

Annual Report of the EUFRIN WG on Fruit Thinning

The last EUFRIN Working Group on “Fruit thinning” was organized in Belgrade at the end of February 2020 (27-29 February) by two colleagues of the Belgrade University, Dr. Dragan Radivojevic and Dr. Milica Fotiric, who acted as conveners of the Meeting.

More than 35 persons from different European countries attended the meeting and some representatives from the USA North East Working group on Fruit thinning and bioregulators (NEPGR) did attend our meeting as well. Also Prof. Karen Theron, from Stellenbosch University (South Africa), and Mauricio Frias, a consultant from Chile, attended the meeting. Despite the WG is European, our meeting are always characterized by a relevant international participation.

Dr. Philip Schwallier of NEPGR was the “invited speaker” of our meeting, he delivered a very high-quality speech on “Pollen Tube Growth Model and LSO Thinning”.

The presentations from the different WG members were 16 (see attached Programme) and concerned the update of the different thinning techniques and strategies performed in Europe as well in USA and in South Africa.

At the end of the two-days meeting a slot was given as usual to the Chemical companies (Company corner) that normally attend and support our meetings, to present their activity, informing the WG members on the development of new thinning agents, chemical registration procedures, etc.

A good relationship has been built over the years among the EUFRIN WG members and the chemical companies that normally attend our meeting since the beginning of this Century and this relationship is beneficial for both the WG Members and the Chemical companies.

During the Business meeting organized at the end, it has been decided to publish our results on a new Acta Horticulturae of the ISHS. We have just produced the Acta Horticulturae n.4 (in press), where the scientific contributions presented at the 2019 Friedrichshafen meeting were collected and it has been decided to collect the research works presented in Belgrade in another Acta Horticulturae (n.5) volume, whose preparation is in progress.

The next meeting will be organized in Belgium (Sint Truiden) and, considering the restrictions determined by the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be telematic and we already started its organization sending a questionnaire to the members asking for their participation and willing to present update research on the fruit thinning techniques carried out in the different countries.

The next location where the meeting will be organized after Belgium will be Padova in Italy. Further details will be discussed during the Belgium meeting.

EUFRIN Working Group on Fruit chemical thinning

The President: Prof. Guglielmo Costa

The secretary: Dr. Matej Stopar