

Σ brief

A Recap of the 4th AsiaBlight International Conference 2024

Summary of Presentations, Discussions and Action Points



Valuable Presentations and Reports

- **Opening Remarks:** Dr. Simon Heck (CIP Director General) emphasized research and innovation as key drivers for sustainable growth, social inclusion, and regional cooperation in the potato industry.

- **Regional Reports:** Updates from China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Vietnam highlighted diverse efforts to combat late blight.

- **Access to photos and the Powerpoint slides:**

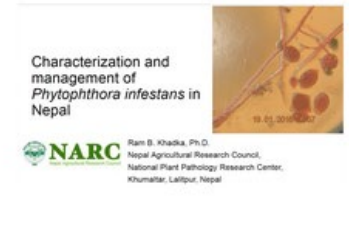
<https://www.asiabligh.org/asia/4th-asiabligh-international-conference-nov-28-29-2024/>



AsiaBlight Network in China



Che Xingbi



Characterization and Management of *Phytophthora infestans* in Nepal



Ram B. Khadka



A Bri Cultiv Populat P. infes Stra Pro



Presentations & Discussion Highlights

- Cutting-edge technologies: **CRISPR-Cas9**, advanced fungicide testing, and bio-fungicide development.
- Emphasis on **joint research initiatives** and **exchange of improved potato varieties** as top priorities.

- Centralized Knowledge System**: Essential for consolidating baseline data on regional capacities and programs.
- Strategic Benefits**: Supports **targeted proposal development** and streamlines network efforts.
- Upcoming Initiative**: Plan to publish a **book on late blight control** in member regions next year.

- Training Programs & Exchanges**: Initiatives to enhance capacity building.
- Pan-Asian Decision Support System (DSS)**: Aimed at improving disease monitoring.
- Expansion Efforts**: Plans to extend **DSS support to Nepal and other regions**.

- Expanding Membership**: Plans to include Bhutan, Lebanon, Jordan, Thailand, and Iran.
- Recognition & Awards**: A new program to honor outstanding contributors to AsiaBlight's mission.

- EuroBlight Participation**: Joined online to support a global late blight warning system.
- Key Updates**: Representatives from Denmark, the Netherlands, the UK, and France shared insights on emerging late blight strains in Europe.
- Future Cooperation**: Strengthening collaboration between EuroBlight and AsiaBlight for improved preparedness.



Discussions & Action Points

1. Strengthening Regional Collaboration within AsiaBlight To establish a comprehensive understanding of regional programs and capacities within the AsiaBlight network, the following steps were proposed:

- **Baseline Data Collection:** Systematically gather and organize information on regional capacities and ongoing programs.
- **Identifying Key Areas:** Analyze strengths, gaps, and potential opportunities for collaboration.
- **Strategic Utilization:** Leverage this data to develop joint proposals, enhance partnerships, and drive progress in late blight control and potato industry development.

ACTIONS:

- The database was established during the meeting, and Regional Representatives have begun uploading information. **Remaining data from all regions should be completed as soon as possible:**

SCAN ME TO ACCESS THE DATABASE

A screenshot of an Excel spreadsheet titled 'AsiaBlight_Basic_Region_Information_Exchange_Chengdu_2024'. The spreadsheet is a data collection form with columns for questions and responses. The data is partially filled out for Bhutan. The form is organized into sections: PERSONAL INFORMATION, REGIONAL INFORMATION, RESOURCES INFORMATION, ACCESS TO FUNDING, and ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK. The 'PERSONAL INFORMATION' section includes fields for Region Name (Bhutan), Host Institution Name (National Plant Protection Organization), Nature of Host Institution (Research and Development), Title in Host Institution (Senior Plant Protection Specialist), Secondary Title in Affiliated Institution, Tertiary Title in Affiliated Institution, Contact Email (udorji@moal.gov.bt), and Contact Tel Number. The 'REGIONAL INFORMATION' section includes Research Areas (Plant Pathology), Crop Calendar (Mainly on December), Crop Rotation (Maize, Cabbage, etc.), Number of Treatments (3 sprays), Type of fungicide (mancozeb, copper), Expected yield (ha), Actual yield (ha), Regional Production Area (ha), Do you have DSS? (No), Annual rain days, Irrigated or rainfed (rainfed and irrigated), and Do you provide extension and training outside of your institute? (yes). The 'RESOURCES INFORMATION' section includes How many staff work with you on late blight research? (One), How many other people (i.e. students) work with you on late blight research? (One), How much lab space do you have? (meters squared) (100 sq.m (shared)), How much greenhouse space do you have? (meters squared) (200 sq.m (shared)), and How much field space do you have? (hectares) (We conduct research in the field). The 'ACCESS TO FUNDING' section includes Institutional funding (No (currently)), Government funding (No (currently)), and Foundation funding (No (currently)). The 'ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK' section includes Are you interested in participating in a joint book with AsiaBlight? (Yes) and Do you require training in your region? (Yes). The 'EXPECTATIONS FROM THE NETWORK' section includes Partnership in conducting research (Partnership in conducting research). The spreadsheet is displayed in a window with a menu bar (File, Home, Insert, Share, Page Layout, Formulas, Data, Review, View) and a toolbar with various icons. The active cell is C5.

