



Spring 2024

EAPR Newsletter

HEADLINES

ATTENTION: Early bird registration for the EAPR2024 Triennial Conference ends 3rd APRIL 2023 (see page 2)

Dear all,

Welcome to the Spring 2024 newsletter for the European Association of Potato Research (EAPR). Our main event this year is the 22nd Triennial in Oslo in July 2024. Look out for information on attending the conference (page 2). We look forward to seeing you there!

The EAPR Council meeting took place on 23rd January 2024 (see page 4). While a full complement of the current EAPR Officers and Councillors are listed on page 5, some will be leaving soon so we are looking for new ones. If you are interested please let us know (see details on page 3). Our next General Assembly will be held during the Triennial Conference, to which you are all invited.

We had two Section Meetings in 2023 with a joint meeting between Agronomy & Physiology and Post Harvest and a separate meeting of Pathology & Pests, which both took place in different towns in France. Two further meetings will take place in 2025, with the Breeding and Varietal Assessment and joint 'Eucarpia Potato section' meeting now due to take place in Scotland after the previous cancellation caused by the devastating earthquake in Turkey 2022. The Virology meeting will also take place in 2025 with announcements expected at the Triennial Conference in Oslo.

The photo above is a 'thank you' to Phil Burgess who retired in 2023 after many years working across the potato industry, the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) and science (as Head of Scottishpotato.org). After such an illustrious career you might well now find him walking in the Himalayan hills—something he thoroughly deserves!

Finally, we wish to remind those who have not yet joined or renewed their membership to please do so as soon as possible (it's easy to do on the website). We also encourage you to continue to submit articles to Potato Research and would encourage those with an interest in becoming an editor to contact the Chief Editor **Paul Struik**: paul.struik@wur.nl

We look forward to working with you in 2024 and beyond.



Follow us on Twitter @EAPR_potato

Image: Phil Burgess enjoying a rest during a successful potato field demonstration.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

22nd EAPR Triennial Conference...	2
Become an EAPR Councillor	3
EAPR Triennial 2030	3
EAPR Council meeting.....	4
EAPR Officers and Councillors	5
Potato Research	6
The National Potato Innovation Centre (NPIC).....	6
Section meeting updates.....	7-9
Membership—join now.....	10
Website and Twitter.....	10

Points of interest

- Potato conferences 2024
- Triennial Excursions
- Potato News
- Contact us

22ND EAPR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE: OSLO 7-12 JULY 2024

I am happy to wish you all a very warm welcome to Oslo in July this year (2024). This is the first time Norway will host an EAPR Triennial Conference, and the organizing committee is eager to make “the best Triennial Conference ever”. The headline for the conference is: **Sustainable Potato production: advances and applications of Potato Research**. We plan 10 scientific sessions covering a broad spectrum of subjects related to the potato crop. The scientific committee consists of both Norwegian scientists and experts from other parts of Europe.

The venue for the conference is Scandic Fornebu Hotel (tinyurl.com/conference-venue) located in Oslo close to the Oslo fjord. The hotel can accommodate more than 300 participants and has very good facilities for the conference.

We plan one full day for excursions during the conference to visit potato growing areas including social activities.

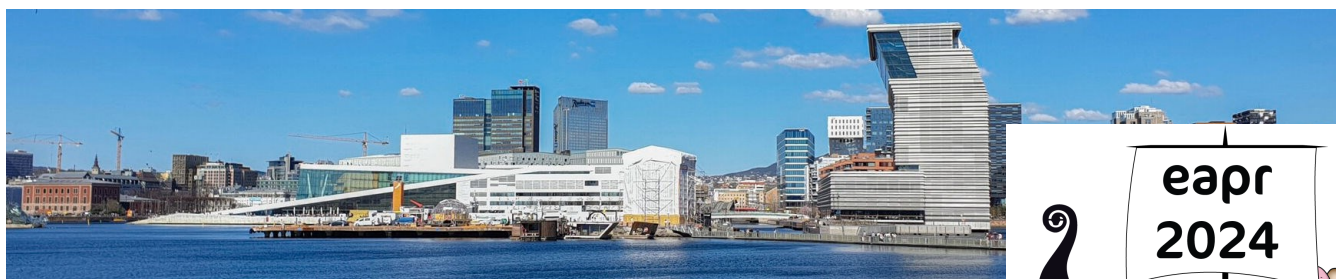
I hope to see you in Oslo in July 2024!

