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Potato Cyst Nematodes**

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INTRODUCTION

Following successful potato cyst nematode conferences at Harper Adams in 2000 and 2005 the 2010 event was extended to two days on 14–15 September 2010. It took place in the new conference facilities of the West Midlands Regional Food Academy at Harper Adams. The scientific programme of the conference covered many aspects of the management of potato cyst nematodes including economic effects, legislation, international distribution, sampling and decision making, population dynamics, diagnostics, integrated management, plant resistance (including GM), rotational control, chemical control and EU policy, biological control and novel control methods.

The potential of the European Union authorisation Directive 91/414/EEC to restrict or remove nematicides currently used in potato production against PCN from the market by 2014 gives urgency for the need to develop alternative and complimentary management methods. As a result there will be greater emphasis on non-chemical control within the wider context of concerns over food security and climate change.

The conference was of interest to delegates from the UK, Europe and beyond; particularly regions facing infestations for the first time. Attendance benefitted those involved in research and development, agronomists and advisors, agrochemical industry, policy makers and students.

Pat Haydock
Harper Adams University College
AAB Nematology Group

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