



VALUE FOR CULTIVATION AND USE OF TESTING OF ORGANIC CEREAL VARIETIES: WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES?

Location and Dates: Brussels, Belgium, 28th and 29th February 2008

Organisation: Johan van Waes (ILVO, Belgium), Laurence Fontaine and Frederic Rey (ITAB, France), Aart Osman (Louis Bolk Institute, Netherlands)

Background

Over the last ten years in a number of EU countries experiences have been gained with adapting the VCU testing of cereals to the needs of the organic sector. Most of the variety testing organisations and research institutes involved are member of Working Group Six of the COST action SUSVAR (www.cost860.dk), an exchange network of European cereal researchers. Within this working group members expressed the need to organise a specific workshop to review the knowledge gained so far and identify key issues for further actions.

Aim and Content

The aim is to discuss 3 to 4 key topics, related to variety testing under organic and low input, compared to the conventional system. To identify these key topics, invited speakers will give plenary presentations on the regular VCU system and experiences with VCU for organic agriculture. The possibilities to register genetically diverse populations, a topic under discussion in UK, will also be included. Furthermore participants are encouraged to bring posters on the situation of VCU for organic in their specific country.

Expected Output of the meeting

The meeting will end in proposals and possible actions that are needed to improve the applicability of VCU testing results to organic cereal cropping systems. Results of the meeting will be published in proceedings that will be made available as a file in pdf-format.

Costs and reimbursement of SUSVAR members

The registration fee for this workshop amounts 25 Euro and will be used to cover the costs of coffeekbreaks during the whole meeting and lunch on Friday.

Unfortunately in this last year of SUSVAR, we have to work with a limited budget. Because of that, we only were able to select a limited number of SUSVAR members that will be reimbursed. Selection criterium was experience with organic VCU. Despite of this, we hope that also the colleagues that will not be reimbursed, but are interested to participate, also will be able to join.

Registration

Persons that are interested in the meeting should contact the organiser:

Johan van Waes: johan.vanwaes@ilvo.vlaanderen.be



VALUE FOR CULTIVATION AND USE OF VARIETY TESTING FOR ORGANIC CEREAL PRODUCTION: WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES?

WORKSHOP of COST ACTION 860 – SUSVAR and ECO-PB

Data: 28th and 29th February 2008

Location: Ellips Building, Koning Albert II laan 35, 1030 Brussels

Organisation: Johan van Waes (ILVO, Belgium), Laurence Fontaine and Frederic Rey (ITAB, France), Aart Osman (Louis Bolk Institute, Netherlands)

Provisional program

28th of February 2008

14.00 - 14.15 Welcome by the Chairman of WG6 Aart Osman (The Netherlands)

14.15 - 14.45 Future developments in European rules for registration of varieties on a national catalogue and a recommended variety list (presentation B. Foletto – DG SANCO or a representative)

14.45 – 15.15 The VCU variety testing for agricultural crops in an European context (Johan Van Waes- Belgium)

15.15 – 15.30 Short discussion with previous speakers

15.30 - 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 – 16.45 Experiences with variety testing for organic systems (20 - 25'/lecture)
An example from Austria (Clemens Flamm - AGES)
An example from Germany (Uta Schnock - BSA)

16.45 – 18.00 Plenary Discussion

What can we learn from these and other experiences and what are the key issues for VCU testing for organic agriculture?

Can these rules be used for organic/low input conditions or are there necessary adaptations?

18.00 End of first day

19.00 Dinner (facultative)

29th of February 2008

08.30 – 08.45 Wrap up of discussion of previous day

08.45 – 09.45 Discussion in 3-4 groups on key issues that were identified previous day

09.45 – 10.30 Plenary discussion on conclusions of each group (moderator: Edith Lammerts van Bueren – ECO-PB)

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 11.30 Registration and testing of diverse populations; ongoing discussions in UK (Martin Wolfe - UK)

11.30-12.00 Discussion

12.00-12.30 Conclusions and closure of Workshop

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30 End of meeting