

## **Inward Mission of Chinese Plant Health Officials and Signing of UK / China Plant Health Protocol.**

### **UK/China Protocol on Plant Health**

Following the highly successful outward mission of representatives of the GB potato industry to the World Potato Congress in Kunming, China in March 2004, the Secretary of State met with the Chinese Minister of Agriculture Du Qinglin on Tuesday 15 June to sign a UK/China Protocol on Plant Health. A short meeting at which the two Ministers discussed several issues of mutual interest and ways to develop UK/China agricultural co-operation preceded the signing Ceremony. The two Ministers then signed the agreement at a short ceremony at the Ministry of Agriculture at which the British Ambassador Sir Christopher Hum was also present. The Protocol now allows for both countries to negotiate Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary agreements to permit the exportation of plants and seeds.

Quote "This is an important development for the UK Agricultural sector, and in particular for those in the seed potato industry, where the UK has world leading expertise. It is hoped that the signing of the protocol will now allow us to negotiate a lifting of the ban on UK seed potatoes and that UK companies will soon be allowed to export to China once again" end quote.

### **Chinese delegation inward mission to the UK: 28 June - 1 July 2004**

Further to the signing of the plant health protocol detailed above a group of Chinese plant health officials visited GB at the end of June 2004. These delegates will now be required to carry out a 'pest risk analysis' or PRA to determine the level of risk to the Chinese potato industry of importation of GB seed. The purpose of the mission was to allow the delegates to see at first hand the quality of GB seed potato production. The mission was organised and funded by the BPC with the support of the [China-Britain Business Council](#).

The Chinese delegation comprised of: -

**Mr Lin Wei** – Deputy Director, International Standard & Regulation Technology Centre, General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People's Republic of China

**Mr He Rirong**, - Deputy Head of Section, Guangdong Administration of Inspection and Quarantine

**Ms Yang Bi** – Yun Nan Administration of Inspection and Quarantine.

During the visit the party had the opportunity to hear about the UK's high plant health and seed potato classification arrangements and tour laboratories and meet key scientific advisers. Following this they were able to view the potato demonstration plots and crops in field, tour seed production facilities, examine mini-tuber production and meet with exporters who are interested in supplying seed potatoes to the Chinese market. The visit concluded with a discussion with SEERAD officials.

The Chinese inward mission to the UK was described by the leader of the delegation to have been 'successful and fruitful'. AQSIQ were currently conducting 200 Pest Risk Analyses and the information gathered during the mission would enable priority to be given to the completion of the PRA for UK seed potatoes. The delegation was able to verify that the practices set down in the laws and procedures of the UK were indeed followed. However China remained concerned about 21 different potato pests and diseases and required further information on their distribution, occurrence and economic significance before the PRA could be completed. In particular they were concerned about PCN, which is apparently absent from China. UK arrangements – including pre-planting soil tests, crop inspections and post harvest consignment soil tests - were explained to the missioners.

Mr Lin said he was also impressed with the enthusiasm of SEERAD officials and industry representatives for opening up trade in seed potatoes with China. He said that it was important to continue to demonstrate this desire in future contacts, which he said should be formalised through Defra.

BPC has since written to each of the delegates thanking them for taking the time to visit GB and offering any assistance or information they require in the future. Defra and SEERAD have now completed their report on the 21 pests listed below and this has been despatched to China. Hopefully the findings of their Pest Risk Analysis will be available in the near future.

**List of UK Potato Pests and Diseases of concern to China**

- 1 *Phytophthora infestans* (Mating A2 type)
- 2 *Synchytrium endobioticum*
- 3 *Ditylenchus dipsaci*
- 4 *Globodera pallida*
- 5 *Globodera rostochiensis*
- 6 Potato mop-top virus (PMTV)
- 7 Tobacco ringspot virus (TRSV)
- 8 *Colletotrichum coccodes*
- 9 *Phoma exigua* var. *foveata*
- 10 *Verticillium albo-atrum*
- 11 *Ditylenchus destructor*
- 12 *Pratylenchus penetrans*
- 13 *Xiphinema americanum*
- 14 Potato virus A (PVA)
- 15 Potato virus Y(N strain)
- 16 Potato virus V(PVV)
- 17 Tobacco rattle virus (TRV)
- 18 Tomato black ring virus (TBRV)
- 19 *Phytophthora erythroseptica*
- 20 Potato witches broom phytoplasma
- 21 Potato aucuba mosaic virus (PAMV)