

# *November 2023*



***President: Prof. Mike Gooding, PhD***

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**Images courtesy of Irina Khelisupali (Tsaghveri public school, Borjomi, Georgia)**

### ***Our Mission***

**“to further the application of biology to the production of food, materials, and energy, and for the maintenance and improvement of the earth’s environment”**

# **AAB Quick Links**

**[AAB Council](#)**

**[AAB Conference Calendar](#)**

**[AAB Conference Services](#)**

**[AAB Specialist Groups](#)**

**AAB Early Career Professional members (AAB ECP) eligible for FREE Online registration to *ANY* AAB-organised hybrid event, AAB ECP non-members pay a nominal fee (£5) for access and also gain free membership!**



# Biocontrol and IPM 2023: Increasing collaboration across the Innovation Cycle

Derby, November 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

We are grateful for the events sponsors; Fargo, Bioline Agriscience and The Biobest Academy. We were delighted Bioline Agriscience brought an exhibitor stall to the meeting, Fargo bought a pop-up banner (and a couple of delegates) whilst Neal Ward provided a talk to introduce The Biobest Academy.



Burleigh Dodds Publishing kindly donated two IPM books to be awarded for the favourite talk by an early career professional and the favoured poster. Thank to Elysia Bartel and Neal warrd for judging these awartds.

The preferred talk prize was awarded to **Isabelle Sims** from ADAS whose talk was entitled 'The Defra survey of crop pests and diseases'

The preferred poster prize was awarded to **Alex Kelly** from teh University of Warwick for his poster entitled 'Opportunities for a new policy framework to enable British growers to transition to using IPM for crop protection in fruit and vegetables'

**Congratulations to both winners!**



Over Summer 2023 the Royal Society of Biology organise a Plant Health Undergraduate Studentships (PHUGS). AAB provides funding for two of these studentships.



One of the AAB-funded students was Abby Buckle who spent 10 weeks in Rothamsted on a project studying Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle supervised by Sam Cook.

AAB were delighted to support Abby to attend the IPM meeting so that she could present a poster of her research and experience a science confernece for the first time.

Abby has written a short report from the meeting and shares her summer experience:

The Association of Applied Biologist's IPM and Biocontrol 2023 conference was hosted at the Stuart Hotel in Derby, this November. The event focussed on increasing connections and collaboration between the different sectors of IPM: Farmers/Agronomists, Academic Researchers, Industrial Researchers and Regulators.

The programme included 7 different sessions of virtual and in-person talks and poster presentations from a wide range of speakers, and from presenters all around the globe. The talks covered multiple subjects, including developing specific and novel biocontrol strategies, increasing accessibility of IPM planning and surveying, commercial challenges in implementing IPM strategies, promoting collaborative networking and information on funding and policy.

Over the summer I was fortunate to be able to undertake a Royal Society of Biology Studentship at Rothamsted Research, that was sponsored by the AAB, and I was able to share a poster on these findings at the conference. The project I worked on was titled 'A search for oilseed rape resistance to cabbage stem flea beetle larvae' and aimed to identify cultivars of Oilseed Rape (OSR) that were resistant or tolerant to cabbage stem flea beetle (CSFB) larvae, to help develop IPM strategies.

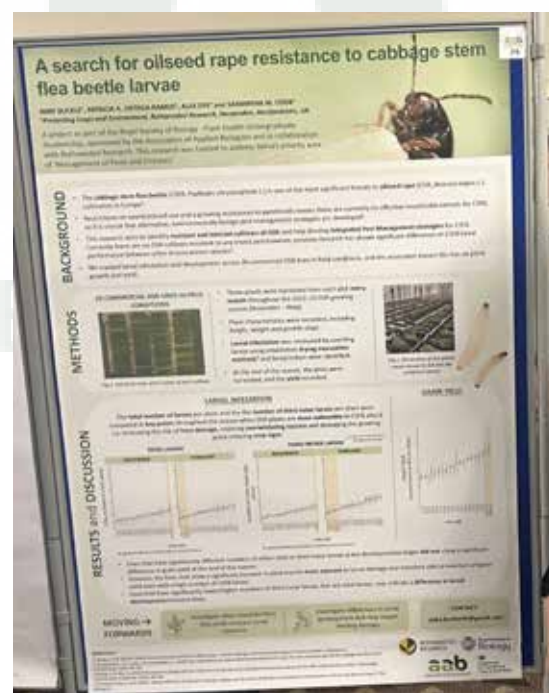
It tracked larval infestation across 20 commercial OSR lines in field conditions, the associated impact this had on plant growth and yield, and potential differences in larval development. It was very beneficial to be able to discuss my studentship and project with other attendees, and especially to discuss the other areas of research around CSFB control. It was also really insightful to see how IPM research is translated to policy and practice, and the importance of connections and collaboration to do this.

