

Newsletter for the Members of the European Association of Potato Research (EAPR)

October 2013

Dear Members,

In this second edition of our Newsletter for 2013, you will find news and information on the following topics:

- The EAPR section meetings in 2013
- The 19th EAPR Triennial Conference that will be held in Brussels in July 2014
- Important information for EAPR Country Representatives
- Brief report on the 9th African Potato Association (APA) Triennial Conference in 2013
- Invitation to publish in "Potato Research"
- Membership application and renewal to our association
- Call for candidate countries for the 21st Triennial EAPR Conference in 2020
- Invitation to members to submit ideas and comments on association matters to be discussed during the next Council meeting in January 2014

Enjoy this Newsletter!

On behalf of the EAPR Council,
Jean-Pierre Goffart (EAPR President) and **Michel Martin** (President elect)

EAPR Section Meetings in 2013:

Brief reports on the meetings already organized and information on forthcoming meetings

Three sections have already held successful meetings this year:

- Section Virology in Antalya (Turkey) in May (47 participants, including 2 PhD and 2 MSc students)
- Section Breeding and Varietal assessment in Héviz (Hungary) in June-July (68 participants, including 10 PhD students)
- Section Agronomy and Physiology in Prague (Czech Republic) in September (54 participants)

Thank you to the organizing Committees for their investment and energy and to all the participants for their contributions !

Two meetings have still to be held, in October and November. Please do not hesitate to join those meetings!

- **Section Post Harvest:** October 22-24, 2013 in Warsaw (Poland), Organizing Committee chaired by Prof. Kazimiera Zgórska (eapr2013@ihar.edu.pl) *IHAR Institute*, website: http://www.ihar.edu.pl/post_harvest_eapr_section_meeting.php, [section co-chairmen: Adrian Cunnington (United Kingdom) and Romke Wustman (The Netherlands)].

- **Section Pathology:** November 17-21, 2013 in Jerusalem (Israel), Organizing Committee chaired by Dr. Leah Tsror (tsror@agri.gov.il) *Volcani Center* – Topic : “*Climate Change / Global Warming – Effects on Diseases and Pests*” website <http://www.eapr-jerusalem.com> [section chairman : Dr. Asko Hannukkala (Finland)].

Short reports on the five sections’ meetings, together with contributions from funded young scientists (mainly PhD students), will be published in the next Newsletter edition 1/2014.

Last opportunities to obtain funding for young scientists (PhD or students) during the “Post-Harvest section meeting” in Warsaw and the “Pathology section meeting” in Jerusalem!

The EAPR Council decided to give funding to attract and welcome new young scientists as potential new members during the EAPR Section meetings in 2013. This support is provided to each organizing committee to encourage young scientists (PhD or students) to attend our section meetings in 2013 (e.g. by giving free or reduced price registration, by offering a prize for the best student paper or by subsidising their accommodation, or any other way ...). Moreover, it was decided to offer them free membership to the EAPR for a twelve month period starting in January 2014.

If you know a young scientist who could benefit from this opportunity, please go to the website homepage of the different sections’ meetings for detailed information on what each organizing committee is offering to such participants.

The main conditions for students to access this funding are as follow:

- Students are only eligible for financial support if they present either a paper or a poster at the Section meeting,
- Funding recipients are required to write a short report on their contribution to the meeting for the EAPR Newsletter issue 1/2014 (scheduled for February 2014).

If you know such a student, please inform her/him about this opportunity!

19th EAPR Triennial Conference in 2014 in Brussels (Belgium):

www.eapr2014.be

**“Innovation and recent scientific and technological developments
within the potato sector”**

**Registration and abstracts submission are now open!
Reduced registration fees for students and young scientists!**

The Organizing Committee of the 19th EAPR Triennial Conference in 2014 is pleased to announce the launch of its website for the 19th Triennial Conference: www.eapr2014.be .

Paper and poster abstracts submission deadline is 10 December 2013.

“Early bird registration” will be open up to 15 March 2014,

“Late registration” up to 15 June 2014.

“Reduced fee for students and PhD students!”

“One day pass”.

“Best Poster Award”

Possibilities for funding scientists from developing countries will discussed in the next months.

It has been decided that the 20 best abstracts selected for oral presentation will be invited to submit a full paper submission in our Journal “Potato Research” (Impact Factor: 0.558, 2012, Journal Citation Reports®, Thomson Reuters) following peer-review process of the journal.

Please, encourage colleagues working on potato research projects in your country to submit abstracts and to join us in Brussels in July 2014!

Organization of mini-Workshops will be scheduled during the Conference.

Some themes have already been suggested for workshops by the Organizing Committee, including:

- Biological control for the potato crop
- Precision agriculture in potato production
- Nematodes, a threat for the potato crop?
- Innovation and transfer of advice and results from potato research to practice

Do you have other suggestions for specific themes to be debated during a workshop? Please do not hesitate to contact the Organizing Committee (goffart@cra.wallonie.be). All suggestions will be considered for the conference programme.

Important information to EAPR Country representatives:

Please be active to list and to contact potato scientists in your country!

