

## Field Geneticists Network- the 7th meeting in France September 1-3, 2015.

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Field Geneticists Forum (FGN) is a forum for technical staff working with the implementation of operative tree breeding programs and forest genetics research.

This year, 19 members from Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Poland and of course from France were gathered in Bordeaux.

Organizers of the meeting was Patric Pastuzcka and Fredric Bernier, from INRA - Forest research center of Pierroton.

The meeting started in Pierroton with a welcome by Mr. Hubert de Rochambeau (Chairman INRA – Aquitaine) who gave us an overview of INRA and especially Bordeaux-Aquitaine research center. The breeding of ducks and geese for production of fat liver was a bit special.

Annie Raffin, responsible for the breeding of Maritime pine, and her colleagues presented the breeding program and the background of the species in Aquitaine. Frequent forest fires, storms, frosts and difficult environmental conditions are the reasons why Maritime pine is growing on more than 800,000 ha in the Aquitaine.

There is a breeding program for poplar at INRA, but is unfortunately not grown in this area. It would have been interesting for me to see vegetative propagation of experimental poplar plants.

The French Scots pine breeding program for is similar to the Swedish program (Nordic) for the species, and a good discussion was generated during the meeting.



Annie Raffin together with Nordic members of FGN.

Breeding for better wood quality is not important in Aquitaine. Why was understood after a visit to FP Bois sawmill. The twigs on the timbers are cut off and the short pieces are finger-jointed to the desired lengths. This results in knotless planks and boards.



Spirolite.

Measuring spiral grain with Spirolite equipment was new and could be useful in our fieldwork at Skogforsk. There will be contacts in this matter with our French colleagues.

It was interesting to hear about Pine wilt nematode and the readiness to handle an attack. The issue can become relevant for us in Scandinavia.

During the meeting we visited Miziman seed orchard, where establishment, pruning, thinning, pollen contamination and the need to identify the individual trees was discussed.

A visit to the Malgaches provenance trial provided a good overview of height growth, straightness and frost resistance for 10 provenances. Today, the focus lies on processing crosses with material from the Landes and Corsica. Provenances from Corsica have better straightness. The need to preserve this type experiments for the future was discussed.

The Malgaches provenance trial.



The day ended with a presentation of the afforestation of the historical coastal dunes. For more than 150 years, the Forest National Office strive to maintain the dunes in good condition and protect them.

We got an entertaining performance of tapping resin from pine trees, an operation that ended around 1991.

Last visit at this meeting was at Planfor Nursery in Uchaq. The nursery had developed its own growing system, with air pruning of roots and elevated culture. Problems with spiral root growth and other disadvantages of the growing system was recognized as a common problem for plant growers. Liverwort could be treated with Mogeton unlike us in Sweden, where the use is prohibited.

The next meeting of **FGN** will take place in Latvia 2017.

After the meeting, Johan Malm and I measured the "LongTransfer" trial with spruce cuttings grown at the research station Ekebo and planted in Antagnac 2013. This cooperation is a result of contacts by FGN.