

## **Meeting report**

### **COST Action 872 – Exploiting genomics to understand plant-nematode interactions.**

Inter-Workgroup workshop and Final MC meeting.

Ghent, Belgium (in association with the International Symposium on Crop Protection). 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

#### **1. Background and objectives**

COST 872 has held a large inter-WG workshop and MC meeting in each year and this pattern continued in 2011. The purpose of the meetings has been to foster communication between scientists working in the various sub-disciplines related to molecular plant nematology. This year, in order to encourage dissemination of the activities of COST 872 participants to a wider range of people, the meeting was held in conjunction with the annual ISCP meeting.

As in previous years the MC encouraged participation (and funding) of ESRs at the event. Presentations by ESRs were encouraged so that the event provided a training opportunity for ESRs to make a presentation in front of an international audience.

#### **2. Participants**

Over 580 people attended the ISCP/COST meeting. Approximately 90 of these were “COST 872” delegates, 60 of whom received reimbursement via COST 872. Industry participation was strong. Representatives from two of the non-COST countries associated with COST 872 attended the meeting and either made, or contributed to, presentations at the meeting. The external assessor of COST 872 (Prof R. N. Perry) and the DC Rapporteur (Dr D. Honys) attended the meeting and the MC meeting. Jeanette Nchung Oru attended the MC meeting on behalf of COST Office.

#### **3. Scientific programme**

The full scientific programme is available at the COST 872 website (<http://cost872.scri.ac.uk>). The abstracts for the COST 872 sessions appeared in the ISCP meeting booklet which is available at [www.iscp.ugent.be](http://www.iscp.ugent.be).

An invited expert (D. Bird, North Carolina State University, USA) gave a presentation outlining the various ways in which the genome sequence of *Meloidogyne hapla* is being used to examine the role of nematode mimics of peptide hormones in the plant-nematode interaction. Presentations in all areas covered by all three WGs were made on each day. For WG1 several presentations covered tools for identifying and functionally characterising effectors of plant nematodes. For WG2, several talks described the use of next generation sequencing to analyse transcriptomes or genomes of new plant parasitic nematode species. For WG3, presentations covered the various ways in which hormone signalling pathways are induced or manipulated by nematodes were made. In addition, the function of various genes in feeding site metabolism were described. One notable difference to previous years was several presentations on the interactions between rice and various nematodes.

#### **4. Dissemination**

All delegates received a copy of the abstract booklet. A summary of the meeting will be written for the newsletter of the European Society of Nematologists (ESN). The COST 872 meeting was part of the ISCP meeting, allowing delegates from diverse fields to learn about the activities of COST 872. Over 580 people attended the ISCP meeting.

#### **5. Other activities**

The final MC meeting of COST 872 was held during the meeting and the minutes of this meeting will be available at the Action website.