Arne Hermansen
(President of EAPR)



For more information visit:

nibio.pameldingssystem.no/eapr2024



“The 22nd EAPR Triennial Conference will be held in Oslo, Norway on 7th–12th July 2024”

POTATO CONFERENCES 2024

World Potato Congress
Adelaide, Australia 23-26th
June 2024

potatocongreee.org/

**Potato Association of
America annual meeting**
Portland, Oregon, USA 21-
25th July 2024

tinyurl.com/PAA-conference-2024

DEADLINE FOR EAPR TRIENNIAL 2024

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

3rd April 2024

FINAL REGISTRATION

3rd May 2024

BECOME AN EAPR COUNCILLOR

According to the EAPR Constitution and Bye-Laws, new Councillors are required for election at the next Triennial Conference in Oslo, July 2024. We invite each member interested in participating in Council activities to declare his/her intention before the **end of April 2024** by sending a motivation letter with CV, including his/her activities in the field of potato research, to our secretary Alison Lees (see page 5). A number of you have already expressed an interest.

EAPR members interested in becoming Councillors are welcome to discuss with us the work carried out within the Council. Any ideas for future Council discussions are always welcome to ensure we remain as relevant to our members as possible, with a desire to progress and develop in Europe and the world!

Thank you for sending your letter and CV in due course to our secretary Alison Lees.

Email: alison.lees@hutton.ac.uk

“We invite each member interested in participating in Council activities to declare his/her intention before the end of April 2024”

EAPR TRIENNIAL 2030

We are looking for bids to organise the 24rd EAPR Triennial Conference 2030. We hope that you will consider this opportunity and send your proposals to President Arne Hermansen by the **end of May 2024**.

Proposals should contain: Declaration of intention; Name of the proposed President Elect / chief conference organiser; Curriculum vitae.

Email: arne.hermansen@nibio.no

WHERE NEXT?



Images: Above - Oslo. Below - Edinburgh. Hosts of the 22nd and 23rd EAPR Triennial Conferences. Opposite — Potato flowers. Credits — von Gutthenbach, Peggychoucair and Braxmeier from Pixabay.

2023 EAPR COUNCIL MEETING

Arne Hermansen (as President of the Association) welcomed everyone to the EAPR Council meeting on 23rd January 2024. After outlining the agenda, all EAPR Council meeting action points were reviewed from the minutes of the 71st Council Meeting in 2023. There were no outstanding actions from the minutes of the 2023 General Assembly.

The financial report for 2023 and draft budget for 2024 showed a small increase in our financial reserves compared with 2022 when legal costs were incurred. A small profit is predicted for the 2024 financial year. There is a current total of 210 active and recent members of EAPR. Funding for student attendance at the Triennial in Oslo will be reviewed ahead of that meeting.

The Potato Review Editor's report 2023 (Volume 66) was presented, with further detailed given on page 6. Arne thanked Paul Struik as Editor for his contribution to the journal.

In terms of other societies, a list of contacts was obtained who were asked to communicate EAPR activities with their members.

Sections and their meetings were discussed, with recent and future meetings described in this newsletter (pages 7-9).

An agenda for the General Assembly in Oslo in 2024 was proposed to include Council activities, Finance and Membership, Journal Potato Research, Country Representatives, Relations with other societies, Election of Councillors and Officers, Candidacy for 24th Triennial

in 2030, Presentation of 23rd Triennial in 2027 in Scotland.

At the Triennial Conference in Oslo this year, four EAPR councillors should be replaced (for more information see page 3).

An update on progress with the Triennial meeting was given. There will be 10 scientific sessions. Currently, 95 abstracts, including 10 student abstracts and 12 keynotes were identified but the deadline for submission had not been reached at the time of the meeting. In addition, two workshops at the Triennial have been arranged (Spongospora on July 6 and Wireworm on July 7).

The team arranging the 2027 Triennial in Scotland have been considering venues across Scotland and have identified a preference for the University of Edinburgh, which has an excellent venue, easy transport links and is within easy access of the beautiful and historic city centre. The proposed date for the meeting is the beginning of June 2027. The team will shortly start to bring together an organising committee.

The arrangement for administration services by ISHS for the EAPR ended December 2023 but a continued agreement under the same terms was proposed. Similarly, the agreement with Springer ends December 2025 and a new proposal is required by December 2024.

