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SQPOV - Sécurité et qualité des produits d'origine 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:

Safety and Quality of Products from Plant Origin

SQPOV

Under the supervision of
the following institutions
and research bodies:

Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique - INRA

Université d'Avignon et des Pays du Vaucluse

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

Cristina Garcia-Viguera, chairwoman 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: Safety and Quality of Products from Plant Origin

Unit acronym: SQPOV

Label requested: Joint research unit

Current number: UMR 408

**Name of Director
(2016-2017):** Ms Catherine RENARD

**Name of Project Leader
(2018-2022):** Ms Catherine RENARD

Expert committee members

Chair: Ms Cristina GARCIA- VIGUERA, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas, CEBAS-CSIC, Spain

Experts:

Mr Jean-Marie AUBRY, École Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Lille

Ms Hélène FALENTIN, INRA, (representative of supporting personnel)

Ms Régine TALON, INRA, (representative of the CSS)

Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:
Mr Jean-François HOCQUETTE

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Ms Marie-Christine RALET, INRA CEPIA

Ms Sylvie DEQUIN, INRA MICA

Mr Georges LINARES, Université d'Avignon et des Pays du Vaucluse

Heads of Doctoral Schools:
Ms Martine GUERIF , ED n° 536 "Agricultural Sciences & Sciences"

1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

UMR 408 SQPOV is a joint research unit between UAPV (Université d'Avignon et des Pays de Vaucluse) and INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique). The unit was created in 2000 on a common topic dedicated to quality and safety of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables. In 2007, it was organised in three teams: Chemistry of antioxidants, Quality & Process, Microbiology and food safety. In 2011, the team "Chemistry of antioxidants" has developed an activity on extraction of compounds and thus split into two teams: Chemistry of antioxidants and GREEN specialized in extraction. The unit consists presently in about 50 permanent staff, plus 18 PhDs 6 post-doctoral fellows and 1 contract staff.

UMR 408 SQPOV was split between two locations, Faculty of Sciences in Avignon (UAPV) and the INRA campus in Agroparc. During this period, was set up a re-location to the new campus of UAPV in Agroparc (2 km from the INRA campus) and to the new and renovated buildings on the INRA campus. This relocation creates a closer geographical proximity and modern, functional laboratories but has needed a lot of organisation investment from the unit members.

Management team

The 30th of June 2016, UMR 408 SQPOV is led by a Director (Ms Catherine RENARD, DR INRA) and two Deputy directors (Mr Olivier DANGLES, PR and Mr Frédéric CARLIN, DR INRA), who have in charge the relations with the INRA's divisions CEPIA (CR) and MICA (FC), and UAPV direction (OD).

HCERES nomenclature

Principal : ST Sciences et technologies;

Secondaire : SVE3 Microbiologie, Immunité, ST4 Chimie;

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

Scientific domains

Scientific domains covered by SQPOV are: (i) Secondary metabolites/phytonutrients, their fate and activities (ii) Along the food chain: from raw material to consumers and health (including digestion and microbiological risks) (iii) Innovative and sustainable processes: new processes, risks and benefits.

Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number on 30/06/2016	Number on 01/01/2018
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	14	14
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions	10	11
N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	26	28
N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	6	
N5: Emeritus		
N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	1	
N7: PhD students	18	
TOTAL N1 to N7	75	
Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions	16	

Unit record	From 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2016
PhD theses defended	19
Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit	18
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period	5

2 • Assessment of the unit

Global assessment of the unit

The main scientific interest of the unit is the study of fruits and vegetables products along the food chain (from raw material - agricultural practices to health, including processed foods). They are focussed in secondary metabolites/phytonutrients, including their characterisation, innovative extraction green technologies, synthesis and influence on processing on these compounds, as well as the influence of processing on microbiological risks.

Since the evaluation in 2012, the main change has been the split of the Antioxidant team into two teams, the former one and the GREEN team, dedicated to eco-extraction. Since 2012, the GREEN team has performed metabolites eco-extraction, since the Antioxydant team has characterised the extracts in a complementary manner.

The principal strengths are the multidisciplinary status of the unit all the team leaders being well-known scientists at national and international levels. This makes the unit unique, strongly supported by INRA and Avignon University, and this support is beneficial for staff promotion, research projects, and getting new equipment. The unit has developed durable collaborations within academia and stakeholders. And this gives the opportunity to be more visible in the society, in industrial and other research areas. One question is probably the little real integration of one of the teams (GREEN) within the unit, as members of this team are physically apart. In addition, the potentiality of the collaboration between this team and the rest of the unit might be better exploited. Also the mean age of the unit is a bit high for future continuity of the expectable positive results that would be achieved.

In general SQPOV could be considered as a unit with well-defined scientific topic, good quality of research, and well organised, with fully consolidated financial resources, coming from national and international projects and industries, due to their excellent national and international collaborations and interaction with socio-economic environment.