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G. Femondière, C. Pitiot, Alain Blanc, Frederic Gilles, Jean Marc Audergon,
Guy Clauzel, J.M. Broquaire, Barbara Gouble, Sylvie Bureau

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ABSTRACTS



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Selections Issued from CEP INNOVATION – CENTREX and INRA Apricot Breeding Program in France

G. Femondière and C. Pitiot
CEP INNOVATION sarl
23 rue Jean Baldassini F-69634 Lyon
cedex07
France

A. Blanc, F. Gilles and J.M. Audergon
Unité de Génétique et d'Amélioration
des Fruits et Légumes, Institut National
de la Recherche Agronomique Centre
INRA PACA
Domaine Saint-Maurice CS600944,
F-84143 Montfavet cedex
France

G. Clauzel
Unité Expérimentale de Recherche
Intégrée en Arboriculture Fruitière de
Gotheron
F-26320 Saint Marcel les Valence
France

J.M. Broquaire
CENTREX, 66 Torreilles
France

B. Gouble, S. Bureau and S. Bureau
Unité Mixte de Recherche A408,
Sécurité et Qualité des Produits
d'Origine Végétale INRA, Domaine
Saint-Paul, Site Agroparc
F-84914 Avignon cedex 9; Univ.
Avignon, F-84029 Avignon
France

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Abstract

The French apricot production is located in the South-Eastern part of the country with a focused zone 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. A tough diagnosis, that includes biological, serological and molecular analysis, is followed in parallel in order to test the hybrids for their resistance to PPV.

The main results issued from this program are presented with 10 cultivars including PPV resistant "Aramis® cultivars. Those varieties continues and enrich the former range.