

NETWORKING – SCIENCE IN ACTION
RESAUTAGE – UN CONCEPT DYNAMIQUE POUR LA RECHERCHE
WISSENSCHAFT GESTALTEN

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SCIENCE IN ACTION – THE SUGAR BEET RESEARCH NETWORK

**Réseautage – le réseau de recherche sur la betterave sucrière /
Wissenschaft gestalten – das Netzwerk Zuckerrübenforschung**

ABSTRACT

In Germany, a sugar beet research institute has been founded by the Verein der Zuckerindustrie in 1882, first located in Bernburg/Halle, since 1947 in Göttingen. By clear scientific research excellence in breeding, agronomy/physiology and plant pathology, the IfZ is embedded into an extensive network of national/international research, academic teaching, coordination of extension trials and policy advice of VdZ, WVZ, CIBE and CEFS. Extension service for farmers is not part of the IfZ expertise. All activities are targeted towards sustainable intensification of sugar beet cultivation.

The coordination of extension trials (9000 plots p.a.) is realized by the coordination board (KA) comprising staff of growers' associations and sugar industry. The trials are carried out by eight regional working groups. The IfZ is managing the KA and executing the statistical analysis. The KA is supported by study groups on specific topics such as variety testing and pesticide use. In divers other countries respective trials are carried out by sugar industry, too.

Cooperation Beet Research International (COBRI) comprises contract based but without merger IRBAB (BE), IRS (NL), NBR (DK/SE) and IfZ (DE) activities in order to generate knowledge as mission and to get synergy effects, reliable results and competitiveness in European research projects. It has started in 2010, first multi-annual/-site results are presented during the congress.

At the University of Göttingen, public private partnership-activities have a prominent position at the faculty of agricultural sciences, originally initiated by IfZ. Today, institutional activities (associated institutes, centers of research, M.Sc./PhD schools etc.) in agronomy, plant nutrition, plant protection and breeding are included, supported and funded by divers agrochemical and breeding companies and the Verein der Zuckerindustrie.

The scientific network is complemented by cooperations with many other institutions such as Bundessortenamt (variety registration), BVL (pesticide registration), Julius Kühn-Institute (research, scientific administration) etc.. The most prominent partner for international knowledge transfer and scientific exchange of views is the IIRB. Summarized, the IfZ is the German sugar beet "meeting point": Science in action.