

DIAGNOSTICS - IMPROVING MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

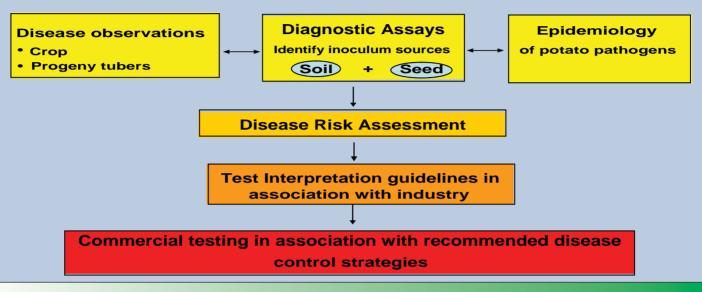
A collaborative project between Scottish Crop Research Institute, SAC Aberdeen and Central Science Laboratory in association with MBM Produce, Greenvale AP and The Higgins Group



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The aim of this BPC funded project is to improve decision making for the management of potato diseases by using real-time PCR predictive diagnostics, the deployment of relevant sampling techniques and knowledge of the epidemiology of pathogens of potato to establish disease risk assessment criteria: and to do this through working directly with industry partners.



What is in your soil?

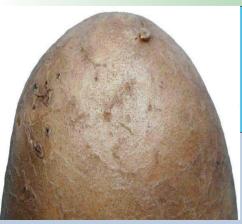
- Soil inoculum levels of a number of key pathogens (black dot, black scurf, powdery scab and potato mop top virus) can be determined.
- We can use diagnostics to determine soil contamination threshold levels above which disease is likely to occur.
- Once disease risk assessments have been validated, diagnostics can be used to make informed decisions regarding field selection and management strategy.

What is on your seed?

There is growing pressure to provide assurances of seed tuber quality to reduce disease risk in both home and export markets.

It is important to know what is on your seed - even if you can't see it!

Making informed decisions to manage potato disease



If you know the disease risks associated with seed stocks and field soils, informed decisions can be made to reduce the likelihood of disease developing.

In addition, contaminating "clean" soils with diseased seed can also be prevented.

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