

ACRYRED Training School in Bulgaria: Integrated Strategies for Acrylamide Reduction – Connecting Agronomy, Genetics, and Industry

Day 1: Foundations & Context 15th April 2026

Morning 15th April 2026

09:00 Registration & Welcome Coffee

09:30 – 10:05 Opening Session:

Introduction to ACRYRED Project – Objectives & Impact on Food Safety – Nigel Halford (United Kingdom) (30 min presentation + 5 min Q&A)

10:10 – 10:45 Keynote:

Acrylamide Formation in Foods: Key Mechanisms and Practical Mitigation Approaches – Zuzana Ciesarová (Slovakia) (30 min presentation + 5 min Q&A)

10:50 – 11:20 Coffee Break

Session 1:

11:30 – 12:05 *Agricultural Practices Influencing Acrylamide Precursors (Asparagine & Sugars)* – Tanya Curtis (United Kingdom) (30 min presentation + 5 min Q&A)

12:05 – 12:35 *Good Agricultural Practices recommendations to reduce Acrylamide formation* – Maleksen Akin (Turkey)

Afternoon

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 Session 2:

14:00 – 14:30 *Soil Management & Fertilisation Strategies for Acrylamide Reduction* – Scott Garnet (xx) (30 min presentation + 5 min Q&A)

14:35 – 15:05 *Industry Perspective – Challenges in Compliance & Consumer Expectations* – Christine Nowakowski (USA)

15:05 – 15:30 Networking Coffee Break

15:30 – 16:05 – *Potential Reactions of Acrylamide during Processing and Digestion* – Vural Gökmen (Turkey)

16:05 – 16:40 – *A Systems Thinking Approach to Acrylamide* – Jane Parker (United Kingdom)

16:40 – 17:15 – *Toxicological aspects of acrylamide in human health and EU regulation challenges* – Kapllan Sulaj (Albania)

17:15 – 18:30 Poster Showcase:

Current Research & Innovations in Acrylamide Mitigation

Day 2: Genetics & Technological Solutions – 16th April 2026

Morning

09:00 – 09:35 Session 3:

Genetic Approaches – Breeding Low-Asparagine Varieties – Elena Baldoni (Italy) (30 min presentation + 5 min Q&A)

09:40 – 10:15 *Connecting agronomy, genetics, and industry through applied wheat breeding* – Valentina Spanic (Croatia)

10:15 – 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 – 11:05 Session 4:

Biotechnological Tools – CRISPR and Molecular Breeding for Safer Grains – Nigel Halford or Navneet Kaur (United Kingdom) (30 min presentation + 5 min Q&A)

11:05 – 11:40 *The Invisible Risk on Our Plate: How Evidence-Based Science Must (Re)Shape Consumer Attitudes to Build Resilient Food Systems* – Fatjon Hoxha (Albania)

11:40 - 12:05 Potential use of NGTs for decreasing acrylamide content in foods amid recent regulatory developments in the EU. Bojin Bojinov (Bulgaria)

12:05 – 12:35 *Quality Assurance in Acrylamide Analysis: Interlaboratory Study on Infant Cereal Products* – Kristína Kukurová (Slovakia)

Afternoon

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 15:00 Roundtable Discussion:

Collaboration Between Agronomy, Genetics, and Industry

15:00 – 15:30 Case Studies:

Successful Acrylamide Reduction Strategies in EU Supply Chains

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break and Networking Session:

Engage with Local Companies & Students

16:00 – 16:30 Wrap-up of Day 2:

Key Learnings & Feedback

Day 3 (Half Day): Integration & Future Directions 17th April 2026

Morning

09:00 – 09:35 Session 5:

Integrated Farm-to-Fork Strategies – Combining Agronomy, Genetics & Processing – TBC (30 min presentation + 5 min Q&A)

09:40 – 10:15 Final Workshop:

Action Planning for Industry Adoption & Policy Alignment

10:15 – 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 – 11:00 Closing Remarks & Certificates

11:00 onwards Informal Networking & Departure