BBV - Biomolécules et biotechnologies végétales

Rapport Hcéres

HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education

Department of Research Evaluation

report on research unit:

Biomolécules et Biotechnologies Végétales

BBV

under the supervision of the following institutions and research bodies:

Université François-Rabelais de Tours

Evaluation Campaign 2016-2017 (Group C)

HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education

Department of Research Evaluation

In the name of HCERES,[1]

Michel Cosnard, president

In the name of the experts committee,[2]

Dirk Hincha, chairman of the committee

Under the decree N°.2014-1365 dated 14 november 2014,

[1] The president of HCERES "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the experts committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5)

[2] The evaluation reports "are signed by the chairman of the expert committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2)

Evaluation report

This report is the sole result of evaluation by the expert committee, the composition of which is specified below.

The assessments contained herein are the expression of an independent and collegial reviewing by the committee.

Unit name:	Biomolécules et Biotechnologies Végétales
Unit acronym:	BBV
Label requested:	EA
Current number:	2106
Name of Director (2016-2017):	Ms Nathalie GUIVARC'H
Name of Project Leader (2018-2022):	Ms Nathalie GUIVARC'H

Expert committee members

Chair:	Mr Dirk HINCHA, MPI of Molecular Plant Physiology, Germany
Experts:	Mr Stéphane BERNILLON, INRA Bordeaux (representative of supporting personnel)
	Mr Bruno TOURAINE, Université de Montpellier (representative of the CNU)
	Mr Michael WALTER, Leibniz Institut für Pflanzenbiochemie Halle, Germany
	Mr Heribert WARZECHA, Techniche Universität Darmstadt, Germany
Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:	Mr Serge DELROT
Representative of supervising institutions and bodies:	Mr Emmanuel LESIGNE, Université François-Rabelais de Tours
Head of Doctoral School:	Mr Philippe ROINGEARD, ED n°549, "Santé, Sciences Biologiques et Chimie du Vivant"

1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

The unit, which focuses on plant secondary metabolism, was established in 1998 and has been headed by Ms Nathalie GUIVARC´H since 2012. It is affiliated with the University François-Rabelais in Tours in the Centre Val de Loire.

Management team

Director: Ms Nathalie GUIVARC'H.

HCERES nomenclature

SVE1 Agronomy, Plant Biology, Ecology, Environment, Evolution.

SVE2 Cellular biology, Imaging, Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Genomics, Biology Systematism, Development, Structural Biology.

Scientific domains

The unit investigates the regulation of plant secondary metabolism in response to environmental factors.

Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number on 30/06/2016	Number on 01/01/2018
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	17	17
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions	0	0
N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	9	9
N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	2	
N5: Emeritus	1	
N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	0	
N7: PhD students	5	
TOTAL N1 to N7	**34**	
Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions	7	

Unit record	From 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2016
PhD theses defended	7
Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit	1
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period	1

2 • Assessment of the unit

Global assessment of the unit

The main scientific interest of this unit is plant specialized (secondary) metabolism, the biosynthetic pathways involved, their regulation and their responses to environmental factors. This has remained a constant since the last evaluation report in 2012 but the unit has developed novel approaches and in part changed the focus of their work. The overall strength of the unit is its concentration on a clearly defined part of plant metabolism in combination with a wide range of methodological approaches ranging from bioinformatics to synthetic biology.

The scientific production of BBV in the past period was good and has seen an excellent development. Nevertheless, the unit should aim to publish their findings in higher impact journals. The unit should focus its activities on establishing new collaborations that will increase their international visibility.

The unit has a good academic reputation and they have made good progress. The unit has been successful at the regional level to obtain funding, but has not managed to obtain any funding for international consortia or from national funding agencies such as ANR.

The unit has developed excellent interactions with their environment and should continue on its path to foster close interactions with all major stakeholders in the region.

The organization of the unit is excellently adapted to its circumstances and size and should continue in its present form.

The unit has a very good involvement in training through research. Especially, it provides excellent teaching in master studies and it provides a high quality supervision and guidance for PhDs.

The scientific strategy of the unit is very good and the plans are mostly good and feasible. However, they should avoid further diversification and terminate the cytokinin project to make these resources available for the more productive projects of the unit.