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HARVEST LOSSES – POTENTIALS AND ACTIONS TO CATCH THEM

Potentialités et recommandations d'action afin de diminuer les pertes à la récolte / Potenzial und Handlungsempfehlungen zur Verringerung von Ernteverlusten

ABSTRACT

Harvestlosses can be high, up to 10% and are generally considered to be a problem that needs to be addressed. The purpose of this survey was to make an inventory of harvest losses in practice in Sweden and at the same time identify specific causes to high losses and possible actions to reduce losses in harvest work. 2012 years survey included 23 farmers and in total 45 fields and we will continue the work also in 2013. Harvest losses differed in a wide range, from 1,2 tons/ha up to 8,7 ton/ha (in average 4,2 ton/ha). Unharvested beets are a problem, bigger than expected. In 87% of the fields we found unharvested beets, in 5 of the fields was the amount > 1 ton/ha and in one case the amount was 5 ton/ha! Root tip breakage represents a big part of the total losses. No differences could be found between oppelwheels and walking shares. The one factor that has the biggest impact on harvest losses is the yield level of the field. The harvest losses are in general on a high level and it is an issue that needs to be addressed. Many factors that have an impact of harvestlosses are predetermined, such as stone occurrence, claycontent and homogeneity among the plants in the field and those factors cannot be changed during harvest. Unharvested beets are problem that has to be addressed in future advising and work on this topic. Among all parameters and data that was collected we cannot explain the big differences within the material so the main conclusion has to be that the driver of the harvester has a very important role in the outcome and that's were the main focus should be in work ahead.
