

## **Keynote Presentation**

### **THE CENTER OF HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH [LE CENTRE DE RECHERCHE EN HORTICULTURE]: A MODEL OF PARTNERSHIP**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The Horticultural Research Centre <Le Centre de recherche en horticulture> (CRH) at Laval university was officially created in 1990. CRH is composed of 21 professors, 30 research assistants and technicians, and 80-100 graduate students working in plant, soil and food sciences. Fifty percent of the graduate students are registered in Master Degree programs with one-third of those originating from foreign countries. Since its creation in 1990, more than 600 graduate students have been trained, most of them in collaboration with the private sector. The majority of these students are now working in the horticultural industry, either in Quebec or abroad.

The research budget for the CRH comes mainly from external sources. Traditionally, CRH obtained more than 50% of its funding from the Quebec horticulture sector or from Canada-Quebec partnership programs with industry. The 'Pavilion Envirotron', head office of CRH, was built in 1993 at a cost of 12M\$ with the support of the private sector. Daishowa, a pulp and paper company, invested more than 7M\$ to create the facility and sponsored a research program on paper mill residue composting. Today, around 200 tonnes of residues are composted daily. Provigo, the largest food distributor in Quebec, sponsored a laboratory and a research program in food science and nutrition. ICG Propane, a division of Petro Canada, invested in various gas technologies including greenhouse heating and weed burners for field vegetable production. Many other projects have been conducted in collaboration with the private industry: The development of the biofungicide, Sporodex with Plant Products; the development of peat substrates and composts with Premier Horticulture and Compost du Quebec; the improvement of yield and quality of horticulture produce with Savoura Greenhouse, Hydroserre Mirabel, Canneberge Atoca, Patate Dolbec, Coop Multi-Veg, Nutrite, etc.

The CRH has also established various research networks on: 1) nursery production with 7 partners including 3 substrate manufacturers and 4 growers; 2) turfgrass management with 3 growers and input suppliers; 3) pest bio-control in greenhouses with NSERC, Valorisation recherché Quebec, FQRNT and many private partners across Canada; and 4) nutraceuticals with the Institut des nutraceutiques et des aliments fonctionnels of Laval university.

Finally, CRH was successful in obtaining significant funding from the Canadian Foundation on innovation to replace the older greenhouses (\$14M) and to support many young scientists.

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