

# Keynote Presentations: 1<sup>st</sup> EWRN Workshop

**EWRN**



European Wireworm Research Network

## Keynote N°1



**EUROPEAN WIREWORM  
RESEARCH NETWORK**

FIRST WORKSHOP

**7  
JULY**

**Invited speaker  
ROMANS VORSS  
Europatat, Belgium**

Managing  
Wireworms in  
Potatoes:  
Understanding the  
Problem and  
Solutions

**Europatat** since 1952 **70** YEARS

# Europatat

European **Potato** Trade Association





# “Managing Wireworms in Potatoes: Understanding the Problem and Solutions”

## European Wireworm Research Network Workshop

*Oslo, Norway*  
*7 July 2024*

*Romans Vorss,*  
*Director of Technical Affairs*

# About Europatat



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Europatat represents **traders** in seed and consumption potatoes.

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Our membership includes a wide range of business: **breeders, distributors, storers, packers, importers** and **exporters**.

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Our members deliver seed potatoes **to farmers**, consumption potatoes **to the food industry**, and packed potatoes **to the retailers and service sector**.







**Europatat**

**Representing potato traders  
since 1952**

**67 members  
in + 20 countries**



# Understanding the Problem



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In 2022, Europatat launched call for data to assess the extent of the issue.

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Members were asked to share the extend of the damage, solutions and actions at the national level.

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Many countries reported significant damage.

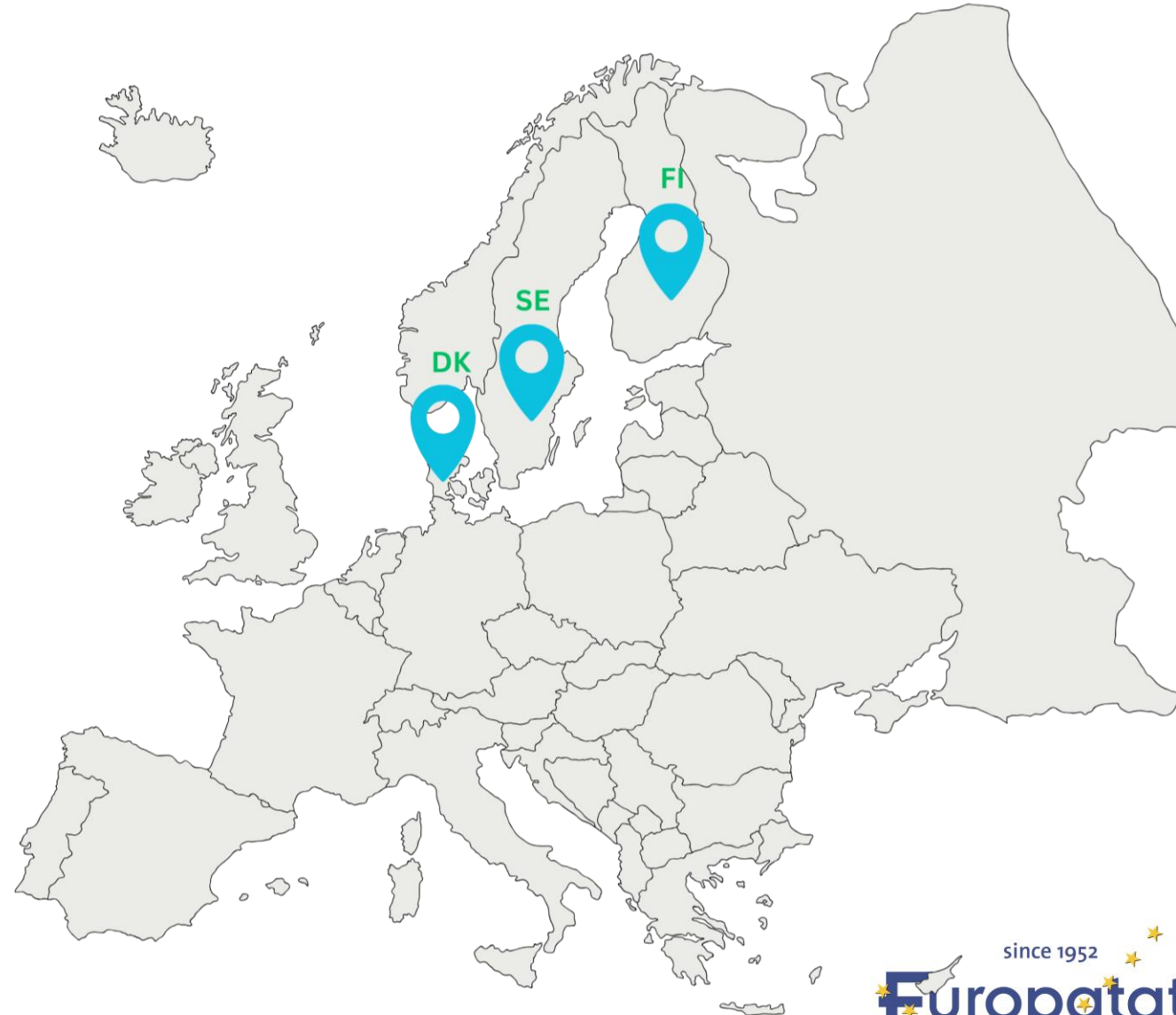
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Financial loses are estimated in millions of Euros.

