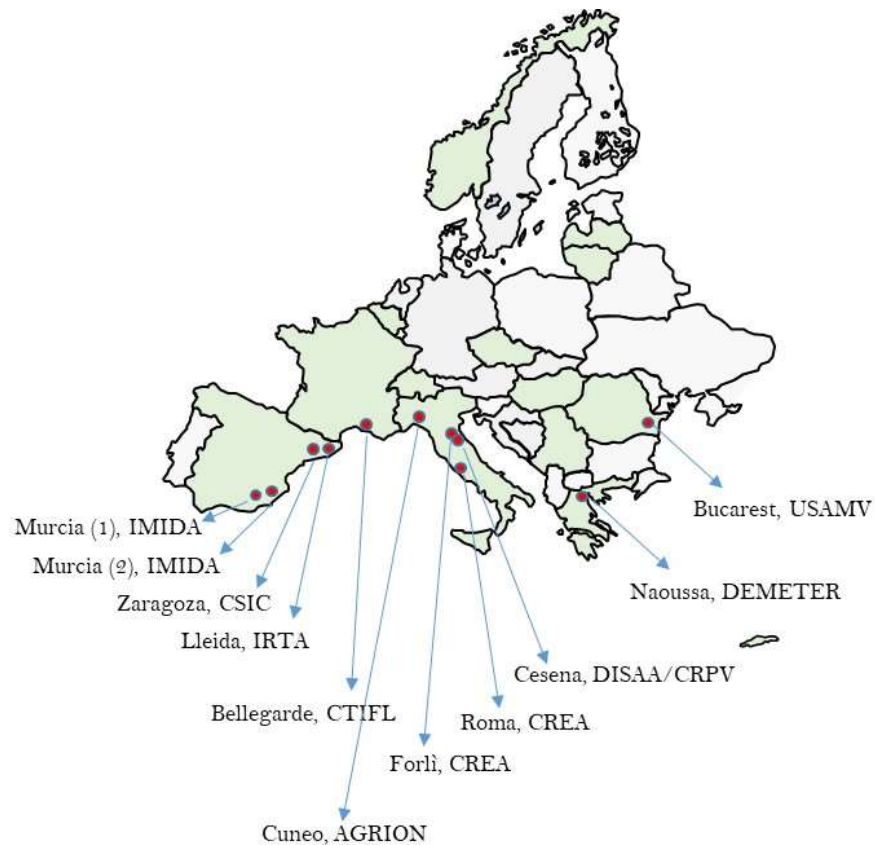


REPORT OF THE WG 'APRICOT AND PEACH' FOR YEAR 2020

The recent past. In 2016, the Apricot & Peach (A&P) WG initiated a process aimed to establish a European Peach Testing Trial Network. A common evaluation protocol was implemented, choosing/developing descriptors deemed effective for assessing the productive and qualitative performance of peach/nectarine cultivars: 47 descriptors were selected, of which 18 (19 for nectarines) considered priority, i.e. to be recorded in all trials. A set of common cultivars was chosen and grafted plants prepared in various European nurseries*. In 2018, material of 17 cultivars was distributed and a collaborative testing trial established in 11 sites (see below) of 5 European countries, including the most important peach producing countries in EU. In 2019, being the trees in the trials at their second leaf and a few fruits already visible, a mistake was identified in the distributed material related to a unique cultivar.



Most recent activity. In autumn 2019 and in February 2020, one of the nurseries involved distributed for free budwood material of the correct cultivar to all applicants. In 2020 the trial plots entered their third leaf and therefore some yield to perform some evaluation was available. Unfortunately, repeated cold episodes during blooming and at the beginning of fruit set drastically reduced crop load in some evaluation sites. Nevertheless, in most sites it has been still possible to record the information related to phenology of flowering and some data on fruit. The data collected have been entered/ are being entered in the excel sheet prepared by Julien Ruesch (Ctifl) to host and allow some processing of the common data collected.

The IV meeting of the Apricot & Peach (A&P) WG scheduled for June 2000 in Naoussa, Greece, was unfortunately canceled due to the pandemic. We have decided to organize an online meeting before the end of this year, most probably at the beginning of December. This meeting will allow us to verify the functionality of the Excel data entry sheet and highlight any problems encountered in the various locations, eg. in using the descriptors selected.

In July 2020, arrangements have been made with Dr. Manganaris, Convener of the X International ISHS Peach Symposium planned in 2021 (Naoussa, Greece, 31 May-4 June 2021) to include the IV meeting of the A&P WG in the Symposium Agenda, taking advantage of the fact that many of the WG members would attend the ISHS Symposium. Unfortunately, the continuing uncertainty due to the course of the pandemic has prompted the conveners to postpone the event to 2022 (May 30 to June 6, 2022), decision taken just in the recent days. The availability to host the A&P meeting in the framework of the X ISHS Peach Symposium remains unchanged.

It is still premature to establish whether in 2021 the WG will have the opportunity to meet physically, although a meeting during the peach production season would allow some joint evaluation in the field and would facilitate testing and implementing the evaluation protocol and the single descriptors.

Daniela Giovannini

Chair of the EUFRIN Apricot and Peach WG

*We acknowledge the nurseries: Viversa; Vitroplant; Star Fruits; Certiplant; Quality Plant