

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Institute of Plant Sciences Paris-Saclay (IPS2)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université Paris-Sud

Université Paris Diderot - Paris 7

Université d'Evry-Val-d'Essonne – UEVE

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique –
CNRS

Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique -
INRA

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2018-2019
GROUP E



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Andreas Weber, Chairman of the
committee

Under the decree No.2014-1365 dated 14 November 2014,

¹ The president of Hcéres "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the experts committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5);

² The evaluation reports "are signed by the chairman of the experts committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2).

Tables in this document were filled with data provided by laboratories and supervising bodies in the unit's application and in the Excel files "Données du contrat en cours" and "Données du prochain contrat".

UNIT PRESENTATION

Unit name:	Institute of Plant Sciences Paris-Saclay
Unit acronym:	IPS2
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	9213
Head of the unit (2018-2019):	Mr Martin CRESPI
Project leader (2020-2024):	Mr Martin CRESPI
Number of teams and/or themes:	11

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Andreas WEBER, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, Germany
Experts:	Ms Rossitza ATANASSOVA, Université de Poitiers (representative of CNU) Ms Béatrice DENOYES, Inra, Villenave d'Ornon (representative of Inra CSS and supporting personnel) Mr Robert HANCOCK, The James Hutton Institute, UK Mr Patrick MEYER, Université de Liège, Belgium Mr Laurent NUSSAUME, CEA Cadarache (representative of CoNRS) Mr Pedro Pere PUIGDOMENECH ROSELL, Centre for Research in Agricultural Genomics, Spain Mr Dominique ROBY, CNRS/INRA, Castanet Tolosan Mr Nicolas ROUHIER, Université de Lorraine Mr Arp SCHNITTGER, University of Hamburg, Germany

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Steven BALL

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Étienne AUGE, Université Paris-Sud
Mr Patrick CURMI, Université d'Evry-Val-d'Essonne
Ms Catherine RECHENMANN, CNRS

Mr Norbert ROLLAND, Inra

Mr Alain ZIDER, Université Paris- Diderot

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The IPS2 was created by a merger of 3 of the 4 Plant Biology Institutes involved in the Cluster of Excellence or LabEx SPS "Saclay Plant Sciences". IPS2 united the previous Institute of Plant Biology (IBP, Orsay), the Research Unit of Plant Genomics (URGV, Evry) and part of the Institute of Plant Sciences (ISV, Gif) as new joint unit in 2015. It collaborates with the Institute "Jean-Pierre Bourgin" (IJPB, Versailles) through Labex activities. IPS2 is supported by 5 institutions; the Universities of Paris Sud, Paris Diderot and Evry-Val-d'Essone, the CNRS, the INRA. IPS2 integrates around half of SPS members at a single unit, thereby overcoming the previous geographical dispersion between three distant locations.

The unit is housed in "Batiment 630" at the "Saclay Plateau", which provides 5 500 m² dedicated to research space and 2 500 m² dedicated to training and teaching surfaces.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The unit is directed by a direction committee headed by Mr Martin Crespi, who is supported by three associate directors, Mr Michael Hodges, Mr Abdel Bendahmane, and A. Charpentier.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE1

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

IPS2 has four major activities: basic research, crop biology that also enables translational approaches, technological platforms, and teaching. IPS2 research combines genetics and genomics approaches in model and crop plant species with studies on plant physiology and signaling process and analyses of the interaction of plants with microbes to predict the optimal genetic makeup of plants under given environmental scenarios. Progress in fundamental science is translated to crop species through a translational biology platform. Hence IPS2 links progress in fundamental science with innovative breeding approaches and therefore contributes to overcoming the grand challenge of providing sustainable food and energy security for a steadily growing population in a changing climate.

UNIT WORKFORCE

		Unit workforce	
		Institute of Plant Sciences Paris - Saclay	
	Active staff	Number 30/06/2018	Number 01/01/2020
	Full professors and similar positions	7	8
	Assistant professors and similar positions	18	18
	Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	10	11
	Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	12	12

Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	0	0
High school teachers	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	57	57
Permanent staff	106	106
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	1	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	29	
<i>PhD Students</i>	22	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	33	
Non-permanent staff	63	
Total	169	106

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

IPS2 is an internationally visible plant science institute that shows potential for developing into a world-class Institute and a major contributor to studies in plant biology at both the national and international level. IPS2 has four major activities: basic research, crop biology that also enables translational approaches, technological platforms, and teaching. There are several areas of excellence, notably epi/genomics and translational plant sciences. In addition, plant-microbe interactions ranks highly and has the potential to develop into an area of excellence. The overarching mission of the institute is to generate a fundamental understanding of developmental, metabolic, and adaptive processes in plants with the long-term to develop predictive knowledge that enables innovative approaches. Thereby the unit contributes to solving major global challenges, such as food security, climate resilient sustainable agriculture, and transformation to bioeconomy.

IPS2 members are renowned in their areas of expertise and actively contribute to the larger scientific community as members of editorial boards of leading journals in the field, invited speakers at conferences and meetings, and in their function as consultants to industry and funding bodies. Translational approaches are a particular strength of the unit, which manifest in multiple public-private partnership contracts, licensing of patents and new patent applications. IPS2 further consolidates the University teaching in the Plant Sciences at the Master and Doctoral levels on the Paris-Saclay Campus.

The unit is structured around 11 research teams that are organized at the topical level into three departments. The research teams are supported by mutualized technical and administrative services as well as greenhouse staff. Each of the three departments is responsible for one of the platforms maintained by the unit. The unit employs approx. 200 individuals, with approx. 50% in the category of technicians and engineers, the other half in the category of researchers. To further increase its stature and visibility, the unit will have to continue with sharpening its research focus and increasing the coherence between its departments. The funding base must be broadened and a continuous process of evaluating the impact of investments into platforms should be in place to ensure maximal output from institutional resources.

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