



Fruits and Roots: a celebration and forward look

East Malling Research, East Malling, Kent, UK 6-7 November 2013

DEADLINE FOR CALL FOR PAPERS IS 31 MARCH 2013

The conference is part of a series of activities to mark the centenary of East Malling Research. It will be the scientific centrepiece and explore current and future research leading to improved fruits for the future. Session titles:

Pests and pathogens of perennial crops

Root-shoot communications and rootstock improvements

Advances breeding strategies for improved fruit crops

Enhancing fruit quality

Presentations and posters from this Conference will be produced together in a volume of the Aspects of Applied Biology series (6-8 pages per paper). Copies will be available to delegates at the Conference. Abstracts of papers can be submitted by contacting the AAB Office (russell@aab.org.uk), or online via our web site at <http://www.aab.org.uk>.

Invited speakers so far include:

Dr Ralph Scorza (Research Horticulturalist and Lead Scientist)

USDA-ARS Appalachian Fruit Research Station, Kearneysville, USA

Dr Mark Mazzola (Professor of Plant Pathology)

USDA-ARS, WSU Wenatchee, WA, USA

Dr Gennaro Fazio (Plant Breeder and Research Geneticist)

USDA-ARS Plant Genetic Resources Unit, Geneva, NY, USA

Dr Stuart Tustin (Science Group Leader, Crop & Fruit Production Systems)

Plant & Food Research, New Zealand

Acrylamide, furans and other food-borne contaminants, from plant science to food chemistry

Technical University of Munich in Freising, Germany, 8-9 October 2012

Over sixty delegates and speakers gathered at the Technical University of Munich in Freising, Germany, in October for a conference on 'Acrylamide, furans and other food-borne contaminants, from plant science to food chemistry'. The conference was organised by the Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement group, in collaboration with Michael Granvogl at TUM and Gordon Smith of ConAgra. It was the third AAB conference to consider the acrylamide issue, but the first to expand its remit to cover furans and other contaminants.

The involvement of the PPCI group reflects the potential of plant breeding and agronomy to play their part in reducing the potential for formation of acrylamide and other contaminants in products derived from our major crops, including wheat, other cereals and potato. Nevertheless, there were contributions from food as well as plant scientists, and, as in previous conferences, it was useful for each side to be made aware of the other's perspective on the problem. The food industry reacted rapidly to the discovery of acrylamide in food in 2002 and there has

been significant progress in reducing acrylamide formation in some products, although the fact that acrylamide forms from natural precursors during standard cooking and processing via similar reactions to those that produce the colours, flavours and aromas that define products makes progress difficult. The plant breeding industry has, by and large, been more reluctant to engage on the issue. This is something that it may come to regret: the food contaminants issue is not going to go away and with regulators keen to see progress in reducing contaminant levels it is something that plant breeders ignore at their peril. I am grateful to my co-organisers, to ConAgra and Nestlé for their support of the conference, to Technical University of Munich for the excellent hospitality and to the AAB staff who worked hard to make the conference a success. The venue was excellent, with good connections, Bavaria was beautiful and the beer definitely lived up to our high expectations.

- Nigel Halford