Cooperation as a basis for improvements in the production of cherries

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Thanks to the COST action and the achieved contacts through it, I had the opportunity and great honor to be a guest of Hrotkó Károly, Professor at the Faculty of Horticultural Science (Corvinus University of Budapest). The visit was organized in July 15th 2014th.

Since professor Hrotko is also the dean of the faculty at the beginning of the visit he presented me briefly the history of the University and the Faculty. Moreover, I could enjoy in grandious botanical garden located within the Faculty. Further discussion continued on the Experimental Farm of the University (Soroksar Station, Peterimajor).

There professor Hrotko presented me his research topics with special emphasis on the issues like: selection of Magriva rootstocks (*Prunus mahaleb* L.) for cherry, training growing systems of cherry on different rootstocks, different approaches in forming spindle training form in first years after planting, and other interesting questions concerning cherries and sour cherry growing.

In the second part of the day, we visited Müller horticultural farm in Kecskemet (Kecskemet, Gerőmajor). For the owner of the farm - Mr. Müller, professor Hrotko jokingly says that he is their best "student".

Mr. Müller owns more than 80 hectares of fruit, mostly apple, cherry and sour cherry. Cherry and sour cherry orchards are modern, with all features of high intensity. Mr. Müller, in addition to excellent knowledge of growing technology, it is very willing to share their knowledge with others. The company owns storage facilities, as well as a very good logistics for exporting products to.

I am using the opportunity for publicly thank to professor Hrotkó for the hospitality and I hope that we will continue to cooperate in the future. Certain discussions on this topic have been initiated during a visit.

The last but not the least, when you are in the area specialties of Hungarian cuisine are something that should not be skipped.