For a list of current Officers and Councillors see page 5.



Image: Potatoes. Credit — Wang Dong from Pixabay.

2023 EAPR OFFICERS AND COUNCILLORS



Dr Arne Hermansen (President)
Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)
Norway
Email: arne.hermansen@nibio.no



Dr Jean-Eric Chauvin (Council for relations with Country Representatives)
French National Institute for Agriculture Alimentation and Environment
France
Email: jean-eric.chauvin@inrae.fr



Prof Dr Ir Paul C. Struik (Non-executive Council member and Chief Editor for Potato Research)
Wageningen University and Research (WUR)
Netherlands
Email: paul.struik@wur.nl



Ir Vincent César (Treasurer)
Centre Wallon de Recherches Agronomiques (CRA-W)
Belgium
Email: v.cesar@cra.wallonie.be



Prof Ian Toth (President Elect)
James Hutton Institute (JHI)
United Kingdom
Email: ian.toth@hutton.ac.uk



Ir Kürt Demeulemeester (Vice-President)
Inagro
Belgium
Email: kurt.demeulemeester@inagro.be



Dr Alison Lees (Secretary and Chairperson for Pathology and Pests Section)
James Hutton Institute (JHI)
United Kingdom
Email: alison.lees@hutton.ac.uk



Dr Corné Kempenaar (Councillor for relations with other potato societies)
Wageningen University and Research (WUR)
The Netherlands
Email: corne.kempenaar@wur.nl



Dr Zsolt Polgar (Councillor)
University of Pannonia
Hungary
Email: polgar.zsolt@hotmail.com



Dr Thilo Hammann (Councillor for Section Meetings)
Julius Kuhn-Institut
Germany
Email: thilo.hammann@julius-kuehn.de

POTATO RESEARCH

Over the past year, sixty papers were published in Potato Research, which included over 1330 pages and manuscripts originating from 20 countries. The journal's success was clear to see with the increasing number of papers published year on year since 2017, and with some highly cited papers



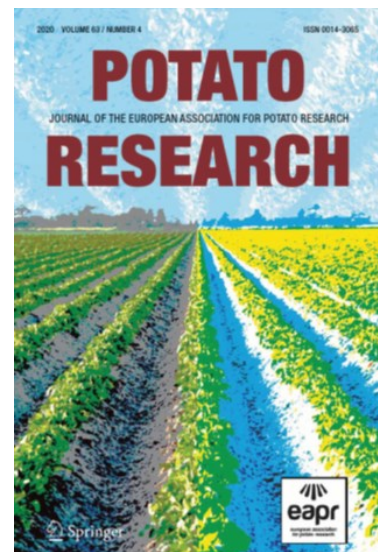
helping to raise the journal's impact factor to a healthy 2.9!

A special issue, including EuroBlight contributions, has been proposed for the first issue in 2025.

To help continue our success, we are now seeking new editors to help with the manuscripts. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Paul at the address below.

Paul C. Struik (Editor-in-Chief)

Email: paul.struik@wur.nl



“Potato Research had sixty papers published last year helping to raise the journal’s impact factor to 2.9!”

THE NATIONAL POTATO INNOVATION CENTRE

Potato is a major crop throughout Europe and is key in government strategies worldwide to attain food-security by ensuring a reliable and sustainable supply of healthy food. The climate and biodiversity crises require rapid development of crop cultivars adapted to warmer environments to be grown in low input sustainable systems.

To help with this, we are proposing to establish a National Potato Innovation Centre (NPIC) at the James Hutton Institute in Dundee, which will comprise a state-of-the art innovation

facility managed in partnership with stakeholders across academia, industry and government.

We are meeting with our partners to identify major industry challenges, where science can offer a potential solution, both now and in the future.

For more information:

Email: ian.toth@hutton.ac.uk



Image: Artists impression of the proposed National Potato Innovation Centre (NPIC).

SECTION MEETING UPDATES

AGRONOMY / PHYSIOLOGY AND POST HARVEST

Chairpersons: Michel MARTIN & Andreas MEYER (Agron/Phys) and Dr. Idit GINZBERG (Postharvest)

Nearly sixty participants from 16 countries attended the first joint meeting of the Agronomy/Physiology and Post-harvest sections of the EAPR, which took place from June 27 to 29 2023 in the ARVALIS facilities in Villers-Saint-Christophe, France.

