

Walloon Agricultural Research Centre

150 ANS

150 years at the service
of agriculture & society

1872-2022

CRA-W IN A NUTSHELL



420
employees

including
120
scientists



4
scientific
departments

1

interdisciplinary
support
department



230 hectares
of crops, grasslands,
orchards,...



23
laboratories



20 years of Belac accreditation

13 ISO 17025 labs

Competence of testing laboratories

1 ISO 17043 labs

Organisation of proficiency tests or inter-laboratory trials

2 GLP labs

Ecotoxicological studies / Physicochemical studies and
plant protection product residue studies

3 NRL

National Reference Laboratories

1 EURL

European Union Reference Laboratory



60
units

including
1 CPVO
(Community Plant Variety Office)
Cereal assessment

1 ISO 17020
Spray system
inspection unit



15
collections

including one of
the most extensive
collections of fruit-based
genetic resources



3
locations
Gembloux, Libramont
and Mussy-la-Ville

including
73 hectares
in organic farming

THE 12 LABOURS OF CRA-W DURING ITS 150 YEARS OF EXISTENCE

PRODUCE	Produce and evolve: from horse to robot, precision mechanisation and production methods for greater efficiency, profitability and respect for the environment	
EXPLORE	Explore and master new technologies to exploit their potential while measuring and managing risks	
AUTHENTICATE	From detecting sand in fertilisers (1872) to detecting horse meat in lasagna in 2013 and counterfeit pesticides in 2022, always at the forefront of analytical techniques to help farmers and consumers	
IMPROVE	Cereal production that is ever more efficient and more respectful of the environment thanks to 52 years of co-coordination of the «White Book» on cereals	
INNOVATE	Innovating for ethical and sustainable animal production	
ANALYSE	From conventional chemical methods to infrared spectrometry for rapid and non-destructive analyses of the quality of agricultural production	
SAVE	50 years of safeguarding old varieties and breeding new varieties resistant to diseases and better adapted to climate change	
BREED	100 years of continuous improvement of cereals, potatoes and fruit	
PROTECT	Plant pests and diseases are always evolving. For 100 years, researchers have been providing answers and solutions!	
OBSERVE	Support the decision with increasingly fast and accurate observation tools	
PERPETUATE	60 years of experimentation to develop innovative Cropping Systems that meet the challenges of farmers and society	
ADVICE	150 years of service to the agricultural sector in the form of advice, analyses and supply of reproduction material	

FUTURE CHALLENGES TO WHICH CRA-W MUST CONTRIBUTE

REDUCE	An agricultural sector handling alternatives to synthetic chemicals
COMBAT	An agricultural sector active in combating climate change
ENSURE	An intelligent agricultural sector (smartfarming) ensuring the well-being of farmers and respect for the expectations of the citizen-consumer
DEVELOP	An ecosystem-friendly agricultural sector acting as a player in sustainable development

CALENDAR OF THE 150 YEARS EVENTS

Provisional programme*

8 February	The diversification of crop systems, a strategy for more sustainable agri-food systems
23 February	Cereals white paper
8 March	Pig welfare, from the concept to the practices deployed in recent years!
17 March	Observing the Earth for risk management in Wallonia GTEO (Groupe de Travail en Observation de la Terre [Earth Observation Working Group])
27-29 April	Dair'Innov 22 Congress: HappyMoo and D4Dairy projects
19 May	Potential alternatives to synthetic pesticides
24 June	Selection of cereals
July	Presentation of the cowshed project for dairy cattle within the experimental farm
September	Sensors in agriculture and agri-food: Part 1
September	Cereals white paper
16-18 September	Hortifolies Completion of the INTERREG ZERO-Ph.FYTO project – Fruits & Vegetables
October	Sensors in agriculture and agri-food: Part 2
October	Breeding and farming systems - where are we going in Wallonia?
November	Academic sessions
December	Final conference of the INTERREG Cowforme project

* The events organised as part of this anniversary year can be found on the website: www.cra.wallonie.be



PRODUCE



EXPLORE



AUTHENTICATE



IMPROVE



INNOVATE



SAVE



ANALYSE



PROTECT



BREED



OBSERVE



PERPETUATE



ADVICE

The 12 labours of CRA-W

The common thread of the events organised on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the CRA-W



HISTORY OF CRA-W

The **Walloon Agricultural Research Centre** was founded in 1872. Its original purpose was primarily to support the development of national agriculture. As it gathered momentum, several departments (at that time «stations») were introduced to meet the demands of research and the requirements of agriculture of the moment. Of particular note is that, during the post-war food shortage, all European countries attempted to develop their agricultural production in order to gain independence in food production. Economic factors, technological development and the organisation of agricultural research made it possible to achieve this objective.



The results were edifying:

whereas rural farmers in 1900 provided food for 3 people, by the 1980s, every farmer in Belgium could feed over 40.

In the current context of globalisation and climate change, farmers have a different approach to production: respect for the environment, adaptation and resilience of production systems, diversification of production and services. Moreover consumers, manufacturers and public authorities have new demands: quality, traceability, sustainability, ethics, and animal welfare,...

Agricultural research must therefore adapt and respond to these new constraints. Thanks to its laboratories, its experts and its research programmes, the **Walloon Agricultural Research Centre** meets this challenge on a daily basis.

CRA-W has always known how to progress and adapt to fundamental changes in agriculture, to meet the ever-changing challenge of scientific knowledge and respond to the needs of farmers and society.



CRA-W'S MISSIONS AND GOALS

Approximately **130 scientific** research projects, which seek to:

- 1 Reduce the use of synthetic inputs and control the effects of agriculture on climate change.
- 2 Produce quality products in a more sustainable way, while preserving the farmers' quality of life and ensuring the well-being of animals and the protection of the environment and biodiversity.
- 3 Strengthen the profitability of production, thereby ensuring a reasonable income for Walloon farmers.
- 4 Help promote agricultural production in traditional or local sectors, whether or not they are organic.

Divided into **4 areas** of research



Precision farming

to achieve
more sustainable
production



Precision breeding

to achieve
more sustainable
production



Risk management

to stabilise the
results of production
while protecting the
environment and the
consumers



Knowing the products

in order to guarantee
quality in production
processes and
the products derived
from them

CRA-W combines **scientific research, service,** and **support** for **the benefit** of farmers, breeders, horticulturists, Walloon foresters and those working in the agri-food sector.

It is a key player **serving** citizens, consumers, the economy, and the transition towards more sustainable agriculture in Wallonia.

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Wallonie
recherche
CRA-W

CRA-W

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