

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

President: Prof. Christine Foyer, BSc, PhD



AAB Specialist Groups:

Applied Mycology And Bacteriology
Biological Control and Integrated Pest Management
Cropping And The Environment
Food Systems
Nematology
Pesticide Application
Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement
Soil Biology
Virology

The Specialist Groups are the lifeblood of the Society. The majority of our events are generated from their areas of interest and the activities of their members. Each group is led by a Convener and includes members selected from across academic, government and industry. If you would like to be connected with a Specialist Group Convener please contact Geraint (geraint@aab.org.uk)

OUR Mission

"To promote the study and advancement of all branches of Biology and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing), to foster the practice, growth and development of applied biology, with a focus on the application of biological sciences in the production of food, materials and energy, and for the maintenance and improvement of earth's environment"

AAB Executive Council Members

Officers of council have been elected to administer the efficient running of the association. They adhere to working rules with each of the council members having specific roles. Those roles are also shown by task area.



Christine Foyer
BSc, PhD

President

School of Biosciences, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, B15 2TT, UK.
Telephone: 01133 431421



Mike Gooding
BSc, PhD

President Elect

AAB Office, Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne CV35 9EF, UK
Telephone: +44 (0)2476 999486.



Nigel Halford
BSc, PhD

Honorary Treasurer

Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ.
Tel: 01582 763133



Guy Barker
BSc, PhD

General Secretary

School of Life Sciences, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL
Telephone: 02476575135



Roy Kennedy
BSc, PhD

Publication Officer

Warwickshire College, Pershore College, Avon Bank Pershore, Warwickshire, UK
Telephone: 0300 456 0047



Richard Glass
BSc, PgDip

Conferences Treasurer

Crop Health & Protection (CHAP), York Biotech Campus, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ
Email: richard.glass@chap-solutions.co.uk
Mobile: 07866 799160



Matthew Back
BSc, PhD

Programme Secretary

Crop and Environment Research Centre, Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB.
Tel: 01952 815361



Philippa Borrill
PhD

Early Career Scientist Champion

School of Biosciences University of Birmingham, Edgbaston B15 2TT
Telephone: 0121 414 5567



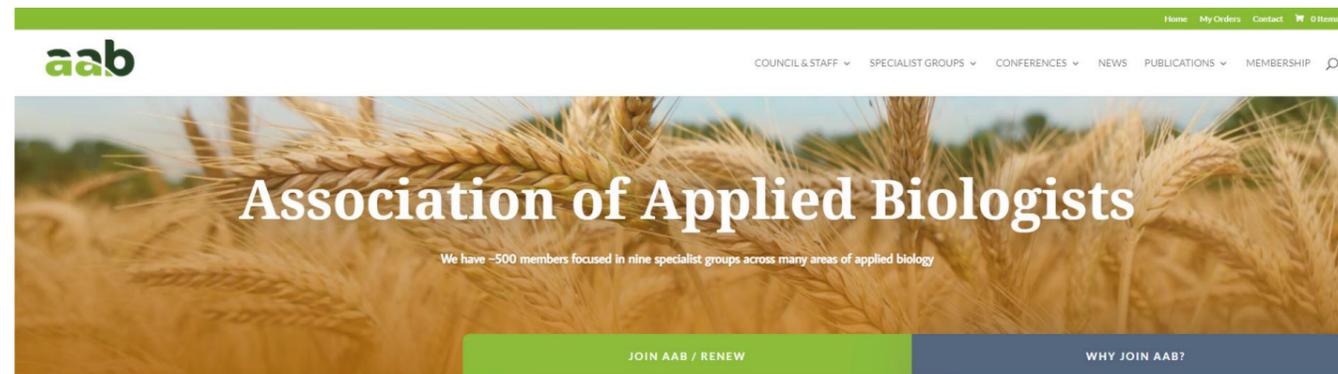
Courtesy of Harper Adams University

Professor Emeritus Simon Leather

Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB, UK

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Professor Simon Leather, former Editor-in-Chief 2015–2020 and Senior Editor for [Annals of Applied Biology](#)

Simon died peacefully in his sleep - we pass our condolences on to Simon's wife Gillian and family. An obituary to celebrate Simon's life will be published in *Annals* in due course.



New AAB Web site now available (aab.org.uk)



Legumes Translated

**Legumes Science and Practice 2,
1–3 September 2021**



In early summer 2019 I travelled to France to meet Joëlle Fustec of École Supérieure d'Agricultures (ESA) in Angers. We agreed to hold a second AAB Legumes conference at ESA, given the interest and depth of research in the crop group in France, around Europe and globally. Collaborating with Kairsty Topp and Christine Watson of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) we planned a 3-day meeting in late May 2020, with a public outreach event one evening in collaboration with Chambre d'Agriculture Pays de la Loire. A strong French flavour was envisaged and, in addition to an exciting programme, we foresaw a conference dinner by the Loire, eating leguminous (or legume fed) delicacies washed down with local wine. A conference end on the Friday would allow delegates the opportunity to remain for the weekend as tourists in a magnificent part of the world.