I would like to thank the AAB, Rothamsted Research, and the Royal Society of Biology for the opportunity to complete the Plant Health Undergraduate Studentship this summer, and the AAB for inviting me to attend the IPM and Biocontrol conference.


Abby Buckle (abby.buckle94@gmail.com)



Abby introduces her work in the poster session



# Upcoming Events



Hosted online and at  
The Linnean Society, London

**Advances in Nematology**  
December 7<sup>th</sup> 2023

Full Schedule now available  
Vincent O'Connor, University of Southampton  
David Marcus Bellett-Travers, Anglia Ruskin University

**Advances in Nematology**  
December 7 2023

Online Registration still open!

[Visit Event Website](#)



Hosted online and in  
Brighton, UK

**International Advances in  
Pesticide Application**  
January 23-25 2024

Final Schedule Published  
In-person registration open until December 18th

**International Advances in  
Pesticide Application**  
Jan 23-25 2024

Registration open as online or in-  
person delegate

[Visit Event Website](#)



Association for  
Crop Protection  
in Northern Britain  
CONFERENCE

Hosted at  
The Apex Hotel  
Dundee

**Crop Production in Northern Britain**  
February 27-28 2024

Draft Schedule is now available  
Keynote Speakers: Lorna Slater (Scottish Greens), James  
Brosnan (SWRI), Ewen Mullins (Teagasc)

**Crop Production in Northern  
Britain 2024**  
Feb 27-28 2024

Registration open as in-person  
delegate

[Visit Event Website](#)



Hosted online and at  
the University of Reading

**Horticultural Science: From Discovery  
to Application**  
March 26-27 2024

SAVE-THE-DATE  
In association with the Journal of Horticultural  
Science and Biotechnology

**Horticultural Science: From  
Discovery to Application**  
March 26-27 2024

**Abstract submission is  
OPEN**

[Visit Event Website](#)

## Update from Annals of Applied Biology

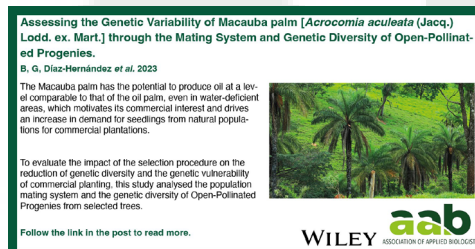
Annals is owned by the Association of Applied Biologists and as such all the journal revenue returns to the scientific community through organisation of events in relevant topic areas.

The November 2023 edition of Annals is available

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/17447348/2023/183/3>

Annals of Applied Biology has a new twitter account so please follow for updates from recent papers. we are lucky to have Jade Scott, a PhD student at the University of Warwick helping us with content creation.->

<https://twitter.com/AnnalsAppIBio>



## 2024 Special Issues of Annals

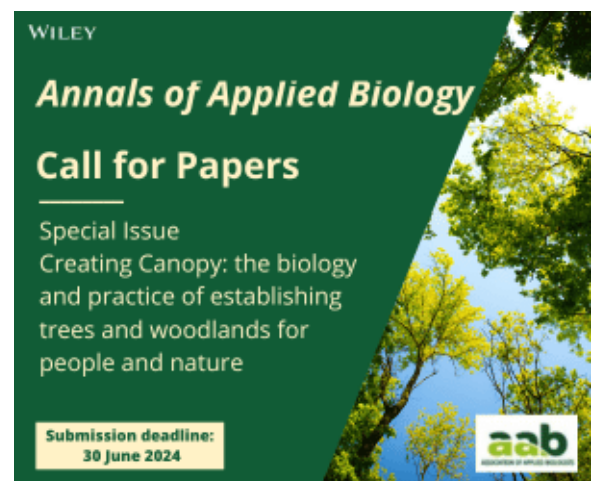
We are excited to announce 4 special issues that are associated with AAB-events in 2023-2024. Other journals might promote special issues on seemingly randomly selected topics but we are promoting special issues that are specially linked to AAB events.

