

EWRS, Summer school on “Integrated Weed Management: Principles and implementation”

Working Groups: a) Optimization of herbicide use in an IWM context & b) Herbicide Resistance

The EWRS Working Groups on “Optimization of herbicide use in an IWM context” and “Herbicide Resistance” in collaboration with the Perottis College/ American Farm School (AFS), organized a 3-day Summer School (23-25 June 2017), in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The theme of the Summer School was “Integrated Weed Management: principles and implementation”.

A group of enthusiastic participants consisting of (21) were: MSc and PhD students or early stage career weed science researchers from 9 countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Rumania, Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey).

There were eight lecturers from Balkan countries.

All participants were provided a Certificate of Attendance that qualifies to apply for CEU’s.

The EWRS provided travel support for 16 participants.



“Excellent summer school; all participants & lecturers generously shared their knowledge; thanks to the EWRS for this opportunity”.

Farzaneh Fatemi,
PhD visiting student,
Thessaly University, GR

The course run for 3 days (+ 1 day for a field excursion) and consisted of a mixture of lectures, journal clubs and group work. The participants were also given a number of scientific papers as a related reference prior to the course. A specific review paper that addressed allelopathy was discussed in the journal clubs, as a joint group work.

The course provided a state-of-the-art update on mechanical and chemical control methods including weed resistance and examined the integration of preventive/cultural, non-chemical and chemical control techniques into a weed management strategy in annual and perennial crops with a clear focus on the Balkan region and the region’s weed management issues.

- **Interactive lecture presentations**
Dr Demosthenis Chachalis, on behalf of Prof. Per Kudsk and Dr Roland Beffa (chair persons of the Working Groups) welcome all participants. Topics included: Recent developments in physical weed control/tillage, herbicide resistance, IWM and herbicide resistance management, cultural control methods, site specific farming, herbicides and risk of water pollution, specific IWM case-studies (maize, rice) (Photo 1).

ON-SITE FIELD VISITS

- **A number of the on-site field visits were organized**
Dr A. Gertsis and Dr C. Vasilikiotis organized these short on-site visits as follows: The high density olive oil plantation, The Krinos Olive Centre, the aromatic plants field trials, the Greek cultivars wines field, the biological weed control field site, and the greenhouses (Photo 2).

FIELD VISIT

- **A visit to ZEUS kiwi, Katerini, GR** (Greece largest kiwi producer)
Mr Zisis Manosis from ZEUS, gave a full account of the company's activities on plums, kiwi and grapes together with a visit to a kiwi and grapes plantation (Photo 3). He explained the Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) system. The group also visited the processing plant to see the storage, selection and packing of the produce.

A visit to a tobacco field,

The economic and social importance of tobacco crop is significant in Greece (ranking number 7 in the world). Discussion about the weed management in the crop and some noxious weed species (e.g. purple nutsedge, *Cyperus rotundus*) were done (Photo 4).



Photo 1.



Dr Athanasios Gertsis, (Perrotis college/American Farm School), presented the high density olive cultivation system adapted to mechanical harvesting and the Krinos Olive Center. Research aimed to "apply an holistic and sustainable approaches to olive oil production, in Greece".



Photo 2.



Photo 3.



Photo 4.

Many thanks to all the participants for their enthusiasm and the interactive knowledge sharing.

We acknowledge the excellent facilities provided by the Perrotis College/American Farm School and for the free offering of the meeting facilities.

Finally, we acknowledge financial support from EWRS to cover the travel expenses of 16 participant students.