Unfortunately COVID-19 intervened so we postponed the conference, holding it by Zoom at the beginning of September 2021. In early 2020 we had a programme and we were ready to go, but it rapidly became clear a May meeting would be impossible. Like all projects, conference organisation needs energy but once things start to come together it creates its own momentum and sense of excitement. In my experience a year is a good period for such a task, so energy ebbed with the decision to postpone. For many months nothing happened, and it was an effort to rekindle activity in early 2021. However, at that point Christine Watson proposed adding a session to focus on Africa and this idea recharged the organising group's energy. We invited Tarirai Muoni of CIMMYT, Harare to join the group and he did an excellent job building a programme for what became day 2 of the conference.

This second phase of organisation over-lapped with the departure of Carol Millman as Chief Executive of AAB (after more than three decades of service) and her replacement by Geraint Parry. Geraint seized the moment and made a massive contribution. Financial support from Legumes Translated and ESA allowed AAB to charge a very reasonable conference fee.

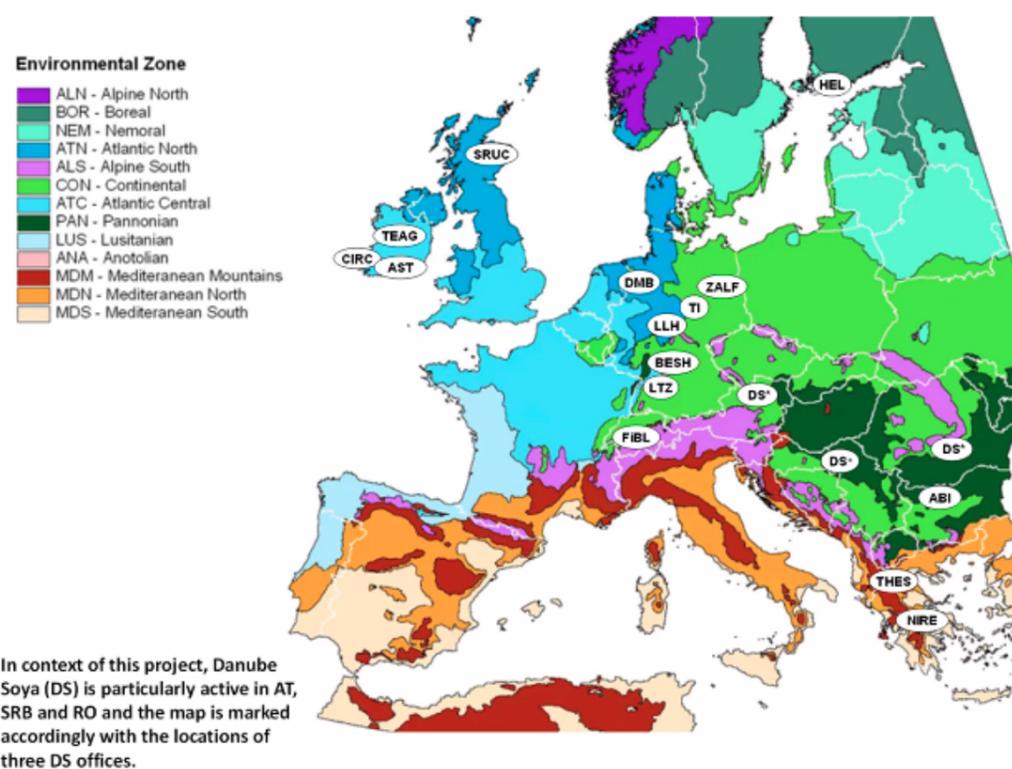
The conference itself went well, with a large number of excellent talks and posters from around the world. The Africa day was a triumph. More than 120 delegates registered for the 3-day meeting and whilst there were a few technical problems due to connectivity difficulties, overall things worked well, in large part thanks to Geraint and Rogue Productions behind the scenes.

There are too many memorable moments to mention but it was the image of Ken Giller answering questions from the passenger seat of a moving car in the Netherlands that sticks in my mind. The other image was of Joëlle Fustec and Bertrand Pinel, both with virtual backgrounds from the Loire valley (one of vineyards cultivated up a hill side, the other of river itself with a church and trees along the banks). When both speakers were displayed side by side it almost felt as if one was there.

And the idea of an Angers conference is not dead. Joëlle has agreed to host a third meeting in what she calls 3D! That is certainly something to anticipate with renewed enthusiasm.

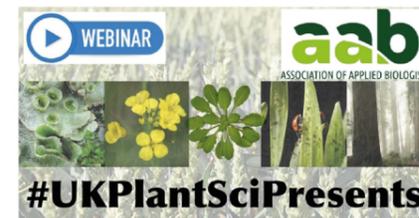
Rob Carlton

The consortium



The Advances in Legumes virtual event was supported by the Legumes Translated Project; <https://www.legumestranslated.eu/>

#UKPlantSciPresents Webinar Series



The fourth season of the #UKPlantSciPresents webinar series runs from September 28th – December 7th 2021.

The series promotes excellence in UK plant science and each webinar features two speakers who present for 25 minutes allowing 10 minutes for delegate questions.