# Understanding the Problem

## Findings:

- 🥔 In some countries it is not an issue
- 🥔 Potato damage vary from 0%-2,7%
- 🥔 Some countries do not perform any damage measurements

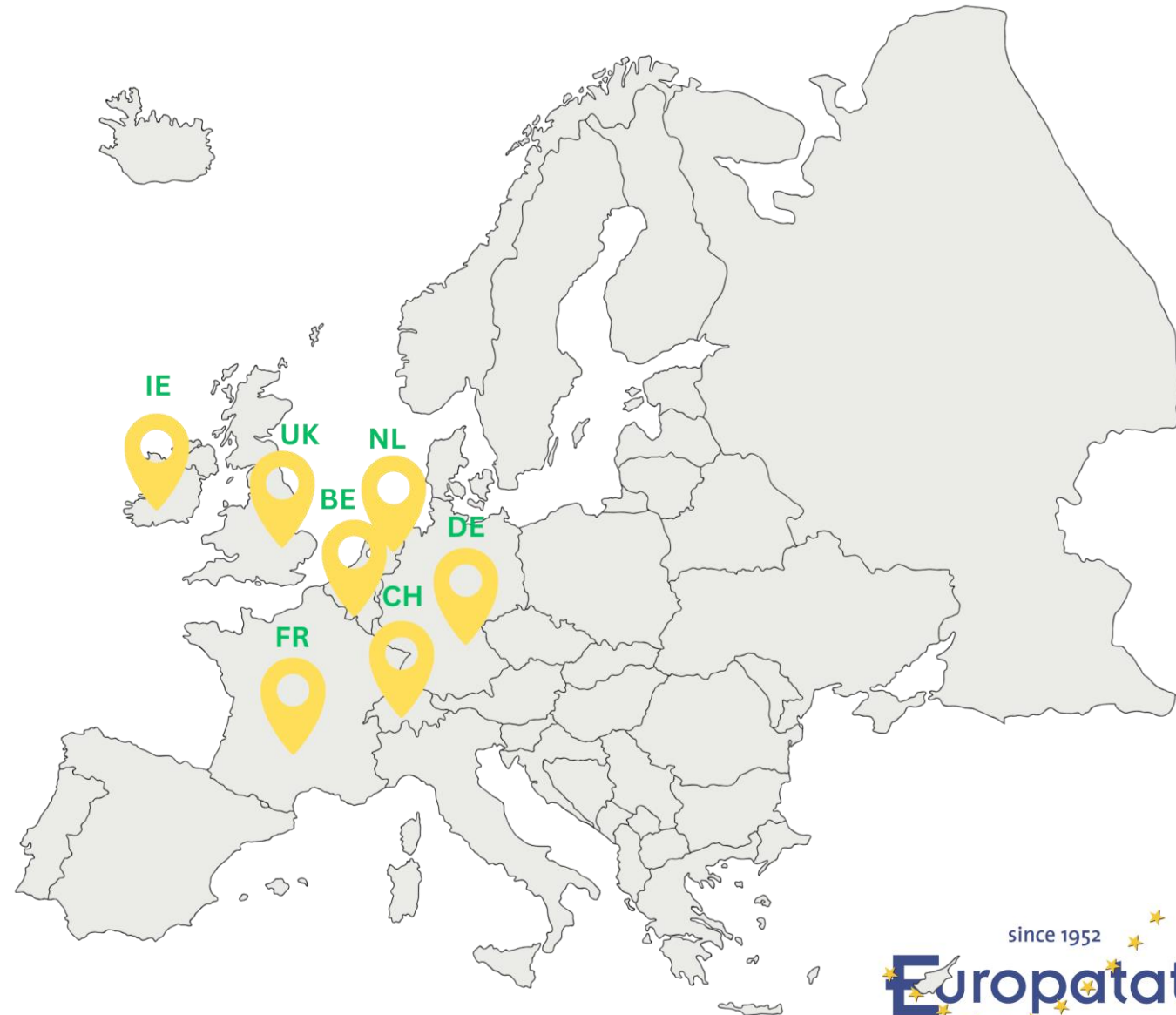




# Understanding the Problem

## Findings:

- 🍌 Growing issue and it is monitored by many countries
- 🍌 **Potato damage vary from 0 to 10%**
- 🍌 The weather plays an important role
- 🍌 In 2023, BE and NL did not have any significant issues; But in other years it is an important problem
- 🍌 Some data is available from certain regions in FR
- 🍌 Many countries do not have any statistics on wireworm damage

