

CIBE Newsletter

THE NEWSLETTER FOR
EUROPEAN BEET GROWERS

TECHNICAL & RECEPTION CONTROL COMMITTEE 2026 EDITION

Hanover, 8 – 9 September 2026



CIBE was delighted to see so many of you in Hanover.

CIBE is more than ever focused on the urgent need for sufficient, effective and affordable tools for farmers. Recent developments in the discussions between the EU institutions do not appear to be very promising as regards to our depleting crop protection toolbox. Growers are working hard together with beet research institutes to develop new practices, techniques and test new tools and/or techniques. Pragmatism, support and sufficient time to develop effective tools in the face of increasing challenges are now even more urgently needed.



The poor crop this year for many growers and the challenges that they face should not make us forget what European sugar beet growers have accomplished in terms of environmental sustainability. These achievements are remarkable and should be highlighted. But we also continue to suffer from the effects of ideological and dogmatic decisions, inappropriate timing and increasing difficulties in financing our investments. It is up to us to recall what we have achieved so far and to call on our authorities to take their responsibilities vis-à-vis the negative consequences and provide the support we deserve in terms of crop protection toolbox, level-laying field, risk management, investments and R&D.

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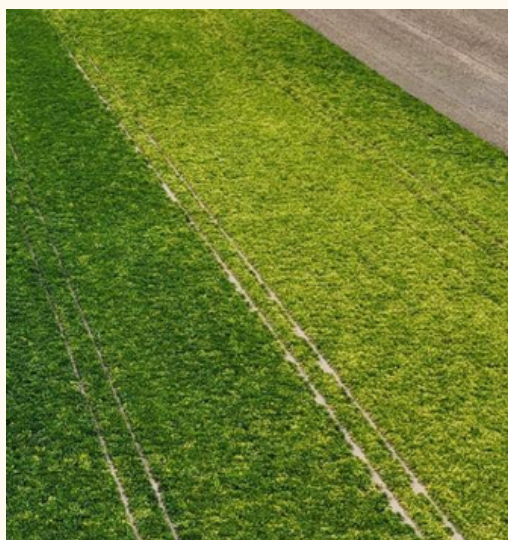
Krzysztof Nikiel
Chair of CIBE TRCC

Session 1: Crop Protection & Innovation – How to deal with fewer chemical PPPs and preserve productivity?

The beet growers' crop protection toolbox continues to shrink. With more than 30 active substances no longer available to European beet growers, preserving productivity while reducing the use of chemical plant protection products is becoming extremely challenging.

Growing threats, including proliferation of pests and diseases and climate change, add to the pressure. Despite huge efforts with sugar beet research institutes, growers are left without effective solutions in short and medium terms. So far, biological solutions do not live up with their promises. This situation is extremely critical for the years to come.

The sector needs to continue to advocate, in order to maintain as much as possible the few remaining tools, and to try to find effective and sustainable solutions for the numerous crop health challenges.



Session 2: Update on beet seed

Discussions focused on seed purchasing systems and on what growers need from modern beet varieties to remain productive and resilient. We need to remember that sugar beet breeding is a story of success: over the years, more resistant and tolerant varieties have emerged, allowing for better yields and improved sustainability.

The challenge will remain in making modern breeding technologies acceptable in the EU, improving their performance, and encouraging a broad choice at fair market conditions for our farmers.

Session 3: Update on weed control

New technologies and developments in weed control systems are bringing opportunities for more targeted crop protection, with some setbacks.

One important element discussed was the increasing use of the CONVISO® SMART System and its uptake in different countries. The system has been increasingly used over the past 5 years across European countries: its advantages and drawbacks have been and continue to be extensively discussed.



Session 4: Development on incentivising climate actions

Sugar beet growers are already taking a leading role in reducing emissions and implementing climate-friendly farming practices.

In different countries, initiatives and projects at the national, interprofessional or company level are already ongoing to reduce our emissions and promote sustainability. Incentivising these actions, developing ongoing projects and managing data will be key to accelerating this transition.

As part of its communication strategy, CIBE will continue to communicate European sugar beet growers' achievements in climate action to the broader public.

And don't forget, beet growers' data has value!





SUGAR BEET EXPO & POTATO EUROPE 2026

On Wednesday 9th September, following a warm welcome by Wirtschaftliche Vereinigung Zucker (WVZ)'s President Mr **Stefan Streng**, we had the pleasure to visit the Sugar Beet Expo 2026.

During that sunny day, all actors from the sugar beet sector had a chance the opportunity to exchange, attend machinery demonstrations, see digital farming systems in action, and discuss new development in breeding and crop protection.



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Welcome to our newcomers!

Our TRCC meeting was also a great opportunity to welcome and meet newcomers in our European sugar beet family. Indeed, we had the pleasure to meet for the first the following colleagues:



Mrs Sarah Schütz from the Swiss Sugar Beet Research Institute



Mrs Elisa Roiné from the Belgian Beet Growers' Association



Mr Maximilian Wimmer from the Bavarian Beet Growers' Association



Mr James Thompson from NFU Sugar



(and last but not least)

Mr Sébastien de Decker from CIBE

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Upcoming meetings

- 30 September — CIBE Economic Committee meeting (online)
- 6 October — SMO/CDG meetings (online)
- 30 November — WABCG Council in London
- 7 December — CIBE Board and Economic Committee meeting - Brussels



**4 May 2027 — CIBE 100th Anniversary
in Brussels**