

# NIAB EMR Soft Fruit Day



## Technical Webinar on Soft Fruit Research

Tuesday 16 November 2021 9.30am – 3pm

This year's annual soft fruit day will be presented by NIAB EMR as a virtual event to provide the industry with the latest results of AHDB and other funded research projects. The event will include several short presentations from the CTP PhD students who focus on fruit research. The day will begin with a focus on the latest results from SWD research projects, then continue with research into capsids, thrips, midges and aphids in strawberry and raspberry crops. Presentations will also be made on research into fungal diseases including *Phytophthora cactorum*, powdery mildew and Cladosporium mould. The day will conclude with the latest results on research into biostimulants, coir recycling, year-round production of strawberry and the latest promising strawberry selections from the East Malling Strawberry Breeding Club.

### The programme

**09:30** Introduction and welcome

#### **Session 1: Advances in Spotted Wing Drosophila Control**

09:40 A survey of grower approaches to SWD control (Christina Conroy, University of Greenwich)

09:50 Reducing over-wintering populations of SWD (Adam Walker, NIAB EMR)

10:05 Investigating native parasitoids as a control agent for SWD (Bethan Shaw, NIAB EMR)

10:20 Developments in sterile insect techniques for controlling SWD (Glen Slade, BigSis)

10:35 Research into oviposition deterrents for SWD (Trisna Tungadi, NIAB EMR)

10:45 Biotremology – a potential method for controlling SWD and capsids (Bethan Shaw, NIAB EMR)

**11.00 Break**

#### **Session 2: New Developments in Integrated Pest Management Strategies**

11:20 The use of Orius as a predator for capsid bugs (Michelle Fountain, NIAB EMR)

11:35 Push/pull strategies for midge control in cane fruit (Elysia Bartel, ADAS)

11:50 A push/pull approach to control of thrips in strawberry (Peter Seymour, ADAS)

12:05 The use of floral margins to harbour predators of thrips and other pests (Celine Silva, NIAB EMR)

12:20 New approaches to aphid control (Ross George, Harper Adams University)

**12.30 Lunch break**

#### **Session 3: Disease Control and the Future of Strawberry Production**

13:20 Investigating durable resistance to *Phytophthora cactorum* in strawberry (Matteo Luberti, NIAB EMR)

13:30 Powdery mildew resistance in strawberry fruit (Samantha Lynn, NIAB EMR)

13:40 Managing Cladosporium rot in raspberry (Lauren Farwell, NIAB EMR)

13:50 Assessing the use of biostimulants in soft fruit production (Matevz Papp-Rupar, NIAB EMR)

14:05 Towards year-round production of UK strawberries (Sophie Read, University of Reading)

14:15 Recycling coir in soft fruit production (Xiangming Xu, NIAB EMR)

14:30 Promising new strawberry selections from the East Malling Strawberry Breeding Club (Adam Whitehouse, NIAB EMR)

**14:45 Close**