We encourage submissions of papers that are linked to these topics from people who attend or are unable to attend the meetings.

Articles can be Original research, Reviews or Forum articles.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/17447348/homepage/forauthors.html>

> **Creating Canopies: the biology and practice of establishing trees and woodlands for people and nature**. Deadline June 30<sup>th</sup> 2024



> **International Advances in Pesticide Application.**

Deadline June 30<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Annals of Applied Biology**  
An international journal of the **QAB**

Announcing a Special Issue on:  
**Advances in Pesticide Application**  
in association with the  
International Advances in Pesticide Application  
2024 Conference  
**Paper Submission Deadline: 30 June 2024**

[Find Out More](#)

WILEY

> **Advances in Potato Cyst Nematode Management.**

Deadline December 31<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Annals of Applied Biology**  
An international journal of the **QAB**

Announcing a Special Issue on:  
**Potato Cyst Nematode Management**  
in association with the  
6th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management  
**Paper Submission Deadline: 31 December 2024**

[Find Out More](#)

WILEY

> **Biomass and Energy Crops**

Deadline December 31<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Annals of Applied Biology**  
An international journal of the **QAB**

Announcing a Special Issue on:  
**Biomass and Energy Crops**  
in association with the  
Biomass and Energy Crops VI  
**Paper Submission Deadline: 31 December 2024**

[Find Out More](#)

WILEY

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

# Consultation on proposals for a new framework in England for the regulation of precision bred organisms used for food and animal feed

The Food Standards Agency has launched a consultation that seeks stakeholders' views on proposals for establishing a new framework in England under the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act 2023 for the regulation of food and animal feed ('feed') produced from Precision Bred Organisms (PBOs) ('PBOs for food/feed').

Date launched: **8 November 2023**

Closing date: **8 January 2024**

## Who this consultation may be of interest to?

- > Consumers
- > UK and international food/feed businesses and industry trade bodies
- > Competent Authorities (UK Local Authorities and Port Health Authorities)
- > Non-government organisations / Civil Society
- > Third-party assurance organisations



## Consultation subject

The Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act 2023 received Royal Assent on 23 March 2023. The Act, the substance of which applies in England, contains powers for the Secretary of State to make secondary legislation under Parts 3, 4 and 5 of the Act to make provision for regulating the placing on the market, in England, of PBOs for food/feed.

More information about this consultation can be found here ->

<https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/consultations/consultation-on-proposals-for-a-new-framework-in-england-for-the-regulation-of-precision-bred-organisms-used-for-food-and-animal>

The FSA propose a 2 Tier system for Precision Breed Organisms (PBO). Tier1 for PBOs that could occur by traditional techniques WILL NOT require a bespoke risk assessment. Tier2 for PBOs with novel toxicity, allergenic or nutritional changes and will need additional scrutiny.

