

EAPR Newsletter

HEADLINES

Dear all,

Welcome to the Spring 2020 newsletter of the European Association for Potato Research (EAPR). There's still time to send in your abstracts and register for the 21st EAPR Triennial Conference in Warsaw, Poland (6th–10th July) (page 2), and look out for the support offered to students (page 3). We also have the reports from all Section Meetings that took place in 2019 (pages 5-8). A brief summary of the 2020 EAPR Council Meeting is given (page 4), together with an update on our journal Potato Research (page 5). Thanks to all those who have already renewed their membership, and for those who are still to do it this can now be done swiftly through the new electronic system on our web site.

We 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 at paul.struik@wur.nl

Finally, we are still seeking new Councillors (page 3) and nominations for the 2026 Triennial Conference (page 6).

We look forward to working with you in 2020 and beyond and seeing you at the Triennial in Poland this summer.



Follow us on Twitter @EAPR_potato

For more information on EAPR and to renew membership go to:

<https://www.eapr.net>



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21ST EAPR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

It is with great pleasure that I invite you, on behalf of the Organizing Committee, to the 21st Triennial Conference of the European Association for Potato Research (EAPR). We look forward to welcoming you in Warsaw, the capital of Poland and a city of rich history, culture and science.

Poland is a country of potato lovers with a very high consumption per capita, and the fourth biggest potato producer in the European Union. The main organizer of the Conference, the Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute – National Research Institute (IHAR-PIB) is the largest Polish research centre in the multi-disciplinary area of crop improvement, biotechnology, germplasm conservation and enhancement. IHAR-PIB was founded in 1951 for research in breeding and seed production of major field crops, with potato playing an eminent role among them.

We plan to prepare an inspiring program and bring together a wide and diversified range of potato specialists from all over the world. The Conference aims to cover all potato-related topics from fundamental and applied research, potato breeding, extension services and technology transfer, to technical and economic issues of potato production, storage and pro-

cessing. We hope that during the Conference, scientists will find new questions and challenges to solve, while representatives of the industry will have an opportunity to learn about the newest scientific discoveries. We trust that the 21st EAPR Triennial Conference will be a platform enabling a wide exchange of ideas and will also inspire to launch new projects and boost further cooperation.

The Conference will be organized in the Hilton Warsaw Hotel and Convention Centre, in the very heart of the city, with excellent access to all means of transport, as well as to many tourist attractions, museums and the Old Town. We will organize social events and excursions combining the potato places of interest with cultural experiences.

I am looking forward to meeting you in Warsaw in 2020!

Jadwiga Śliwka (President of EAPR)

For more information visit:

eapr2020.pl/gb/

“The 21st EAPR Triennial Conference will be held in Warsaw, Poland on 6th–10th July 2020”

POTATO CONFERENCES

Europatat: Brussels, Belgium, 11-12 June 2020

europatatcongress.eu/

Potato Europe: Villers-Saint-Christophe, France 4-5 September 2020

potatoeurope.com/

DEADLINES FOR EAPR TRIENNIAL

Triennial dates 6th–10th July 2020

Abstract submission 15th March 2020

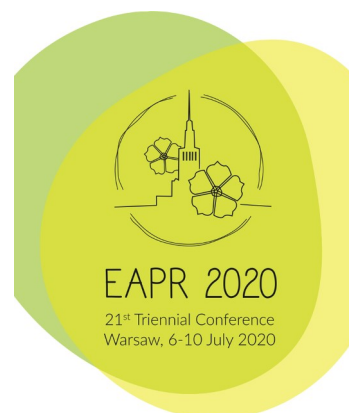
Registration

Early until 18th May 2020

Regular after 18th May 2020

For more information visit the :

eapr2020.pl/gb/registration-and-abstracts.html





BECOME AN EAPR COUNCILLOR

According to the EAPR Constitution and Bye-Laws (article X), new Councillors are required for election at the next Triennial Conference in Warsaw, July 2020. We invite each member interested in participating in Council activities to declare your intention before the **end of March 2020** by sending a motivation letter with CV, including your activities in the field of potato research, to our secretary Catherine Chatot.

EAPR members interested in becoming Councillors are welcome to contact any current Council member (page 6) to discuss 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 Catherine Chatot.

