

# Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture, Skierniewice, Poland



Tunnel sprayer

The Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture in Skierniewice, Poland, regarded as one of the most important horticultural research centres in Central and Eastern Europe, is a governmental R&D organization supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture. At present it employs over 350 personnel, including more than 150 researchers. Its research covers all areas related to fruits, ornamental plants and bee science, from basic studies on physiology, biochemistry and molecular biology, through biotechnology, breeding, protection of genetic resources, plant pathology, agronomy, fruit storage and processing, horticultural engineering, economics and marketing. Due to a very active extension and implementation programme and close cooperation with growers' organizations, processing industry and wholesalers, the Institute has a big influence on horticultural production in Poland. The Institute cooperates also with governmental agencies in setting up fruit quality standards and developing plant protection programmes. The Fruit Quality and Pesticide Residue Analysis laboratory of the Institute was selected as an accredited laboratory in governmental

programme for pesticide residue screening.

The Institute is also very active in the international cooperation. At present, it is involved in five projects within 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> FP (in two as coordinator), one Leonardo da Vinci, one EUREKA, one NATO and in six bilateral projects financed by respective governments within agreements on cooperation in science and technology. Besides, Institute is deeply involved in COST actions

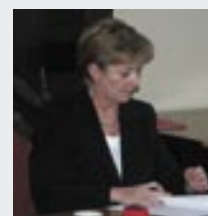
and participates in international and domestic research networks.



Pesticide residue laboratory

Besides research activity, Institute is also an important teaching and training centre. It is authorized to conduct Ph.D. and postgraduate studies, summer schools and courses as well as to evaluate and recommend candidates for Professor title. Annually, on average five students receive Ph.D. diplomas, two D.Sc diplomas (habilitations), two candidates recommended by the Institute are bestowed the title of Professor by the President of Poland, and more than 700 students complete postgraduate studies and professional courses.

The quality of research and competence of Institute's researchers was highly evaluated by international experts. In 2002 proposal for Research Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Pomology "PomoCentre", prepared by the team of Institute's researchers and submitted to the call announced by European Commission (5<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme), was evaluated as the second best of several hundreds proposals submitted from 10 eligible countries and was approved for financing during 2003-2006. In 2005 Polish Ministry of Science and Information Society Technology announced call for proposals for Centres for Advanced Technology with the aim to select the best Polish research establishments. The proposal for Centre for Advanced Technologies "AgroTech", prepared by consortium consisted of 3 Polish universities, 2 R&D institutes and 3 commercial enterprises and coordinated by the Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture, was evaluated as 4<sup>th</sup> the best in the call. Both Centres aim at developing and implementing advanced technologies in agriculture and food production at European level. The Institute was also one of the founding members of Polish Technology Platform on Food and took part in preparing programme for European Technology Platform - Food for Life.



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