The EAPR Council has prepared a job description of CRs. This will be discussed and finalised with CRs, to encourage actions that support the EAPR within their countries. This will involve developing closer contact with potato scientists, surveying the research topics within their own countries, and encouraging individuals to become EAPR members or to renew their membership.

Here is the job description proposed by our Council member, Serge Duvauchelle, in charge of the contact with the CRs:

- 1. The country representative should be a fully committed EAPR member.**
- 2. Actions in their own countries:**
 - a. To communicate about the EAPR to a large community concerned with the potato: researchers, particularly the young ones, technical experts in the potato industry (breeders, packers, processing companies....) and experts in the organisations surrounding the potato industry, including advisors, extension services, phytosanitary companies, agricultural councils, Plant Health Authorities, pest detection and identification laboratories,
 - b. To invite these scientists and technical experts to become EAPR members or to renew their membership,
 - c. To invite them to participate at the triennial conferences and the section meetings, and to present oral contributions or posters,
 - d. To motivate researchers and technicians to engage with the EAPR using EAPR flyers/posters (translated into home country's language) distributed at technical meetings or via mailing lists, and targeted distribution of the EAPR Newsletter,
 - e. To maintain contact with members and, using the EAPR membership list, to follow up membership renewals,
 - f. To collect suggestions and respond to questions from the members (difficulties with the membership, section meetings information...),
 - g. To initiate and to update a survey of the main potato research topics within their own countries.
- 3. Interactions with the EAPR Council:**
 - a. To communicate with the councillor responsible for country representatives (currently Serge Duvauchelle, from France): concerning the membership (retired members, questions of new members...), the success of EAPR initiatives, the main research topics, interesting meetings and exhibitions etc.
 - b. To participate at the CR's meeting during the Triennial conference.

This proposal will be discussed and agreed during the next EAPR Triennial Conference in Brussels in July 2014.

Nevertheless, the current work of CRs will continue over the coming weeks. CRs will be asked to disseminate information on the next EAPR Triennial Conference to potato scientists in their own countries, and to invite them to join the EAPR or renew their membership, and also to participate in the Triennial Conference.

The details of Country representatives are given at the end of this Newsletter.

Report from African Potato Association (APA) 19th Triennial Congress 2013

Thank you to Jari Valkonen, our past President, for his brief report from the 9th Triennial African Potato Association (APA) Conference which was held in Great Rift Valley Lodge, Naivasha, Kenya (30 June - 4 July 2013). You will find more information on the organization on the website <http://www.africanpotatoassociation.org/>

“We had a great pleasure with Anton Haverkort, the past Secretary of EAPR, to participate as invited speakers in the well-organized 9th Triennial Conference of APA in Kenya a few months ago. There were over 200 participants. Us coming from outside Africa were in minority. International Potato Center (CIP) was the main organizer and Dr Jan Low, President of APA, was responsible for arrangements. A large number of CIP staff is stationed in East Africa where cultivation of potato and sweetpotato increases faster than any other subsistence crop.

The conference covered potato and sweetpotato research and was focused to issues relevant in Africa. However, many topics related to potato research were also of global importance. Talks and posters reported advances in strategies to improve poor seed potato quality and supply and moving local seed systems to scale in sub-Saharan Africa; role of the private sector, private-public sector partnerships, and intellectual property management in technology transfer; disease management; potato processing in African tropical highlands; adapting the agriculture products value chain; and addressing the changing consumer behaviour.

The overall atmosphere in the conference can be described as exceptionally interactive and enthusiastic. The awareness that more information is required and more research will be needed to fill in gaps of knowledge was more than obvious among the conference participants. Everyone seemed interested in learning about a wide range of topics. This is not necessarily the case in all scientific conferences.

Because the number of experts involved in the potato sector increases in Africa, a suggestion to form Thematic Groups was put forward and discussed in the general meeting of APA, but not yet agreed. Could the Sections of EAPR have a role to play in responding to the needs of such thematic discussions? We could be more active in welcoming African colleagues to EAPR section meetings. Costs may be an obstacle, but it seemed that a large number of African participants had been successful in getting the necessary financial support for participation to the APA conference. CIP had done a great job in helping to achieve that. It might also be possible to organize EAPR section meetings on African continent?

It seems safe to predict that future APA conferences will attract more potato and sweetpotato researchers from outside Africa. Similarly, let's hope to see many African colleagues in the next Triennial Conference of EAPR in Belgium!”

Jari Valkonen
Past President of EAPR

“Potato Research” is the scientific journal of our association.

Submit your scientific paper to your journal!

In 2011, Potato Research, published by Springer received an Impact Factor of 0.737 from Journal Citation Reports[®] (Thomson Reuters). This was a first step to encourage increased submissions to the scientific journal of the EAPR. So do not hesitate to submit your manuscripts to promote your work and make it more internationally recognized. This first Impact Factor means that Potato Research is indexed and abstracted in:

- Science Citation Index Expanded (also known as SciSearch[®])
- Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition
- Current Contents[®]/Agriculture, Biology and Environmental

Why not submit your next paper to your society journal? Online submission:

<http://www.editorialmanager.com/potr>

For further information about the journal, take a look at the journal page: www.springer.com/11540

With your help, your submissions and the quality of your work, the Impact Factor of Potato Research will increase during the following years!