Email: chatot.catherine@gmail.com

“We invite each member interested in participating in Council activities to declare your intention before the end of March 2020 ”

EAPR STUDENT SUPPORT

We are happy to announce that the EAPR will financially support 10 PhD students to attend the 21st Triennial Conference EAPR2020.

The support will not exceed 800 EUR and will reimburse registration fee, and travel and accommodation costs.

Application deadline is 15th March 2020.

To apply:

Submit an abstract for a poster or an oral presentation through the application system.

Write an application e-mail in 250 words describing why you are applying, attach a short CV and a proof of your PhD status and send it to: eapr2020@targi.krakow.pl

Only the abstracts accepted by the Scientific Committee will be considered. The Evaluation Committee will select 10 applications on the basis of scientific excellence with a preference for students from countries with low GDP per capita.

Recipients of the EAPR support will have to write a short report about their participation in the EAPR2020 conference by 31st July 2020. Expenses will be reimbursed after the Conference on the basis of the report, proof of payment and invoices.

Apply now!

Check: eapr2020.pl/gb/eapr-student-support.html

Image: Potato field. Credit—Katkin from Pixabay.

2020 EAPR COUNCIL MEETING

The EAPR Council meeting took place in Krakow, Poland on 22-23 January 2020. An important part of the meeting was dealing with legal issues, where new Belgium (home to our registered office) legislation for Associations has come into force. Renewal agreements with both ISHS and Springer were also discussed. A look at our finances showed that we are in a healthy financial situation and we are looking for ways to improve support of the Association, e.g. supporting more students to attend meetings (page 3).

Plans for the Triennial Conference in Warsaw are now in the final stages and registration and abstract submission have opened. The venue is close to the central railway station for easy access, and details of the excursions and the conference dinner are being finalised. The conference has the Polish Academy of Science as its patron (page 2). At the conference several members of the Council will be stepping down and new Councillors are being sought. If you have an interest in becoming a Councillor please apply by the end March 2020 (page 3).

Plans for the next Triennial Conference in Norway 2023 have begun, where there will be a focus on encouraging young people to attend. The venue, Programme and pre/post-congress tours are currently being planned.

The Section Meetings from 2018 and 2019 (page 5-8) were discussed and the Council agreed that all meetings were successful and thanked all organisers for their efforts. However, to avoid low numbers of participants in some cases, it was agreed that we should avoid holding Section Meetings too close together. New meetings are planned for 2021 and 2022.

Other discussions included a report on the EAPR journal Potato Research (page 5), membership, links to other Societies, the web site and newsletter, and country representatives.

Images: Below—EAPR Council in Krakow 2020 [left to right: Ian Tóth, Thilo Hammann, Jadwiga Śliwka (President), Håvard Eikemo (President-Elect), Paul Struik, Vincent César, Kürt Demeulemeester (Vice-President), Leah Tsrar and Zsolt Polgar]; Right—View of Krakow. Credit—Katkin from Pixabay.



MEETING UPDATES

EAPR Pathology & Pests Section Meeting, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, September 1-4 2019 by: P. de Werra, A. Keiser, B. Dupuis, S. Rasmann and R. Schwarzel

This section meeting, co-organized by Agroscope, the Bern University of Applied Sciences and the University of Neuchâtel, took place at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, and was followed by the International *Spongospora* Workshop (September 5th). The theme of the meeting was 'Reducing pesticide use while preserving potato productivity and profitability'.

70 participants from 18 countries attended.

Four keynotes were delivered on topics related to the agrochemical industry, Swiss government policymaking, research at a university level and the potato seed breeding industry. The meeting included 5 sessions with 25 oral presentations covering epidemiology and disease management of the most problematic potato diseases. A poster session allowed researchers, especially the young ones, to present their work. One student was supported by an EAPR scholarship.

A field excursion visited the elevated field trials of Agroscope at la Frétaz (1,200 m), focused on wireworms and powdery scab. After visiting a typical small Swiss cheese production farm and having lunch, we visited a bigger vegetable production farm to discuss local soil characteristics, pesticide use, and the benefits of irrigation. The excursion ended with the conference dinner, which took place on a boat on the lakes of Neuchâtel and Morat.

Abstracts of the Meeting will be published as Proceedings in "Potato Research".

