

# Seed potato



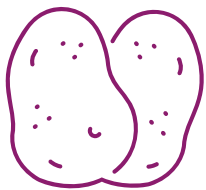
The Hutton undertakes **vital work that underpins the existence of Scotland's seed potato industry.**



The potato cyst nematode (PCN), a species of tiny roundworms, is one of the most important threats currently facing the UK potato industry. When land infected by PCN is used for growing potatoes, yield can be reduced by around 35%. Studies show that around 15% of land suitable for potato growing in the UK is already infested by PCN and it is estimated infestation is spreading at the rate of around 5%/year. Ongoing research efforts, including those undertaken by the Hutton, play an important role in **limiting the spread of PCN.**



Seed potato production contributes around **£26.2 million GVA/year to the Scottish economy and supports around 478 jobs.** The Scottish sector also accounts for around three quarters of UK seed potato production, making it critically important to UK potato production. The success of Scotland's seed potato industry is wholly dependent on the country's reputation for producing high health plants. Land infested by PCN is unsuitable for seed potato production and seed potato producers are therefore required to test their land regularly.



The Hutton is playing a vital role in safeguarding the future of this distinctive part of Scottish agriculture. **A substantial proportion of the potatoes grown by the Scottish seed potato industry are Hutton varieties.** If these varieties did not exist, potato growers in Scotland and most of the rest of the UK would be dependent on imported seed. Scotland's entire seed potato industry could not exist without the research and scientific services provided by the Hutton although we cannot ignore the critical role of the advice provided by the Scottish Government agency, Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) and the important contribution of growers.



**At least 50% of the economic value of this sector is attributable to the Hutton.** This amounts to a contribution of £13.1 million GVA/year to the Scottish economy and around 240 jobs.