

Training on inspection and calibration of pesticide application equipment in professional use

Better Training for Safer Food Initiative

Introduction

Training activities on inspection and calibration of plant protection product application equipment in professional use have been arranged in compliance with the provisions of Directive 2009/128/EC under the Better Training for Safer Food initiative. Six three-days courses will be organized in 2017 and 2018 on different locations with the purpose to train mainly official representatives of all the EU Members.

Information about the programme

Topics included in the program are focused on main aspects related with the mandatory inspection of sprayers in use in EU and the calibration of sprayers, set by Directive 2009/128/EC.

Topics as official procedures of the inspections, the situation of ISO- or EN-standards, administrative procedures, technical requirements and differences among EU members will be addressed. Linked to that and concerning calibration of sprayers, aspects as nozzle selection process, determination of the optimal volume rate, drift reduction and good agricultural practices will be also covered. Precision agriculture has been also included as a part of the program, providing information about the state of the art and possibilities of new technologies to improve pesticide application.

The program has been organized combining administrative, technical and practical aspects (see Figure). Workshops, discussion sessions and case studies have been selected as activities to make the course more profitable. Time distribution and activities have been carefully distributed.



Tutors

The tutors will be highly recognized academics and professionals from Europe with extensive experience in the subject, who have been also involved in the organization and preparation of this BTSF-program. Prof. **Balsari** (UNITO, Italy), Prof. **Gil** (UPC, Spain), Dr. **Douzals** (IRSTEA, France), Dr. **Herbst** (JKI, Germany), and Ing. **Kole** (SKL, The Netherlands) will be present in the courses.

Where and when

A characteristic of the current BTSF training courses is the combination of lectures with real practical activities. Attendants will have the opportunity to practice on advanced technical appliances for inspection and calibration of the sprayers.



General Information

For this purpose, the courses will take place at AERES Teck – SKL in Ede-Wageningen (The Netherlands), IRSTEA stands for the National Research Center for Sciences and Technologies on the Environment and Agriculture in Montpellier (France) and the Unit of Agricultural Machinery from Polytechnic University of Catalonia (Barcelona, Spain). Location, experience and accurate facilities of all the three locations will allow mixing theory and practice, experiencing with the latest technical devices used during the inspection processes, and receiving information and feedback based on years of expertise in the subject. Further information about the selected laboratories can be found at:

IRSTEA: <http://www.irstea.fr/accueil>

UMA – UPC: www.uma.deab.upc.edu

ARES Teck – SKL: <http://www.skлкеuring.nl/nl/>

Training courses are scheduled to take part as follows:

Session	Date	Registrations Dead Line	Host City
Session 7 (ainia)	25-28 April 2017	25-march-17	Barcelona
Session 8 (AETS)	10-13 Julio 2017	10-may-17	Ede-Wageningen
Session 9 (ainia)	3-6 October 2017	3-august-17	Montpellier
Session 10 (AETS)	10-13 April 2018	10-february-18	Montpellier
Session 11 (ainia)	10-13 July 2018	10-may-17	Ede-Wageningen
Session 12 (AETS)	23-26 October 2018	23-august-18	Barcelona

Process for the registration for participants:

The National Contact Points for BTSF will proceed as follows:

1. To consult his/her MEMBER STATE DELEGATE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE DIRECTIVE (2009/128/EC) (see document "Information for national contact points and participants") in order to select the candidates for the training activity.
2. To select participants complying selection criteria and request them to return a registration form using the templates provided for the organizers.
3. To send candidates to the organizers (20149602-BTSF-PAE@ainia.es).

Criteria to attend the training session should be the following:

- Relevance to daily work: staff of a competent authority of the MS involved in official control activities and/or field inspectors of PAE. Some places are reserved for delegates from candidate members and EFTA/EEA countries.
- Sufficient level of language: participants should master the official language of the training sessions (English).
- Ability to share their experience: priority will be given to participants whom the position will allow to share with colleagues the outputs of the training.

Organizers:

AINIA Consortium: AINIA (Spain), AETS (France) and UPC (Spain)

e-mail contact: 20149602-BTSF-PAE@ainia.es