



BAM !

1st Belgian Agroecological Meeting

Louvain-la-Neuve - 29.09.2011

Book of Abstracts

Louvain-la-Neuve, 29th September 2011 - www.agroecologie.be

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- 09 h 30 Welcome coffee
- 09 h 45 Workshop presentation, Philippe Baret, UCL
- 10 h 00 Tour de table
- 10 h 15 Framing : What is agroecology? Pierre Stassart, ULg
- 10 h 45 The governance of consumption transitions: analysing the institutional factors influencing local food systems, Coline Ruwet, ULB
- 11 h 15 From historical transitions to contemporary challenges: exploring the roots of seven deep patterns of our agri-food system, Erik Mathijs, KULeuven
- 11 h 30 Intellectual property on plants, European catalogues on agricultural varieties and Agroecology: does the legislation have a sex? Caroline Ker, FUNDP
- 11 h 45 Building organic sector regulation : accommodating the diversity of practices and principles, Audrey Vankeerbergh, ULB
- 12 h 00 Organic apple production: conclusion of an eight year study in Belgium, Laurent Jamar, CRAw
- 12 h 15 Participatory guarantee systems in Brazil and the construction of another sustainable rurality, Katya Isaguirre, Université Fédérale du Paraná, UFPR, Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil
- 12 h 30 Website presentation, Marjolein Visser, ULB
- 12 h 45 Lunch
- 13 h 30 Bridging the gap - urban agriculture at the heart of agro-ecology in Belgium, Maarten Roels, Universiteit Gent
- 14 h 00 Emotions and organic farmers, Denise Van Dam & Jean Nizet, FUNDP
- 14 h 30 The application of biological soil quality indicators in agroecology, Bram Moeskops, Universiteit Gent
- 15 h 00 Understanding and modelling farmers knowledge in decision-making processes : application of an original inductive cognitive mapping approach to grassland based farming systems, Frédéric M. Vanwindakens, Didier Stilmant, Philippe V. Baret, CRAw/UCL
- 15 h 15 How to improve farming system resilience? Application to organic cattle meat production, P. Stassart, D. Stilmant and D. Jamar, ULg/CRAw
- 15 h 30 Coffee pause
- 16 h 00 La crise cubaine : une opportunité pour l'agroécologie, Pablo Servigne, ULB
- 16 h 15 Innovation processes for an agroecological transition in the Great Lakes region of Africa : combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches, Julie Van Damme & Philippe V. Baret, UCL
- 16 h 30 What next? Discussion chaired by Gaëtan Vanloqueren
- 17 h 00 End of meeting

12H00 - ORGANIC APPLE PRODUCTION: CONCLUSION OF AN EIGHT YEAR STUDY IN BELGIUM

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The objective of this study, conducted over eight growing seasons (2002–2009), is to identify innovative way for reducing the use of pesticides and in particular, copper fungicides, for the control of apple scab (*V. inaequalis*) in organic apple production. Special emphasis is put on cultivar traits, sanitation practices and primary scab infection control during spring season. An original approach is proposed for defining a specific spray timing involving spraying during the infection processes, especially before fungal penetration, determined by the RIMpro software warning system. This 'during-infection' spray strategy allows reducing from 30 to 50% the amount of fungicide usually used for effective apple scab control, on high scab-susceptible cultivars. Potassium bicarbonate, lime sulphur, and three plant extracts, among 60 alternative products tested, have the potential to reduce copper use. The results obtained in these experiments could not be attributed to the specific technical performances of the tunnel sprayer used, which however, offer valuable environmental benefits. The preservation and promotion of biodiversity within the orchard seem to be responsible to the control of major pests during all orchards' life, since none insecticidal treatments were never applied. On the basis of the present study, the organic management system seems a good farming approach for maintaining soil quality with regard to biological indicators. This work shows that (i) planting cultivars with polygenic scab-resistance traits, (ii) increasing accent on sanitation practices aimed at reducing initial inoculum in autumn, (iii) applying an accurate "during-infection" spray strategy in spring, and (iv) preserving orchard biodiversity are the four most promising approaches for substantial further reductions in protection products fully compliant with international organic crop production standards.