In 2015 the herbicide trials group at AU Flakkebjerg conducted 96 field trials. They comprised 51 trials in agricultural crops, 32 trials in vegetables, fruit, berries and garden seed and 13 trials in nurseries and Christmas trees and on uncultivated areas.

**Herbicides in agricultural crops 2015**

The agricultural trials were mainly conducted in winter and spring cereals and in grass seeds, while a small number of trials were conducted in forage maize. The trials in cereal crops and maize were financed by the agrochemical companies, while the trials in grass seed were mainly financed by the GUDP project "3030 i 2020 – mere græsfø med relativt mindre input" (Green Development and Demonstration Programme project “3030 in 2020 – more grass seed with relatively less input”).

**Herbicides in minor crops 2015**

The trials in minor crops are to a large extent financed by the industry in Denmark or by foundations related to the industry. The support from the industry comes chiefly from GAU (Gartneribrugets afsætningsudvalg [the Danish market garden industry’s marketing board]), which is the administration unit for production and other levy funds within the market garden industry. But also Frøafgiftsfonden (the seed production levy fund) and Produktionsafgiftsfonden for Juletræer og Pyntegrønt (the production levy fund for Christmas trees and greenery) contributed. In recent years the trials unit has also conducted an increasing number of trials in minor crops in Sweden where there in recent years has been a "minor use" project financed by funds provided by the Swedish government.

Especially within the production of vegetables, fruits and berries Denmark and Sweden have many features in common and face many common challenges within crop protection. Even though the producers on each side of the Sound are competitors in everyday life, they appreciate that collaboration between the Nordic countries is necessary within this area. In comparison with many other EU countries the production in the Nordic countries is relatively small, but we are subject to the same framework conditions as the large countries, and a country with a small production may therefore find it more difficult to meet these challenges.

A particular problem is that Sweden and Denmark as regards crop protection are placed in the Northern zone. The sale of crop protection products in the Northern zone accounts for less than 5% of the total sale of crop protection products within the EU, and as minor crops already constitute a very small part of the crop production in Scandinavia compared with the other zones the agrochemical companies obviously have relatively little interest in minor crops. Unfortunately, at present we see a development in which crop protection products for minor crops which do not also have a use in agricultural production are withdrawn from the market to an increasing extent because the sale for minor crops alone is too small.

As it was the case in previous years many of the trials concentrated on finding alternatives to herbicides which either already have been withdrawn from the market or which we fear will disappear. Within vegetables and berries the reasons for the trial activities are especially the fact that Totril and Aramo have been withdrawn as pesticides within the EU and the fear that Stomp will also disappear. In horticultural...
seeds asulam (Asulox) is still a very important herbicide for the production of spinach seeds, and the work on finding an alternative has been going on for many years. AU Flakkebjerg has for some years been involved in developing strategies for weed control in onions and leeks without Stomp and Totril. The trials, conducted in Sweden and Denmark, have shown that combinations of Boxer, Fenix and Xinca are effective and appear to be able to solve most weed situations. However, in contrast to Stomp and Totril none of the herbicides mentioned is very good at controlling field pansy (Viola arvensis), and therefore we have still got a task ahead of us of developing control which also comprises this widespread weed species.