

## Preface

### Ganzelmeier, H.

Julius Kühn-Institut, Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants, Messeweg 11/12, 38104 Braunschweig, Germany

Plant protection equipment must dose and distribute products exactly and function faultlessly. In order to achieve this, plant protection equipment should be inspected regularly to be able to identify and eliminate any technical defects.

However, there are three main arguments for the inspection:

good control of the pest with the minimum possible input of crop protection product

- less potential risk of environmental contamination by crop protection products
- safety hazards for the operator

The inspection of plant protection equipment is becoming more and more interesting for the Member States (MS).

The 1<sup>st</sup> European workshop, SPISE, took place in April 2004 prompted by the publication of European Standard 13790; the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Workshop aims to support the MS in introducing inspections for plant protection equipment. This Workshop represents a platform on which to discuss further regulations for introducing, putting into practice and monitoring the inspections in the MS and for co-ordinating them. This can be in the form of lectures, working groups or excursions.

In some MS such as Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands, equipment inspections have been developed and established over the past few years, and although they are organised in different ways (state-run, private sector), they have all resulted in high-quality technical inspections, ensuring reliable and efficient plant protection equipment.

Within the 2<sup>nd</sup> SPISE workshop (Straelen DE), the legal/statutory regulations and technical standards for successful plant protection equipment inspections already in force in the countries stated above have been presented as examples and described in detail. The excursions to the three MS have shown their practical implementation which could be analysed and taken as a basis for implementation in one's own MS.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> SPISE workshop (Brno, CZ) represented a platform on which to discuss further regulations for introducing, putting into practice and monitoring the inspections in the Member States and for co-ordinating them. In the meantime the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides obliges the Member States to ensure that pesticide application equipment in professional use shall be subject to inspections at regular intervals. The 3<sup>rd</sup> European Workshop informed the participants about the newest legal developments and showed which procedures/documents accompanying the article 8 of the Frame Work Directive under the responsibility of the Member States are required.

The 4<sup>th</sup> SPISE workshop took place in Lana, South Tyrol in March 2012. The aim was to support the introduction of inspections of plant protection equipment already in use in the Member States (MS) of the EU. Following the publication of Directive 2009/128/EC in October 2009, the Member States have to introduce technical inspections for plant protection equipment at regular intervals and ensure that all items of plant protection equipment have been inspected at least once by 2016. Due to the region of South Tyrol the focus this time was on the air-assisted sprayers.

The Directive determines the key points. The development of procedures between the MS is left to the Member States according to the principle of subsidiarity. They have a fair amount of leeway and are able to take their own experience and conditions into consideration.



**Group portrait of the SPISE4-participants**