PARTNER 05 : Ciref Création variétale Fraises – Fruits Rouges (Douville / France)

During the first year of the project, it was discussed and proposed a list of cultivars to enter in the core collection and a list of passport data and descriptors to use in situ on the station of the partners in charge of maintaining them. It was a final list of 155 cultivars which was assigned to Ciref.

At this occasion, Ciref set up a new way of maintaining plants for this genetic resources program with the building of an insect proof tunnel specially devoted to this purpose. This system is based on soilless culture of 6 plants per genotype. Plants are protected from diseases and on late fall, runners are planted in trays in order to obtain at least 20 misted tips plants which will be stored at – 2°C during winter. The specificity of the design is that the mother plant and the runners production and cultivation are in the same insect proof tunnel in order to reduce diseases contaminations by outside pests.

Ciref is also using a container system for the production of frigo plants which will be necessary to the diseases screening tests. Each container can receive 3 mother plants.

For observation of plants in situ and more especially for diseases resistance with natural infestation on plants and fruits, a set of 10 plants per cultivar is in place in the open field. To reduce cost and limit effects of plant types for ratings, this design is kept during two growing seasons.

Dealing with the management of its collection, during this period of the 2 first year of the project, Ciref has extended its regeneration scheme with the introduction of some old varieties in the process of in vitro culture in order to increase its potential disease free basic material.

During these 2 years of the Genberry project and the utilization of several protocols, Ciref has been enable to test different methods for plants propagation, descriptions and ratings and to confirm the characteristics for descriptors which were the less susceptible to growing conditions and also to point out the advantages and the draw back of each cultivation system.