All webinars will be posted on the AAB YouTube channel. Past #UKPlantSciPresents can be viewed on the 'GARNet Community' YouTube channel. The webinars will be hosted using the AAB Zoom account, will be free to attend but pre-registration is required.

Tuesday October 12th 3pm BST:

- **Rumiana Ray** (University of Nottingham): Fusarium, wheat and aphids – a toxic mix with fatal consequences.
- **Jackie Stroud** (SRUC); The role of earthworms in regenerative agriculture: soil tillage decisions and pest-disease dynamics.



Register for free: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ByM0eUJmRleWdq6-4X8hLw

Tuesday October 26th 3pm BST:

- **Stuart Casson** (University of Sheffield): Environmental control of stomatal development
- **Gabriela Toledo-Ortiz** (Lancaster University): Tomatoes for Tomorrow



Register for free: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DiUixFdnSFe65SQDg26DAA

Tuesday November 23rd 3pm GMT:

- **Sarah Raffan** (Rothamsted Research): Genome-editing for low acrylamide wheat
- **Matthew Back** (Harper Adams): Can cover crops be used to lower populations of plant parasitic nematodes of field crops?



Register for free: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_700H7Bw4RsqFLh7-29CvIQ

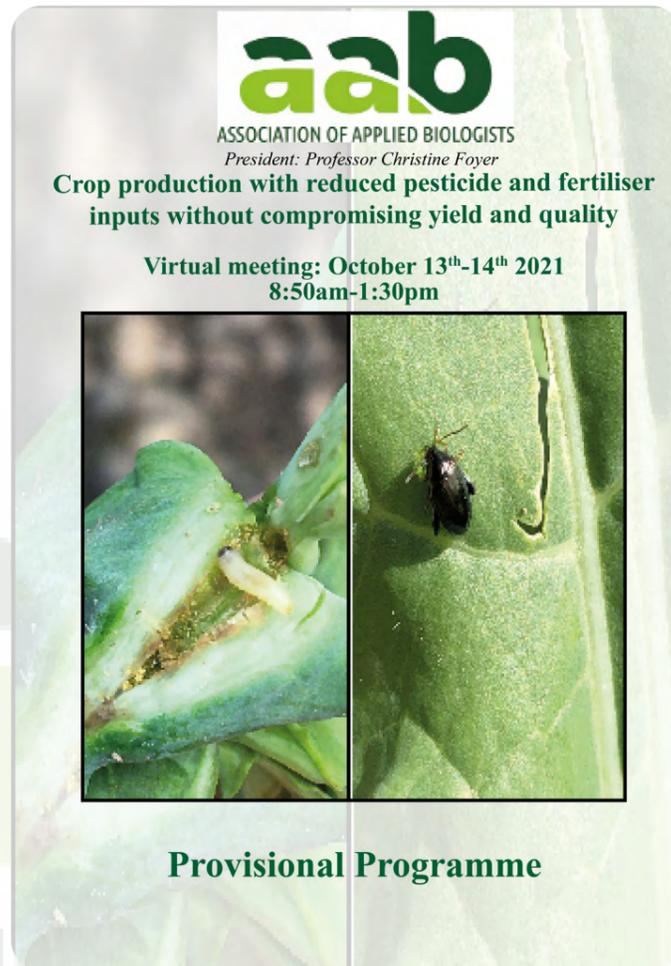
Tuesday December 7th 3pm GMT:

- **Eirini Kaiserli** (University of Glasgow): Integrating light and temperature signalling in Arabidopsis
- **Anne-Marie Labandera** (University of Birmingham)



Register for free: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IzOKALoqS8akuQXd73he6g

Important Conference Updates



aab
ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS
President: Professor Christine Foyer

Crop production with reduced pesticide and fertiliser inputs without compromising yield and quality

Virtual meeting: October 13th-14th 2021
8:50am-1:30pm



Provisional Programme

[Crop production with reduced pesticide and fertiliser inputs without compromising yield and quality](#)

[PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME](#)

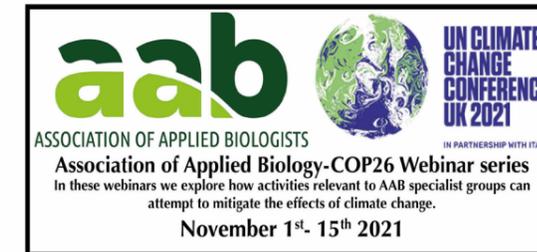
[REGISTRATION](#) is OPEN for this event

AAB Members: £10-£15

Non-Members: £15-£20

Non-members will receive a free AAB membership until the end of 2022

Applied Biology and Climate Change AAB-COP26 Webinar Series: November 1st-15th



The COP26 Climate Conference is hosted in Glasgow in November 2021 and is (another) critical moment for humanity to establish policies to combat the myriad threats posed by climate change.

As a UK-based society the AAB will mark this important event by hosting a webinar series that looks at how applied biology is impacted by climate change and can play a role to mitigate its effects.

AAB will host **five coffee-time webinars** throughout the duration of COP26 between **November 1st-15th 2021**. We have invited experts in various fields of applied biology to explore how their specialism is impacted by climate change.

