

IIRB News 3/2016

The 75th IIRB Congress was successfully held at Brussels in February. Now there is time for a short review of recent events organised by IIRB, and an outlook on further events planned.

Study group meetings

SG Genetics & Breeding/Seed Quality & Testing

(24/9/2015 joint meeting, Bergen op Zoom, NL)

The focus of this joint meeting was on seed quality evaluation and quality maintenance during storage, and on the effects of seed quality on variety yield. Guest speakers from Wageningen University and Fyttagoras gave valuable external input.

SG Seed Quality & Testing

(25/9/2015, Bergen op Zoom, NL)

In separate working groups the seed quality group continued discussions, e.g. on the need for a homogenized determination of emergence quality. A comparative test of different laboratory methods is planned.

SG Genetics & Breeding

(25/9/2015, Bergen op Zoom, NL)

The group was interested in the specific Dutch conditions of variety testing, disease pressure and breeding requirements. Due to the observed spread of resistance breaking BNYVV isolates the use of Rz1 + Rz2 resistant varieties is recommended. Stemphylium infestation so far is specific to the Netherlands, but can be expected to spread. The future importance of genotypic variability in storage losses and invert sugar formation was highlighted.

SG Communication techniques

(27/8/2015, online meeting, 15/2/2016, Brussels, B)

The focus of the recent meetings was on customer relation management systems (CRM). By collection of relational data of a closed user group, these systems categorize and differentiate target groups and thus allow a specific and targeted communication with growers. Communication strategies of specific events (Désheerb'Avenir IV) and extension services (SFZ) were presented and discussed, just as an updated advisory service website.

2015 IIRB Seminar 'Resistance management'

(10-11/9/2015, Frauenkirchen, A)

The four sessions of this seminar covered aspects of resistance management in fungicides, insecticides and herbicides, as well as resistance breaking in rhizomania. Key note speakers contributed to the two-day programme that 130 persons attended. Trial visits in the surrounding area and the evening programme were appreciated for the possibility of intensive networking.

75th IIRB Congress

(16-17/2/2016, Hotel Radisson Blu Royal, Brussels, B)

The two-day congress was successfully held in Brussels and attracted 280 participants from 23 countries. Four invited speakers presented views from science, breeding, industry and practice on how to challenge the yield gap of sugar beet. They analysed ways to increase the efficiency of future sugar beet production. Some of the points mentioned can already be achieved in practice today.

The following session 'Yield potential - yield gap' deepened aspects highlighted in the Opening session. A further focus of the congress was on mechanical weed control, on pests and diseases control in Cercospora, Aphanomyces, and nematodes, as well as on topics related to quality, storage and alternative use of beets. Open session topics and two poster sessions with more than 80 posters completed the informative congress that offered plenty of opportunities for contacts and networking.



The future of efficient sugar beet production discussed by international experts at the 75th IIRB Congress

All presentations and posters of the congress as well as further information on future events are available on the IIRB website at www.iirb.org.

IIRB Meetings agenda 2016



SG Beet Quality & Storage	14/4/2016, Bergen op Zoom (NL)
SG Agricultural Engineering	29/4/2016, Bonn (D)
Joint AC/SAC meeting	12/5/2016, Brussels (B)
SG Weed Control	24-25/5/2016, Bjärred (S)
SG Plant & Soil	20-21/6/2016, Göttingen (D)
SG Seed Quality & Testing	29-30/9/2016, Einbeck (D)
Beet Europe / Betteravenir	26-27/10/2016, Moyvillers (F)
IIRB seminar	28/10/2016, Estrée St. Denis (F)
(linked to Beet Europe)	