On the anniversary of the Covid-19 lockdown in Scotland, which began on 23 March 2020 we wanted to reflect on everything we have achieved at SASA during what has been a difficult period for all our staff and the many sectors we serve in Scotland's land-based economy

As a vital service provider supporting food production and environmental protection in Scotland, SASA remained open throughout lockdown. This was achieved through the dedicated work of our support staff, adapting and establishing safe ways of working to allow restricted staff numbers continued access to our sites, whilst rolling out IT solutions that have allowed others to work safely and effectively from home.

In addition, during the first 6 months of the pandemic a number of our staff were redeployed to other tasks across Scottish Government to assist with the national Covid-19 response. Others worked flexibly assisting colleagues in other areas of SASA to ensure we maintained our services for all of our customers.

There are undoubtedly many highlights to choose from but here are just a few of the things the staff at SASA have achieved during the last year:

We have investigated **175** potential incidents of wildlife crime involving the use of pesticides and have identified **15** cases of abuse

We dealt with **56** wildlife forensic enquiries and provided DNA evidence for **29** prosecution cases

We have dealt with **160** requests from land managers and farmers seeking advice on appropriate and humane means of managing wildlife

We worked closely with commercial and amateur beekeepers to manage outbreaks of foulbrood disease in bees, testing **363** samples from **186** cases

We analysed more than **455** food samples for pesticide residues to ensure pesticides are used responsibly and our food remains safe to eat

Working closely with RPID colleagues we inspected **4,553** seed potato crops, totalling **10,354** ha, to ensure our seed continues to meet rigorous quality standards and can be sold around the World

We surveyed pesticide use and integrated pest management in arable and soft fruit crops and in amenity and potato stores settings.

We continued to serve as the national collection for potato varieties and have supported Scotland's potato minituber producers who are responsible for initiating much of the UK's potato production, dealing with **96** requests for planting material from the **6** minituber producers we support in Scotland and Northern Ireland

Our official seed testing station performed **7,587** tests supporting our food production, ensuring the seed trade meets the rigorous standards we apply in Scotland and in support of seed exports.

We continued to monitor growing seed crops, working closely with our colleagues in Rural Payments and Inspection Division (RPID), we inspected and certified **973** cereal, vegetable and grass seed crops.

SASA
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We ensured there was no break in new crop varieties being brought to market and have evaluated new varieties of carrot, fodder kale, pea, potato, and swede to ensure they are stable, unique and of value.

We planted **706** vegetable and **1217** potato plots at SASA's Gogar farm with a further **1302** potato plots at our duplicate trial site at Harlaw to support our trials, training and collection maintenance commitments.

Our focus on research and development did not diminish over the year and we made progress on **15** research projects, **4** of which are led by SASA, involving **121** collaborators from **26** different countries.

We sold **1,465,000** units of monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies, providing tools used around the World in the management and control of potato virus disease

We completed surveillance to demonstrate that Scotland is free of the damaging pathogen of broadleaf trees, *Xylella fastidiosa*

Our molecular biology unit provided services for potato processors and producers, using genetic fingerprinting technology to identify potato cultivars from **762** samples.

We continued to facilitate the introduction of new potato breeding material into our production by processing **44** new potato lines, testing them for **72** plant pathogenic species to ensure we keep quarantine organisms out whilst supporting innovation in our potato sector

In addition, RPID inspectors have inspected **15,452** tonnes of seed potatoes for marketing to the EU prior to the Brexit deadline

We completed our annual surveys for quarantine pathogens of potato, once again demonstrating that Scotland remains free of *Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *sepedonicus*, *Ralstonia solanacearum* and *Dickeya* spp.

We tested in excess of **75,000** leaf and tuber samples for potato viruses demonstrating once again the low prevalence of disease in Scotland compared to our competitors

We produced **26** weekly aphid bulletins throughout the growing season to inform growers of risk to crops from these vectors of viral disease

We tested **18,000** soil samples for the presence of the damaging pest, potato cyst nematode (PCN) ensuring the health of Scottish seed potatoes

In addition, our policy team has worked tirelessly to ensure the legislation and regulation which governs GM, pesticides, fertilisers, plant health, plant varieties and seeds in Scotland continued to function after we left the European Union at the end of 2020. Finally, our Horticulture and Marketing inspectors worked with growers, packers and traders in plants and plant products in order to facilitate imports into Scotland, and to certify exports destined for the EU and the Rest of the World.

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