

# Rapporteur's Report

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After hearing about the late blight situation in various countries, participants were concerned to clarify the causes of changing disease occurrence and severity and their relationship to changes in the pathogen genotype, varietal changes, environmental changes (temperature and humidity), the increasing use of systemic fungicides and metalaxyl resistance.

It was pointed out that answering this question comparatively across countries is made more difficult because of a lack of uniformity in the nomenclature for describing genotypes (in the case of the U.S. and China, the principles of classification are so different that this is like comparing apples and oranges). Lack of uniformity is a result of the limited exchange of isolates.

In Poland, early occurrence is related to environment, but there is little evidence that resistance is breaking down. In general, the relationship between wider use of systemic fungicides and the appearance of new strains is unclear. This is an area for more work. A shift to earlier varieties may be part of the explanation for earlier

onset of the disease. Researchers at SCRI found that isolates of later maturing varieties are more likely to show metalaxyl resistance.

It was felt that baseline studies should differentiate between fungicide use and the use of a strategy to manage late blight using fungicides.

There was also concern about developing IDM for late blight in different countries— is it experimental, are we testing in the field or is it in place? This is problematic in the U.S., as there is no resistant variety to offer to farmers. In Eastern Europe, farmers do not select resistant cultivars; they choose from those in the market. There are interesting sources of resistance in Russian cultivars, but most of these are late maturing and farmers like early maturing varieties. In Western Europe, there are potential resistant varieties, but growers and purchasers prefer the old susceptible ones.

The effects of cultural practices and cropping systems on late blight were discussed.