

G R A B : A Research Group for helping development in organic farming.

GRAB (Research Group on Organic Agriculture, 744 avenue de Bédarrides 84320 ENTRAIGUES, FRANCE)

WHAT IS GRAB ?

- * Grab is a non-lucrative association specialised on fruit and vegetable.
- * Its purpose is to increase organic agriculture by specific researches and experimentations in order to improve technics used by organic farmers.
- * Members are farmers, advisers, groups for spreading, mentions...
- * GRAB funding is half public (regional, government) and half private (firms, foundations, farmers memberships).

THE PLACE OF GRAB IN RESEARCH - DEVELOPMENT STRUCTURE

- * GRAB is in strong collaboration with :
 - Conventional research (INRA, CTIFL...), in order to valorize essential results for organic farmers,
 - Firms in order to test new ecologically sound products (biopesticides, fertilizers...) and ensure the possibility of certification of those.
- * Experimentations are realised with farmers and their advisers, in different places in order to diffuse technical results and an attempt to contribute to organic farmers needs.

THE MAIN APPLIED RESEARCHES REALISED BY GRAB - Examples

- * Agronomy - soil improvement :
 - Speed of mineralization of nitrogen
 - Test of organic matters for fertilization
 - Use of green manure (ex : annual lucerns)
- * Crop protection :
 - Pest : - Biocontrol (auxiliary insects, granulosis virus against apple codling moth, nematods)
 - Mating disruption (peach codling moth)
 - Diseases : - Test of rock powders and clay against fungal diseases
 - Resistant varieties (ex : apple scab apple varieties)
- * Weed control :
 - Test of mechanical and thermic control

CONCLUSION

We try to solve few problems by testing rather curative methods. In the future, we would like to develop a more systemic approach of organic agriculture, including mixed hedges, various green manure as soil improvement and shelter of auxiliary insects, in order to easily manage biological balance.