

First AsiaBlight Online Meeting in 2024 [MAY 2]
Thu. May 2, 2024

Summary:

The meeting began with introductions and an overview of the agenda, which included presentations on disease monitoring, late blight management strategies, recent developments of the Asia Blind Network, and topics from the coordination committee. Participants were reminded of important housekeeping rules, such as turning off cameras and microphones when not presenting, and using the chat for comments and the Q&A button for questions. The meeting section effectively established a structured and organized approach to the discussions that followed.

The meeting section featured introductions and role descriptions from participants representing different countries and organizations involved in the uroblight and Asia blight monitoring projects. The speakers provided insights into their roles, responsibilities, and affiliations, offering a comprehensive overview of the diverse expertise and geographical reach of the project team.

Ricardo presented a tool for vegetable diseases and requested feedback from the participants by sharing a questionnaire and a link to the tool. He also expressed interest in collaborating with colleagues working on late blight in tomatoes and integrating their information into the tool.

Kalpna Sharma from CIP discussed the challenges posed by *Phytophthora infestans*, including its economic impact and evolving aggressiveness. She emphasized the need for integrated management strategies to address the increasing difficulty in controlling the disease. Sharma also presented findings on the effectiveness of alternating active ingredients in managing disease pressure and increasing net returns across different crop varieties. She also discussed the successful trials of a decision support tool in reducing the number of sprays and improving environmental impact in Kenya and Rwanda.

Chapters & Topics:

Asia Blind Meeting Introductions and Agenda Overview

Jorge Andrade, from the International Potato Center, starts the meeting with greetings and introductions from participants, followed by an overview of the agenda. The agenda includes presentations on disease monitoring, late blight management strategies, recent developments of the Asia Blind Network, and topics from the coordination committee. Participants are reminded of housekeeping rules, such as turning off cameras and microphones when not presenting, and using the chat for comments and the Q&A button for questions.

Introductions and Role Descriptions

Participants from diverse locations such as Scotland, China, Kenya, India, Taiwan, and Kyrgyzstan introduce themselves and outline their responsibilities in the uroblight and Asia blight monitoring projects, including genotyping, country coordination, validation of decision support tools, and capacity building with farmers.

Development of a Decision Tool for Vegetable Diseases

Ricardo presents a decision tool being developed for vegetable diseases, with a focus on gathering feedback from experts and breeders to enhance its functionality. The tool aims to provide information on disease variants and resistant varieties for breeders and extension officers, covering a range of vegetables and diseases such as bacteria wilt, late blight, and begomaviruses.

Ricardo's Tool Presentation and Feedback Request

Ricardo shared a tool and sought feedback from the participants, emphasizing the importance of their input to improve the tool. He also discussed the potential for collaboration with colleagues working on late blight in tomatoes and expressed a willingness to integrate their information into the tool. Additionally, he outlined the type of data sets needed for the tool and emphasized the objective of unifying the sets for effective communication.

Announcement of New Role and Transition of Responsibilities

Jorge Andrade-Piedra announces his transition to a new role in SIP Systems, emphasizing his focus on seed systems and disseminating improved varieties. He expresses gratitude for his previous role in coordinating Asia Blight and introduces Dr. Kalpana Sharma as his successor in the coordination committee. Colleagues express appreciation for Jorge's contributions and inquire about his continued involvement in meetings.

Introduction of Kalpana Sharma and her Expertise

Jorge Andrade-Piedra announces Kalpana Sharma's role in the coordination committee and highlights her qualifications, including her PhD in agriculture and experience in various research and project management roles. Kalpana Sharma then proceeds to present on integrating leaf blight management strategies in potato production for enhanced efficacy and sustainability in Africa.

Importance of Potato in Africa

Kalpana Sharma presents the importance of potato in Africa, noting its role in food security and as a cash crop for millions of farmers. She highlights its adaptability to different altitudes and growing seasons, and discusses the challenges faced in production, including limited access to quality seed and the informal nature of the seed system.

- * Challenges for Potato Production in Africa

- * Importance of Potato in Africa

Challenges and Strategies for Managing Phytophthora Infestans

Kalpana Sharma, representing CIP, highlights the significant economic losses caused by *Phytophthora infestans* and its evolving aggressiveness. She stresses the importance of integrated management strategies to address the challenges in controlling the disease, including the need for early spraying, revised rotation practices, and the development of tolerant and resistant varieties.

- * Integrated Management of Late Blight

Alternating Active Ingredients and Decision Support Tool Trials

Kalpana Sharma, representing CIP, shares research results showing the benefits of alternating active ingredients in disease management, leading to increased net returns and lower environmental impact. Additionally, she highlights the successful implementation of a decision support tool in reducing the number of sprays and improving environmental aspects in trials conducted in Kenya and Rwanda.

Breeding and Testing of Potato Varieties

Sharma, Kalpana (CIP) discusses the testing and effectiveness of Orbigo and phosphonates in controlling disease and increasing yield in different agroecology areas in Kenya. She also highlights the challenges and successes of breeding resistance and tolerant potato varieties in Africa and globally, emphasizing the need for favorable political and environmental conditions for the release and registration process.

Presentation Conclusion and Transition to Next Topic

Kalpana concludes her presentation and offers to address questions later due to time constraints. Jorge acknowledges her expertise and transitions to the next agenda item, handing over to Philippe. There is a brief tribute to Dr. Waqas Raza, who is about to present on recent developments in the Asia Blight Network.

- * Introduction of Asia Blight Network
- * Recent Developments of the Asia Blight Network

Action Items:

- * Ricardo will share the link to the tool and questionnaire for feedback.
- * Kalpana Sharma will address questions from David and Sanjoy via chat or email.
- * Philippe will share the slides for Dr. Wakas Raza's presentation.
- * Dr. Wakas Raza will provide guidance on the protocol for collecting samples on FTA cards.
- * Dr. Wakas Raza will address any issues during the receipt or dispatch of the samples and provide assistance as needed.

Key Questions:

- * What type of data set do you need to integrate into the tool?
- * What are the challenges for potato production in Africa?
- * What are the recent developments of the Asia Blight Network?

Notepad:

- * No notes