HEDWICH TEUNISSEN

Hedwich Teunissen, female, molecular biologist, graduated from the department of Plant Breeding, Wageningen University (NL) in 1996. She did her PhD in the group of Phytopathology, Swammerdam Institute for Life Sciences, University of Amsterdam (NL), working on the molecular (gene-for-gene) interaction between *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *lycopersici* and tomato. Plant-fungal interactions were further exploited during a post-doc study at the Max-Planck-Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology in Marburg, Germany in the group of Prof. Regine Kahmann where she worked on the transmission of the pheromone signal in *Ustilago maydis* , causing smut disease in maize. Since 2004 she is employed at Naktuinbouw, (Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture), as molecular biologist. In this function she established a laboratory facility for the molecular identification of plants and also plant pathogens using DNA fingerprinting techniques. Plant variety identification using molecular markers is successfully applied to support DUS testing, to manage reference collections and to investigate suspected infringements of Plant Breeders' Rights as well as EDV. Furthermore, she closely follows the fast developments of new DNA technologies. In cooperation with academia the latest DNA technologies are implemented into the Naktuinbouw laboratory to facilitate the genetic conformity studies. In addition to applied research, she is representing Naktuinbouw in international organisations like the 'Variety Committee' of ISTA and the working group for Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT) of UPOV.