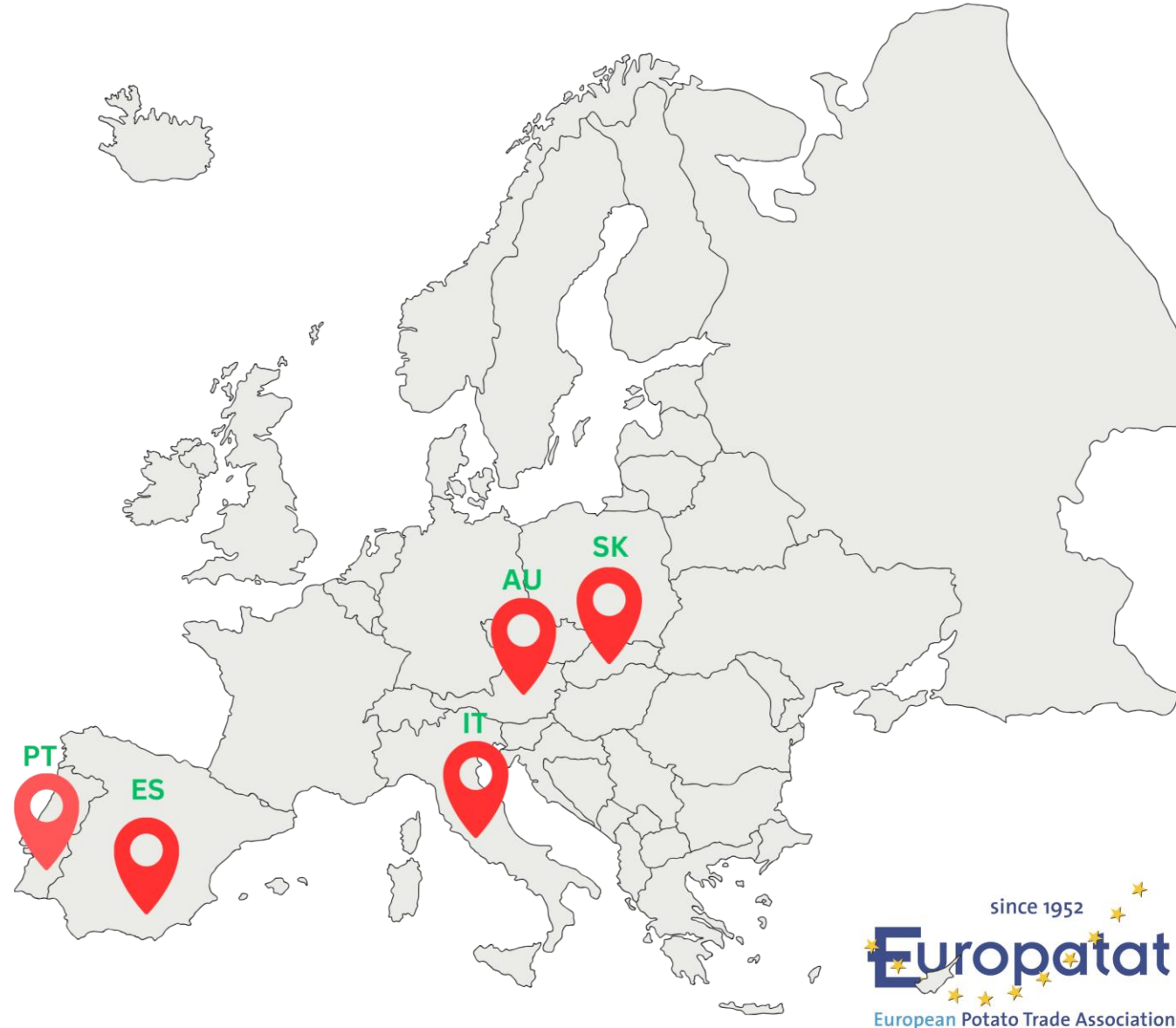




# Understanding the Problem

## Findings:

- 🍌 Important issue!
- 🍌 Some farmers estimate 70 % of their crop is damaged by wireworms
- 🍌 Growers do not harvest potatoes if the damage is too significant
- 🍌 Wireworms are the reason for many growers to switch to other crops



# Understanding the Problem

## Other findings:

- It became an issue within the last 10 years.
- It is harder to control wireworms since the withdrawal of fipronil and ethoprophos.
- No reliable statistics on the extend of the issue.
- Several countries discussed the issues with their authorities (NL, DE, FR, BE, IT, ES, ...)
- Possible ways to control wireworms: crop rotation or emergency authorisations.



**Next: Europatat agreed on the Action Plan**

# Possible solutions

- Virtual meeting dedicated to research on wireworms was held on 23 May 2023.
- Speakers from Austria, France and UK.
- More work is needed to find solutions to control the spread of wireworms.



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## Europatat meeting on Wireworms

5 May 2023 | 10.00 – 12.30 CET (Brussels time)  
via ZOOM

### AGENDA

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Introduction by Europatat  | 10.00 – 10.10 |
| <b>Part I: Actions taken at national level</b>   |               |
| <b><u>Austria:</u></b>   | 10.10 – 10.35 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Anita Kamptner, Potato Growing Expert at Lower Austrian Chamber of Agriculture</li><li>Katharina Wechselberger, Senior Expert at AGES - Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety</li></ul> |               |
| <b><u>France:</u></b>  | 10.35 – 11.00 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Jean-Yves ABGRALL, Managing Director at Bretagne Plants</li><li>Arnaud BARBARY, R&amp;D Manager at Bretagne Plants</li></ul>   |               |
| <b><u>United Kingdom:</u></b>  | 11.00 – 11.25 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Martyn Cox, Independent Agronomist at Blackthorn Arable Ltd</li><li>Larissa Collins, Entomology R&amp;D Team Leader at Fera Science Ltd</li></ul>  |               |
| <b>Part II: Open discussion</b>  | 11.25 – 12.15 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Participants are invited to ask questions and share information about their activities &amp; ongoing research on wireworms in their countries.</li></ul>                                     |               |
