Automated spraying in Fruit Orchards

Introduction arable farming case

October 31st, Wageningen Peter Roelofs en Rik de Werd (Applied Plant Research; PPO)



Casus arable farming

Challenge: maximize fruit growers income at long term

- Maximize yield & quality
 - Yield (kg/ha) x quality (€/kg) = Returns (€/ha)
- Minimize environmental load
 - Licence to produce
 - Maximize market opportunities
- Reduce costs
 - Labour demand versus fixed costs for investments
 - Autonomous
 - Multi-row sprayers
 - Choice of pesticides





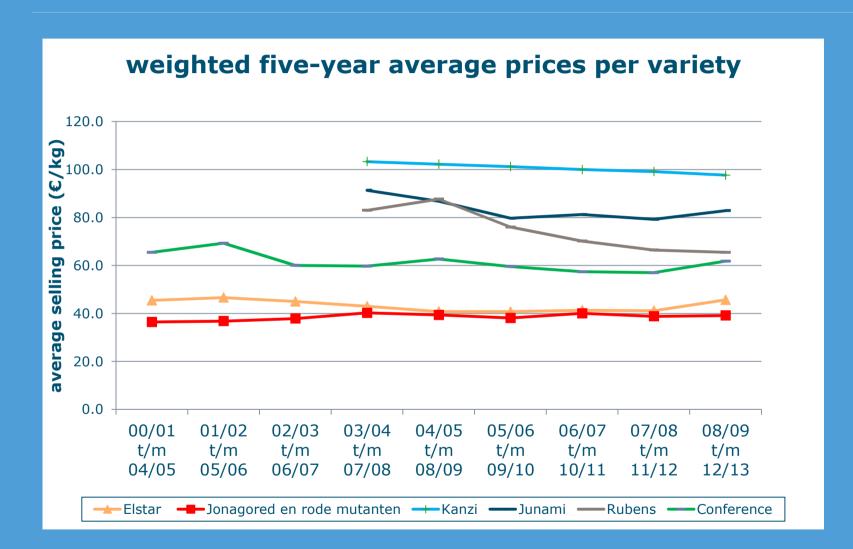
Excursion: fruitgrower Westreenen, Echteld

Modern fruit grower (premium supplier of supermarket chain)
"Choice of variety is very important"

- Yield \(\infty \) cost price, returns
- Price (see next slide)
- Storability supply security, marketability selling price
- Quality selling price)
- Susceptibility to diseases pesticide use costs and effect on quality selling price
- Easiness of culture → labour demand → cost price
- Different harvest times organisation of work
 (> 2.500 tons of fruit within 8-9 weeks)



Effect of variety on selling prices





Excursion: Mr. Westreenen, Echteld





Fruit production & sustainability

- Some of the Triple P aspects for a fruit grower:
 - People: neighbours, employees, consumers, society (village)
 - Planet: water quality, water availability, eutrophication, biodiversity, waste
 - Profit: yield, production costs, supply security, farmers income



Content arable farming case

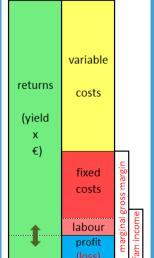
- Wk 3: Environmental aspects
 - Rik de Werd
- Wk 4: Social aspects
 - Peter Roelofs



- Wk 5: Economic aspects
 - Peter Roelofs







Environmental aspects:

- Focus on crop protection
 - Emission routes pesticides
 - Diffuse emissions
 - Point emissions
 - Spraying techniques
 - Sprayer types
 - Nozzle types
 - Spraying schedule
 - CLM environmental yardstick

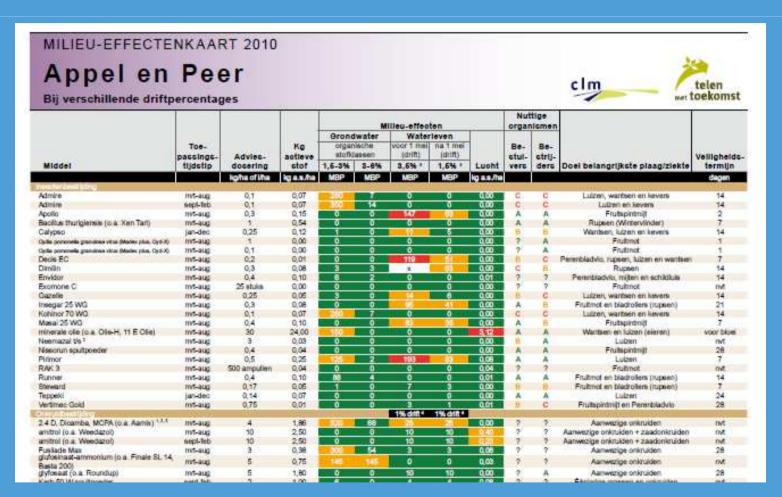








Environmental aspects:



General: Effects of technique versus effects of spraying scedule!



Social aspects:

- Focus on labour
 - Labour demand
 - Effects of mechanization/automation (spraying, pruning)
 - Techniques for harvesting





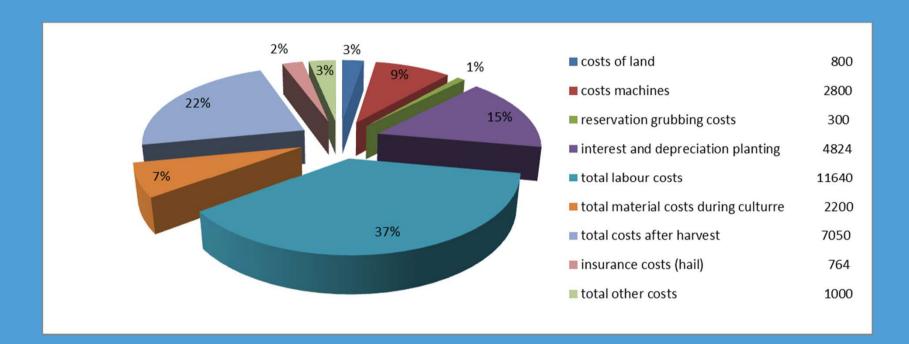




Labour conditions
 (bending, twisting, lifting, etc)



Focus on labour





Labour costs and labour liability affect mechanization





- (costs per hour) x (# hours) = (processing costs)
- Social aspects



- Focus on labour
 - Autonomous spraying

Multi-row sprayers

Mechanical thinning

Mechanical pruning



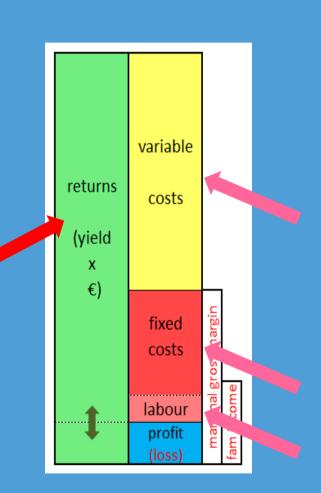


Autonomous spraying with KWH-CDH sprayer



Economic evaluation

- Effects of spraying technique (multi-row sprayers, autonomous sprayers, drift reducing sprayers) on farmers income
- Effects of spraying scheme on farmers income
- Effects of lower selling prices, due to more residues, on farmers income.





What is the best sustainable choice for fruitgrower Westreenen?

Considering:

- Environmental aspects
- Social aspects
- Economical aspects

