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# Certification of stone fruits in France

**Gérard DUSSAUD**

CTIFL

Centre de Lanxade

Prignonrieux (France)

In 1952, following an initiative by INRA and CEP (Centre d'Expérimentation de la Pépinière), agreements were signed to foster the propagation of the best peach and plum clones in order to guarantee their trueness-to-type.

In 1962, Centre Technique Interprofessionnel des Fruits et Légumes (CTIFL) joined this activity (Fig.1). The tasks assigned to INRA and CTIFL are subdivided as follows:

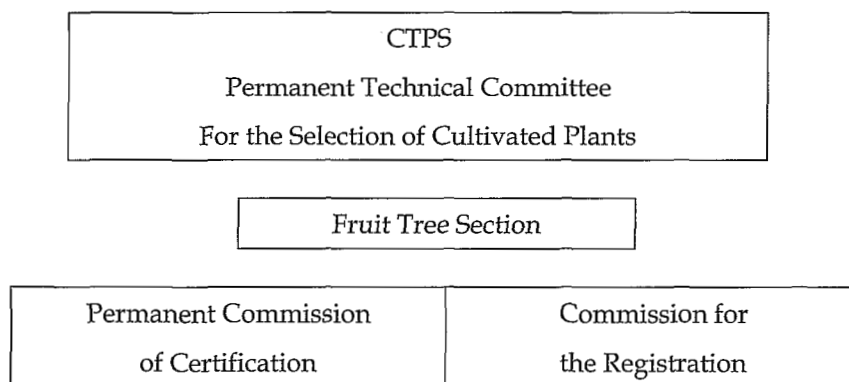
- INRA: authorisation of nurseries, varieties and materials;
- CTIFL: selection, production of basic plants and controlled scions.

In 1963, the propagation of rootstocks began.

In 1967, freedom from infectious diseases was included.

In 1980, certification of fruit crops was officially implemented in France by a preliminary technical regulation (21 April 1980).

In 1984, a second technical regulation was approved (21 May 1985). It organises the certification of fruit crops in France as follows:



The major innovations included:

- (i) at the administrative level, establishment of a Permanent Commission of Certification encompassing:
- 3 representatives of nurserymen;
  - 3 representatives of growers;
  - 2 Ctifl representatives;
  - 1 representative of INRA, Plant Protection;
  - the President and the secretary of the CTPS Fruit Tree section.

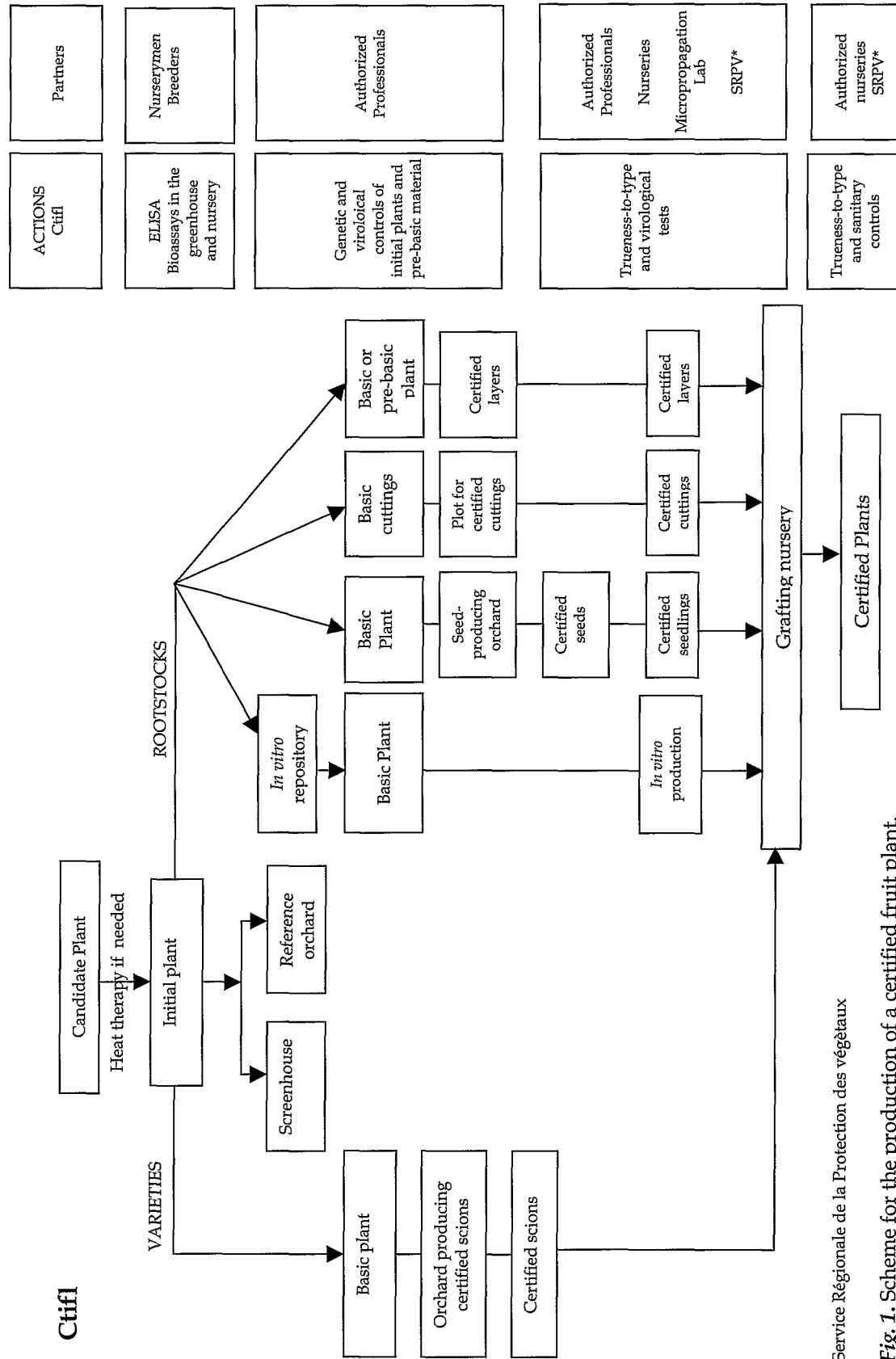
This commission will be in charge of the technical, administrative and financial management of certification.

- (ii) at the technical level, is the creation of 2 cultivar levels (lists):

**list 1:** V. F. (Virus-Free), including rootstocks and varieties of national interest free from known infectious diseases.

**list 2:** V. T. (Virus-Tested), including varieties of regional or local interest free from virus diseases reported on a given list. They have to correspond to the constraints of the phytosanitary passport.

- Updating of production contracts. To ensure production of certified materials corresponding to a contract specific for the type of propagation (layering, certified plantlets).



\* Service Régionale de la Protection des végétaux

Fig. 1. Scheme for the production of a certified fruit plant.