

EAPR Pathology & Pests Section Meeting, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, September 1-4, 2019

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The EAPR Pathology & Pests 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. It was followed by the International Spongospora Workshop (September 5th).

The theme of the meeting was reducing pesticide use while preserving potato productivity and profitability. The meeting gathered 70 participants from 18 countries, including Australia, Chile, China, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Kenya, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

During the meeting, topics related to the central theme of the meeting were presented and discussed in four keynotes, delivered by invited speakers from the agrochemical industry, the policymaker of the Swiss government, the research at a university level and the potato seed breeding industry. The meeting had five sessions included 25 oral presentations presented by the delegates, covering classic topics of epidemiology and disease management of the most problematic potato diseases. A poster session allowed researchers, especially the young ones, to present their work or part of on-going projects. One of the students was supported by the EAPR scholarship to support young research work.

A field excursion occurred on the sunny Wednesday. During the morning, we 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 in a not less typical small Chalet, we visited a bigger vegetable production farm to discuss local soil characteristics, pesticide uses, and benefits of irrigation. The excursion ended with the conference dinner, which took place on a boat on the lakes of Neuchâtel and Morat.

The Chairperson of the Pathology & Pests Section, Dr. Leah Tsrer (Israel), completed her six-year term according to the rules of EAPR. During the business meeting, the section members elected Dr. Alison Lees (Scotland) to serve as the next Chairperson. This change should be approved in the next business section meeting during the next 21st EAPR Triennial Conference in Warsaw, July 2020.

Abstracts of both the EAPR Pathology & Pests Section Meeting and the International Spongospora Workshop will be published as Proceedings in "Potato Research".

Presentations of the EAPR Pathology & Pests Section Meeting are posted on the EAPR website.

<https://www.eapr.net/index.php/meeting/2019/pathology-and-pests-section-meeting-2019>

Presentations of the International Spongospora Workshop are posted on the Spongospora website.

http://www.spongospora.ethz.ch/Neuchatel_2019/Index.htm



EARP Pathology and Pests Section, Neuchâtel 2019



Field assays at la Frétaz (1,200m)



Vegetable production in Seeland



Conference dinner on the lake of Neuchâtel