



Minutes of the SGM of WG1

Small berry variety evaluation

Vilnius – 29-30 January 2009

Report of the meeting in Vilnius, in the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.

This meeting was devoted to create well defined outputs such as the description of the EU varieties evaluation network, more effective evaluation sites, list of varieties annually evaluated, major descriptors. In this meeting comparison of data from different research institutions was made. Influence of geographic and climatic conditions on plant performance, fruit quality and disease resistance were analyzed.

The topics for the meeting were: strawberry variety evaluation, raspberry variety evaluation, blackcurrant variety evaluation and high bush blueberry variety evaluation in Europe.

Sixteen experts were present (see list below). They presented their work (see presentations or abstracts attached). Their presentations or abstracts will be placed on the web site of Cost 863.

No	Name	Country	Email	WG
1	Philippe Chartier	France	philippe.chartier@ciref.fr	1
2	Paulina Mladina	Romania	paulina_irina_mladin@yahoo.com	1
3	Gianluca Baruzzi	Italy	gianluca.baruzzi@entecra.it	1
4	Sezai Ercisli	Turkey	sercisli@hotmail.com	1
5	Darinka Koron	Slovenia	Darinka.Koron@kis.si	1
6	Sarmite Strautina	Latvia	strautina@ddsis.lv	1
7	F. Dénes Fertőd	Hungary	fkut@t-online.hu	1
8	Saila Karhu	Finland	saila.karhu@mtt.fi	1
9	Agnieszka Masny	Poland	amasny@insad.pl	1
10	Danilo Bernardini	Italy	bernardini@raggivivai.it	1
11	Rytis Rugienius	Lithuania	R.Rugienius@lsdi.lt	1
12	Audrius Sasnauskas	Lithuania	A.Sasnauskas@lsdi.lt	1
13	Carmen Soria	Spain	maria.soria@juntadeandalucia.es	1
14	Philip Lieten	The Netherland	lieten.philip@skynet.be	1
15	André Ançay	Switzerland	andre.ancay@acw.admin.ch	1
16	Hedi.Kaldmae	Estonia	hedi.kaldmae@emu.ee	1

1. STRAWBERRY VARIETY EVALUATION

Data of strawberry breeding and variety evaluation was presented by 8 delegates from Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Turkey, France, Spain, Switzerland and Italy.

Especially broad and well organized network of strawberry variety testing is in the main region of European strawberry production: Italy, Spain and France. Other countries could transfer their experience to own variety trials take in to account local climatic conditions and growing technologies.

During discussion Gianluca Baruzzi (Italy) proposed to strawberry activity and variety trials in the 2009-2010 season. General elaboration could be focused on different part of Europe. It could be divided into three different regions:

South of Europe:

South of Italy
Spain
Turkey
South of France

Middle of Europe:

North of Italy
Central - North of France
Switzerland
Germany
Romania
Poland
UK
Belgium

North of Europe

Lithuania
Finland
Sweden
Latvia and Estonia (suggested by Lithuanian representatives).

In each area the several Institutes involved in COST Action WG1 will set up in 2009 one strawberry variety trial. The experimental field will be managed with the traditional cultural technique of the area.

The choose of the varieties is the more important aspect of the system. Gianluca Baruzzi propose that each location/country can choose a limited number of new varieties (maximum 2 or 3) for evaluation in all the experimental fields located in its European zone. The "system" needs a strong "coordination action", in particular for the choose of the varieties for the 3 big areas.

The delegates agree to use the same methodology (with minor changes) adopted for the COST 836 variety network.

Some of the delegates express opinion that region of Middle Europe is to broad and it to many number of countries. Final decision will be made 2-3 weeks after the meeting communicating by e-mails.

2. RASPBERRY VARIETY EVALUATION

Data of raspberry breeding and variety evaluation was presented by 5 delegates from Latvia, Hungary, Romania, Estonia and Turkey.

Several very interesting red and yellow berry varieties were developed in Latvia and Hungary. Local cultivars and cultivars from Russia are most winter hardy and better taste, while varieties from West Europe are best for berry size and quality.

Actualities of raspberry variety network and common descriptors were discussed. Representatives of Switzerland, France, Spain, and Lithuania agree to join this group. It was expressed opinion about further raspberry group coordination by Niki Jennings (Scotland). It will be contacted in the nearest weeks.

Final list of countries in this group are: Latvia, Hungary, Romania, Estonia, Turkey, Switzerland, France, Scotland and Lithuania.

3. BLACKCURRANT VARIETY AND HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRY EVALUATION

Data of blackcurrant and highbush blueberry breeding and variety evaluation was presented by 6 delegates from Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Hungary, Romania and Estonia.

Actualities of blackcurrant variety network and common descriptors were discussed. Saila Karhu (Finland) suggests improving several points in the blackcurrant descriptor. It will be discussed in the blackcurrant variety evaluation group by e-mails.

In this group most of partners exchanged plant materials of newest varieties. But is not possible to complete evaluation of those varieties (it takes 3-4 years) until end of COST 863. It was decided to evaluate varieties which are in the every partner institute according common blackcurrant descriptors and using techniques adopted in every country.

Final list of countries in blackcurrant group are: Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Hungary, Romania, Scotland, Hungary and Estonia.

Separate variety evaluation group will be organized for highbush blueberry. It will include Poland, Romania, Estonia and Slovenia.

4. THE VARIETY NETWORK AS EXPECTED BY THE NURSERIES

Presentations were done by Danilo Bernardini (New Fruits, Italy) and Philip Lieten (Fragaria Holland).

Danilo Bernardini propose to add following traits to the strawberry descriptor: production of runners and also their quality (for nursery), tolerance to pest and diseases also *Collectotricum*., predominant fruit shape also indicate the primary fruits, planting date and density plantation advised, cracking (rain resistance), industrial use suitability, trials also in open fields in straw mulch and in German country.

According Philip Lieten for good results in variety trials it is important to have a standardization of the characteristics all the researchers are looking at to evaluate new selections. The information is easy exchangeable this way. On the other hand it is important to start from comparable plant material for all the varieties/selections being used. It is preferable to receive plants from the same nursery or anticipate and propagate from a small quantity of motherplants new plants at the research stations. The plant types send to research stations should be representing the cultural practice of the country or area to be valuable. Usually two standard varieties have to be used in each growing area.

In general, nurseries are mediators between breeders and growers. For our institutions it is important to test all varieties that could be adapted to local climatic conditions and have particular interest for growers. Nurseries agree to present required plant material for variety trials, because they are also interested in results of those trials.

5. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Actualities of small berry varieties network were discussed. It was decided that all data from partners will be collected and summarized by each coordinator (strawberry - Gianluca Baruzzi, raspberry – Nikki Jennings, blackcurrant – Audrius Sasnauskas, highbush blueberry – Mihail Coman or Darinka Koron). Common publication will be prepared for the final symposium in Lisbon, 2010.

Vilnius, 6th February 2009
Audrius Sasnauskas