

Session 5: Training

Training of sprayer inspectors

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Training of sprayer inspector is an important part for the mutual recognition of inspected sprayers and certification of inspections activities. Inspection of sprayers in use has been active since many years in several countries. In many countries activities are prepared as a result of the Directive for sustainable use of pesticides.

To get an overview of the situation in Europe a survey has been made in February 2012. A questionnaire has been send to the responsible authorities or actors in countries.

The survey show great differences in the national approaches. Mainly, national authorities or public organisations are responsible for the training. Course length varies from four training to 60 hours training plus one month of practise. Examination of inspectors is done often by involvement of authorities but also by separate course arrangers. Countries without formal training or examination occur.

The courses focus mainly on the test-procedure, test regulations, test equipment and practicals with varying proportions. Application technology, advising on calibration and upgrading of sprayers on e.g drift reduction or sprayer cleaning, are part of courses in less proportions. More in voluntary systems than in mandatory control-systems. Voluntary tests are often more ambitious and a part of IPM agriculture.

The training-material is often a collection of regulations, standards, technical material and power point presentations. Special training material or testing guidelines have been developed and are used alone or together with other material.

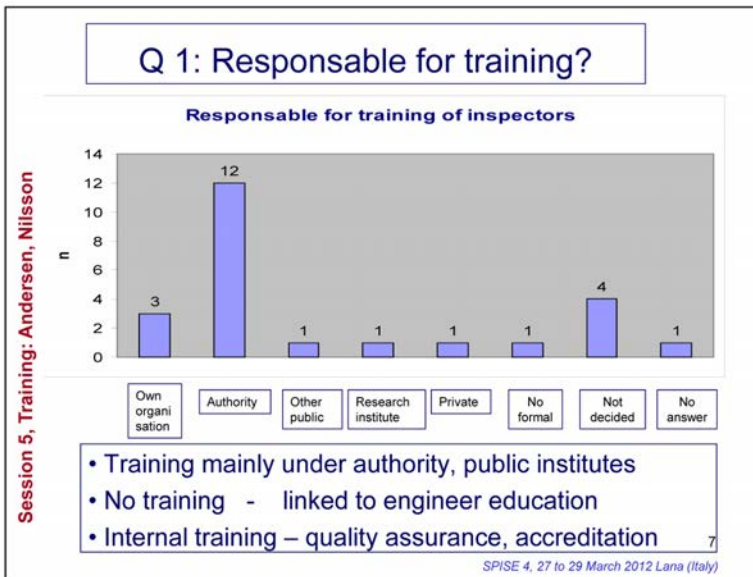
Courses are conducted mainly as one uniform course for all types of sprayers but can also be special courses for mist blowers, green-house sprayers, seed treatment and aerial sprayers.

A common level or strategy for training and examination of sprayer inspectors would be of great value.

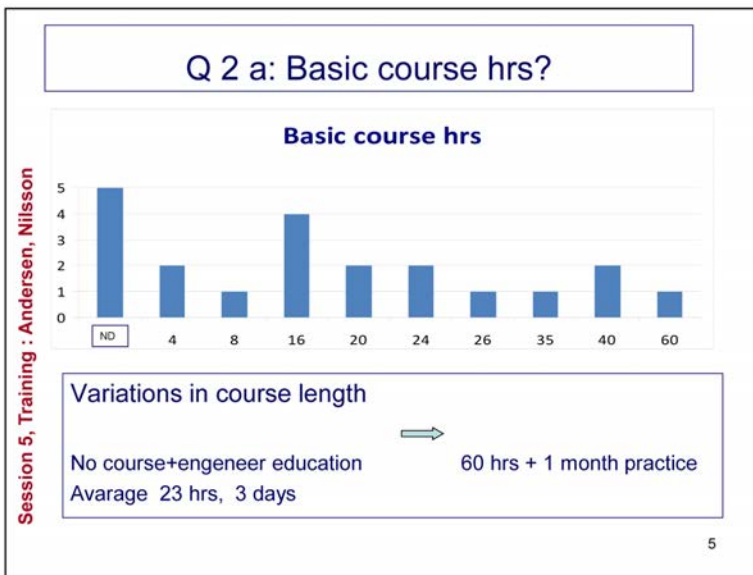
Development of a common approach on the content and level of the training as well as training material may be possible.