Membership application and renewal for 2014: Please act before 31 December!!!

Please remember to renew your EAPR membership for 2014 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.

Renewal by bank transfer remains possible. In this case, please contact our Treasurer, Kurt 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 Euro) 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,
- 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 April 2014, you will lose your direct personal and free online access to the three journals until your membership is renewed!

Consider the value of your organisation becoming a Sustaining Member of the EAPR.
For details see www.eapr.net

Candidate countries for EAPR 21st Triennial Conference organization in 2020: Please apply!

The Council needs to present detailed proposals for the location of the 21st Triennial Conference to the General Meeting during the Brussels 19th Triennial Conference. Countries that wish to offer themselves as candidates should send to the President of the EAPR (goffart@cra.wallonie.be) **before 1st of April 2014** a letter specifying:

- A proposed future President for the EAPR
- The organisation(s) responsible for the conference,
- The expected venue in the country for the conference,
- The strengths of this location for the conference venue,
- The expected scientific topics of the conference,
- Places of interest suitable to be visited,
- General sponsorship to be pursued for this conference

This information will help the Council to propose the best candidate country for endorsement by a vote of the members during the General Meeting to be held at the Brussels Triennial Conference in July 2014. The General Meeting will also be requested to approve the "President Elect" who will be in charge of the organisation of this 21st Triennial Conference in 2020 which will be at the end of their term as President. Please remember that, based on the new EAPR Constitution, the President Elect will become a member of the EAPR Council for an initial three year period starting after the 2014 Brussels Conference, then after the 2017 Conference, she/he will serve three years as the President.

Up to now, Ireland and Turkey have both expressed their intention to apply to host the Triennial conference. Few months are remaining for other candidates to complete their proposals. Please act!

The next EAPR Council meeting will be held on 23-24 January 2014:

Suggest topics to be discussed by Council members

During the last Council meeting in January 2013, the following main points were discussed:

- ❖ Financial matters and membership situation/evolution
- ❖ Potato Research : situation of the impact factor and of the 2013 Volume content
- ❖ Country representatives: proposal of a draft description for the job to boost their action in their own countries
- ❖ Section meetings and funding action for improving new scientist membership of the EAPR
- ❖ EAPR Website : proposal of a draft document to re-develop the EAPR Website in a 3-year program
- ❖ EAPR newsletters structure and management
- ❖ Cooperation with other societies active in potato research : situation and evolution
- ❖ Scientific cooperation : position of EAPR towards potato research and science requirement
- ❖ Preparation of the 19th Triennial Belgium (6-11 July 2014) and further Triennial Conferences (France in 2017, candidates for 2020)

These points and others will be included in the agenda of the next Council meeting in January 2014.

Please feel free to suggest topics to be discussed during the coming Council meeting.

We should be particularly interested to have your opinion and ideas on the following points:

- Role and action of EAPR Country representatives (please send your suggestions to Serge Duvauchelle who is in charge of relation with Country Representatives);
- Need for and ways of evolution of the EAPR Website (please send your suggestions to Mike Storey who is in charge of our Website management)
- Future actions of EAPR for scientific cooperation either with other potato or scientific associations, or at European level (please send your suggestions to Louise Cooke, Richard Visser or Klaus Dehmer)

Composition of the EAPR Council for 2011-2014

Dr. Jean-Pierre Goffart (President), Gembloux, Belgium, goffart@cra.wallonie.be

Dr. Mike Storey (Vice-President), Warwickshire, United Kingdom, mike.storey@potato.ahdb.org.uk

Dr. Elina Virtanen (Secretary), Oulu, Finland, elina.virtanen@mtt.fi

Ir. Kürt Demeulemeester (Treasurer), Rumbek Beitem, Belgium, kurt.demeulemeester@inagro.be

Ir. Serge Duvauchelle (Councillor), Loos-en-Gohelle, France, duvauchelleserge@gmail.com,

in charge of the relation with EAPR Country representatives

Dr. Louise Cooke (Councillor), Belfast, United Kingdom, louise.cooke@afbini.gov.uk ,

in charge of contact with international scientific societies

Prof. Dr. Richard GF Visser (Councillor), Wageningen, The Netherlands, richard.visser@wur.nl,

in charge of international scientific cooperation

Dr. Klaus J. Dehmer (Councillor), Gross Luesewitz, Germany, dehmer@ipk-gatersleben.de,

in charge of international scientific cooperation

Ir. Michel Martin (President elect), Péronne, France, m.martin@arvalisinsitutduvegetal.fr

Prof. Dr. Ir. Paul C. Struik (non-executive Council member), Wageningen, The Netherlands

paul.struik@wur.nl

Dr Katrin Kotkas (Councillor, in charge of relation with EAPR sections) has resigned as Councillor. The President and Council members thank her for her service to the EAPR and send her their good wishes.

EAPR Country Representatives

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