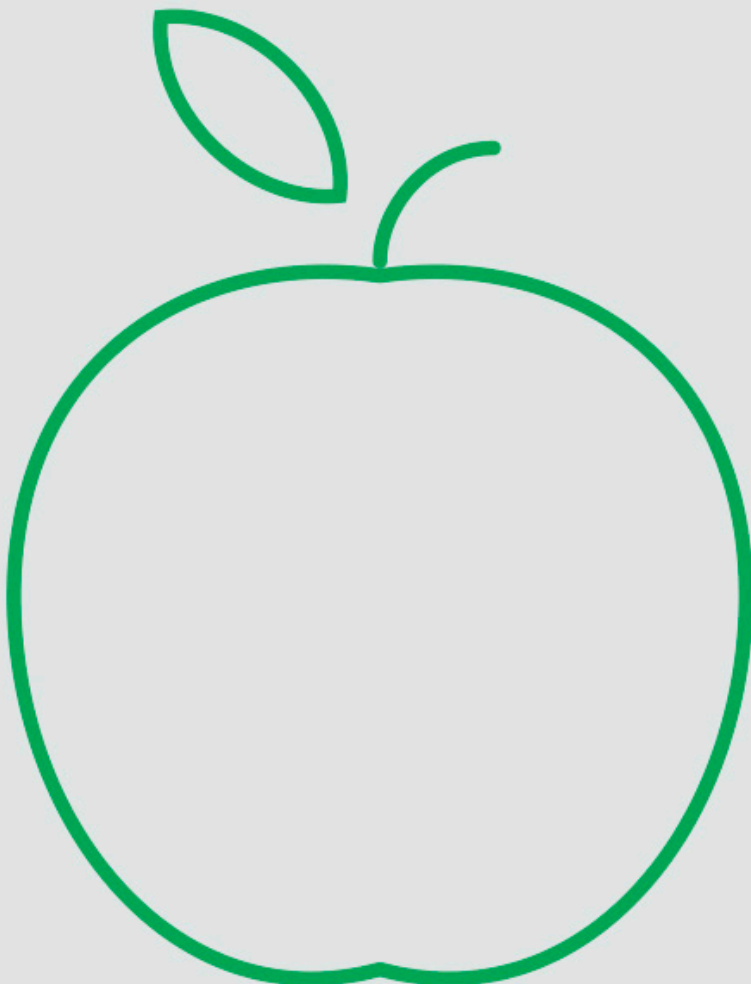


EUFRUIT

APPLE AND PEAR NEW CULTIVAR
DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION



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In 2016 the focus was on apple and pear new cultivar development and evaluation, an International Expert Group (IEG) including 19 organizations contributed to scanning and discussing their national best practice and exchanging knowledge on new cultivar development and evaluation. This IEG was closely linked to the EUFRIN Working Group called: Apple & Pear Variety & Rootstock Testing.

IEG members are also representatives on many national networks allowing the exchange of information between variety testers, which is very useful to enlarge the knowledge around new apple and pear varieties and mutants of existing varieties. Most IEG members are variety testers and are either apple and pear breeders or are partners in a breeding programs. The IEG members typically use the standardized EUFRIN testing agreement (version March, 2009), which ensures a balance between the interests, rights and obligations of both the variety owner and the variety tester.

When evaluating new apple or pear varieties common key attributes are production, fruit size, and appearance. In addition, other quality attributes such as storability, shelf life and less susceptible to pests and diseases are very important selection criteria. It is also important that the new apple or pear variety can be distinguished from the existing varieties.

For selection of a cultivar, there is a 2 level approach; at level 1 a limited number of trees (5 to 20) are planted in comparison with a standard apple or pear variety, these are typically closed trials. These varieties differ depending on the location. After a few years a selection is made. The best varieties of level 1 are then planted in a larger scale on one or sometimes more locations and are open trials in that they can be visited by fruit growers.

In addition, apple and pear varieties selected in the different countries varied based on specific key attributes needed due to regional or national climate conditions (e.g. frost tolerance, shorter production season). The selection process can also be influenced by specific regional or national priorities, these could be a specific focus on cultivars suited to organic production approaches, needs for different seasonality to complement existing varieties, or to meet consumer needs for a particular attribute (e.g. sweetness, flesh colour, fruit size).

The IEG on new apple and pear cultivar development and evaluation has delivered 1 synthesis report (at EU level) based on 15 scanning reports (at Regional/National level), 27 seminars and workshops, 198 field-based meetings, open days, field visits, grower meetings, 56 participation in industry events, exhibitions, conferences with industry stakeholders and 14 events aimed at the general public.

Outputs, reports & communications see:

<http://kp.eufrin.eu/>

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