

## **O.22 - Decision support systems for diseases in horticultural crops: tendencies, bottlenecks and next steps**

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Data survey on several DSSs for diverse crop/disease systems was conducted and many of them were presented at the pan-European workshop held in Flakkebjerg, Denmark in March, 2008. Data are available from six countries (Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands and Slovakia) for several horticultural crops. These DSSs were developed and are disseminated under different socio-economic environments, reacting to the needs of farmers adjusted for local conditions. Thus, they vary both in terms of their technical operation, long-term development and their uptake by end-users. Nevertheless, some common tendencies could be identified as a result of the workshop, such as:

- a rapid switch can be seen from individual PC-based systems to web-based services, however, the co-existence of DSS generations is present up to now,
- the newest developed DSSs often include an environmental impact assessment module, which was not typical some years ago,
- a concentration of services is going on, i.e. some developers have appeared with complex systems offering DSSs for various crops as well as models for farm economic analysis,
- the development of DSSs fits well the tendencies of research on precision agriculture. A possible next step may be to work out a common validation protocol for those models that have the potential for being used at a European level.