

Innovation and Sustainable Development Trophy

Introduction to Rhizoweb (prelim. name): project selected for Trophy competition
This version: 05 Dec. 05 - check for update: <http://ecoinnovation.net>, click 'Greener golf'

Students: Stéphane Menguy and Laurette Ivain (ECP, Option Procédés & Environnement).

Academic tutor: Arsène Isambert, ECP (<http://www.ecp.fr>)

Coordination: Frédéric Morand, Eco-innovation (<http://ecoinnovation.net>)

Theme

Contribute to the environmental normalisation of the European golf sector with a multimedia tool underlining the rhizosphere's potential role in an eco-innovative management of golf playing surfaces.

Problem and stakes associated with the theme (7 lines max)

Regulations are puzzling the European golf sector by forbidding current pesticides without providing green alternatives. The sector struggles to define, integrate in the productive cycle and communicate those alternatives. Existing norms admittedly neglect soil ecology, regardless of its influence on turf grass health and plant stress physiology. The level of education and awareness of golf actors with respect to soil ecology appears a major obstacle to the development of golf environmental quality.

Scope of the study (sectors, geographies, illustrations, etc) (10 lines max)

Objective and method: to promote sustainable management practices in golf through a website staging a fungi explaining: its habitat (rhizosphere, factors of environmental stress), its relations (symbiotic with grass, ambiguous with greenkeepers) and its potential role in an eco-innovative management of golf courses. Progressive, interactive and didactical disclosure (tests, levels).

Partners: Eco-innovation (Ireland, R&D), Cuan (Ireland, internet), ECP (France, support), CapGemini (France, support), Royal Holloway Univ. of London and STRI (UK, R&D).

Sequence (Dec. 05 to Apr. 06): literature (internship Aug. 2005), conception, coding, test.

Valorisation: dissemination of 'biostimulation processes'; support to the European 'environmental' golf sector (500 courses out of 6000, strong market potential).
