

The old cherry genotypes in Slovakia — monitoring and evaluation

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Cherries belong to the attractive fruit crops suitable for direct consumption or industrial processing, and were traditional fruit plants for a long time. The project studies are performed in a selected region of Slovakia and running for four years (2014–2017). Research objectives are monitoring of old cherry cultivars grown in the Slovak Republic, and evaluation of plant molecular variability. Additionally is studied — occurrence of economically important and emerging viruses of red stone-fruits and development of molecular techniques for sensitive and specific detection. At present researchers from Gene Bank of the Slovak Republic focuses on the collecting and monitoring activities of the sweet cherries, but researchers from Virology Institute Bratislava focuses on virology issues. Nine localities, where cherries occur, were monitored in 2014 and 2015. In total 130 samples from old trees were obtained. After evaluation, the best 42 genotypes have been propagated on the appropriate rootstocks ('Gisela 5', *Prunus mahaleb* L. and *Prunus avium* (L.) L.). All obtained samples have been analysed in term of health status, mainly for the presence of viruses. Monitoring will be continuing in 2016, in the East region of Slovakia.

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