

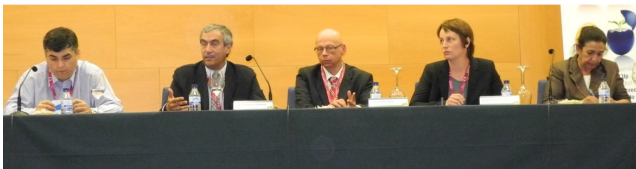
IIRB-News 07/2013

Newsletter

From now on a newsletter about current IIRB activities will be sent to members every half year. Your feedback is welcome.

Seminar 'Advances in sugar beet irrigation'

IIRB and AIMCRA, the Spanish sugar beet research institute, jointly held a seminar on irrigation 5th June 2013 at Valladolid (E). The seminar was attended by 200 participants from ten countries. It was linked to an AIMCRA field day demonstrating irrigation methods. Besides information on Spanish irrigation experiences, presentations gave an account on irrigation requirements in other European and North African countries.



Panel discussion at the AIMCRA/IIRB irrigation seminar

ASSBT congress

The biannual congress of the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists attracted 550 attendees, among them several IIRB members. Parallel sessions covered a range of topics in sugar beet cultivation and processing. In the Agronomy session, increasing problems with glyphosate resistance were reported e.g. in the weeds kochia and water hemp. Resistance had been observed to spread steadily over the recent 5 years. In the Plant Pathology session, trial results of fungicide applications on the seed and in the furrow against *Rhizoctonia solani* showed some effect in crown and root rot control.

Study group meetings (first half 2013)

SG Beet Quality and Storage

The focus of the meeting held at the IRBAB in Belgium in March was long-term clamps storage and frost protection. Presentations of storage trial results from A, B, D, DK, NL, F and S showed good results covering clamps with Jupettes, TopTex and fleece, respectively. First practical experiences were presented.

SG Co-products

The group meeting with new president Dr. Christine Potthast was hosted by the Institute of Animal Nutrition at the Federal Research Institute for Animal Health in Braunschweig (D). The feeding of pressed beet pulp to beef cattle in trials showed that energy content and digestibility had risen in the last 20 years. Pressed pulp silage can be included in diets without changes in animal performance; fresh matter intake supports good palatability. Preliminary studies on the performance and slaughter characteristics of fattening bulls after diets based on sugar beet pulp silage, corn silage and levels of concentrate indicated treatment differences.

SG Weed Control

Herbicide resistance of *Chenopodium album* (CHEAL) against metamitron was discussed at the Weed Control meeting at IRBAB (B) in May. IRBAB analysed how factors like weather conditions and spraying technique influence the efficacy of herbicide treatments in resistant CHEAL and tested alternative herbicides and herbicide mixtures to control late-emerging CHEAL. Alternative methods like mechanical weed control, recently presented at the **demonstration Desherb' Avenir III** organised by ITB, IRBAB and others, could be useful to prevent resistance spread. So far, mechanical weed control is used only in some European countries and in organic sugar beet cultivation.



SG Plant and Soil

The diverse topics discussed at this year's Plant & Soil meeting in Valladolid (E) in June covered specific conditions in E (fertilisation, irrigation), S (high speed drilling), the UK (drought tolerance, soil fertility, square drilling) and China (fertilization, water retention). Additionally, results from trials on the effects of plant growth stimulants in sugar beet, the net energy gain of crop rotations with and without sugar beet for biogas production, and hydrochar application in sugar beet were presented.

74th IIRB Congress - Call for papers

For the 74th IIRB Congress, scientifically based contributions from all areas of sugar beet growing with a focus on innovative approaches, new products and technologies, and new methodologies are welcome.



Contribution proposals can be registered on the IIRB web site until the 15th September 2013.

The congress programme and registration information will be publicised in November 2013.

IIRB Meetings agenda

SG Pests & Diseases	10-13/09/2013, Fargo (USA)
SG Communic. Techniques	week 38, 2013, Brussels (B)
SG Genetics & Breeding	26-27/09/2013, Laon (F)
SG Seed Quality & Testing	21-22/10/2013, Angers (F)
74 th IIRB Congress	01-03/07/2014, Dresden (D)