

NEWSLETTER 2/2016

Newsletter for the Members of the European Association for Potato Research

December 2016

Dear Members,

Since November 2015 five EAPR section meetings have been organised (in chronological order) in Vico Equense (Breeding and Varietal Assessment), Ljubljana (Virology), Wageningen (Post-Harvest), Dundee (Pathology and Pests) and Riga (Agronomy and Physiology). For each one, the participation has been numerous and the exchanges placed at a high level between the specialists but also the growing part of participants from the industry. We congratulate and thank the executive teams and the section chairs for the excellent organization as well as their time and efforts. We are now entering the final preparation phase of the 20th Triennial Conference which will take place in Versailles 9-14 July 2017. We hope that you will be able to catch this new opportunity to share the latest innovations covering the topics from laboratory to field and from field to fork during a week located on a historical site for the French development of Potato. Therefore, December will be an important month for the submission of abstracts before registration and logistic preparations for attending the conference. The dedicated website of the Conference (www.eapr2017.com) will help you with all

steps of the registration and accommodation booking. As an EAPR member, you can benefit from lower rates, so don't forget to renew your membership for 2017! In order to enhance the actions of our Association and its visibility, the development of a new EAPR website with updated facilities and user-friendlier browsing has been initiated. We hope that the new website will be functional within 7 months and launched at the Triennial Conference to celebrate the 60th anniversary of EAPR! To keep EAPR as alive as possible we would like to remind you that its functioning requires the involvement of motivated members at the different levels of the organisation such as Section Chairs and Country Representatives, but also Councillors. New Councillors will be needed next year. EAPR Members interested in becoming Councillors in 2017 are asked to contact our secretary Catherine Chatot (catherine.chatot@germicopa.fr). Especially we are looking for confirmation of candidature for the organisation of the 22nd Triennial Conference in 2023 after the Polish Triennial in 2020. All details for candidates are included in the following articles.

Michel MARTIN
Jadwiga SLIWKA



News and updated keydates for the 20th Triennial Conference

Since its launch at the end of January, the dedicated website of the 20th EAPR Triennial Conference which will be held next year in Versailles on 9-14 July 2017 (www.eapr2017.com) has evolved into a success story. At the beginning of December, it was already visited by **more than 2000 visitors from 85 countries!** Quite comprehensive, it presents you all details of the Conference and will offer you the possibility to submit your abstract and to register for the conference online.

Thank you for not hesitating to share the site with your colleagues and partners by indicating their emails in the dedicated box of the homepage (see adjacent image). This will allow them to receive the coming newsletter of the conference which will help you and them to remain updated on the organisation

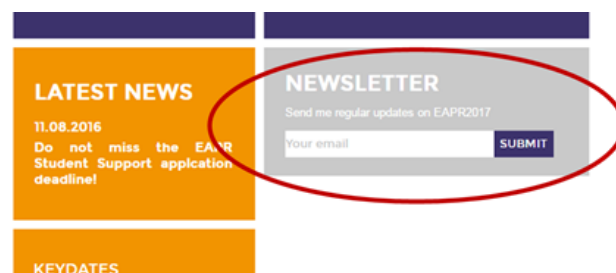
of the conference.

In order to provide the option to submit an abstract to as many scientists and technicians as possible, the deadlines have been postponed by a couple of weeks. This also holds true for the offers for financial support by the EAPR to PhD students. But time is running fast, so don't lose any minute now and submit your abstract and/or ask for support!

- December 16, 2016 for claim on [Student support](#)
- January 16, 2016 for [Abstract submission](#)

Both the submissions and the application for financial support provided by the EAPR can be easily done online by following a practical "step-by-step" procedure.

Please note that submissions can be made on any subject concerning the Potato Chain even if some "[abstracts topics](#)" have already been defined. We thank you in advance for submitting your contribution to the most appropriate topic in order to facilitate the



reviewing work thereafter by the Scientific Committee. Only if you don't find any related one, please choose "Other topic" category.

You can also already register easily online by following the link next page:

EAPR 2017 : a good background for promoting potato

<http://www.eapr2017.com/registration-and-hotels/how-to-register/22>. Please note these deadlines for registration:

- Deadline early bird registration: March 17, 2017
- Deadline late registration: June 16, 2017

There is a special rate for EAPR members ... so don't forget to renew your membership in the Association to take advantage of this opportunity!

