

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

ASPECTS OF APPLIED BIOLOGY 98

**International Conference on Positive
Plant Microbial Interactions in
Relation to Plant Performance and
Ecosystem Function**

at the Olde Barn Hotel, Grantham, Lincs

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International Conference on Positive Plant Microbial Interactions in Relation to Plant Performance and Ecosystem Function

in conjunction with the Botanical Society of Scotland

INTRODUCTION

This conference provides an opportunity to discuss recent developments in the understanding of how microorganisms can interact positively with plants in agricultural and natural ecosystems, how these interactions impact (positively or negatively, for example, in the case of weed plants) on ecosystem function and to what extent these interactions can be manipulated to improve plant fitness and/ or enhance ecosystem sustainability. These interactions include: microorganism production of exopolysaccharides which stabilise soil aggregates; rhizosphere microorganism generation of plant inorganic nutrient ions, plant growth promoting hormones and antipathogenic substances; associative, endophytic and symbiotic nitrogen fixation (legumes and actinorhizal plants); mycorrhizal uptake of water and nutrients; fungal endophytes of grasses that give protection against herbivore pests; associative fungi that give protection against nematode pests; associative bacteria that protect against insect pests and bacteriophages that protect against diseases.

Invited speakers:

Professor John A Raven FRS FRSE (University of Dundee)

Professor Carlo Lefeirt (Professor of Ecological Agriculture, Newcastle University; and Director of the Nafferton Ecological Farming Group with 15 years experience in the development of organic farming systems)

Dr Laszlo Nagy (Ecoscience, Scotland; Editor-in-Chief, *Plant Ecology & Diversity*; & author of the book - Nagy L, Grabherr G. 2009. *The Biology of Alpine Habitats*. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press)

Professor Janet Sprent (University of Dundee)

Mitchell Andrews, University of Sunderland
(member of the Plant Microbial Interactions Group)

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