These webinars are hosted on zoom, begin at 11am (or 3pm) and will last for 45minutes, including questions. Registration is free and the entire series is available in single Zoom room.
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0Sh6LzrlRBWAellWb49hZg

Monday November 1st 11am GMT: Luke Bell (University of Reading): Impact of Climate Change on horticultural crops

Friday November 5th 3pm GMT: Julie Law (Salk Institute, USA): Introducing the Harnessing Plants Initiative

Monday November 8th 11am GMT: Ryan McGuire (Queens Belfast), Keerthi Bandru (Humboldt University Berlin): Agri-Food, NetZero and Climate Change

Friday November 12th 11am GMT: Fred Otu-Larbi (Lancaster University)

Monday November 15th 11am GMT: Bob Rees (SRUC)

[Applied Biology and Climate change: AAB-COP26 webinar series.](#)

November 1 @ 11:00 am - November 15 @ 12:00 pm

[REGISTRATION](#)

Important Conference Updates (continued)

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

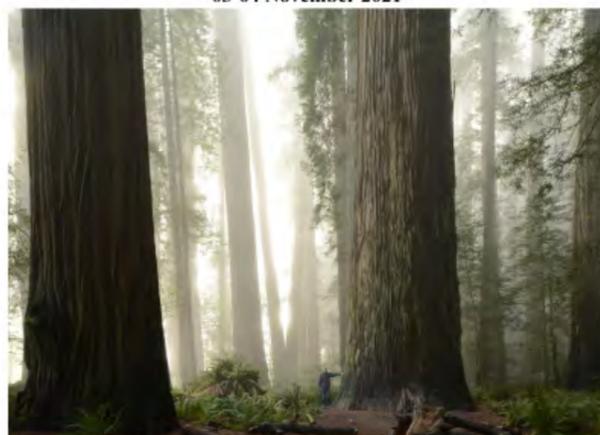
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UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM | BIFoR

Trees for the Future - Diversity and complexity for resilience and carbon storage

A two-day hybrid conference hosted online and live at the University of Birmingham, UK*
03-04 November 2021



Coast redwood forest, North California: Image courtesy of Jo Bradwell, JABBS

PROGRAMME

Association of Applied Biologists, Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9EF, UK
Registered Charity No. 275655; <http://www.aab.org.uk>
Tel: +44 (0)2476 999485; Email: john@aab.org.uk

Trees for the Future - Diversity and complexity for resilience and carbon storage

03-04 November 2021 Hybrid event
(Birmingham University, UK)

PROGRAMME

On-site Registration £100-£175
Virtual Registration £10-£85
Non-members will receive a free AAB membership until the end of 2022

REGISTRATION

Important Conference Updates (continued)



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

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Thinking differently about soil-borne disease management

A one day virtual conference
on 10th November 2021



Photographs by kind permission of Dr Faye Ritchie, ADAS, Cambridge, UK

Provisional Programme

Association of Applied Biologists, Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9EF, UK
Registered Charity No. 275655; <http://www.aab.org.uk>; Tel: +44 (0)2476 999486; Email: john@aab.org.uk

Thinking Differently about Soil-Borne Disease Management

10th November 2021, Virtually via ZOOM

REGISTRATION

AAB Members: £8.34-£12.50
Non-Members: £29.17-£66.67

Non-members will receive a free AAB membership until the end of 2022

PROGRAMME

FORESTRY & TIMBER NEWS



Confor
Promoting forestry and wood

Latest members communication

[CLICK HERE](#)

Read the latest issue of Forestry and Timber News or re-visit last month's Confor e-newsletters

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

BIFoR
BIRMINGHAM INSTITUTE OF FOREST RESEARCH

The Birmingham Institute of Forest Research (BIFoR)

[CLICK HERE](#)

BIFoR aims to provide fundamental science, social science and cultural research of direct relevance to global forested landscapes



Association of Applied Biologists
Biocontrol & IPM Group
President: Prof. Christine Foyer

Improving Global and Local IPM

Hybrid event hosted online and live at the
Olde Barn Hotel, Marston, UK
17-18 November 2021



Images from Eugenia Hezza and Keith Walters

Provisional Programme

Improving Global and Local IPM

Special issue of *Annals of Applied Biology* planned for mid 2022 (Submission by 15/12/2021, details (submissions clarified as conference papers) to follow: Contact Carol Millman carol@aab.org.uk)

17-18th November 2021, Hybrid event

Olde Barn Hotel, Grantham,
Lincolnshire, UK

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

REGISTRATION and FEES

Registration is open for in-person and online participants

Important Conference Updates (continued)



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS
President: Professor Christine Foyer

Advances in Nematology 2021

One-day Hybrid event hosted online and at The Linnean Society in central London
December 14th 2021

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite contributions in areas encompassing all the applied biology of nematology (molecular biology of nematodes or hosts, ecology, epidemiology, management of plant-parasitic nematodes, entomopathogenic nematodes and emerging diagnostic methods).

