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► **To cite this version:**

Jean Marc Audergon, Alain Blanc, Frederic Gilles, Guy Clauzel, J.M. Broquaire, et al.. An integrated apricot breeding program in France joining CEP Innovation - Centrex and INRA. 15. International Symposium on Apricot Breeding and Culture, Jun 2011, Yerevan, Armenia. hal-02749046

HAL Id: hal-02749046

<https://hal.inrae.fr/hal-02749046>

Submitted on 3 Jun 2020

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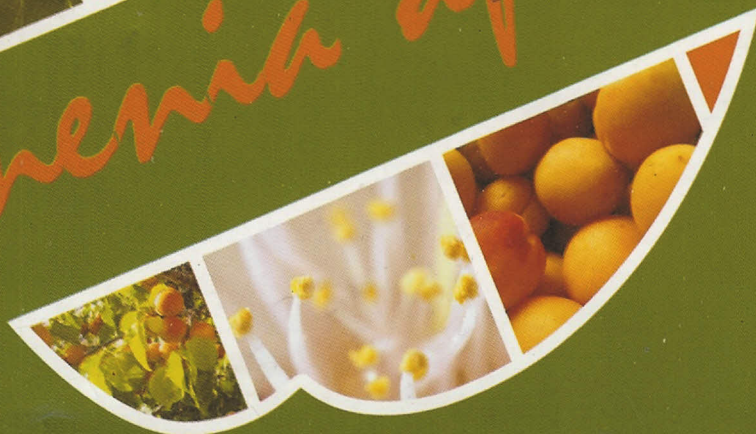
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**JUNE
20-24**

**XV International
Symposium
on Apricot Breeding
and Culture**



armenia apricot



AN INTEGRATED APRICOT BREEDING PROGRAM IN FRANCE JOINING CEP INNOVATION – CENTREX AND INRA

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The French apricot production is located in the South-Eastern part of the country and focused in the Rhone valley and close to the Mediterranean Sea. The north of Rhone valley is characterized by a continental climate while the southern region (Rhone valley and Mediterranean area) is under warm typical Mediterranean climate. Obviously apricot fruit production depends on a specific panel cultivars in each area of cultivation due to economic and adaptation constraints. In order to enlarge the panel of cultivar to be developed by the growers in each region an integrated breeding program is developed at a national level in France with the participation of INRA, CENTREX and CEP INNOVATION.

The main goals of the breeding program are : the elaboration of cultivars suitable for a durable production (including resistance to pests and disease), production regularity (including self-fertility and quality of the flowers), and fruit quality (including taste, attractiveness, and suitability for the transport).

The evaluation phase is organized in the 3 main areas of production (Perpignan, Nîmes, Valence) and follow 3 complementary evaluation stages (i) observation of the hybrid on its own roots (ii) evaluation of the best hybrids after grafting in the 3 main areas, (iii) assessment of the agronomic and commercial interest of the 'elite' accessions in small orchards.

The main results issued from this program are presented: 8 cultivars already registered, and 4 new selections under registration, and the first PPV resistant cultivar 'Shamade'.

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