

### 3rd Symposium on Potato Cyst Nematodes, Harper Adams University College, Shropshire, UK, 14-15 September 2010



*Andy Barker discusses biofumigation - courtesy of Guy Belair*

Around 60 delegates from 16 countries gathered at Harper Adams University College for the third symposium on ways to manage and monitor nematode pests of the potato crop. The potato cyst nematode conference has been held at Harper Adams in 2000 and 2005 but this year it was held across two days for the first time. The conference, organised by the Nematology Group of the Association of Applied Biologists, invited delegates to meet each other and present papers followed by group discussion.

Pat Haydock, leader of the Nematology Group at Harper Adams, opened the proceedings at the West Midlands Regional Food Academy. Pat commented "A particular strength of this conference was bringing together delegates from around the world to share their expertise of potato cyst nematodes. Whilst this pest is well established in much of Europe outbreaks in North America, for example, have only been detected in recent years and scientists from the USA and Canada came to Harper Adams to gain from European experience. We were also particularly pleased to see a number of agronomists at the meeting who brought their practical experiences to the discussions. The conference was well received by delegates and there was support for a follow up in 2015".

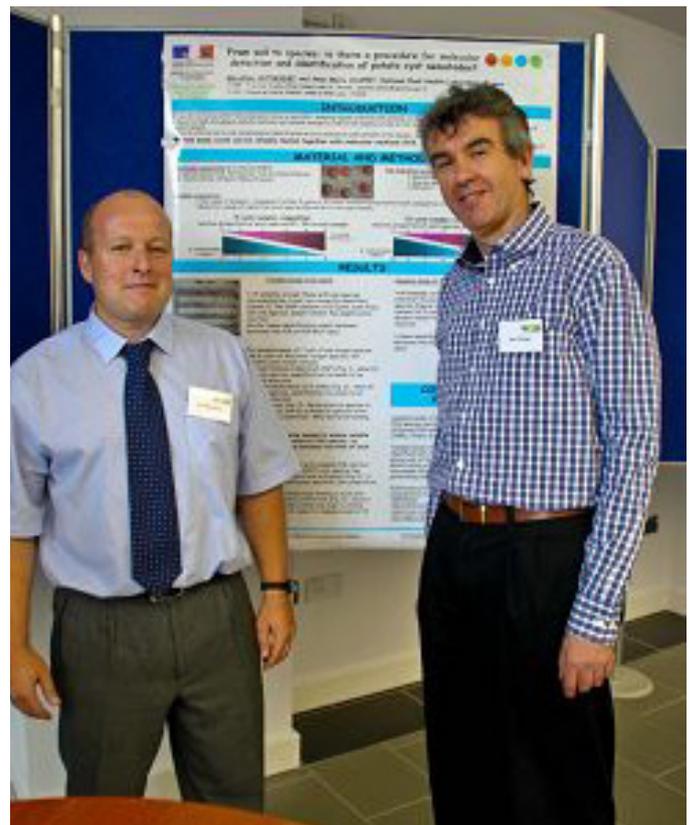
Jon Pickup, from the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency and Chairman of the Association of Applied Biologists Nematology Group chaired the first session which saw presentations and discussions on diagnostics and legislation. Vivian Blok from the

Scottish Crop Research Institute (SCRI) chaired the second session on biology with Finlay Dale, also from SCRI and Pat Haydock chairing the final sessions on management. The conference also saw delegates enjoy a barbeque supper whilst discussing outdoor plots of biofumigant mustards, resistant potato varieties and trap-cropping together with nematicide application equipment demonstrations at the Crop and Environment Research Centre. Papers from the conference have been published in *Aspects of Applied Biology* **103** and a conference video is available to view at <http://www.harper-adams.ac.uk/press/article.cfm?ID=201146>

Following the event a 2-page write up appeared in the 24 September *Farmers Weekly* and the *Potato Review* will be featuring papers from the conference in future editions.

Thanks to everyone at Harper Adams and the Association of Applied Biologists who helped make this conference a success.

*Pat Haydock, September 2010*



*Dr Pat Haydock and Jon Pickup - courtesy of Harper Adams*