Regarding the programme of the Conference, its elaboration is in progress and we have already received the agreement of some important keynote speakers. This helps

us building the frame of the presentations and discussions. Discover their names on the dedicated updated webpage:

<http://www.eapr2017.com/scientific-programme/25> and

<http://www.eapr2017.com/keynote-speakers/53>

If you encounter any difficulty or if any question is remaining, please send it to abstract@eapr2017.com or to info@eapr2017.com

We hope to welcome you in Versailles in 2017!

Michel Martin
EAPR President

Do you want to actively participate in the EAPR as a Councillor?

Regarding the EAPR Constitution and Bye-Laws (article X), new Councillors will be elected at the coming Triennial of Versailles in July 2017. So we invite any member interested to participate in Board activity to declare her/his intention before the end of the year by sending a motivation letter complemented by a CV stating her/his curriculum and her/his activity in the field of research on potatoes to our secretary Catherine Chatot.

EAPR Members interested in becoming Councillors in 2017 are welcomed to contact any current Council Members to exchange about the work carried within the Council. Any opportune ideas may be introduced in the future into the Council's discussions in order to keep the Association as alive as possible, with a desire to progress and to develop its fame inside and outside!

Thanks for sending your letter and document in due time to our secretary Catherine Chatot (catherine.chatot@germicopa.fr).

Looking for Candidates for the 22nd Triennial Conference of the EAPR

During the next Ordinary General Assembly of the EAPR members, which will be held in Versailles on July 10 2017, first day of the 20th Triennial Conference, the location of the 22nd Triennial Conference in 2023 will be selected and concomitantly the President elect for the period 2017-2020. The President elect will become President of our Association after the 21st Triennial Conferences in Poland in 2020. The Council hopes that several countries and organisations will be interested to organise the 22nd Conference. It's a huge but very exciting task considering the interest to

improve as much as possible the sharing of knowledge and innovations between the EAPR members and the technical supervisors of the potato industry. We hope that you will consider this opportunity with the most accurate interest and send your proposal as soon as possible in order to be examined during the next Council Meeting at the end of January 2017.

Thank you for declaring your interest and for specifying your submission to the President Michel Martin

(m.martin@arvalisinstitutduvegetal.fr) by sending the following documents:

- Declaration of intention to organise the 22nd Triennial Conference of the

EAPR including interest and expected place for the meeting,

- Composition of the provisional Organisation Committee,
- Name of the proposed President elect for the EAPR in charge of the

organisation of the 22nd triennial conference,

- Curriculum vitae of the proposed President elect specifying her/his implication in Potato science.

We are looking forward to your proposal!

Renewing the EAPR website!

Following the discussions started in 2015 and the decision taken during the last Council meeting in January 2016, discussions between Councillors and a dedicated project group have continued in order to pin down the set-up of the new EAPR website. The ISHS team has also been involved in the discussion as administrator of our current website and its experience on daily digital practice of Content Management System. The final specifications and a proposal for the time frame have been decided upon during a special meeting after the Agronomy & Physiology Section Meeting

in Riga at the end of September. After submission to nine digital companies identified by Councillors or in response to the specification, and out of three proposals received, a British company has been chosen for the creation of the new website. A first set-up will be reviewed during the next Council meeting and the links for membership and journal distribution plus article submission will be tested.

The aim is to officially launch this new EAPR website during the 20th Triennial Conference in Versailles.

Mike STOREY (Vice President)

EAPR Section meetings 2016 / summary

Meetings of four section of the EAPR took place in 2016; unless you participated in any of them/all, please see the details below. In addition, three meeting reports are included in this issue of the newsletter, the other one will follow in the first issue of 2017.

	VIROLOGY	POST HARVEST	PATHOLOGY & PESTS	AGRONOMY & PHYSIOLOGY
section chairperson	Adrian Fox	Glyn Harper & Tjaart Hofman	Leah Tsrer	Jean-Pierre Goffart
meeting date	31 May – 3 June 2016	29-30 June 2016	7-11 August 2016	26-29 September 2016
location	Ljubljana/ Slovenia	Wageningen/ The Netherlands	Dundee/ Scotland	Riga/ Latvia
organizer(s)	Maja Ravnikar (Maja.Ravnikar@nib.si) Marusa Pompe Novak (marusa.pompe.novak@nib.si)	Tjaart Hofman (hofman@certiseurope.com) Glyn Harper (glyn.harper@potato.ahdb.org.uk)	Ian Toth (Ian.Toth@hutton.ac.uk)	Ilze Dimante (ilze.dimante@priekuliselekcija.lv) Ilze Skrabule (ilze.skrabule@priekuliselekcija.lv)

