

CONFERENCE “CHALLENGES OF PLUM GROWING IN EUROPE”

The conference was organized as the 4th European Fruit-Growing Research Organization (EUFRIN) Plum and Prune working group meeting in Latvia. Since 2006, such events have been organised with an aim for researchers from the EUFRIN Plum and Prune Working Group to meet more often than once every four years in the International Society for Horticultural Science Plum Symposium. The first conference took place in the Czech Republic, then Romania organised the meeting in 2010 and Greece in 2015. The meetings are organised with an aim to bring together scientists and practitioners involved in a range of disciplines of plum growing science and industry, to present the latest research results and to discuss practical implementation and further needs.

The Conference was organised by the Institute of Horticulture (formerly Latvia State Institute of Fruit Growing) in Jelgava and Dobele from 5 to 7 September 2018. The meeting was attended by around 30 scientists from nine countries, including Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Greece, Netherlands, Romania, Sweden, Czech Republic and Latvia. The conference was attended by the European leading plum breeder from Germany, Walter Hartmann, whose selections are widely grown in many European countries, including since 2006 in experimental plots in Dobele. Other leading plum scientists participated in the conference: from Poland — Elzbieta Rozpara, Miroslaw Sitarek, and Krzysztof Rutkowski, from Lithuania — Jozas Lanuskas and Darius

Kviklys, from Sweden — Inger Hjalmarsson, from Romania — Madalina Butac.

On September 5, at the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies four sessions were organised and contained 14 oral and 9 flash presentations covering a wide range of topics associated with plum breeding, trials of cultivars and rootstocks in various climatic zones, orchard management, fruit quality, storage and processing. Technical tours for participants of the conference were provided on September 6, which included introducing with different plum trials and laboratories of Institute of Horticulture at Dobele. The participants very much appreciated the familiarisation with Institute, as well as tasting more than 40 different plum cultivars, five different types of dried plums and others products.

On September 7, participants also had the opportunity to visit the plum commercial farms — “Srogas” in Alūksne county and K. Kaņepēja’s farm in Mālpils. “Srogas” is one of the largest plum commercial farms in Latvia, where ‘Ance’, a cultivar of the Institute of Horticulture, is grown in large areas. K. Kaņepēja’s farm is an organic farm where plums are grown using innovative technologies created at the Institute of Horticulture. During the visits, there were interesting discussions between the conference participants and farmers.

Edīte Kaufmane

KONFERENCE “IZAICINĀJUMI PLŪMJU AUDZĒŠANĀ EIROPĀ”

Sniegts ūss pārskats par konferenci “Izaicinājumi plūmju audzēšanā Eiropā”, kura notika no 2018. g. 5. līdz 7. septembrim Jelgavā un Dobelē. Konference organizēta Eiropas Augļkopības pētījumu organizācijas (EUFRIN) plūmju darba grupas 4. sanāksmes ietvaros.



Conference participants in Dobeļe orchards.



Conference participants in Jelgava palace.