

36th ANNUAL CAMBRIDGE **POTATO CONFERENCE, 2025**

Robinson College, Cambridge – 9th & 10th December

Christmas Banquet – 9th December - St John's College Dining Hall

Ex retro prospicere

PROGRAMME

"Looking back to move forward"

Tuesday 9th December

Registration from 9:30 - Conference opens at 11:00

11:00 Session 1 The times they are a-changin'

Chair: CUPGRA President, Tina Barsby

11:10 Looking back across the Atlantic – what can the UK learn? - Matt John, AgReserves

How can the industry identify effective innovations -11:35 Belinda Clarke, Agri-TechE

12:00 Comms - Effective information sharing in changing times - Anthony Gardiner, G's

12:25 Questions / panel discussion

12:45 Lunch

Session 2 What works? Science and technology 13:45 for effective change

Chair: James Lee, Produce Solutions

13:55 Imaging the future – identifying and dealing with crop stress before it becomes yield limiting - Ankush Prashar, Newcastle University

Factors affecting tuber formation – what role can 14:20 growers play? - Rob Hancock, James Hutton Institute

14:45 Questions / discussion

15:00 Connecting research to reality with the CUPGRA Student Network – interviews by Hassan Awashra, Niab, to make connections, which share knowledge and shape practice

15:30 Tea and networking with PhD Student posters

16:20 Eric Allen Memorial Lecture

Debbie Winstanley, Agronomy/Technology

Knowing more about potato canopies helps grow potatoes, building on Eric's legacy - Sarah Roberts, Niab

Session 3 FORUM 16:50

Will we see precision-bred potatoes on our plates by 2035

James Lee, Produce Solutions

A facilitated conversation between Professor Mario Caccamo (Niab), Drummond Todd (JHI), James Young (McCain), David Nelson (Branston), and Gerard Croft (BPTA), representatives from science, breeding, seed legislation, processing, retailing, and growing

17:30

Christmas Banquet in honour of the Noble 19:15

Potato - St John's College Dining Hall

After-dinner speaker: Andrew Meredith, Farmers Weekly

Wednesday 10th December

From 9:00 Morning workshops in the Auditorium and the Crausaz Wordsworth Building: Please indicate your preferred two when booking. Groups change at 9:50

- 1. Potato-LITE: The Journey continues Potato-LITE growers, Lucy Tillier, Gemma Chope and Shaunagh Slack, PepsiCo International Ltd
- 2. Exploitation of the Commonwealth Potato collection what is practically possible - Drummond Todd, James **Hutton Ltd**
- 3. Nitrogen, cover crops and potatoes How do they interact? - Marc Allison, Marc Allison Consultancy Services - Martyn Cox, Blackthorn Arable Ltd
- 4. Optimising the potential from reduced row widths what is practically possible - Bill Watts, Produce Solutions

10:40 - 11:00 Coffee in the Dining Hall

Session 4 Shared with International Fertiliser Society; Potato Nutrition - building from the basics, adding the best of the new

Chair: David Booty, OMEX Agriculture Limited

- 11:00 Nitrogen Fertiliser Recommendations for Potato – The Practical Application of Plant Physiology – Mark Stalham, Mark Stalham Potato Consultancy / Marc Allison, Marc Allison Consultancy Services
- Micronutrients why they matter, new approaches to measure and manage Elizabeth Stockdale, Niab & Gracie Tucker, Produce Solutions
- 12:00 What new fertiliser products should we expect (and how can farmers evaluate the benefit) Mark Tucker, Yara UK Ltd
- 12:30 Questions / panel discussion

12:45

13:45 Session 5 What works? Dealing with uncertainty and implementing changes

Chair: Jack Smith, Waldersey Farms Ltd

- 13:50 Adopting new strategies - why do some manage change better - David Rose, Harper Adams University
- A grower's perspective John Weir, Lacesston Farm, 14:10
- Root To Plate The UK Potato Tour VIDEO by Max 14:30 McGillivray, Beanstalk Global
- 14:45 Panel discussion / Q&A Any final CUPGRA thoughts
- Tea & CUPGRA conference close by 15:30

IFS conference agronomic session 16:10 to 17:40

- 1. A soil scientist's view of Regenerative Agriculture Jenny Bussell, GWCT Allerton Project, UK
- 2. Urea with Gypsum: Agronomical and Environmental Benefits, and Innovative Production Technologies - Mark Brouwer, ureaknowhow.com, the Netherlands









