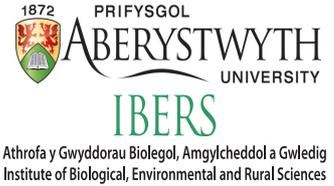




iPlanta



2nd COST IPLANTA TRAINING SCHOOL (CA15223)

'RNAi applications; from lab to field'

Rothamsted Research

Harpenden, UK

27th - 28th Sept 2018

MINUTE

1. There were a total of 38 participants from 13 countries:
UK 18; Italy 6; Belgium 3; Germany 2; Ireland 1; Portugal 1; Israel 1; Spain 1; Poland 1; Romania 1; Greece 1; Norway 1, US 1. Unfortunately, the two delegates invited from Turkey could not obtain visas in time for the meeting.

2. The training school focussed on the knowledge and understanding required to translate lab-based studies into field experimentation. The students heard from eleven experts who had experience of applying for and conducting GM field trials in UK and elsewhere. They had tours and talks by Rothamsted researchers of the GM glasshouses and contained environment growth rooms and also saw demonstrations of the key steps of wheat transformation. There was a walking tour of the Rothamsted site that included witnessing the harvesting of a GM camelina field trial modified for the production of long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids, as well as some of the long-term experiments and the sample archive. Six of the speakers provided abstracts which were provided to the students as part of the programme.

3. Outputs from the discussion

In addition to the question and answers sessions after each presentation, there was a more free-ranging 40 min discussion just prior to closing the school where students and experts shared their experiences of the commercial, social and policy aspects of biotechnology in the various countries represented.
The students also offered ideas for future training school topics including:
 - IP issues for RNAi (the current landscape and maybe general guidance on how to avoid accidental disclosure).
 - Sprayable RNAi; chemical formulations and carriers.
 - Current pesticide regs and risk assessment requirements and how these may be applied to topical RNAi
 - RNAi for trees and perennial crops.

4. iPlanta will consider planning another Training School. Topic ideas, timing and venue to be discussed and decided.