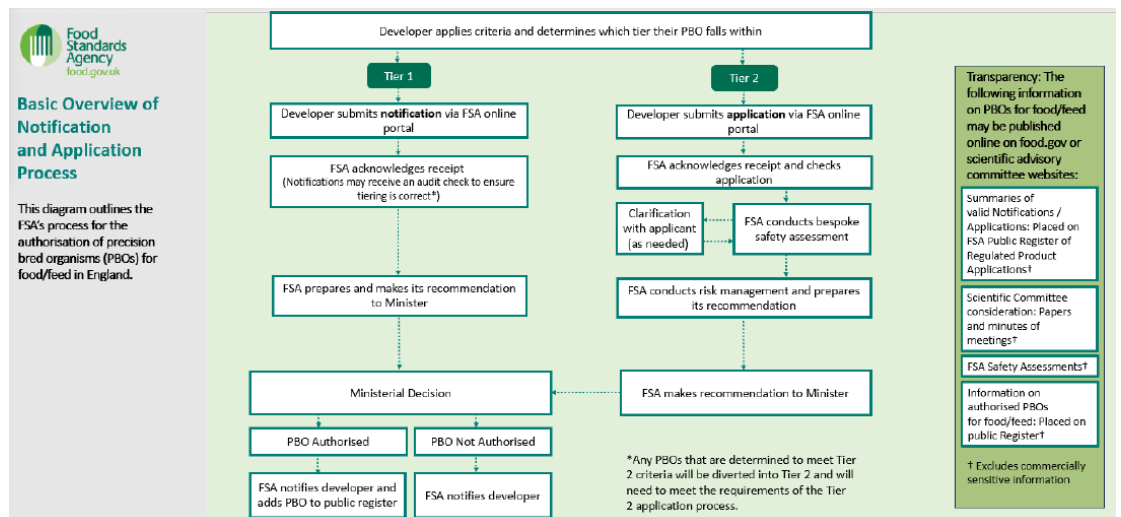
The FSA will only consider products from organisms approved by DEFRA ACRE committee. Tier1 PBOs will require **notification** to FSA (as with any new variety). Tier2 PBOs need **application** for approval with potentially significant additional data.

All PBOs need Ministerial decision, which will presumably be a rubber stamp...

All PBOs added to public register (w analogy to existing Recommended List system)...

To the AAB EO this seems a reasoned and proportion response but have your say here ->

[Consultation Response Form](#)







## Launching the UK-CGIAR Centre

This new centre will be administered by CABI where the Director is a member of AAB Biocontrol and IPM group Professor Richard Shaw.

<https://www.cabi.org/uk-cgiar-centre/>

The UK-CGIAR Centre is part of a strategic partnership between the UK Government, UK science and CGIAR geared towards achieving transformational change in agriculture around the world.

**AAB has no formal relationship with UK-CGIAR but we will hope to support this exciting initiative whenever possible by disseminating outputs and providing opportunities for collaborative discussions.**



CGIAR has a rich history of collaborating with the best and the brightest of UK science. The new cooperation facility will forge dynamic new collaborations between CGIAR, UK science institutes and research centers in the Global South as well as galvanizing existing partnerships.

The UK government wants to harness the country's strengths in science and technology to help tackle the interconnected challenges of global food security and climate change. With funding from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), the UK-CGIAR cooperation facility has been created to help achieve this ambition by strengthening ties between CGIAR, the world's largest global agricultural innovation network, and cutting-edge UK science.

While there are currently numerous partnerships between UK scientific institutes and CGIAR, they are dispersed and in need of greater focus. As a home to several world-leading scientific institutes, the UK is in a strong position to develop innovative solutions to the most pressing issues facing the world. The Centre will leverage the UK and CGIAR's world-class research infrastructure and science and technology to deliver evidence-based solutions and impact-driven research.

Moving forwards, the UK-CGIAR Centre will be forging dynamic, new collaborations between CGIAR, UK science institutes and research centres in the Global South as well as galvanising existing partnerships. The UK-CGIAR Centre has already begun building partnerships to work on four areas:

- Confronting climate change and environmental degradation through sustainable crop management and climate-smart agronomic practices
- Crop genetic improvement for future climate resilience
- Enhancing nutrition
- Livestock improvement, animal health, nutrition and welfare

Learn more about UK-CGIAR here -> <https://www.cabi.org/uk-cgiar-centre/>

# The AAB News Hub

A dedicated section for generic news content which may be of interest to our members and associates. These articles may range from current events, blogs, or discussion topics right the way through to some professionally published content. 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](mailto:john@aab.org.uk))

- [Quantum batteries could charge better by breaking rules of causality](#) (New Scientist)
- [Euclid telescope: First images revealed from 'dark Universe' mission](#) (BBC)
- [The floating desalination machines powered by the waves](#) (BBC)
- [What is COP28 in Dubai and why is it important?](#) (BBC)
- [Flooding in Northern Ireland fields 'a major blow' to crops](#) (BBC)
- [Sweeteners: The bitter truth about low-calorie sugar substitutes](#) (New Scientist)
- [Plants thrive in lunar soil with help from phosphorus-making bacteria](#) (New Scientist)
- [Just leaving trees to grow could store a third of our carbon emissions](#) (New Scientist)
- [Mercury has salt glaciers that could provide the conditions for life](#) (New Scientist)

## We are writing to encourage you to join AAB in 2024

Join a community of 1000+ like-minded professionals that also has significant financial benefits, especially for early career professionals (ECPs).