Event website: <https://event.me/D5Gx4G>

Abstract Submission Deadline:
October 15th

<https://www.aab.org.uk/abstract>

Photograph supplied by Steve Edgington

Association of Applied Biologists, Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9EF, UK
Registered Charity No. 275655; <http://www.aab.org.uk>
Tel: +44 (0)2476 999485 Email: John@aab.org.uk

Advances in Nematology

14th December 2021

One-day Hybrid event hosted online and at The Linnean Society in Central London

Abstract Submission Deadline:
15th October 2021

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

President: Professor Christine Foyer



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS
Cropping and the Environment Group



Shaping the Future for Pollinators Innovations in Farmed Landscapes

ANNOUNCEMENT & CALL FOR PAPERS



A three-day conference at the Copthorne Hotel, Slough-Windsor
Postponed to 6-8 September 2022

Association of Applied Biologists, Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9EF, UK
Registered Charity No. 275655; <http://www.aab.org.uk>
Tel: +44 (0)2476 999485; Email: john@aab.org.uk

Shaping the Future for Pollinators: Innovations in Farmed Landscapes

6-8th September 2022, HYBRID EVENT
Copthorne Hotel, Slough, UK



The World Bee Project

The World Bee Project The World Bee Project CIC uses Artificial Intelligence (AI), data analytics and the Internet of Things (IoT) to remotely monitor honeybees to research the pollinator and pollination crisis from a global perspective. It supports, connects and amplifies new technologies and scientific study to improve the health and wellbeing of bees and other pollinators. With thanks to Sabiha Rumani Malik, Founder and Executive President.



Association of Applied Biologists
Pesticide Application Group
President: Prof. Christine Foyer, BSc, PhD

International Advances in Pesticide Application



A three day conference
at the Chamber of Agriculture, North Rhine
Westphalia, Germany
on 25-27 January 2022

Photographs by kind permission Tom Robinson Sprays Ltd, Cambridge, UK

Association of Applied Biologists, Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9EF, UK
Registered Charity No. 275655; <http://www.aab.org.uk>
Tel: +44 (0)2476 999484; Email: Carol@aab.org.uk

International Advances in Pesticide Application

25th-27th January 2022
Chamber of Agriculture, North Rhine
Westphalia, Germany

PROGRAMME AVAILABLE

Registration available soon

AAB FORWARD CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

2021

- 28 September onward [#UKPlantSciPresents webinar series](#)
Virtually via ZOOM. [REGISTER for FREE](#)
- 13-14 October [Crop production with reduced pesticide and fertiliser inputs without compromising yield and quality](#)
Virtually via ZOOM
(Cropping and the Environment group)
- 1-15 November [AAB-COP26 webinar series](#)
Virtually via ZOOM
- 3-4 November [Trees for the Future - Diversity and complexity for resilience and carbon storage](#)
University of Birmingham; **HYBRID**
(AAB Multi Disiplinary, University of Birmingham, Bifor)
- 10 November [Thinking differently about soil-borne disease management](#)
Virtually via ZOOM
(Applied Plant Pathology group)
- 11 November **Decision Support Workshop**
Virtually via ZOOM
- 17-18 November [Improving Global and Local IPM](#)
Olde Barn Hotel, Marston, Lincs UK; **HYBRID**
(Biocontrol & IPM group)
- 14 December [Advances in Nematology 2021](#)
Linnean Society, London, UK; **HYBRID**
(Nematology group)

2022

- 25-27 January [International Advances in Pesticide Application](#)
Chamber of Agriculture, North Rhine Westphalia, Germany
(Pesticide Application group)
- 9 March [Closed Transfer Systems Workshop](#)
Wrest Park, & Silsoe Spray Application Group, Silsoe, Bedford, UK; **HYBRID**
(Pesticide Application group)
- 23-25 March **Exploring Innovative strategies to reduce agricultural GHG and Ammonia outputs**
Macdonald Holyrood Hotel, Edinburgh
(Cropping and the Environment group/Scottish Government)
- 29-30 March [Understanding and managing biotic and abiotic stresses of horticultural crops](#)
University of Reading
(Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement group)
- 6-8 September **Shaping the Future for Pollinators: Innovations in Farmed Landscapes**
Cophthorne Hotel, Slough, UK
(Cropping and the Environment group/University of Reading/
British Ecological Society/Royal Entomological Society)

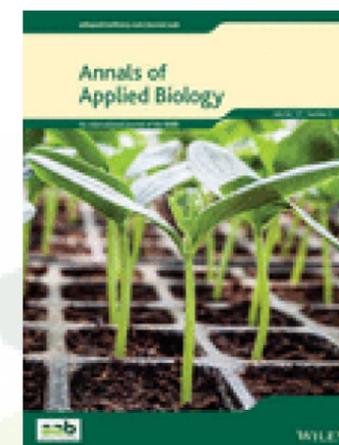
COVID-19

[COVID-19 Resource Centre](#) The Lancet

[India's DNA COVID vaccine is a world first – more are coming](#) (Nature)
[SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2 Delta variant replication and immune evasion](#) (Nature)

AAB Journals: New Issues Now AVAILABLE

Click on the links below to view the latest issues of our scientific journals. Remember that you will need an annual subscription to view our *Annals of Applied Biology* content so please contact Bernadette (bernadette@aab.org.uk) in the AAB Office if you are interested!



