

MAFEN MASTER

Academic Year 2025 - 2026

Proposal of M1 tutored project

PROJECT TITLE AND SUMMARY:

Past and future trends in apricot and peach varieties in France: evolution of production zones and potential adaptation to climate change

The objective of this project is to produce a map across time to retrace past and present production areas in the light of variety evolution, and to make projections into the future. To this aim, the students will explore the available resources at INRAE-GAFL library and local libraries in and around Avignon, and online, to collect information on French emblematic varieties. Doing so, students will retrace for each of them their origin, production zones, pedigree and breeder. If needed, the students will contact experts such as breeders to find out hidden information on varieties. When available, additional information (*e.g.* type of fruit, type of use, taste, disease/pest resistance, tree architecture) will be gathered. Special attention will be paid on the (only) endemic wild relatives of apricot, called *Prunus brigantina*, growing in the French Alps, to retrace its past usage and report a potential loss of knowledge. A large database will be produced and analyzed around three periods: early beginning of breeding, expansion of production in France (last century), and today's globalized market. A critical analysis will lead to hypotheses regarding futures usages and zones of production.

The students will learn about perennial plant breeding (aims, methods), will acquire expertise in data management, and knowledge on the fruit production sector. Last they will gain awareness on biodiversity loss and the consequences of climate change on agricultural systems

HOST UNIT:

GAFL INRAe

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

Fruit Tree Genetics.

CONTACT:

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