use of self-propelled harvesters in France increased from 10% to 50% in the past 10 years. Awareness of the threat of subsoil compaction at critical harvesting periods needs to be raised. The seminar presented state of the art research on soil compaction and highlighted new tools to predict and avoid compaction. Technical improvements implemented in harvesters over the last decade were presented by harvester and tire manufacturers. The seminar attracted 130 participants.



Research on soil compaction presented at the IIRB seminar, complemented by manufacturer's presentations of technical improvements

BIENNIAL ASSBT MEETING

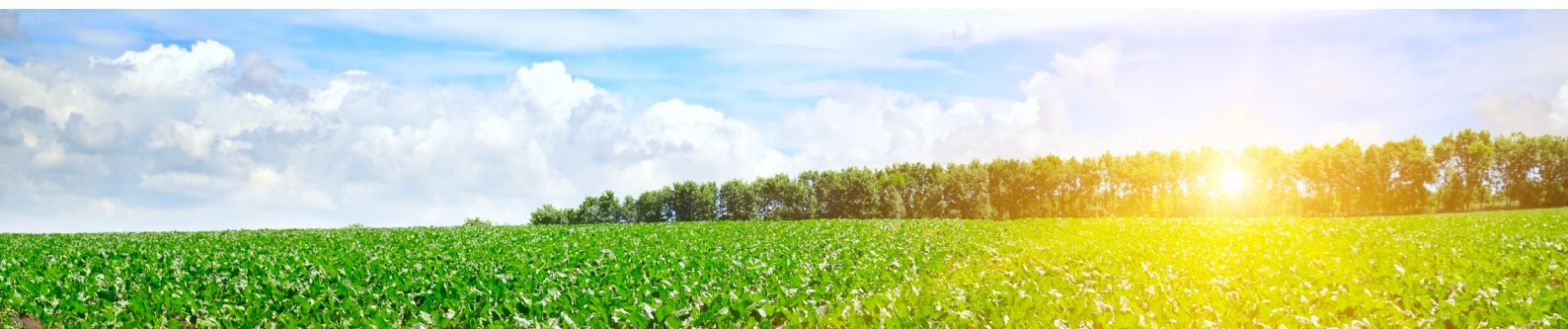
(27/2-3/3/2017, Greenville SC, USA)

The American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists gathered more than 300 participants in Greenville, South Carolina for their biennial meeting. The predominantly American contributions were presented in parallel sessions (Agronomy, Physiology, Genetics, Plant Pests, Processing). The IIRB announced its forthcoming 76th IIRB Congress and invited US participants to attend.

SG AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

17-18/5/2017, Crisenoy (F)

This study group meeting was linked to the demonstration Désherb'Avenir V on mechanic weed control organised by ITB that presented newest developments in mechanical and combined weed control of several manufacturers. Amongst others the group discussed trial results on combined band spraying and mechanical weed control. Compared to conventional spraying, hoeing and band spraying - performed at different times - saved herbicide input and were very effective, but increased labour costs. Weed control efficacy was lower with simultaneous hoeing and band spraying that would reduce labour costs. Mechanic weed control is of special interest in organically grown beets.



SG WEED CONTROL

24/5/2017, Göttingen (D)

The main aim of the group meeting at IfZ was to set up the programme of the IIRB seminar 2017 'Controlling weeds with ALS-inhibitors in ALS-resistant sugar beet', to be held in December. The members presented the current state of trials with ALS-resistant sugar beet, and specified the weed control situation in their country with regard to changes in herbicide registration as well as advances in mechanical weed control.

SG BEET QUALITY & STORAGE

30/5/2017, Borgeby (S)



At their meeting organised by NBR the group Beet Quality addressed possibilities to reduce invert sugar formation, as required for longer campaigns. Next to frost tolerance of sugar beet, the impact of different topping on sugar losses and the accumulation of invert sugar during beet storage was discussed. Post-harvest storability of beets is also influenced by storage conditions, cover (e.g. toptex), humidity and temperature. Ventilation of piles can be useful to reduce both temperature and humidity.

SEMINAR 'CONTROLLING WEEDS WITH ALS-INHIBITORS IN ALS-RESISTANT SUGAR BEET'

13-14/12/2017, Malmö (S)

The 2017 IIRB seminar will focus on the opportunities and challenges of the new CONVISO ALS system in sugar beet. The seminar will be held at the congress centre Börshus in Malmö, Sweden on 14th December. Results of international tests on the efficacy and selectivity of the CONVISO system will be presented, and aspects of resistance management will be discussed by international experts.

Note places for this seminar are limited.

Online registration is possible until 1st November 2017.



76TH IIRB CONGRESS 2018, CALL FOR PAPERS

5-7/6/2018, Deauville (F)

The 76th IIRB Congress, organised in cooperation with the French technical sugar beet institute ITB, will take place at the Centre International Deauville (C.I.D.) in Normandy, France. An international audience of 400 people is expected to attend this biennial congress.

IIRB congresses are appreciated as the international platform for knowledge transfer and networking in the sugar beet sector. Current research on sugar beet cultivation will be presented, and the exciting setting will surely contribute to the attractiveness of the congress.



The C.I.D. - placed underground so as not to spoil the beautiful sea view

For its technical sessions the congress welcomes scientifically based oral or poster contributions from all areas of sugar beet growing, with a focus on innovative approaches, new products and technologies, and new methodologies.

Paper proposals can be registered online by 15/9/2017.

For further information see www.iirb.org.

Pre and post congress tours in the Paris and Normandy region, and an accompanying persons programme around Deauville will be offered that allow congress participants and accompanying persons to explore some of the famous French sites of touristic interest.



C.I.D. - the main auditorium

IIRB MEETINGS AGENDA

SG Plant & Soil	11/9/2017, Paris (F)
SG Genetics & Breeding	21-22/9/2017, Göttingen/Einbeck (D)
AC/SAC meeting	18/10/2017, Düsseldorf (D)
IIRB seminar 'ALS-resistant sugar beet'	14/12/2017, Malmö (S)
76 th IIRB Congress	5-7/6/2018, Deauville (F)