Annals of Applied Biology
[Vol. 179 Iss. 2](#)
September 2021
2020 Impact Factors: 2.750



Plant Biotechnology Journal
[Vol. 19 Iss. 9](#)
September 2021



AAB is a member of the Plant Science Group of the Royal Society of Biology. This group publishes a monthly Plant Science Newsletter that anyone can sign up for and can be downloaded here:

Please [CLICK HERE](#)

Members of the *Association of Applied Biologists* are eligible for a two-year 50% discount on Royal Society of Biology membership

[Royal Society of Biology Membership](#)



British Crop Production Council (BCPC) Newlink: [CLICK HERE](#)

Global Plant Council statement on Climate Change

The AAB are a member of the Global Plant Council (GPC). On September 30th and ahead of the upcoming COP26 Climate Change Conference the GPC has published a statement on the ‘Threat of climate change to future food security’. They highlight that the use of new technologies linked to plant science will be an important contributor to achieving climate goals.

Statement by the Global Plant Council on the
threat of climate change to future food security

CONTACT US

‘We ask policymakers to confer with plant scientists to tackle climate change and develop agricultural and ecological policies using the best available scientific evidence. Plant scientists are ready to help if given the chance. We await your call.’

Read the full statement here:

<https://globalplantcouncil.org/activities/challenges/adaptation-to-climate-change/climate-change-statement/>

Change in UK Government policy on use of gene-editing

On September 29th the UK Government announced a change in their policy toward the use of gene-editing technologies in research and that they will continue to discuss the possibility of enabling consumers to benefit from products generated by gene-edited plants and animals.

Brexit paves the way for gene-edited crops

By Pallab Ghosh
Science correspondent

🕒 1 day ago | 💬 Comments



JIC

This GE tomato with extra vitamin C could get to market much faster

The AAB were delighted to have contributed to the DEFRA consultation in this area and that our views are broadly represented in the DEFRA response.

The AAB response to the consultation can be downloaded here:

<https://www.aab.org.uk/pdf/the-regulation-of-genetic-technologies/>

The government press release is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-to-unlock-power-of-gene-editing-unveiled>

The BBC News article is here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-58711230>

Soil biodiversity in horticultural agriculture – Call for Data

The [Excalibur](#) consortium is funded from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and brings together 16 partners across Europe to gain a better understanding of the effects of horticultural practices and treatments on soil biodiversity.

As well as field trials of how bioinoculants affect three crops (strawberries, tomatoes, and apples) and native soil biodiversity, we are developing statistical models to estimate how contrasting agricultural management practices and bioinoculants affect soil biodiversity, and test whether these effects are consistent among taxonomic groups.

We invite holders of relevant data to contribute them to the database - all contributions will be acknowledged appropriately, and contributors will be offered co-authorship of the database. We seek studies that sampled soil biodiversity in at least two different land uses or management, including one or more horticultural crops, using a consistent method. All taxa are welcome, e.g., insects, other arthropods, annelids, fungi, microbes.

If you have appropriate data that you would be willing to share, or wish to discuss further, please contact Dr Victoria Burton, Postdoctoral Researcher at: v.burton@nhm.ac.uk.

Victoria is a new member of the AAB Soil Biology Group:

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/soil-biology/>



Soil biodiversity in horticultural agriculture – call for data

Dr Victoria J Burton, Natural History Museum, London, UK

v.burton@nhm.ac.uk

[@SoilScholar](https://twitter.com/SoilScholar)



Excalibur aims to improve understanding of the links between management practices, soil biodiversity, crop health and productivity using field trials and statistical models to estimate how contrasting agricultural management practices and bioinoculants affect soil biodiversity.

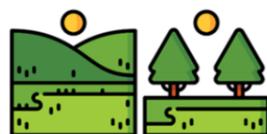
Want to contribute? If you have suitable data, I would love to hear from you!

Contributors will be acknowledged appropriately in all outputs and invited to co-author the database.



Measured any taxa with a consistent method

We are looking for studies that:



In 2+ land uses



Including 1+ horticultural crop



In Europe

London, 28 September 2021–2022 marks the 50th anniversary of Rank Prize, which has been celebrating outstanding scientific breakthroughs since 1972. Founded by Lord J. Arthur Rank, a British industrialist and philanthropist, the prestigious Rank Prize is awarded biennially in the fields of nutrition and optoelectronics; two areas related to Lord Rank’s business interests.



Professor Cathie Martin FRS is the winner of the 2022 Rank Prize for Nutrition. Her research has unlocked new knowledge of the genetics and metabolism of plants. And she’s started applying this knowledge to make fruits and vegetables even more nutritious.

The prize will be formally awarded at an event in London on January 17, 2022.

Why Professor Martin’s work is important

Cathie’s early research focussed on understanding how plants regulate their flower pigmentation – specifically the biosynthesis and diversity of anthocyanins – the pigments that give plants their characteristic red, purple and blue colours. She identified the key genes that regulate anthocyanin biosynthesis in plants, using the genetic model *Antirrhinum majus*. This allowed her to pinpoint several transcription factors (including members of the MYB class) that coordinate the expression of genes encoding anthocyanin biosynthesis enzymes.

