All participants were welcomed by Prof Jan Petersen, University of Bingen.

The kick-off meeting was attended by 23 participants (15 organisations (institutes, universities, regulators, industry) of 10 countries). Additional people indicated intention to participate in this new WG but were withhold to attend the kick-off meeting.

The participants agreed that their identity as member of the working group can be distributed, including e-mail communications. A list of participants and interested scientists can be found in the first attachment.

The meeting started with each participant introducing themselves and articulating the specific interest for this EWRS WG on HT varieties.

Prof. J. Soukup presented information related to EWRS (second attachment). The overall mission of the EWRS, EWRS Membership conditions, EWRS website information and EWRS Main organs were communicated. More time was spent to explain the Process when establishing a new EWRS Working Group and some of the standard activities expected from the WG’s.

It was explained on what basis the idea of the new WG was originated (by I. Brants) and was developed (the 9 bullet document, last slide of second attachment).

It was agreed to re-discuss and agree on the Mission of the WG “HT Varieties” as well as the details of the 9 topics. The general content was defined and is presented below. The detailed work-out will be one of the first activities to be completed.
NAME OF THE WG

Discussion revealed that the preferred name of the new WG will be “Herbicide Tolerant varieties”. The group felt that it was important to highlight that the varieties are developed to tolerate a specific herbicide or class of herbicides. It is understood that HT varieties cover HT varieties derived via mutagenesis (IMI tolerant, SU tolerant, … ) as well as HT varieties derived via biotechnology (glufosinate tolerant, glyphosate tolerant, …).

MISSION

- Weed control recommendations to be used in combination with HT varieties.
- Agronomic impact of commercial grown HT varieties in Europe.
- Advantages/disadvantages for cropping systems.
- Identification of existing gaps in current weed control systems for certain crops/situations and for which HT varieties could provide some potential answers.
- Scientific answers related to sustainable use of HT varieties in Europe.

It was agreed that the creation of position papers on different topics (resulting from mission topics and/or research topics) would be excellent deliverables for the WG.

IDENTIFICATION OF RESEARCH TOPICS

- Update of current status of HT variety usages in Europe. A document with an outdated summary will be circulated for improvement.
- Integrated Weed Management as impacted by HT varieties (impact on economics, impact on cropping systems)
- Impact on Society (“in-crop” weed biodiversity, environmental aspects)
- Management of herbicide resistant weeds
  - HT varieties as extra management tool in the rotation.
  - Reduce possibilities of resistance development to herbicides linked to the introduced HT varieties.
- Is there a need for specific regulation and/or stewardship of HT varieties as related to weed management?
- Availability of HT varieties volunteer management tools (chemical, rotation, tillage).
- Unintended spread of HT traits (pollination, seed): scope of the importance, conclusions on agronomic impact.
- Impact of HT varieties on herbicide usage.

**INTERACTION WITH OTHER ERWS WG’S**

Two existing WG’s were identified as having interaction opportunities.
- WG on “Optimisation of Herbicide Usage”
- WG on “Herbicide Resistant Weeds”

An active Interaction with both WG’s will be investigated by contacting the Chairs of both WG’s. In case of mutual interest and after identification of relevant “overlapping” research topics an active information exchange should be facilitated.

It was proposed to evaluate a joint meeting of the 3 WG’s at the upcoming EWRS Samsun meeting (June 2013).

**INTERACTION WITH OTHER NETWORKS**

It was concluded that interaction, exchange of information and sharing of position papers with organizations such as EFSA, EEA, EPPO, HRAC should be considered and explored.

**PROPOSED FIRST ACTIVITIES**

- Work out the concrete details and write up of the “9-bullet” document when starting a new WG in EWRS (see last slide second attachment).
- Write an EWRS Newsletter note communication the successful establishment of the new “HT varieties” WG and provide the Mission intentions.
- Create a place for the new WG on the EWRS website.
- Contact the EWRS WG’s on “Optimisation of Herbicide Usage” and “Herbicide Resistant Weeds” to evaluate constructive interaction.
- Map the current situation (per country) of HT varieties in Europe.
Use IMI tolerant Sunflower (as commercial available in Europe) as case study to create a template for relevant data-collection, establishment of project flow, project implementation (who does what) and position papers.

**Topics to be included**
- Volunteer management in crop rotations
- Revision of current weed control systems
- Identification of major opportunities

Dr. M. Jursik (Prague University) made a presentation related to **ClearField and ExpressSun technology in sunflower in conditions of Central Europe.** The presentation is provided as PDF in third attachment.

**COORDINATION OF THE WG “HERBICIDE TOLERANT VARIETIES”**

The participants elected Ir. Ivo Brants as Chair and Professor Jan Petersen as Co-Chair.

The meeting was ended with a visit to the Greenhouse trials (screening related to herbicide resistant weeds) and an outdoor trial of ClearField OSR (PhD work).