| Concluding remarks and next steps  | 12.15 – 12.30 |

# Possible solutions

Request was sent to pesticide companies asking for information about potential solutions to control the spread of wireworms:

## Products available to control Wireworm (*agriotes*) in potato



| Product                                    | FORCE Evo  | KARATE 0.4GR   | NEMATHORIN 10 G  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Active ingredient                          | Tefluthrin 5% + Fertilizer   | Lambda-Cyhalothrin 4%  | Fosthiazate 10%  |
| Formulation type                           | GR   | GR   | GR   |
| Use rate                                   | 16kg / ha  | 15kg / ha  | 20kg / ha  |
| Time of application                        | At planting  | At planting  | At planting  |
| Pest in potato                             | Wireworm   | Wireworm   | Nematodes, wireworm, (Aphids)  |
| Recommended use (where local label allows) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High wireworm pressure</li> <li>Fertilizer starter effect with enhanced crop vigor</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cost effective solution for moderate wireworm pressure</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combined nematode &amp; wireworm pressure + side effect on Aphids</li> <li>Ware potato MRL watch out: requires &gt;120 days between planting &amp; desiccation</li> </ul> |

General use recommendations. Follow local registered label and rates.

Classification: PUBLIC



## Product availability by countries More countries in registration process

|                | AT | BE | BG | CZ | DE | FR | GR | HR | HU | IRL | IT | NL | PL | PT | RO | RSB | SK | SLO |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|-----|
| Force Evo      | R  | R  | R  | R  |    |    | R  | R  | R  |     | R  | R  |    | R  | R  | R   | R  | R   |
| Karate 0.4GR   | R  |    |    | R  | R  | R  |    |    |    |     |    | R  | R  |    |    | R   | R  |     |
| Nemathorin 10G |    | R  |    |    |    | R  |    |    |    | R   |    | R  |    |    | R  |     |    |     |

R - Registered

New launch

Always follow local registered label and rates.

