

Philip Taylor gained a first class honours degree in Plant Sciences from Wye College; University of London in 1982. He then pursued an academic career path with a PhD at John Innes Institute on the Downy mildew of pea and these studies led on to two post-docs one in Illinois and one in Durham UK. Subsequently he became a lecturer in molecular plant pathology at the university of Hull UK. He then gave up the academic life to become a farmer, successfully running a large commercial farm taking it into organic, and GM production. His interest remained in science and during this time he took an MSc in Science communication at Imperial college and represented the National farmers union on biotechnical matters as part of their working party. Years later another change of tack took him to CABI as part of the international development group and he became the training manager for Plantwise; a large donor funded programme designed to bolster extension services in developing countries. He has travelled extensively in this role.