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PV - Pathologie végétale

Rapport Hcéres

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HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research
and Higher Education

Department of Research Evaluation

report on research unit:

Pathologie Végétale

PV

under the supervision of
the following institutions
and research bodies:

Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique - INRA

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

Fernando Garcia-Arenal, chairman of the
committee

Under the decree N^o2014-1365 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: Pathologie Végétale

Unit acronym: PV

Label requested: UR

Current number: 0407

Name of Director (2016-2017): Mr Marc BARDIN

Name of Project Leader (2018-2022): Mr Marc BARDIN

Expert committee members

Chair: Mr Fernando GARCIA-ARENAL, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain

Experts:

- Mr Laurent DELIERE, Inra, Bordeaux (representative of supporting personnel)
- Ms Monica HOFTE, Universiteit Ghent, Belgium
- Mr Marc-Henri LEBRUN, Inra, Versailles
- Ms Laura MUGNAI, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Italy
- Ms Anne REPELLIN, Université Paris Est

Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:
Mr Serge DELROT

Representative of supervising institutions and bodies:
Mr Christian LANNOU, INRA

Heads of Doctoral Schools:

- Olivier DANGLES, Doctoral school n° 536, « Agrosciences and Sciences »
- Philippe NAQUET, Doctoral school n° 62, « Life and Health Sciences »

1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

The unit is one of 26 research units of INRA-PACA. It was created in 1958 and is located in Avignon. The unit’s mission is to contribute to the development of efficient and sustainable strategies for the control of plant diseases.

Management team

Director: Mr Marc BARDIN.

Deputy director: Ms Christel LEYRONAS.

HCERES nomenclature

SVE Sciences du vivant et environnement;

SVE1 Agronomie, Biologie Végétale, Écologie, Environnement, Évolution.

Scientific domains

The unit investigates the aetiology of emerging plant diseases as well as the epidemiology, ecology and evolutionary biology of plant pathogens.

Unit workforce

| Unit workforce | Number on 30/06/2016 | Number on 01/01/2018 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| N1: Permanent professors and similar positions | 0 | 0 |
| N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions | 15 | 16 |
| N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel) | 22 | 24 |
| N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.) | 2 | |
| N5: Emeritus | 1 | |
| N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel) | 1 | |
| N7: PhD students | 8 | |
| TOTAL N1 to N7 | 49 | |
| Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions | 5 | |

| Unit record | From 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2016 |
|---|-------------------------------|
| PhD theses defended | 10 |
| Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit | 1 |
| Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period | 3 |

2 • Assessment of the unit

Global assessment of the unit

The unit develops efficient and sustainable strategies for the control of plant diseases. To this end, research is carried out on relevant horticultural and ornamental crops rather than on model plant species, and important plant pathogens, including fungi, bacteria and viruses. Specific objectives, without ignoring molecular mechanisms of plant-pathogen interactions, mainly focus on population biology, giving particular attention to ecology, epidemiology and evolutionary biology of pathogens and their impact on plant-pathogen interactions.

Since 2012 a significant progress has been achieved in studies on ecology, epidemiology and evolution of pathogens. These progresses have resulted in new developments towards sustainable control strategies, notably on the durable use of host genetic resistance and of biological control methods.

The unit has a good scientific productivity, a good implantation in its socio economic environment and a good international visibility. As a consequence of its productivity the unit has a high academic reputation and international visibility. Also, it is very well implanted in its socio economic environment with close collaborations with the productive sectors.

Along with sound scientific objectives and expertise, which define its major strengths, weaknesses and threats derive from the size of the unit, which is at the lower limit for international competition and is further threatened by oncoming retirements. More intensive collaborations between the two teams constituting the unit would diminish this weakness. Efforts to publish in more general, higher impact journals are also desirable. At present, most scientific output is in well-respected journals of specific plant science or plant pathology fields. The unit has shown a good training activity, and should make all efforts to maintain the present number of doctoral students, while also trying to recruit postdocs. Internationalisation of the doctoral students and postdocs should also be a goal.