meeting website	www.eapr2016.si	www.eapr-postharvest.eu	www.eaprpathology2016.eu	www.eapr2016agrphys.eu
meeting report by	Marusa Pompe Novak & Adrian Fox	Glyn Harper and Tjaart Hofman	Ian Toth	Ilze Skrabule
attendants/countries	81/20	110/15	101/18	55/15
presentations / keynote presentations	41/2	31/1	34/6	28/3
posters	24	12	18	10
scientific excursion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
EAPR supportees	5	5	3	6
student reports	4	3 to date (1 still to report)		6

Klaus J. DEHMER

EAPR Post Harvest Section Meeting 2016

We were very pleased to welcome more than 100 people from industry, research organisations and academia to join us for the EAPR Post Harvest Section Meeting 2016 in Wageningen 29-30 June 2016. This area of Dutch excellence in healthy food, food production and living environment is known as “Food Valley” with Wageningen University & Research, world renowned for its fundamental and applied agricultural and biological sciences, is at its centre.

The conference was held over two days with an optional third day for field and agricultural Institute visits. The scene was set at the start of the conference by Dick Hylkema, director of the NAO (Dutch Potato Association) who spoke on “Current and future challenges of potatoes post harvest” after which there were two days of scientific content with 32 presentations and 12 posters (available on the website <http://www.eapr-postharvest.eu/>). Promisingly for the future, all the challenges identified by Dick were being actively researched and were presented at the conference.

The scientific excursion was to Wageningen University. After lunch in “Restaurant of the future” there were fascinating tours and talks of the Food Tasting laboratory, Post-harvest Technology WUR, the Library WUR and to the Exhibition of “The Art of Plant Pathology”.

Some 30 participants attended the optional excursion to view and learn about the operation of Dutch potato stores. Later that day we were hosted by WUR-PPO Westmaas storage research and field trial station and shown the results of some of their demonstration trials.

Plenty of time was allowed for discussion and networking. Delegates were welcomed the evening before the conference to register and join in a pre-conference welcome reception and, after a long informative day of presentations, to enjoy a walk and ice cream in the Wageningen Arboretum/. This was followed by reception drinks at the Poster session prior to the conference dinner.

Our thanks go to all sponsors, particularly Certis and AHDB, and to EAPR.

Glyn HARPER and Tjaart HOFMAN



Participants at EAPR Post Harvest Section Meeting 2016

Pathology and Pests Section Meeting

The EAPR Pathology and Pests Section Meeting was held in Dundee on 7th-11th August 2016, planned to coincide with a visit to Potatoes in Practice (PiP), the largest potato field event in the UK, held in Dundee each year. This aligned with the main focus of the conference to bring scientists and industry together by dedicating a day of the conference to presentations aimed at or given by our industry colleagues. Six of our EAPR speakers also presented at PiP.

For a global perspective on potato pests and diseases, we invited keynote speakers from five potato growing continents (in addition to Europe), including Asia, Africa, North America, Australasia and South America (see the conference web site for their resumes - www.eaprpathology2016.eu). We also had an international audience: From 101 delegates, 34 were from non-European countries, including 15 from China, 3 from South America and 7 from North America.

In addition to our keynote speakers, our special guest speaker Nicola Spence (UK Chief

Plant Health Officer and Head of the National Plant Protection Organisation for the UK), presented on 'the UK's response to European and International plant health matters, and coordinated initiatives on plant health in Europe'.

All keynotes were followed by a series of short 20 min talks in a variety of sessions, including a student competition of outstanding quality. The winner, Mout De Vrieze, studying at Agroscope in Switzerland, was presented with the award by Mike Storey from AHDB Potatoes in his role as Vice President of the EAPR.

We thank all of our sponsors, including the Scottish Society for Crop Research - Potato Section and the British Society for Plant Pathology for making the event possible. Please visit the website (www.eaprpathology2016.eu) for more information.

Ian TOTH



Participants of the EAPR Pathology and Pests Section Meeting in Dundee, 7th-11th August 2016



3rd meeting of the Section of Agronomy and Physiology of EAPR

Rīga, Latvia September 26-29, 2016

The 3rd Meeting of the Section of Agronomy and Physiology of EAPR

Meeting (<http://www.eapr2016agrphys.eu/>) was held in Riga, Latvia on September 26-29th, 2016.