Cathie then refocused her research on finding ways to increase the concentrations of these important dietary phytochemicals in edible plant parts – especially in tomatoes. Anthocyanins have been shown to protect against various forms of chronic, diet-related, human diseases. They also promote cardio-metabolic and cognitive health.

Professor Martin’s work in practice

By expressing two transcription factors from *Antirrhinum* in tomato, Cathie created purple fruits with anthocyanin levels similar to those found in blackberries and blueberries. The fruits’ antioxidant capacity tripled. And when these fruits were fed to cancer-susceptible mice, their lifespan increased by up to 30%.

Later research showed that fruit-specific expression of the transcription factor *AtMYB12* increased flavonoid biosynthesis to the point where flavonols and hydroxycinnamates composed up to 10% of the fruits’ dry weight. This paved the way for an effective production system for many bioactives and high value nutritional compounds in fruits and vegetables.

Building on strong collaborations and a love of Italian food, Cathie also studied the Sicilian blood orange – a citrus fruit with naturally high levels of anthocyanins. By examining the mutation involved in anthocyanin accumulation, Cathie and her colleagues explained the reason behind the cold-dependent pigmentation that limits cultivation of the blood orange. This understanding makes it possible to modify other types of orange to produce high levels of fruit-specific anthocyanins in a wide range of growing conditions. This could prove the key to cultivating these fruits for their juice in subtropical and tropical regions.

Professor Cathie Martin: “I was sitting in my office at home, locked down but snug with a log fire even though it was April 1st, when I received an amazing email telling me I had been nominated for the Rank Prize. Bursting with excitement, I emailed my husband who replied, ‘Do you know what day it is?’ Fortunately, his cynicism proved unfounded, and receiving the Rank Prize is wonderful recognition that our research might have achieved something worthwhile.”

Professor John C. Mathers, Chair of Rank Prize’s Nutrition Committee: “Professor Martin’s outstanding research combines fundamental insights into the genetics of metabolic processes in plants and how we can use them to enhance the nutritional composition of human foods. She is a powerful advocate, and practitioner, of plant science for human health. As we tackle the twin challenges of increasing human health and protecting the health of the planet, her research is globally significant.”

About Professor Cathie Martin FRS

Cathie Martin is a group leader at the John Innes Centre and Professor at the University of East Anglia. She is co-director of the PhD programme, EDESIA: Plants, Food and Health from crop to clinic funded by the Wellcome Foundation.

Cathie’s research interests lie in using plant science to improve human diet and health; her recent research has focused on how crops can be fortified to improve diets and address the global challenge of escalating chronic disease. This work has involved linking leading clinical and epidemiological researchers with plant breeders and metabolic engineers to develop scientific understanding of how diet can help to maintain health, promote healthy ageing and reduce the risk of chronic disease.

Cathie has recently started collaborative research in China, to study Chinese medicinal plants, particularly those that produce anti-cancer metabolites for complementary therapies.

Cathie was editor-in-chief of *The Plant Cell* (2008–2014) and is now an associate editor for *Molecular Horticulture*. She’s a member of EMBO and AAAS, a Fellow of the Royal Society and in 2014 she was awarded an MBE for services to Plant Biotechnology.

About Rank Prize

We bring together young researchers and the most eminent in their fields. Those fields are nutrition and optoelectronics: two disciplines our founder Lord Rank built businesses upon.

We support talented researchers with grants, studentships and lectures.

We host symposia unlike any others. Together, we discuss. We debate. We challenge. We spur each other on, and make connections that last.

And with our Prize, we celebrate the breakthrough ideas that emerge, the people behind them, and the difference they make to the world.

Find out more: www.rankprize.org

Contact:

Amy Douthett, Rank Prize
amy.douthett@rankprize.org



The AAB NewsHub

A dedicated section for generic news content which we believe will be of significant interest to our members and their peers, for every single newsletter that we release. These articles may range from blogs, or discussion topics right the way through to some professionally published content.

We will continue to scout around for the latest news but as always, we are more than happy to receive additional content from our readers... If you come across an article or a newspaper column which you think would be of interest to our members please feel free to send it to John (john@aab.org.uk)

- [Then and now: Why deforestation is such a hot topic \(BBC\)](#)
- [One in three trees face extinction in wild, says new report \(BBC\)](#)
- [Covid map: Coronavirus cases, deaths, vaccinations by country \(BBC\)](#)
- [COP26: Poorest countries fear not reaching UK for climate summit \(BBC\)](#)
- [Environmentalist Jonathon Porritt’s big idea to slow global warming \(New Scientist\)](#)
- [In-Hive Sensors Could Help Ailing Bee Colonies \(Scientific American\)](#)
- [Forgotten aliens: We should hunt for viruses in space \(New Scientist\)](#)



AAB Membership Rates 2021

Membership Type	£
Full	62.00
Retired	31.00
Student	20.00
New Student Members Deal <i>Get a FREE book from our Aspects of Applied Biology series + Annual Membership</i>	*£5.00 *£5.00 for the first year with valid student ID and a Direct Debit Mandate form returned for subsequent years
Members are also entitled to receive the following publications at reduced rates.	
<u><i>Annals of Applied Biology</i></u>	
Printed (hard copy)	85.00
Online (UK & Europe*)	75.56
Online (rest of world)	62.96
Printed + Online (UK & Europe*)	116.59
Printed + Online (rest of world)	111.04
* VAT incl. for UK & European members	

For any membership enquiries please feel free to contact Alberto in the AAB Office by email at: alberto@aab.org.uk

Why Should I Join the AAB?

