



Minutes of the International Berry School (IBS) *Berries: Physiology – Cultivation – Quality – Processing* within the EuBerry – Project held at Geisenheim University, 65366 Geisenheim, Germany at 5th to 8th March 2013

Objectives

The international Berry School (IBS) was addressed to 25-30 early-stage researchers (PhD, Postdocs) or young professional (technical staff and extension people with a bachelor or master degree) in the berry industry. The aim of the course was to give young people an overview on a) modern berry cultivation, b) plant physiology (including dormancy and winter hardiness, flower initiation, flower mapping of strawberries) as the background for all cultivation techniques, c) healthy plant production as the basic tool for profitability of the cultivation process, d) berry quality including aroma and human health compounds, e) berry processing and f) an international view on the berry market.

Summary

The courses of the IBS were divided in plenary lectures, seminar-like lectures and two laboratory training units. Due to the limit number of places in the laboratory courses only 28 persons out of 49 applications from 13 European countries and one overseas country were chosen according to their CV to participate in the IBS. The background of the students was divers: most of them were PhD students or work as technical staff or assistants in breeding work or research.

The students were taught by 16 teachers from 9 countries, including Adam Dale (CN) and Christoph Carlen (CH) two members of the EuBerry Advisory Board. Each subject was presented within 90 minutes.

In addition to these plenary lectures, 13 members of the EuBerry Working Groups 1 to 4, which had there yearly joint meeting from 6 -7 March also at Geisenheim, presented their current research in 30 minute talks. The complete program of the IBS can be found in the appendix.

Different members of the Working Groups took part in the lectures and made by their long time experiences fruitful contributions to the stimulated discussions.

Due to the sponsors the fee for the IBS was only 90 Euro per participants.

All participants of the IBS got a Certificate of their attendance.

Conclusion

The interest from all over Europe in the IBS was very high. The students got an actually overview of the different aspects of plant physiology, berry production, berry quality including aroma, sensory evaluation and human health aspects as well as berry market and berry marketing. The talks about the current research given by the members of the EuBerry Working Groups were an excellent example of the distribution of knowledge from experienced scientists to young people working in the different part of the berry industry.

Acknowledgement

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