The meeting was attended by more than 50 participants from 15, mostly European countries. Seven scientific sessions and a poster session were devoted to the latest findings on potato agronomy and physiology covering organic and sustainable potato production, plant nutrition supply and irrigation, precision agriculture in potato production, tuber quality and nutritional compounds, plant physiology, seed potato production, and socio-economic aspects of potato production. Three keynote lectures were presented to the participants.

Two workshops were organized during the meeting. The Collaboration Plan between the International Potato Center (CIP) and the EAPR was presented during the first

workshop. Future prospects on collaboration were discussed and new possible cooperation challenges were recognized.

The second workshop was devoted to potato production and processing in Latvia. Special attention was paid to development of organic agriculture in Latvia.

Participants of the meeting visited Priekuli Research Center of AREI during the scientific excursion. Here, the potato breeding program and the initial seed production were presented as well as a short introduction into the agricultural research done in Priekuli. The process of organic potato starch production was explained and presented at Aloja – Starkelsen plant. Participants had an opportunity to visit one of the largest organic farms in Vidzeme region „Ozoliņi ZL”. One of the main working directions of the farm is production of organic potatoes for processing into organic starch.

During the closing ceremony, many good words regarding the scientific quality of the meeting were said by the participants. Most of

them visited Latvia for the first time and the meeting was a great chance to see Latvia.

Ilze SKRABULE



Participants of the EAPR Agronomy and Physiology Section Meeting in Riga, 26-29th September 2016



Representation of the EAPR at FACCE-JPI workshop

Representatives of the EAPR have been invited to take part in a workshop organised by the Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI) on Oct 27-28, 2016 (in Wageningen, the Netherlands). Along with other participating parties (existing initiatives and networks), the idea was to explore and identify research / knowledge gaps on ***“Phenotyping, genotyping, breeding, reproduction techniques and evaluating alternative crop species for adaptation to climate change – state-of-art and opportunities for further cooperation”***.

By close to forty participants, most food crops were largely represented. Potato, initially not included, was finally represented by Michel Martin and Catherine Chatot who responded positively to the invitation of the organisers. This exploratory workshop is part of the Strategic Research Agenda of the FACCE-JPI. It has been coordinated by Dr José Vogelesang (WUR) and brought together participants to highlight Phenotyping & Genotyping from different perspectives in order to elaborate major recommendations for FACCE-JPI in view of the 2016-18 Implementation Plan.

The final report and recommendations proposed to JPI will soon be available at the following link:

<https://www.faccejpi.com/FACCE-JPI-Home/FACCE-JPI-News/Phenotyping-genotyping-workshop>.

Catherine CHATOT

Membership application and renewal for 2017

Please act by 31 December 2016 with easy direct online access!!!

Please remember to renew your EAPR membership for 2017 to keep the many benefits you gain (see below)! You can renew your membership online through the member login at the EAPR website www.eapr.net. Information about the procedure can be

obtained from info@eapr.net. Online membership renewal is secure, easy and works in real-time. The payment methods include secure credit card processing or PayPal. Please note that after online payment an **invoice** will be created automatically that you can download immediately.

Renewal by bank transfer remains possible. In this case, please contact our Treasurer, Kürt Demeulemeester, for information on how to do this (kurt.demeulemeester@inagro.be).

We would like to strongly encourage you to invite your colleagues to join the EAPR. The membership application form is available at the EAPR homepage:

<http://www.eapr.net/membership/membership-application/>

Being a member of the EAPR and paying the annual subscription (60 Euros) offers multiple benefits:

- Online access to **Potato Research**, **Euphytica** and the **American Journal of Potato Research**,
- A print copy of Potato Research free of charge,

- Participation in the Triennial conferences and Section meetings at members' rates (discount more than 60 Euros !!),

- Participation in Annual Meetings of the Potato Association of America at members' rates,

- English-language books from Springer can be ordered at a 20% discount!
<http://www.springer.com/eapr?token=Be9DeX3w72K7Rsg>

Please note that if you fail to renew before 1st March 2017, you will lose your direct personal and free online access to the three journals (*Potato Research*, *Euphytica* and *American Journal of Potato Research*) until your membership is renewed!

Consider also the value of your organisation becoming a Sustaining Member of the EAPR.

For details see: www.eapr.net

Kürt DEMEULEMEESTER

