

EuroBlight 2022

Workshop Statement preparation



EuroBlight Statements: history at a glance

- First started in 2010 – Arras
- Target: stakeholders in the EuroBlight community, but also policy makers and funders
- Aims:
 - Raise awareness about R&D issues for IPM design and implementation against late and early blights
 - Highlight EuroBlight possible contributions and commitments
- Production
 - Contents drafted from presentations and discussions at each meeting
 - Plenum discussion at the end of each meeting
 - Draft version circulated by e-mail among participants
 - Amendments and suggestions on original draft received by e-mail shortly after
 - Final version issued after each workshop, and made available through press releases and EuroBlight website



EuroBlight Statements: useful and successful

- Statements serve as a guideline for collaborative initiatives
- Several projects directly generated from the Statements
 - IPMBlight 2.0
 - EcoSOL
 - ...
- Awareness created , reflected in some strategic calls
 - ERANETs
 - Farm to Fork strategy



Recent EuroBlight Statements: shortcomings

- **Statements formulation and recommendations**
 - somewhat redundant over workshops
 - might give the impression that nothing much is happening
 - highly focused on recommendations on individual components of IPM
 - Miss a general framework
 - tend to get longer
 - More info, but less punch
 - A general overview of Euroblight present in each > still necessary?
- **No direct measure of impact on targets**
 - No funding associated > actions limited to the willingness of participants
 - Only 'latent assessment' of impacts (eg through funding calls)

Time to change format and make Statement part of a more comprehensive EuroBlight communication and outreach strategy



Items for 2022 Statements - 1

- ***Recommendation for action 1 – continue to develop and expand IPM components***
 - *Population monitoring*
 - Continue monitoring composition and spread
 - > new samples from more regions
 - > on the fly genotyping
 - > import/export of seed?
 - Phenotyping new clones
 - Developing new tools > EuroBlight willing to actively participate in the PiGGL (see also 3)
 - *Infection pressure/primary inoculum*
 - Explore spore trapping and use of these data to improve DSSs
 - Promote and foster the use of participatory tools > BlightTracker, BlightSurveyor
 - Extend observations to potential alternate hosts
 - Involve new stakeholders – home gardeners
 - *Alternative control methods*
 - Resistance > assess performance, stability and deployment
 - Biocontrol and biostimulants > understand and evaluate lab and field performance (EcoSOL)

Items for 2022 Statements -2

- ***Recommendation for action 2: progressively shift approaches from disease control to health management***
 - *Design and evaluate integrative systems combining diverse tools*
 - Systems approach > design combinations that take advantages of synergies between control means (e.g. intercropping, resistance deployment, etc...)
 - Field demonstration (see also infrastructures)
 - *Take into account multiple interactions and multiple pathosystems*
 - LB+ EB integration > eg BlightManager
 - *Address the needs of multiple forms of agriculture*
 - Developing tools for Organic Agriculture/ Agroecological systems

Items for 2022 Statements -3

- ***Recommendation for action 3 – foster cooperation, capacity building, and shared infrastructures***
 - *Participate in the upcoming field/farms demonstration network*
 - Contribute to this network with potential sites
 - Use it to demonstrate the practical value of EuroBlight- designed IPM strategies
 - *Continue and strengthen collaboration with sister networks*
 - Play an active role in the *Pi Global Genetic Landscape* initiative > contribute facilities, capacity and knowledge to test and validate the alignment of protocols, methods
 - Offer expertise and competences to conduct risk assessment relative to the introduction of new genotypes into distant environments > Vulnerability mapping analyses

Items for 2022 Statements - 4

- ***Recommendation for action 4 : strengthen communication, dissemination and outreach of EuroBlight goals, activities and achievements***
 - *Implement a more comprehensive communication strategy*
 - Four documents for four different purposes:
 - *Inform about EuroBlight missions, origins and objectives* > **update the 'About EuroBlight' page**
 - *Deliver our network vision about blights issues and management* > **draft an 'EuroBlight vision' document**, serving as a strategic roadmap and a blueprint for the other EuroBlight communication documents
 - *Inform about EuroBlight achievements* > **produce a short, annual 'EuroBlight Highlights'** delivered as a press release and on social networks
 - Formulate and communicate our priorities and commitments > **produce an 'Euroblight Woshshop Statement'** organised along lines of Vision document and revised after each Worskshop
 - Update the Euroblight motto?
 - From the descriptive (and somewhat restrictive) current one ('A potato late blight network for Europe') to a more prospective, mission-oriented one in line with the vision document (e.g. 'Sustainably managing potato and tomato late and early blights in Europe')
 - *Raise awareness*
 - develop an active presence on social networks (#euroblight on Twitter)
 - design and use key performance indicators for EuroBlight success

Contributions welcome

- Comments
- Ideas
- Extra points or items

> The floor is yours now!