The sweet cherry breeding program in the institute was launched in 1987. The continuous annual update of the program led to over 120 parental combinations applied over the years up to 2012. Adding new objectives to the selection program complies with the market trends and the changing consumer preferences:

- Early and very early varieties with larger fruits;
- Late varieties ripening after the usual season;
- Varieties ripening after Bigarreau Burlat - before Bing;
- Self-fertile varieties with intense red and bright colored fruits;
- Varieties with firm texture of the fruits, resistant to cracking;
- Varieties and rootstocks resistant to biotic and abiotic factors;
- Varieties and rootstocks with weak and moderate growth;
- Genotypes with low susceptibility to attack by the black cherry aphid *Myzus cerasi* Fab. (*Homoptera: Aphididae*), to be used as donors of resistance in future breeding stages.

Important activity is the introduction of new and promising varieties and rootstocks for inclusion in the hybridization program.

Promising hybrids

- Elite 17-37
- Elite 17-90
- Elite 20-47
- Elite 20-31
- Elite 20-77

New hopes 😊

- 'Kossara'
- 'Rosita'
- 'Rozalina'
- 'Trakiiska hrushtyalka'
- Hybrid 7-177
- 'Bigarreau Burlat'

The first breeding achievements of the programme came between 2008 and 2009:

- 'Kossara'
- 'Rosita'
- 'Rozalina'
- 'Trakiiska hrushtyalka'
- 'Bigarreau Burlat'

Pictute taken on 8-May
Pictute taken on 10-May