

Organization of grass seed research in the Netherlands

S. de Vlieger¹ & J. Wander²

¹ Agrarisch Innovatie en Kenniscentrum Rusthoeve, Noordlangeweg 42, 4486 PR, Colijnsplaat, The Netherlands, samdevlieger@proefboerderij-rusthoeve.nl, +31-10707213

² DLV Plant, De Drieslag 15, 8251 JZ Dronten, The Netherlands, j.wander@dlvplant.nl, +31-651376489

Abstract

In 2008 it was decided that all research in grass seed would be allocated at the Agricultural Innovation and Knowledge centre Rusthoeve at Colijnsplaat in the Netherlands. Under the flag of this centre a Grass seed Expertise Centre was founded in which Rusthoeve and DLV Plant participate in doing research and trails for the Grass seed sector in general.

The assignment of the Expertise Centre is to gather all necessary information and knowledge to keep up with the latest developments in this specialized crop and also take the initiative to find answers for problems and improvements of the technical and economical aspects of grass seed production. The Expertise Centre operates in commission by a farmers interest working group for grass seed production which, in consultation with the Expertise Centre, determines a yearly research program. The implemented projects are also financed through means of this working group, a farmers contribution to this fund is based on a payment per hectare grass seed production.

To meet up with the above mentioned both Johan Wander and Sam de Vlieger can, due to their long time experience in respectively grass seed research and grass seed production, fall back on a broad network of institutes and specialists. Results of research are published on several websites as www.kennisakker.nl and www.graszaad.info. Currently the Expertise Centre is performing a screening test for herbicides in 20 different grass seed species. Furthermore the research program for 2010 comprises tests with a growth regulator and the testing of remedies against the loss of seed during the ripening.