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Groupe d'Étude et de contrôle des Variétés Et des Semences

French GR Chicory collection – 07/10/2026 WG Leafy Veg ECPGR

Pascal COQUIN, GEVES - Brion



European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources
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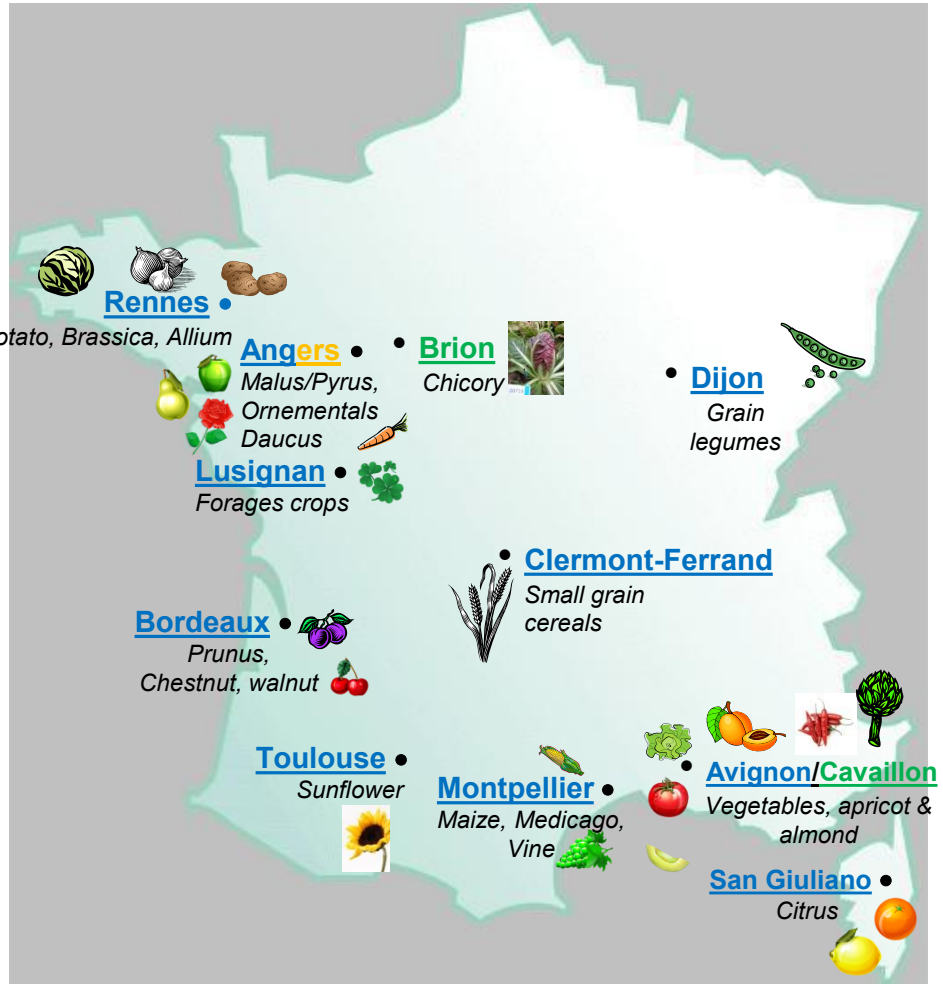
Agenda

- General organization of Genetic Resources In France
- GR chicory collection in France
- Regeneration, characterization, evaluation, ..
- Bottlenecks
- Expectations from ECPGR WG

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Genetic Resources Collections in France

- Managed through ~ 20 species/genera Networks
- Network : one public structure with partners : seed companies, local organisations, …
- Public structures : INRAE (National Agronomy Institute) , GEVES (Official Agency for Variety Registration and Seed Testing), L'Institut Agro (Agronomy and Horticulture School)
- National Coordination : a dedicated body established within GEVES



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GR chicory collection in France











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French Collection of GR Chicory



History

- **Birth : 1994 following the implementation of the Rio Convention**
- **Under the umbrella of the former French Bureau for GR**
- **Local initiative followed by a national initiative**
- **GR provided by seed companies (**deleted varieties from the official Catalogue**) and by INRA (**end of chicory R&D program**)**