Members of the association are entitled to many exclusive discounts and a whole range of dedicated content

What do I receive with an AAB Membership?

- A forum for applied biologists worldwide: network with the best in your specialism
- Very discounted registration fees for our regular scientific [conferences](#) and workshops across the AAB's research interests
- Significantly reduced subscriptions to [AAB publications](#)
- [Eligible to apply for 'Federation of European Societies of Plant Biologists' short term mobility grants \(up to €3000\)](#)
- Eligible to apply for [AAB ECP Travel grants](#)
- Eligible to apply for the 'AAB Carer Fund', £500 accessibility grants.

[Download an application form here](#)

- 30% discount on publications in our *Aspects of Applied Biology* series
- Discounted membership to the [Royal Society of Biology](#). AAB members receive a 50% discount on RSB membership! [Download details here.](#)
- [Opportunities to interact with the Global Plant Council](#)

Additional benefits for Student Members

- ALL new student members who set up a direct debit payment will receive a FREE *Aspects* book of their choice, from our [Aspects of Applied Biology Marketplace](#) (if in stock), worth up to £40.00!
- We encourage all of our specialist groups to adopt at least 1 student member - if you are interested in becoming part of a group, please contact the relevant convenor
- We would also like our Student Members to be involved with our conference organisation so if this is something of interest please contact the AAB Office

Aspects of Applied Biology Marketplace

Aspects of Applied Biology is a series of conference proceedings produced by the Association from some of our organised events. Each issue of *Aspects* is produced in advance of the relevant conference. *Aspects* articles DO NOT go through a full peer-review process but are thoroughly proofed and edited accordingly to ensure scientific validity. *Aspects* are available after the conference and are a valuable resource for those working or studying in the relevant field or even for those purely interested in the content.

Postage costs may work out cheaper for multiple purchases.

For our full list of *Aspects of Applied Biology* [click here](#)

If you wish to purchase a book which does not appear on the list or require information on multiple purchases, please contact Bernadette (bernadette@aab.org.uk) for a price.



Association of Applied Biologists Early Career Professional Travel Grant Application Form

Grants are available to all students or early career professionals (ECP, defined as being within 10 years of leaving full time education) to attend AAB events to provide a poster or oral presentation. Recipients do not need to be a member of the Association. Allowances are restricted to standard class flights, rail or bus fares (using a rail card if available). All grants are discretionary.

Applications must be made at least **2 months** before the meeting, to the AAB Executive Officer (EO) Geraint Parry at geraint@aab.org.uk. The application will be assessed by the EO and AAB Council

Payments will be made on submission of receipts after the event but on rare occasions up-front payments are possible if deemed essential by the AAB EO and Council.

[More Information Here](#)

Association of Applied Biologists Carer Fund Application Form

The AAB wants to provide opportunities for anyone to attend their events, irrespective of their personal circumstances. We understand that this might require financial assistance that is unavailable through conventional travel grants.

The AAB has started the '**AAB Carer fund**' that is open for applications from **AAB members**, who require additional help to attend either live and virtual AAB events. Each application will be judged on their individual merit but might be used for childcare, support care of elderly or disabled adult relatives or for personal use to facilitate accessibility needs (travel, audio-visual, personal help).

We have **£500 available** for each application associated with each event. Please return this form to the AAB Executive Officer (EO) Geraint Parry at geraint@aab.org.uk. The application will be assessed by the EO and the AAB Council.

Please submit the application **at least 2 months** before the selected event, but early submission will be beneficial. Payments will be made on submission of receipts after the event but on rare occasions up-front payments are possible if deemed essential by the AAB EO and Council.

[More Information Here](#)

The AAB are delighted to have become a member of the Federation of European Societies of Plant Biology (FESPB)

FESPB aims to advance research, education, and the exchange of information amongst plant biologists within Europe and beyond. <https://fesp.org/>



As part of a FESPB affiliated Societies, AAB members are eligible to apply for these grants:

- **FESPB Awards to young European plant scientists.**
Two FESPB Awards for two young scientists selected by the FESPB Awards Committee from nominations put forward by each of the constituent Societies. Award are for €2000 and attendance to the FESPB congress.
- **Grants for short-term mobility for young researchers**
FESPB would offer short term mobility grants (up to €3000) for young researchers working with a group leader who is an AAB member.
- **Grants to attend FESPB Congress**
Support registration and accommodation at the FESPB congress. They will be open for AAB members or group members of AAB members.

Please contact Geraint Parry (geraint@aab.org.uk) about these opportunities