

Press release

GSPP general meeting in Morocco: knowledge exchange and discussion.

In order to further develop its system, Good Seed and Plant Practices (GSPP) organized a general meeting in Agadir, Morocco on 2 & 3 March 2016. GSPP brought together nearly 80 participants from countries worldwide. An inspiring program was presented in the aims of discussing, exchanging knowledge and networking between partners. Furthermore Moroccan partners gave a lively and practical introduction on the business in the region of Agadir. All speakers gave food for thought and triggered the discussions.

In close cooperation with ASOL Maroc (Association des Semenciers Obteneurs de Légumes du Maroc), GSPP invited seed companies, plant raisers, seed producers and other interested companies. All those companies work worldwide in the tomato production chain and are interested in disease management.

The first day, a meeting was held with renowned speakers, scientists and experts. They are mostly specialised in the prevention of *Clavibacter michiganensis subsp. Michiganensis (Cmm)* and in quality management systems. Key issues were on seed health testing, sampling, global surveillance of phytopathogens in the chain, the possibilities for plant raisers and the strategic development of GSPP. The second day, attendees were given the opportunity to visit three companies in the region of Agadir, of which two are GSPP accredited.

In the coming years, GSPP aims to intensify its communication to both plant raisers and growers to inform them about GSPP and to stimulate the demand for GSPP accredited seed and plant material. As a result, an increasing number of GSPP accredited plant raisers is expected. In addition, GSPP will urge companies to be transparent within the tomato production chain by improving the reporting to GSPP in case of an infection with (*Cmm*).

GSPP is the main international business chain system in the tomato production chain. GSPP's international network is the key solution for the up-to-date development of a system to prevent tomato seeds and plants to be infected by *Cmm*. This network faces the above future challenges.

For more information and details on the program see: www.gspp.eu. For further contact GSPP manager, Mrs Claire Peusens tel. +31182688668 or e-mail info@gspp.eu.