Partners

- **Institutional partners : GEVES**
- **Breeding companies :** involved in the diversity of *Cichorium* varieties and typologies
- **Agricultural development organisations and regional Associations :** APEF (Witloof producers association), Regional Center for GR (North France)

Components

- **National Collection : 807 accessions (**of which wild materials**)**
- **Nework Collection : 1296 accessions (**of which wild materials**)**



Cichorium genus, … … center of origin : Europe



Wild species





Witloof



Fodder & roasted



Chioggia, Pain de sucre, …



Cichorium genus

Curled and plain endives



Wild species





French Collection of GR Chicory

* = National Collection / Network Collection

+ Working collection INRA-Versailles (~300 accessions)

CICHORIUM

656* / 1141 accessions

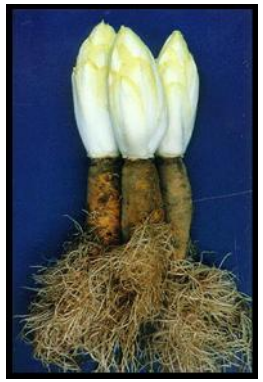
C. intybus L. (allogamous)

470 / 757

C. intybus var. foliosum = *Leaf chicory*

268 / 344

Witloof



191 / 360

Leaf/Italian chicory

-CHIOGGIA / VERONE
-TREVISE / PAN DI ZUCCHERO
-A COUPER / CATALOGNA






C. intybus var. sativum = *Chicorée à racine*

11 / 53

- Industrial chicory
- « Sugar » Chicory
- Forage chicory
-Di Soncino




C. endivia L. (autogamous)

186 / 384

C. endivia var. crispum = *Frisée*

78 / 175

-WALLONNE
-GLOIRE DE L 'EXPOSITION
-D 'ETE A CŒUR JAUNE
-GROSSE POMMANT SEULE



C. endivia var. latifolia = *Scarole*

108 / 209

-GEANTE MARAICHERE
-CORNET
-GROSSE BOUCLEE
-A CŒUR PLEIN



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Regeneration, characterization, evaluation









