

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Institut Jean-Pierre Bourgin (IJPB)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

AgroParisTech - Institut des sciences et industries
du vivant et de l'environnement
Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique -
INRA
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -
CNRS

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2018-2019
GROUP E



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Alison Smith, Chairwoman of the committee

Under the decree No.2014-1365 dated 14 November 2014,

¹ The president of Hcéres "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the experts committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5);

² The evaluation reports "are signed by the chairman of the experts committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2).

Tables in this document were filled with data provided by laboratories and supervising bodies in the unit's application and in the Excel files "Données du contrat en cours" and "Données du prochain contrat".

UNIT PRESENTATION

Unit name:	Institut Jean-Pierre Bourgin
Unit acronym:	IJPB
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	1318
Head of the unit (2018-2019):	Ms Anne KRAPP
Project leader (2020-2024):	Ms Anne KRAPP
Number of teams and/or themes:	29

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Ms Alison SMITH, John Innes Centre, UK
Experts:	Mr Frédéric BEISSON, Institut de Biosciences et Biotechnologies d'Aix-Marseille
	Ms Yoselin BENITEZ-ALFONSO, Center for Plant Science, University of Leeds, UK
	Ms Eva BENKOVA, Institute of Science and Technology, Austria
	Mr Yohann BOUTTÉ, Université de Bordeaux (representative of CoNRS)
	Ms Sylvie DUCOURNAU, GEVES-Station Nationale d'Essais de Semences (supporting personnel)
	Ms Christine FOYER, Centre of Plant Science, University of Leeds, UK
	Mr Stephan GREINER, Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology, Germany
	Mr Daniel GRIMANELLI, IRD Montpellier
	Mr Simon HAWKINS, Université de Lille 1
	Mr Sylvain JEANDROZ, INRA Centre de Dijon (representative of CNECA)
	Mr Alexis MAIZEL, University of Heidelberg, Germany
	Mr Alan MARCHANT, University of Southampton, UK
	Ms Ortrun MITTELSTEN SCHEID, Gregor Mendel Institute of Molecular Plant Biology, Austria
	Ms Zoé POPPER, National University of Ireland
	Mr Jan TRAAS, École Normale Supérieure de Lyon

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Steven BALL

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Ms Nathalie FRASCARIA-LACOSTE, AgroParisTech

Ms Marie-Christine RALET-RENARD, Inra - CEPIA

Mr Norbert ROLLAND, Inra - BAP

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The Jean-Pierre Bourgin Institute (IJPB) is a large multidisciplinary research unit dedicated to Plant Science located on the INRA Versailles Center. It is under the supervision of INRA (French National Institute for Agricultural Research) and AgroParisTech (the French leading Graduate School in Agronomy, Environment, Life science and Food technology). Since 2013, IJPB has official recognition from CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research) as a "Équipe de Recherche Labellisée" - ERL3559). Within INRA, the IJPB is affiliated to two research divisions: "Plant Biology and Breeding" (BAP) and "Science and Process Engineering of Agricultural Products" (CEPIA). With respect to AgroParisTech, IJPB is part of the "Sciences de la Vie et Santé" (SVS) Division. The IJPB was created as a research entity (UMR 1318) on January 1st, 2010, from the fusion of 5 distinct pre-existing Plant Science units from the Versailles campus (Cell Biology Laboratory, Plant Nitrogen Nutrition Unit, Seed Biology Laboratory and Genetics & Plant Breeding Station) and the INRA Grignon campus (Biological Chemistry Laboratory). The goal was to promote inter-unit scientific cooperation, sharing of expertise, resources and research facilities, but also to gain in visibility, attractiveness and effectiveness in relations with academic and industrial partners. It was managed by Mr David Bouchez, who became its director at the official creation of the IJPB research unit in 2010.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Ms Anne Krapp became director in 2017 with, as deputy directors, Mr Olivier Loudet, Mr Patrick Laufs and Ms Magali Nawrocki.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE1

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The unit has three main scientific themes.

GENOMES: the organisation, functioning and diversity of plant genomes.

ADAPTATION & METABOLISM: adaptation of plants to their environment, in particular the adaptation of plant metabolism and its engineering towards innovative biotech applications.

SIGNALING & DEVELOPMENT: in particular in relation to the establishment and role of plant architecture.

UNIT WORKFORCE

	Unit workforce	
	Institut Jean-Pierre Bourgin	
Active staff	Number 30/06/2018	Number 01/01/2020
Full professors and similar positions	5	5
Assistant professors and similar positions	10	11
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	39	38
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	32	31

Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	0	0
High school teachers	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	122	117
Permanent staff	208	202
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	2	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	31	
PhD Students	23	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	55	
Non-permanent staff	111	
Total	319	202

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

IJPB is recognised internationally as a centre of excellence in plant sciences. Numerous important discoveries have been made in the last five years, and several of the teams are world leading and globally respected for their work. These teams provide high visibility and generate international appreciation and respect for the work done by the unit as a whole. Many teams within IJPB collaborate with other leading labs in their fields nationally and internationally. IJPB is very well equipped for modern plant sciences and it can draw on other expertise from the large cluster of scientific institutions in the Paris-Saclay area. The incorporation of the Institute into Paris-Saclay University (Saclay Plant Sciences, SPS) is particularly beneficial. The unit has good connections to non-academic organisations that can exploit and benefit from its discoveries, and support from an innovation branch of SPS (SPInn) will accelerate translation of its discoveries in future. The unit participates in a wide range of teaching activities, and in communication with the wider public. The management team of IJPB is strongly committed to the success of the unit. Time and effort are devoted to improving the operation of the unit, and to providing a good working environment for scientific research.

The IJPB faces a number of important challenges in the next few years. Staff numbers have declined, and national success rates for grant and studentship proposals are low. Although scientific facilities are good, there are few sources of funding with which to replace aging equipment and bring in new technologies. Other potential challenges include rather low salaries in face of the high cost of living in Versailles and the relative geographical isolation of the unit with respect to the development of Paris-Saclay.

An important contribution to overcoming these challenges is to ensure that the unit advertises and promotes itself as a major centre for plant sciences of national and international importance. The panel felt that the unit could do more to project a confident, ambitious, united image. This can be achieved in part by identifying a small number of major biological questions which the collective activities of the teams will solve in the next five years. This effort will be aided by creating larger groupings of researchers, rather than by supporting the diverse plans of very small teams that do not have strong outputs or visibility.

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