It was during the last plenary meeting of the EAPR in Krakow 2022 that plans for this joint meeting took place. Nearly sixty researchers from European countries, but also from the United States and Israel, were present for a busy program of more than thirty communications over the day and a half which preceded a visit of Arvalis. Oral presentations were grouped into different thematic sessions including three focused on agronomy and physiology - “Nutrition and modeling”, “Quality and yield” and “Plant growth and management weeding” and two on post-harvest - “Inhibition of germination” and “Storage and quality”.

Discussions included a range of topics: After the possible cessation of CIPC, a number of potential control options for germination control in storage were presented, including the use of maleic hydrazide, 1,4 DMN and ethylene. In Norwegian conditions, a fairly short cycle length and a cool climate appeared to facilitate the reduction of anti-germinative treatments in storage due to the relative immaturity of the tubers at harvest. Monitoring of CO₂ content did not show any major influence on fry colour (fries or chips), while good control of storage temperatures above 6°C appears more decisive.



To improve field crop conditions and notably optimize the management of nitrogen inputs, models are being developed in Belgium and France. They aim to better rationalize additional vegetation inputs based on reduced basic fertilization. For these, the use of aerial, satellite or drone imagery now provides relevant assessments in the absorption of nitrogen from the cover and the development of biomass, sufficient to provide recommendations for better efficiency of the nitrogen provided and develop more sustainable practices, limiting the use of inputs.

Results from Latvia on the nitrogen nutrition of plants in the field showed the difficulty of working only in the laboratory, since negative interactions with field behavior depended on the maturity range of varieties.

The French POMOD cultivation model showed that it is now possible to have a global approach to the development of cultivation. Whether in the field or in storage, the genetic or cellular scale is increasingly being worked on to improve the understanding of the phenotypic behavior of plants or tubers. This is particularly the case in the United States for better knowledge of how tubers remain dormant, in Israel to better appreciate the factors leading to “russetting” of the skin, in Germany for the characterization of starch and in Poland for resistance to water stress.

Image: Participants at the Agronomy/Physiology and Post-harvest joint Section meeting at the ARVALIS-Institute du vegetal in Villers-Saint-Christophe, France in June 2023.



MEETING UPDATES

PATHOLOGY AND PESTS

Chairperson: Alison Lees

Local organiser: Karima Bouchek-Mechiche (pictured right)

The Pathology and Pests Section meeting took place in Arras, France 3-6 September 2023, with 110 attendees from 21 countries and 66 presentations in total. The meeting was locally organised by Karima and a team from inov3PT, Comité Nord, INRAe and Arvalis, France.



Presentations were arranged into six sessions: Late Blight & Early Blight, Bacterial Diseases, Potato Cyst Nematodes, Integrative Approaches, Insects and Biocontrol. All presentations and posters can be found on the meetings page of the EAPR Website. [Pathology & Pests Section Meeting - information and presentations | The European Association for Potato Research \(eapr.net\)](https://www.eapr.net/pathology-and-pests-section-meeting-information-and-presentations)

The programme included a visit to Comité Nord Plants de Pomme de Terre and the labs of inov3PT. During the meeting a European working group on wireworm was initiated and there was an invited session on biocontrol facilitated by Mout de Vrieze, University of Fribourg.

The EAPR President and the Chair of the Pathogen and Pests Section extend their thanks to the French organising team for their hard work in delivering a successful meeting and are confident that many new and renewed connections will result.

BREEDING AND VARIETAL ASSESSMENT

Chairperson: Domenico Carputo

Due to the earthquake in Turkey in 2023, where the section meeting was due to take place, the meeting has been postponed and will now take place in Dundee, Scotland in 2025 hosted by Ingo Hein from the James Hutton Institute. A website will be launched in 2024 with further information.



Image: Above - Karima Bouchek-Mechiche from inov3PT; Below - Victoria and Albert Museum, Dundee. Left - Potato field. Credit — Catkin from Pixabay.

MEETING UPDATES

VIROLOGY

Chairperson: Roberto Miglino

The next Virology Section and PVY meetings will take place in Switzerland 2025, with the Agroscope virology group organising the event.

Exact dates are still to be determined but will be finalised before the Triennial meeting in Oslo this July.

The focus of the Virology Section meeting will be on:

Climate change, Plant-virus disease interaction, Virus vectors-epidemiology and Food security.