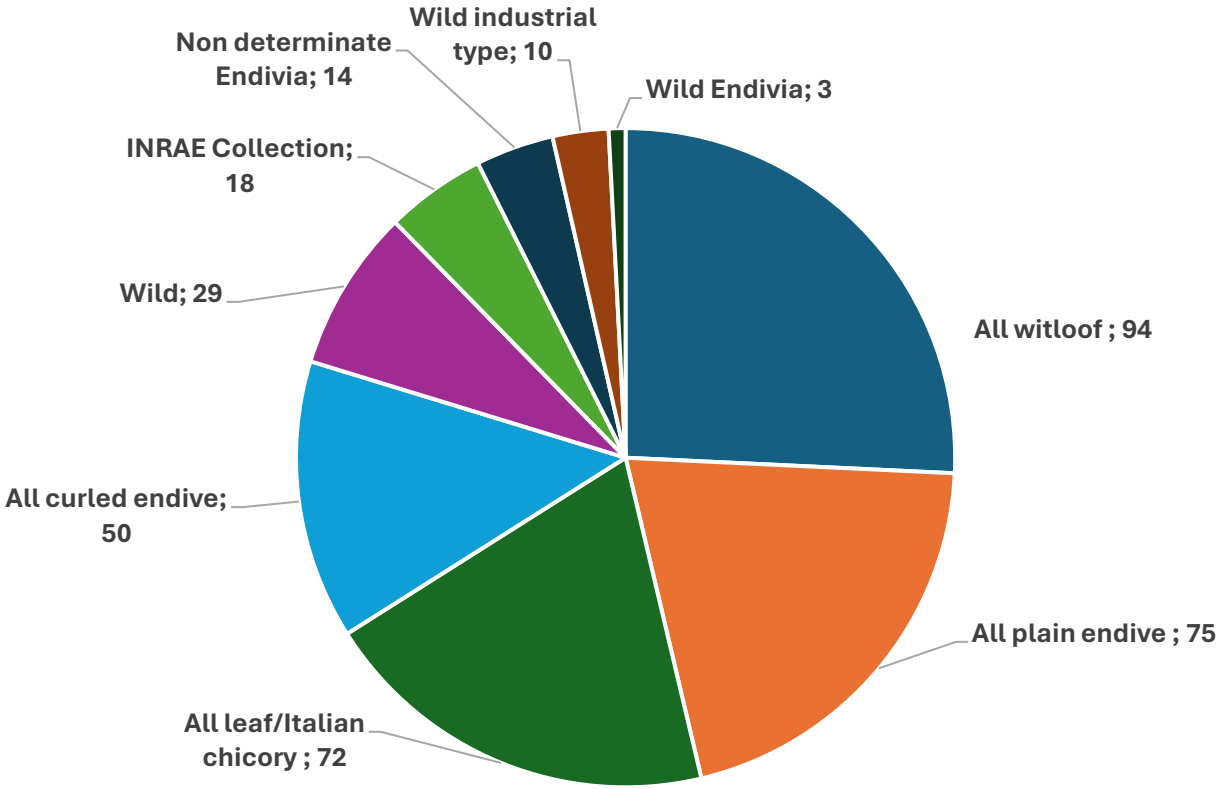


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Regenerations

- **Annually, 35-40 accessions**
- **By 10 partners, private and regional associations**





Total number of GR chicory :
> 2000 accessions

Characterizations (morphology, DNA)

- **Morphology**
  - 20-40 accessions annually in field
  - Mainly by GEVES
  - > 2/3 collection characterized
- **Molecular markers**
  - ISSR tools
  - Tool for inter- and intra-specific characterization (= between cultivars), identification of duplicates, verification of propagation

Evaluations

Resistance to leaf and root diseases :

- Main area of research = way of valorization of the GR
- Development of tests for early and/or late resistance
  - ↳ screening of accessions against :
    - *Thielaviopsis basicola*
    - *Alternaria*
    - *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*
    - *Phytophthora infestans*

EU funded R&D project 2007-2010

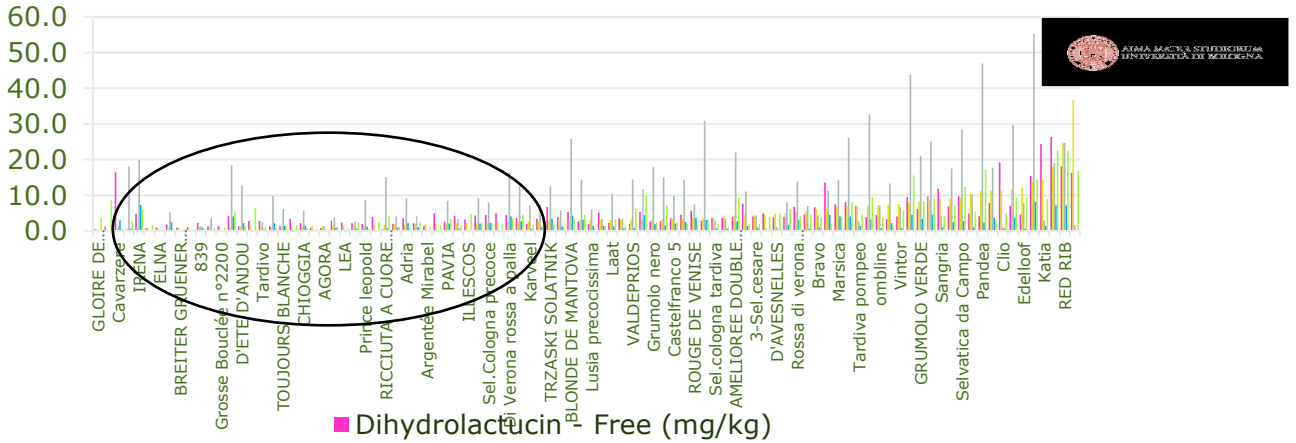
FR funded R&D projects 2014-2017 & 2018-2020







Organoleptic value and composition: bitterness …



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Bottlenecks of the French GR chicory collection



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GR Chicory collection, the largest collection

- In mid / long term conservation for their seeds
- With a safety duplication
- With a fruitful collaboration with partners

However, the collection need to …

- … be more evaluated,
- … be more used / known.

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Expectations from WG ECPGR











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Expectations from WG ECPGR

- To support the increase of evaluations for users
- In order to support the agricultural transition

Thank you for your attention …

Questions ?

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