Presentations of the meeting are posted on the EAPR website.

eapr.net/index.php/meeting/2019/pathology-and-pests-section-meeting-2019



Image: Visit to a vegetable production farm during the Pathology and Pest Section Meeting 2019.

POTATO RESEARCH

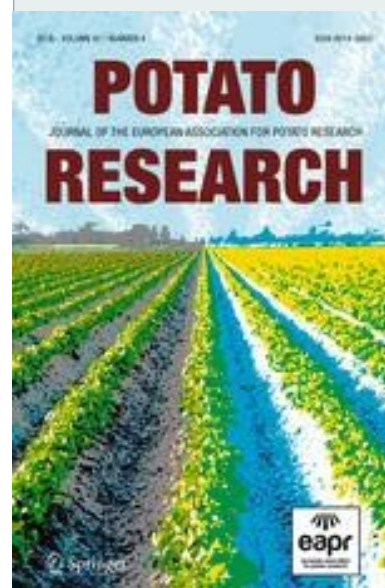
Volume 62 had more pages than any previous volume this century. The first two issues of Volume 63 (2020) are full. Issue 3 is under way and there is enough under revision to fill Issue 4. Please keep your papers coming!

Proceedings of the Triennial Conference will be published in the journal in the form of a special double issue.

Overall statistics of papers submitted through the system: Accepted 269 (32%); Rejected 474 (57%); Withdrawn 89 (11%).

While there were some delays in getting papers through the system last year, this backlog has now been cleared, and we would like to thank John Bradshaw for his help with this and other editorial duties. We would also like to thank our other active editors, although we would always welcome more help.

Members are invited to propose topics for special issues, especially if their ideas are associated with a willingness to act as guest editors.



MEETING UPDATES

2nd International *Spongospora* Workshop, in combination with the Pathology and Pests Section Meeting, Neuchatel, Switzerland, 5 September 2019 by: U. Merz and R.E. Falloon

The workshop (2ndISW) took place 3 years after the successful 1stISW, held in Einsiedeln, Switzerland. The meeting focussed on *Spongospora subterranea* and management of this quality and yield-limiting disease. The Workshop was held at the University of Neuchatel, Switzerland in association with the EAPR Pathology & Pest Section meeting. 33 delegates attended from 16 countries, reflecting the broad geographical significance of the pathogen.

Delegates presented papers covering: *Spongospora* research history, country-specific aspects, latest research progress on biology, genetics of host resistance, disease epidemiology, and chemical and physical approaches to disease management. The final workshop discussion focussed on infestation of peat growth media in potato minituber production, and the (mainly theoretical) methods to avoid these sources of the pathogen. The importance of disease prevention and the urgent need for utilizing effective host resistance were also discussed.

Abstracts of the Meeting will be published as Proceedings in "Potato Research" and presentations are posted on the *Spongospora* website.

spongospora.ethz.ch/Neuchatel_2019/Index.htm

EAPR Agronomy and Physiology Section Meeting, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 30th June – 4th July 2019 by: Peter Dolničar

At the meeting the following themes were presented: Climate change, cropping practices and strategies to mitigate abiotic stress effects; precision agriculture; irrigation potentialities; sustainable nutrient management: fertilizer use and efficiency, biostimulants; cropping systems and the potato crop: conventional, conservative agriculture, agroecology and organic production. There were 25 attendees from 12 countries, who presented 18 papers and 5 posters.

A round table on haulm killing was organized following the ban of Diquat in the EU. A representative from the company Syngenta explained the current situation and commented 'There will be no chemical available to replace Diquat in the near future at Syngenta'. It was agreed in the discussion that the Diquat ban posed big challenges ahead, since there is no adequate replacement for the moment. Reports from the countries showed that there are differences among the countries in deployment of the new strategies for haulm killing but all would need a transitional period, since farmers are not sufficiently prepared. It was proposed that EAPR could make a statement to Brussels authorities to allow a transitional period for Diquat.



Image: Above Delegates at the Agronomy and Physiology meeting. Opposite — Neuchatel. Credit - D. Mark from Pixabay.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

We are still looking for bids to organise for the 23rd Triennial Conference of the EAPR, 2026. We hope that you will consider this opportunity and send your proposals to President Jadwiga Śliwka by the **end of March 2020**.