Need for changes in existing systems can be foreseen.

As several countries have not yet decided on the training there may be great possibilities for a common approach.



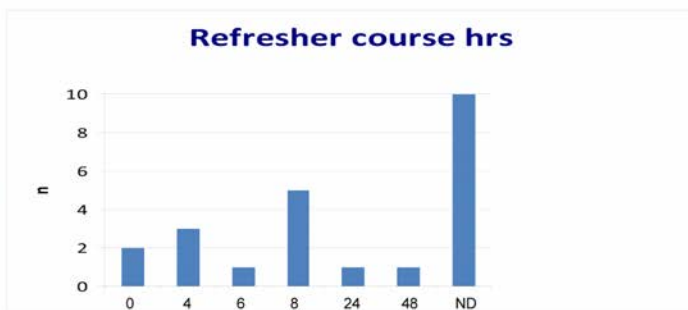
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Q 2b: Reshresher courses?

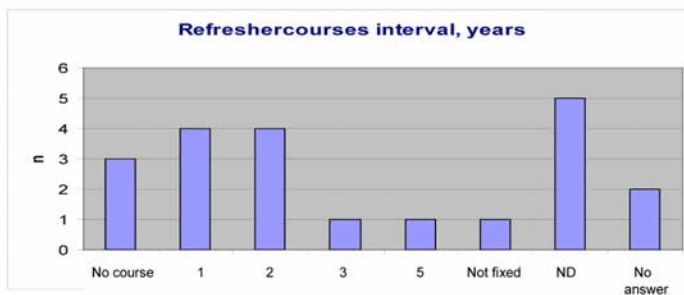
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Q 2 c. Refresher courses interval?

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- Interval: annual - testinterval

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Q 2 d. Other demands on inspector?

• No demands	5
• Technical/mechanical education	5
• Pesticide operator course	1
• Relevant technical experience on sprayers	1

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Q 3: General course of different?

• One general course	13
• Different boom- mistblowers	1
• 2 courses: Seed-dressers, others	1
• 3 courses: boom, mistblowers, others (greenhouse)	1
• 3 courses: boom, mistblowers, band (strawberries)	1
• Specialised courses	1
• Special for aerial sprayers	1
• Not decided	5
• Other solution:	
– One basic course plus other sprayers on refresher courses	

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Q 4 Content in course, average % ?

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4a: Regulations	11 % (0-40)
4.b: Inspection procedure, requirements	20 % (0-40)
4.c: Testing equipment	9 % (0-20)
4.d: Check, calibration of testing equipment	7 % (0 – 30)
4.e: Practicals	25 % (10 – 40)

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Q 4 Practicals on course

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- Variation 0 hrs – 1 month
- 2 hrs 1 country
- 3 hrs 1
- 4 hrs 3
- 8 hrs 3
- 12 hrs 1
- 16 hrs 2
- 20 hrs 1
- 35 hrs 1

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Q 4 Content in course, average % ?

4.f: Sprayer technique, application technology	11 %	(0-25)
4.g: Advising on sprayers:	9 %	(0-20)

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Q 5 a: Training material?

• Special written manual/guideline	5
• " – " plus ppt, technical info, etc	3
• Manual + protocol	1
• Regulations, standards, ppt, technical info etc	9
• Not decided	5

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Q 5 b: Training material available for developing common base material ?

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- | | |
|---|---|
| • Yes | 8 |
| • No | 3 |
| • No because of language | 1 |
| • Perhaps | 1 |
| • Hesitation because of language and copyrights | |
| • Positive comments on common material | |

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Q 6 a: Examination, type?

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- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| • Written | 6 |
| • Oral | 5 |
| • Written+oral | 3 |
| • Written+practical | 2 |
| • Oral+practical | 1 |
| • No examination | 1 |

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Q 6c: Duration of certificate?

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2 years	3
3 years	1
5 years	4
Unlimited	3
Not defined but demands: activity, fullfil regulations or refresher course	4

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Q 9. Accept inspectors from other countries?

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• Yes	8
• May be language restriction	
• Yes, in principle but not the case yet	3
• No	5
• Not decided	3
• If yes: Same requirements as in the country	

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