

Evalveerimine 2010 Application EV41 Jõgeva Plant Breeding Institute, Biosciences and Environment

Expert's opinion: The volume and level of R&D activities in comparison to international criteria.

Subcriteria for evaluation	Evaluation	Comments
The research and development in the field being evaluated is characterized by a sufficient volume of financing taking into account the particularities of the field of research and the profile of the Institution.	Negative	There appears insufficient funding to maintain the infrastructure, and to recruit young researchers. The funding is also fragmented, and it appears impossible to allow time for basic research activity in addition to normal work loads.
Research and development at the institution is characterized by contemporary and innovative range of topics for research.	Negative	The impression is of good work in a rather traditional area.
The institution has international cooperation projects in the field being evaluated and/or participates in various international cooperation networks.	Negative	The Institute has a historically strong reputation, and several of its cultivars are grown in other Baltic States. It has a good reputation and a strong position in the national context and through the Nordic-Baltic region. However, it plays a relatively limited part in international basic research projects.
Experts' summary assessment	Negative	Although there is willingness to engage in basic research, there is insufficient funding to add this to the Institute's primary function as a governmental applied research institute.

Expert's opinion: R&D Infrastructure (working premises and auxiliary facilities)

Subcriteria for evaluation	Evaluation	Comments
The institution's research groups in the field being evaluated have at their disposal the necessary working and auxiliary facilities (premises).	Positive	Existing laboratories are inadequate for up-to-date research. However, there is generous laboratory space per capita.
The working facilities (premises) at the disposal of the institution's research groups in the field being evaluated are modern and fit for purpose.	Negative	The premises are out of date for modern research.
The institution's research groups in the field being evaluated have at their disposal, in the case of experimental themes, the necessary equipment and instruments.	Negative	The institute is adequately equipped for Ministry tasks but not for even basic modern agricultural research.
The equipment and instruments at the disposal of the institution's research groups in the field being evaluated are, in the case of the experimental themes, modern and fit for purpose.	Negative	Equipment is fit for current purposes but not for advanced or basic research.
The institution's research groups in the field being evaluated have access to databases, specialized literature and other research infrastructures.	Negative	There is no adequate access to the necessary scientific literature to support modern research activity.
Experts' summary assessment	Negative	Although doing good work for its Ministry remit the institute is poorly equipped to develop modern basic research activity.

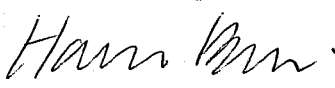
Expert's opinion: Qualification of researchers in comparison to international criteria.

Subcriteria for evaluation	Evaluation	Comments
A sufficient number of research staff are employed at the institution taking into account the volume and particularities of the R&D activities of the institution and the field being evaluated.	Negative	There are relatively small research groups, lacking critical mass; but the researchers are well supported by a large number of ancillary and technical staff. The majority of current research staff are in a mid-career stage with twenty or more years of scientific experience; the age distribution is very narrow.

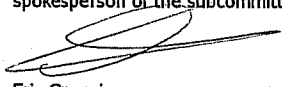
A sufficient number of the research staff have a recognized academic degree corresponding to Estonian legislative acts.	Negative	Some staff with masters have been registered for some time for PhDs - but it is clear that there is insufficient time for completion.
Doctoral dissertations have been successfully supervised in the last five years.	Negative	There have been no defences of doctoral theses in 2005-2009, although several staff with Masters are undertaking doctoral studies at the Estonian University of Life Sciences. The Institute cannot offer doctoral training itself.
Research staff in the field being evaluated have received sufficient national or international honours and/or awards.	Negative	There is some evidence, but three of the four indicators of esteem apply to the same individual (and are scholarships relating to higher degree studies).
Research staff have published per researcher in the last 5 years a sufficient number of articles in international journals or peer-reviewed research monographs taking into account the particularities of the field of research being evaluated.	Negative	Only 11% of the outputs are international in character, and there is only an average of about one international journal output per member of research active staff. This fits the self assessment that there is a "low intensity in publication in peer-reviewed journals". However, the institute performs well in its productivity in the kind of publication required by its Ministry remit.
Research staff have filed applications for patents or for plant variety rights certificates in the name of the institution in the last 5 years.	Negative	There have been no patent applications, but a large number of plant variety rights certificates (52 applications, 26 granted). This adds a useful income stream from royalties.
Experts' summary assessment	Negative	There is very limited doctoral research activity and the emphasis in publication is primarily to satisfy its function as a Ministry of Agriculture Institute.
Subcriteria for evaluation	Evaluation	Comments
Final assessment	Negative	This institute is doing good work to support the agricultural community. However, the infrastructure and the availability of staff time for basic rather than applied research are both limited. As a result publications in international journals and involvement in basic international research are also very limited. We recommend that if this organisation is to have a valid research track that it is much more strongly allied to the Estonian University of Life Science to provide assistance with experimental design, data analysis and doctoral supervision. They also need access to modern research equipment and access to scientific literature.

Confirmed 20.05.2010


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 Chairperson of the evaluation committee;
 spokesperson of the subcommittee „Culture and Society“


 Hans Brix,
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