Discussions & Action Points

2. Refining AsiaBlight's Coordination and Scientific Committees During the meeting, discussions centered on optimizing the structure and membership of the Coordination and Scientific Committees. These refinements aim to enhance their effectiveness in guiding AsiaBlight's initiatives and fostering stronger regional collaboration.

Key Recommendations:

Updating Membership Criteria: Ensure alignment with expertise and regional representation.

Enhancing Funding Strategy: Incorporate feedback to improve access to funding opportunities.

Strengthening Research & Policy Support: Expand the network's role in supporting late blight research and policy development.

Coordination Committee

Suggested Membership Criteria:

ACTIONS:

Science Committee

- Prioritize active researchers in late blight science
- Ensure diverse expertise from research-active regions.
- include members with strong research and funding capabilities
- select candidates who can drive cross-regional scientific collaboration
- Ani Widiastuti (Indonesia): Identified due to her active research and contributions.
- Ram Khadka (Nepal): Suggested for inclusion to expand Regional Representation and collaboration.
- Pham Thi Thu Huong (Vietnam): Suggested retirement from the position.

Discussions & Action Points

3. Expanding AsiaBlight's Reach & Collaboration

- Engage **under-represented** regions (e.g., Central Asia, Bhutan, Cambodia).
- Strengthen partnerships with **China-linked countries** and leverage BRI for funding.
- Connect with regional experts in **potato and tomato** cultivation.

4. Advancing Research & Innovation in Late Blight Control

- Collaborative Book:** Regional representatives contribute to a book on late blight control strategies.
- Advanced Technologies:** Explore CRISPR-Cas9, AI-based warning systems, and "TRAP" cropping.
- Standardized Fungicide Testing:** Develop protocols with industry collaboration.
- Joint Research:** Share improved potato varieties, study bio-fungicides, and dietary potatoes.
- Scientific Publications:** Support authors in refining research for publication.
- Knowledge Exchange:** Facilitate fellowships, farmer involvement, and seed sharing.

5. Training, Exchanges & Capacity Building

- Training & Exchanges:** Develop programs for researchers and farmers to enhance late blight management.
- Decision Support Systems (DSS):** Expand DSS to more regions and explore a pan-Asian warning system using mobile platforms: Nepal, Kazakhstan, and more coming.

6. Recognition & Awards

To foster collaboration and excellence, AsiaBlight will introduce an award program recognizing outstanding contributors.

- Develop nomination criteria** and evaluation guidelines.
- Establish an endorsement** process through CCCAP.
- Define award cycles** and selection procedures.
- Communicate the program** to all members and encourage participation.

2025 Regional Workplans

- Found in the same location as **Baseline Data Collection**
- Gathering of work plans by Region to help us better understand your current activities.
- These will be collated to develop a work plan for 2025.
- Try to give ALL related information in a quantifiable format.

46	
47	
48	
49	
50	
51	2025 Workplans
52	i.e.: field trials, host-resistance breeding, DSS, training, molecular biology.
53	
54	
55	
56	
57	
58	
59	
60	
61	
62	
63	
64	
65	
66	
67	SCAN ME TO ACCESS
68	THE DATABASE
69	
70	

