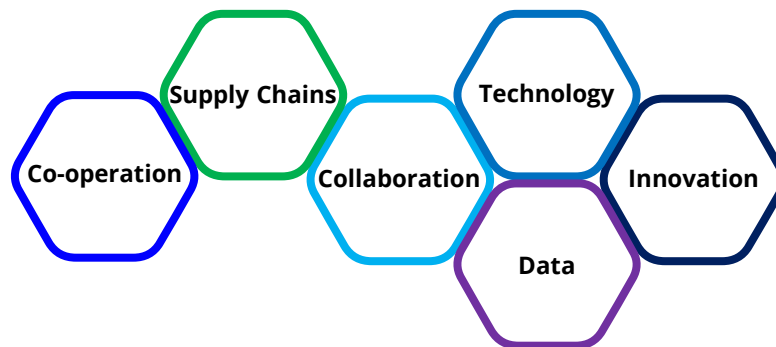


SAOS



# Scottish Agri Export Hub

**Patrick Hughes**  
**24<sup>th</sup> November 2021**



# Topics to cover

- Seed potato growing season
- Export market update 2021/22
- Brexit update
- Scottish Agri Export Hub



# Seed Potato Growing Season

- Mixed picture on harvest yield. Yield back on 2020 harvest but not across all varieties
- Good weather at harvest ensured favourable lifting conditions
- Overall quality is looking good
  - Common Scab
  - Black Scurf due to planting in colder conditions
- Although the yield is back the quality has resulted in less throwaways and provided a comparable crop to 2020





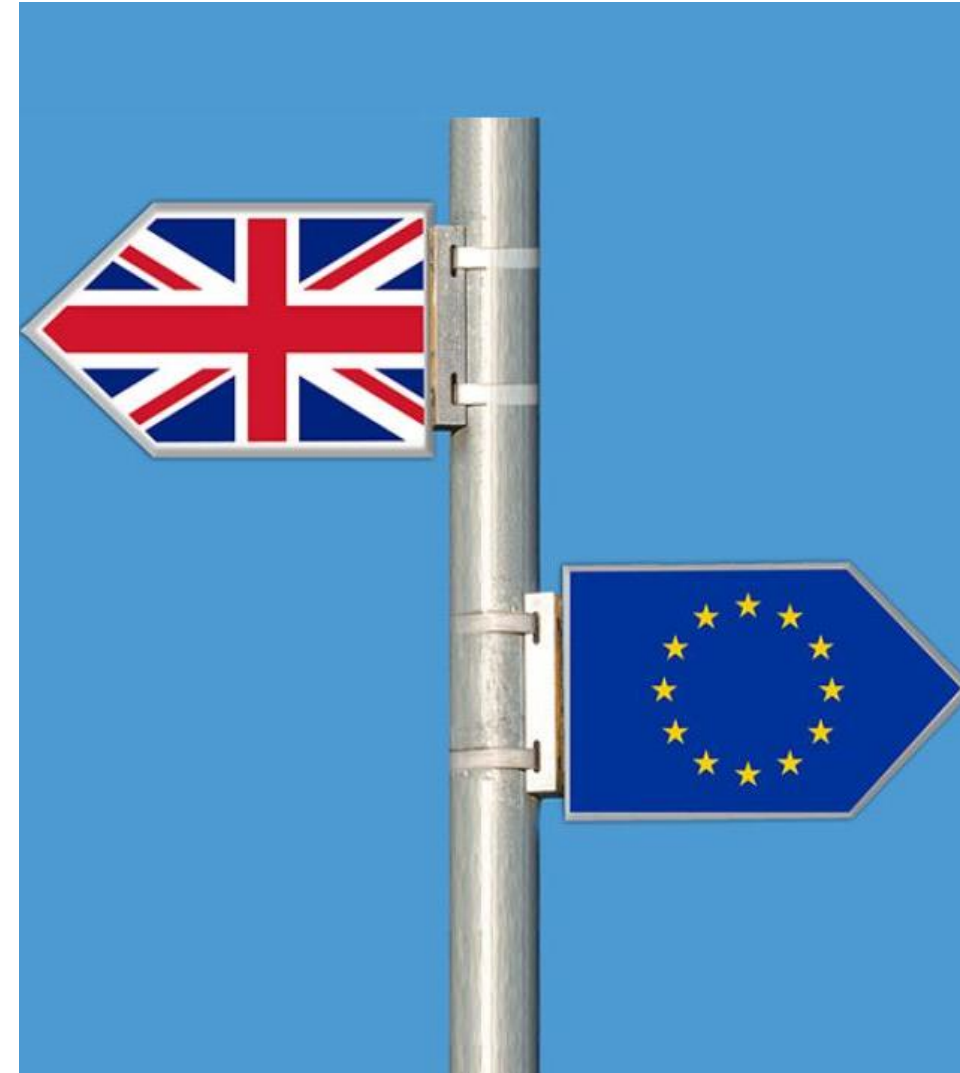
# Export Market Update

- 2021/22 Export season underway since late September
- Export to Thailand complete with similar tonnages to 2020 (upwards of 5,000t)
- Egypt exports currently underway until the 10<sup>th</sup> December
  - Initial issues with lack of haulage options are now being rectified
  - Egypt are seeking additional tonnage
  - Expectation that export tonnages to Egypt will have increased from 2020
- Beyond Egypt focus will shift to Morocco and SE Asia



# Brexit Update

- Prohibition of GB seed potatoes entering the EU markets remains in place
  - This is due to a lack of dynamic alignment
- The six-month derogation which allowed seed from the UK into GB ended in July, effectively banning imports of seed potatoes from the EU
  - Suggestions of loopholes are being investigated by DEFRA and legal bodies
  - Individual Member States can apply for equivalence but appear to be reluctant
- The TCA Committee have agreed to look into seed potatoes, but no timescale has been given



# Scottish Agri Export Hub

- The purpose of the Agri Export Hub is to
  - Identify, understand and develop new export opportunities
  - Expand existing export markets for Scottish agricultural produce for the benefit of primary producers
- Focussing on the potato, cereal, fruit and vegetable sectors
- The project will encourage greater collaboration within the sector to support capability building
- NFUS will lead the project and work in partnership with SAOS in terms of delivery and will be supported by an NFUS farming steering group.





# Supporting the Seed Potato Sector

- Seed potato strategy due early 2022 to provide suggested direction for
  - Market development
  - Science & research
  - Growers
- Supporting inward mission for Egyptian Plant Health Officials
- Potential inward mission for Pakistan Plant Health Officials
- Investigate appetite for Scottish presence at Potato Europe 2022
- Seek and secure funding for inward & outward missions





# Thank you