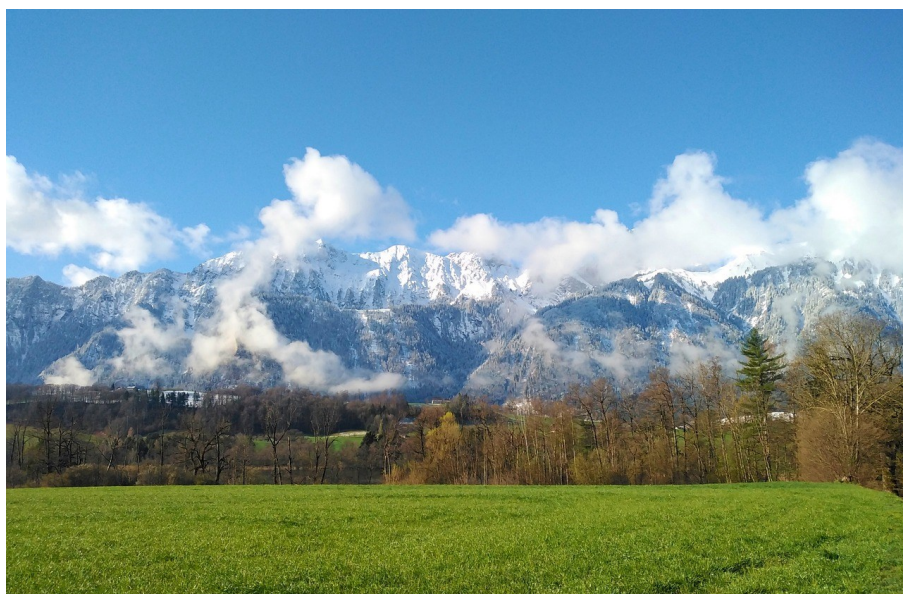
A tentative title for the meeting will be: “Impact and challenges on plant virology in a global climate change. A integrated multidisciplinary approach for plant virus and vector control to ensure food security”.

The organizing committee will begin to work on location and timing of the meeting in the next few months.

SUMMARY OF UPCOMING SECTION MEETINGS

Breeding and Varietal Assessment — Dundee, Scotland 2025

Virology - Switzerland 2025



Images: Above - Farming in Switzerland. Credit - Michael Heck from Pixabay. Opposite - Colorado beetle. Credit - Zdenek Chalupsky from Pixabay.



TRIENNIAL EXCURSIONS

We hope to see you at the EAPR Triennial Conference in Oslo 7-12th July, where seven different excursions will be offered. Depending on the tour you choose, there are a variety of stopping points including visits to NIBIO and NMBU, potato growers for different markets, a breeding station, a chip factory, distillers, the Kongsvinger fortress a trip on the world's oldest regularly operating paddle steamer and much more!

For more information on these excursions visit::

tinyurl.com/EAPR2024-excursions

POTATO NEWS

Potatoes can be part of a healthy diet

Stat-up Debye Ltd. in the UK is to trial its ground-breaking system, which simulates lightning's ability to capture nitrogen in the form of nitrates when it strikes water. Debye envisage modular and containerised systems sited on farms or hubs, giving farmers on-the-spot or local supply of nitrate-based fertiliser using only air, water and electricity.

Read more at :

tinyurl.com/k3242ts7

MEMBERSHIP—JOIN NOW!

The Association has three membership categories: Ordinary, Sustaining and Honorary membership. Although membership is open to both European and non-European individuals or organizations, only Europeans can hold official office, such as membership of the EAPR-Council. At present the Association has over 210 Ordinary members, 13 Sustaining members and 11 Honorary members. Membership is drawn from many countries in all five continents.

For more information on membership and to join using our new easy-to-use electronic system visit:

eapr.net/membership



“Our next EAPR General Assembly is on 9th July 2024”

CONTACT US

Administrative Office

APR, P.O. Box 500, 3001
Leuven 1, Belgium

Phone : +32 16229427

Fax : +32 16229450

Email: info@eapr.net



[@EAPR_potato](https://twitter.com/EAPR_potato)

Editorial Office for Potato
Research:

paul.struik@wur.nl

WEB SITE AND TWITTER

There is only so much we can put in a newsletter so for more information on our activities please visit the web site (www.eapr.net) or follow us on Twitter.

