

13 April 2016

The 3rd International Symposium on OGH
Technical Sessions
Soil fertility management
Moderator: Fabio Tittarelli
Rapporteur: Hamada Abdelrahman

Session start: 8:30 AM
Number of attendees: 30

Fabio Tittarelli started the session welcoming the attendees and announcing the session program. He announced that the session includes a presentation of the booklet on soil fertility in organic greenhouse made by himself and more in depth presentations of Kurt Möller, Helene Védie and Carmen Garcia.

Fabio Tittarelli presentation included the OG in Europe, classification of the production systems, and different issues related to soil fertility management such as nutrients balance, water management, soil fertility criteria and knowledge gaps.

Helene Védie presented the main aspects of soil fertility management in less intensive Mediterranean OGH with a special focus on the production in France. Her talk confronted intensive and less intensive production system in OGH in relation to crop rotation, green manure application and biomass production. Interventions (questions/comments) were made in regard to the similarities and differences between North and southern Europe for similar level of production intensity.

Carmen Garcia presented soil fertility management in the intensive OGH with a focus on the case of Andalucía, Spain. Her talk presented info about the web based system they have in southern Spain that connects all involved parties in the OGH, info about crop production, biological control and fertilization system. Interventions were made in regard to the management of crop residues, crop rotation, the use of copper as antifungal, pH adjustment, and the economics of the fertilization process.

Kurt Möller's talk was about soil fertility management in high and low intensive OGH in NW-Europe. His talk included the main characteristics of OGH in NW Europe, technical features, crop rotation, soil fertility management, rotation, productivity and knowledge gaps.

After the presentations, there were questions/comments to Kurt Möller and open discussion, which was very fruitful as so many of the attendees expressed their opinions in relation to soil fertility management in OGH. Intervention included the debate about permitting leaching to solve the alkaline soil pH in OGH in NW Europe. Also there was a debate on whether to compost plant residues or to incorporate it into soil and many views were expressed by the audience.

The session was concluded with the view that soil fertility management should consider the complex production system of OGH when planned.