



Programme

International Blackcurrant Growers Meeting

10th - 11th June 2025

in Renesse & Heinkenszand, Netherlands



Coöperatieve Nederlandse Bessentelers
Lauran Vermue
Netherlands

International Blackcurrant Association
1 rue Charles Lacretelle
49070 Beaucouzé - France



Arno Vael (NL),
Deputy of the Province of Zeeland for
Agriculture, Fruitgrowing and Water



Louis Estève (F), Netafim
Agronomist with 20 years of experience in
precision irrigation.
15 years at Netafim, including 12 years in West
Africa, managing projects for crops such as
cocoa, sugarcane, bananas, citrus fruits, and
blueberries.
For the past 3 years, he has worked in the agro-
development department at Netafim France,
helping farmers growing more with less.



Han Blok (NL), Meeuwse Handelsonderneming
Since 2022 Managing Director of Meeuwse
Handelsonderneming B.V. in Goes, Han Blok
directs the company's focus on efficient water
management. This ranges from water storage
and efficient water use to emission reduction
measures to maintain clean water.



**Mieke Vergouwe (NL), Meeuwse
Handelsonderneming**
Employed at Meeuwse Handelsonderneming
B.V. in Goes since 2023. Mieke Vergouwe's main
focus is on sales and advising of the PhytoBac
system. This system processes plant protection
products in wastewater without emission to
surface water.



Zahi Zind (NL), Van Iperen International B.V.
Zahi is an agronomist and product developer
working with Van Iperen International for the
past 12 years. His focus is biostimulant products
(plant extracts) and plant nutrition.
He works with various producers on various
crops across the world trying to adapt existing
and innovative solutions to local conditions and
challenges.



**Martin Tolhoek (NL), Van Iperen International
B.V.**
Martin is an crop advisor working for Van Iperen
BV specialized in topfruit with focus on crop
protection, plant nutrition and biostimulants
He is working with producers of apple and pears
in the south-west of The Netherlands by
combining field experience with the latest plant
nutrition and crop protection strategies.



Herman Eijkelboom (NL), CropSolutions
After his study at Wageningen University he has
been working with fertilizers. Lately he
combined fertilizers with biostimulants.
Although his working area covered countries like
China and New Zealand he is focused now on the
Netherlands.



Serge Zaka (F),
Agricultural engineer, PhD in agroclimatology,
and storm chaser.
Since 2019, he has engaged in popularizing
scientific theses in order to bring together various
specialists. In his fight against climate-sceptic
theories, he is mainly present in social media, but
also in conferences with economic stakeholders,
in particular from the wine industry and agrifood
companies.

Day 1 - 10th June 2025

morning	Arrival of participants
10:30 am	IBA Board Meeting (Board members only)
11:30 am	Bus drive to Heinkenszand (meeting point: Hotel "De Zeeuwse Stroomen") Address of the farm: Boerendijk 7, 4451 RK Heinkenszand
12:30 pm	Welcome and lunch
01:00 pm	Visit of Lauran Vermue's farm and cooling company. Berry processing with a robot. Welcome by Arno Vael
03:45 pm	Coffee break and visit of the Rijk Familie Farm Address of the farm: Noldijk 4, Ovezande
05:00 pm	Bus drive to Renesse Check-in at the different hotels
07:30 pm	Dinner at the Beach Bar "De Haven van Renesse"

Day 2 - 11th June 2025

08:30 am	Welcome and Report of Working groups: - Agronomy (Harriett Prosser) - Health claim (Stefanie Sharma)
09:00 am	Presentations on agronomic subjects 1. Irrigation Mr. Louis Estève, Netafim 2. Fertilizing with irrigation Mr. Han Blok / Mrs Mieke Vergouwe, Meeuwse Handelsonderneming 3. Plants for Plants: a new generation of biostimulants – Mode of Action Mr. Zahi Zind + Mr. Martin Tolhoek, Van Iperen 4. Plant protection: Reducing stress Mr. Herman Eijkelboom, CropSolutions
10:15 am	Harvest forecast 2025
10:45 am	Coffee break
11:00 am	IBA General Meeting
11:30 am	Modelling of the impact of climate change on blackcurrant growing Dr. Serge Zaka (https://fr.linkedin.com/in/sergezaka)
12:30 pm	Lunch (Hotel "De Zeeuwse Stroomen")
01:30 pm	Working groups meetings
02:00 pm	Individual departure