Classification: PUBLIC





# Communication: European Commission



Received response included:

- 🥔 *“Wireworms are already widespread in the EU and actions to prevent their further spread under Regulation 2016/2031 are, therefore, not possible.”*
- 🥔 There is an opportunity to submit a project proposal under Horizon Europe.
- 🥔 Ongoing activities/projects: SoildiverAgro; trials in AU (EIP-AGRI Operational Group), project INBIOSOIL on new technologies.

# Communication: Press release

- 🍅 Press release issued in Dec 2023
- 🍅 Positive reactions.
- 🍅 Importance to continue raising awareness and developing network of researchers/other professionals



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European Potato Trade Association

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Brussels, 12 December 2023

**EUROPATAT CALLS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ONGOING PROJECTS TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF WIREWORMS**

Europatat, the European Potato Association, is calling upon researchers and industry professionals to share information about ongoing research, and any other related activities which will help to control the spread of wireworms in potatoes.

Wireworms, the soil-dwelling larvae of click beetles, present a significant challenge to potato production worldwide. These detrimental pests feed on the roots and tubers of various crops, including potatoes, causing substantial damage and economic losses.



There are several species of particular concern including: *Agriotes lineatus*, *Agriotes obscurus*, *Agriotes sputator*, *Agriotes sordidus*, *Agriotes litigiosus*, *A. brevis*, *A. ustulatus*, *Athous haemorrhoidalis*, *Limonius californicus*, and *Ctenicera cuprea*.

Europatat would like to emphasise the need for enhanced knowledge sharing and collaboration among researchers and industry stakeholders. Therefore, Europatat encourages researchers and professionals with relevant information to contact our Secretariat at [secretariat@europatat.be](mailto:secretariat@europatat.be) to share information about relevant initiatives and to explore potential collaboration opportunities.

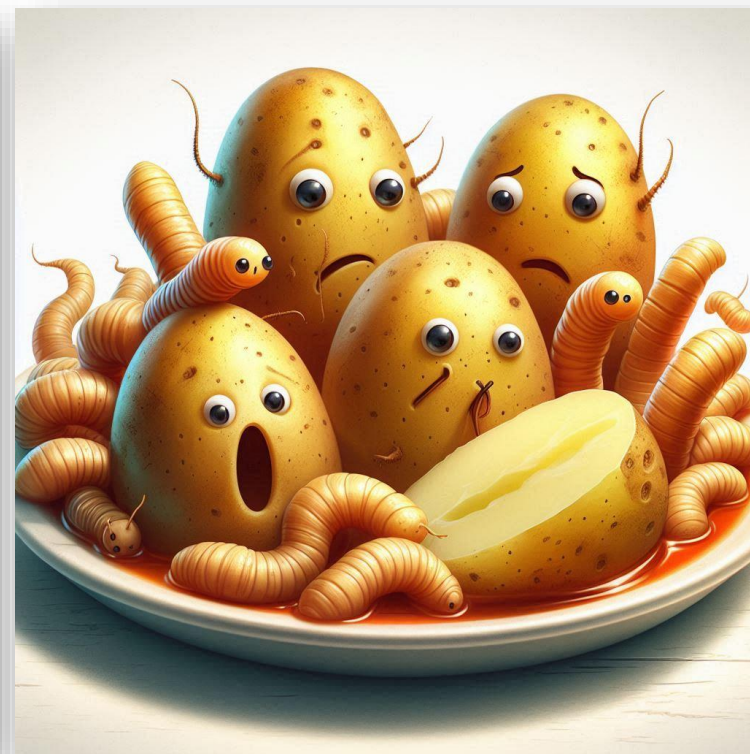
# Final remarks

- 10 years ago, wireworm infestations were not a significant issue. We had plant protection products.
- We need further data to fully understand the extent of the wireworm problem.
- Further research is needed to understand the natural enemies of wireworms.
- Better understanding about the interaction between wireworms and different potato varieties / genetics is important. What attracts / repels wireworms.
- Better understanding of the wireworm development cycle and if crop rotation can be part of the solution. Guidance on how it should be done.
- Raising awareness of the wireworm problem among potato growers and other professionals is crucial.
- There is a strong willingness from the private sector to cooperate and progress fast on this. Europatat can act as a link between researchers and breeders, traders, industry professionals. Industry is ready to assist in raising funding for further research.





# Very final remarks



*Created by AI*

# Thank You!



# THANK YOU!



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