### 2024 Membership fees:

**Regular members: £65**

**Early Career Professional members: £22**

(anyone within 5 years of finishing full-time education; bachelor or graduate study including career breaks)

**Retired members: £33.50**

### Membership benefits:

- **Reduced fees for ALL AAB events.** Regular members pay £100 and ECP members pay £50 **LESS** than equivalent non-members to attend AAB in-person events. ECP members can join events as an online delegate for free.
- **20% discount on Article Publishing Charges** when publishing to *Plant Biotechnology Journal*
- **ECPs are eligible for travel grants to any AAB event (up to £300)**
- **All members are eligible for Carer grants (up to £500)**
- **Eligibility to apply for Federation of European Society of Plant Biology short term mobility grants (up to €3000)**
- **Consideration for Fellowship of AAB (F Appl. Biol.)** after seven years of continuous membership
- **30% discount for online purchase of 'Aspects of Applied Biology'**
- **Reciprocal 50% reduction in membership fees with the Royal Society of Biology**
- **Invitation to contribute events and job opportunities to the monthly AAB newsletter** circulated to 3500+ scientists
- **Opportunity to join an AAB Specialist Group, which determine AAB activities.**
  - Applied Plant Pathology
  - Biocontrol and IPM
  - Food Systems
  - Nematology
  - PlantEd Gene Editing
  - Soil and Root Biology
  - Applied Tree and Forest Biology
  - Cropping and the Environment
  - Horticultural Quality and Food Loss
  - Pesticide Application
  - Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement
  - Virology

Professor Mike Gooding, AAB President

Dr Geraint Parry, AAB Executive Officer

[www.aab.org.uk/membership](http://www.aab.org.uk/membership)

# AAB Council Members



**MIKE GOODING PhD**

**PRESIDENT**

AAB Office, Warwickshire, UK  
mike.j.gooding@btinternet.com



**DALE SANDERS FRS, PhD**

**PRESIDENT ELECT**

AAB Office, Warwickshire, UK  
ds10@york.ac.uk



**NIGEL HALFORD PhD**

**HONORARY TREASURER**

Rothamsted Research, Hertfordshire, UK  
Nigel.Halford@rothamsted.ac.uk



**GUY BARKER PhD**

**GENERAL SECRETARY**

University of Warwick, UK  
Guy.Barker@warwick.ac.uk



**KAIRSTY TOPP PhD**

**CONFERENCES TREASURER**

SRUC, Edinburgh, UK  
Kairsty.topp@sruc.ac.uk



**MARTIN PARRY PhD**

**PUBLICATION OFFICER**

Lancaster University, UK  
m.parry@lancaster.ac.uk



**MATTHEW BACK PhD**

**PROGRAMME SECRETARY**

Harper Adams University, Shropshire, UK  
MBack@harper-adams.ac.uk



**JAKE BISHOP PhD**

**EARLY CAREER SCIENTIST  
CHAMPION**

University of Reading, UK  
j.bishop@reading.ac.uk



**PHILIPPA BORRILL PhD**

**EARLY CAREER SCIENTIST  
CHAMPION**

John Innes Centre, Norwich, UK  
philippa.borrill@jic.ac.uk



**NICOLA SPENCE PhD CBE**

**HONOURARY COUNCIL MEMBER**

DEFRA Chief Plant Health Officer  
Nicola.Spence@defra.gov.uk



**IAIN DONNISON PhD**

**HONOURARY COUNCIL MEMBER**

Head of IBERS, Institute of Biological,  
Environmental and Rural Science  
isd@aber.ac.uk



**ROB EDWARDS PhD**

**HONOURARY COUNCIL MEMBER**

Institute Director, IAFRI,  
University of Newcastle  
robert.edwards@ncl.ac.uk

*Association of Applied Biologists, Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9EF, UK*  
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