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

We await your responses!

Email: j.sliwka@ihar.edu.pl



MEETING UPDATES

EAPR Virology Section Meeting, Laulasmaa, Estonia, 18- 21 June 2019 *by: Adrian Fox*

The meeting was hosted by staff from Põllumajandusuuringute Keskus (PMK) agricultural research station, the National Reference laboratory for plant health in Estonia, and was held in conjunction with the 10th annual meeting of the PVYwide organisation. There were 47 delegates from as far away as Canada, South Africa and India, and 27 oral presentations with 2 invited speakers.

The meeting was opened by our first invited speaker Professor Jari Valkonen of University of Helsinki, who gave some background to potato virus research in the Nordic-Baltic region. The second invited speaker, Dr Stephane Blanc of INRA, spoke about his team's ground-breaking work on the replication of multipartite aphid-transmitted plant viruses. During the week there were also talks on a range of subjects in the field of potato virology from fundamental to applied research and on issues affecting regulation and plant quarantine.

Talks were also received from an Estonian student, Liisa Kübarsepp on virus eradication in potato meristem cultures, and an international Student, Mohamad Hussam Halabi, from Assam in India, who spoke about molecular identification and incidence of potato viruses in North-Eastern India (see their reports on the EAPR website).

eapr.net/section/virology

This was the first time the section meeting had been held in one of the Baltic states and the second day of the meeting included a technical visit to a seed potato grower and to the PMK laboratories to hear about their work in plant breeding and diagnostics. A crop museum outreach centre showing the main crop species grown in the region was also visited.

Thanks to the local organisers, the organising committees of the EAPR and PVYwide group, sponsors and all attendees for making this another excellent and informative meeting.



Image: Above — Delegates at the Virology Section meeting. Left — Estonia. Credit - Makalu from Pixabay.

MEETING UPDATES

EAPR Post Harvest Section Meeting, Norwich, UK, 12–14 March 2019 by: Glyn Harper and Tjaart Hofman

More than 100 scientists, agronomists, industry and company representatives gathered to hear the latest R&D impacting on potatoes post harvest. It was very pleasing that a number of young scientists participated. In partnership with Agri-Tech East our meeting started with brief pitches from potato & post-harvest entrepreneurs who presented a wide range of innovations.

The meeting began by Mark Taylor, chair of the UK Fresh Potato Suppliers Association, challenging participants to address and provide solutions to current and future challenges to the potato post harvest industry.

The first session featured talks on very varied aspects of potato quality from regulatory to genetic, physiological and biochemical analysis of internal defects.

On the second day, discussions were around the greatest current challenge to the industry, that of potato storage without CIPC. This included talks on the legislative and regulatory position of CIPC and its possible consequences, and the European and National efforts to support the industry. The practical use and efficacy of various alternative chemicals in commercial storage was presented, largely by company representatives and provided an understanding into strategies of CIPC replacement. Another session outlined how the use of variety, dormancy and storage temperature could move the industry towards reduced chemical use during storage.

The final session included developments in store management, some based on modelling and how these translated into commercial practice.

At the end of the formal proceedings, participants enjoyed a guided tour around the historic City of Norwich before the informal conference dinner. A technical tour took place the following day with visits to commercial potato box and bulk stores. Delegates then toured the facilities and the current R&D trials at AHDB Sutton Bridge Crop Storage Research.



Image: Above — Delegates at the Post Harvest Section Meeting; Opposite — Potato flowers. Credit— H. Braxmeier from Pixabay.



POTATO NEWS

Changing populations of late blight pathogen in Europe

New clones EU_36_A2 and EU_37_A2 continue to expand their range within Europe replacing 13_A2 and 6_A1. Reporting of the insensitivity of EU_37_A2 to fluazinam has reduced its use in most regions and is driving an overall decline in the genotype's population which minimises the risk of management failures.

Read more at :

<https://euroblight.net>

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 organisations, only Europeans can hold official office, such as membership of the EAPR-Council. At present the Association has over 175 Ordinary members, 13 Sustaining members and 9 Honorary members. Membership is drawn from many countries in five continents.

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

eapr.net/membership



“Changing populations of the late blight pathogen in Europe — Euroblight”

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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.

