

# IIRB-News 07/2014

This newsletter summarises the numerous IIRB activities in spring and summer 2014 and informs about upcoming events.

## Study group meetings

### **Joint Plant & Soil / Agricultural Engineering meeting** (12-13/5/2014, Bergen op Zoom)

This joint meeting focused on efficiency increase by use of improved tillage techniques and thus prepared the 2014 IIRB Seminar on this topic. Examples from strip till trials in Denmark, Sweden and Germany as well as herbicide reduction in sugar beet crops by mechanical techniques were presented. In the separate meeting the Plant & Soil group reviewed results of trials on the effect of liming. Open topics included nitrogen fertilization recommendations, early sowing and yield response, and global warming effects on water availability and beet yield. The Agricultural Engineering group discussed the defoliation versus topping of beets, and an amendment of the IIRB standard test procedure for seeding and harvesting.

### **SG Communication Techniques** (19/3/2014, online meeting)

For the first time an online meeting was organised - a complementary way to meet. The session evaluated different communication tools (websites, grower meetings, magazines, general communication). Via a screen sharing session and telephone conference everyone could follow the presentations - an interesting, efficient meeting without travelling.

### **SG Beet Pulp & Molasses** (26-27/3/2014, Amsterdam)

In their joint meeting with the CEFS working group on animal feed, group members presented effects of chemical additives in pressed pulp silage, and reviewed German experiences with beet as a biogas substrate. A visit of Schothorst Feed Research in Lelystad completed the meeting.

### **SG Weed Control** (28/5/2014, Norwich)

The group discussed the current weed control situation in the countries represented. Two guest speakers reported on practical aspects of hooded band spraying and the glyphosate spot treatment of weeds. Challenges and potential risks of the use of ALS sugar beets were discussed. An overview on the group's work was presented at the 74<sup>th</sup> IIRB Congress. Plans for a seminar in 2015 are ongoing.

### **SG Beet Quality & Storage** (17/6/2014, Tienen)

The effect of harvesting and varieties on beet storage and the evolution of beet quality during the last decades were discussed, taking into account the actual status of beet quality analysis and future needs and developments. Beet quality analysis was related to recent storage trials of covered beet, evaluating the influence of the genotype and criteria for selection. Practical results from long term-storage trials were reported.

## **74<sup>th</sup> IIRB Congress** (1-3/7/2014, Dresden)

320 participants attended this three-day event. The sugar beet sector of Germany as host country was introduced during the congress' opening session followed by more than 30 oral presentations and 90 posters presenting the state of the art in sugar beet research.

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

The congress focused on breeding and soil-borne diseases and the control of weeds and leaf diseases and closed with an outlook on future requirements in sugar beet cultivation, the impact of science, and the question of the social acceptance of agriculture.



*Focus on sugar beet at the 74<sup>th</sup> IIRB Congress*

## **2014 IIRB Seminar**

The 2014 IIRB seminar entitled 'Tillage and drilling advances - increasing efficiency in sugar beet cultivation' will take place 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 at Zakrzów, Poland. It is linked to the machinery exhibition 'Beet Europe' the day after in close-by Dobieszów. The interest in improving tillage methods has increased: new techniques developed by manufacturers of agricultural machinery were tested by different institutes in field trials and practice. The seminar is compiling the available results from these trials. It focuses on the effect and potential of strip tillage and equal distance tillage and provides insight into high speed drilling and mechanical weed control.

Online registration at [www.iirb.org](http://www.iirb.org) is possible until 15/08/2014. Please note places are limited.

## **IIRB Meetings agenda 2014**

Joint study group meeting	
Pests & Diseases and Genetics & Breeding	18-19/9/2014, Söllingen
IIRB Seminar Drilling & Tillage advances	1/10/2014, Zakrzów
SG Seed Quality	7-8/10/2014, Tienen
SAC/AC meeting	16/10/2014, Valladolid

