

virus control might then be most appropriate for PLRV but may also offer potential for combining resistances to separate potato viruses.

5. Conclusions

In summary, transgenic virus resistance broadens the range of resistant germplasm and can confer resistance to viruses that have previously been difficult to control using host resistance. It also increases the diversity of control mechanisms: the combination of transgenic and host resistances may confer a greater level of resistance and possibly increase the durability of the resistance. Furthermore, the ability to transform crop species directly should lead to an increase in the rate at which virus-resistant cultivars with good agronomic and quality traits are developed.

The rate of uptake of the technology in the United Kingdom will depend largely on economic factors as well as public and industry acceptance. A better appreciation of the potential benefits that might arise from growing virus-resistant transgenic crops should help to promote the technology, in general, particularly in relation to public acceptance.

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