

BRITISH CROP PROTECTION COUNCIL
Expert Working Group – Application (EWG-A)

Minutes of the **88th Meeting** held on 7th **April 2004** at NFU, Shaftesbury Avenue, London.

88.1 EWG - PRESENT

R Bateman - Chairman	W Basford – Secretary
T Bals	C Butler- Ellis
R Glass	S Gemmill
R Makepeace	T Robinson
G A Matthews	T Swan
J Tobbutt	C Knott
G Walker	J Fisher

88.1.1 Apologies

The following offered apologies:
W Taylor, H Dobson.

87.1.2 Membership

The chairman reported to the meeting that E (Ted) Southcombe had recently tendered his resignation to the group. All recognised his considerable input to the group, BCPC and the industry generally. It was agreed that the Chairman send a letter expressing the gratitude of the group for such commitment over many years. In addition it was agreed that the group would like to present a token of their appreciation to Ted. C Knott and the secretary agreed to investigate a personalised gift e.g. tankard or similar.

Action - C Knott and Sec.

The secretary reported that M Jefferies had left LANTRA and that Madge Moore of LANTRA was acting as a contact for them now. She would be investigating potential LANTRA staff for EWG-A contact. Similarly the secretary was in touch with Jill Hewitt of NAAC pending a decision re R Hartley's position on EWG-A.

S Gemmill also indicated that changes to the NFU representation on many committees and his own activities suggested that he should step down as NFU rep on the EWG-A. He agreed to forward the name of an appropriate successor to the secretary.

Action – S Gemmill

The secretary reminded members that he was likely to stand down after the next meeting prior to his retirement from ADAS.

88.1.3 Minutes of the last meeting

These were accepted noting the last meetings venue at IPARC was in Berkshire!

88.1.4 Matters arising from the minutes

All matters are covered by the existing agenda.

88.2 EWG Function – Function, membership, Structure

This item was introduced from the chair and secretary seeking discussion on the future of the EWG-A. All present agreed that the EWG-A had been one of the most productive BCPC working groups but at a point of some change in the membership and industry change it was necessary to consider the role of the EWG-A. J Fisher outlined the strategy and policy of BCPC and of BCPE. The mission statement of BCPC is repeated here since it formed some of the outline reported:

Mission statement and objectives

"To promote policies for sustainable and economically viable crop production, utilisation and land management which satisfy the principles of sound science and practice as well as societal aspirations"

This will be achieved by:

- (i) Placing scientific knowledge and informed opinion about crop and wholesome food production in the public domain.*
- (ii) Informing policy makers and opinion formers.*
- (iii) Seeking collaboration with other organisations with contiguous interests.*
- (iv) Working in partnership with BCPE Ltd.*

BCPC should undertake this change, *at an appropriate pace*, from an emphasis on crop protection to adoption of a broader interest in crop production and land management to become capable of:

- Influencing critical aspects of policy formulation in the UK and Europe.
- Linking ethics and value judgements beneficially with scientific and commercial information.
- Stimulating and facilitating information exchange and information flow in areas of uncertainty or where opposing views exist.
- Collaborating with other organisations to create synergy and greater value whenever possible.

This will require access to a broader range of expertise and create a need to increase both organisational and individual membership.

J Fisher acknowledged the value found in the working groups, particularly the EWG-A. Members were concerned at the linkage between scientific issues considered by BCPC and the groups activities but underlined the need for good technology transfer from the group as found in the past.

A further paper – that of an invitation letter to join the Scientific and Strategy group was mentioned and is included at the end of these minutes for reference.

Future activities for the group were likely to include re assessing the BCPC web site application issues, reviewing previous publications and encouraging a better flow of ideas within a 2-way stream from user to researcher.

All members were asked to consider any issues within previous publications for accuracy and relevance and notify the secretary.

Action – All members

88.3 CURRENT ISSUES

88.3.1 Response to SRI consultation document

C Butler-Ellis thanked the group and through it BCPC for their response, one of 97 received. She indicated that BBSRC web site contained an up to date review of the current position. The future was not yet clear and ‘ownership’ options for current overall SRI facility or divisions remained distinct possibilities. All members re-affirmed the wisdom in retaining the application group at Silsoe including the wind tunnel facility there.

It was understood that SRI staff would be receiving an on site statement on 23/04/04

88.3.2 VI Progress

It was noted that the VI target figures were generally being achieved and that the web site was a useful one now containing many practical downloadable items.

88.3.3 Sprayer testing Workshop

The secretary outlined a Sprayer Testing Workshop to be held in Germany 27-29th April. The workshop was to consider a wide range of countries activities in relation to sprayer testing and the establishment of a European standard EN 13790. He circulated a summary of the programme and confirmed that no UK representation was known. This was confirmed around the meeting. He stated that he had volunteered to attend as an independent delegate but had not been able to secure funding. It thus appeared that no UK voice would be heard alongside those from 16 other countries. The meeting regretted this situation and agreed that a letter from the group should be drafted to Defra (PSD) indicating the unsatisfactory position this left the UK in.

Action – T Bals and Secretary

88.4 BCPC SPRAY / NOZZLE CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

CB-E confirmed that the scheme could not progress further without further funding. T B confirmed that the BCPC scheme was now at the centre of several USDA approaches as well as the drift area now being the subject of an ISO work item.

88.5 BCPC GUIDANCE

88.5.1 Arable Crops

No real change since last report.

88.5.2 Horticultural Crops

Cathy Knott reported that the Nozzle selection poster had now been published and sent out to all levy payers by HDC. Contact Ross Newnham. Limited copies were made available to members.

This was well received by the group who expressed thanks to Cathy for her determination and sufferance over the last 2-3 years. Any feedback would be welcomed, directed through the secretary. He agreed to check on numbers sent out, whether these had included buyers and Assurance protocol groups etc.

Action – All members and Secretary

88.6 BCPC PUBLICATIONS

88.6.1 Granule and Fertiliser Application Handbook.

The secretary reported from E Southcombe that this proposal was now effectively 'dead'. Members regretted this situation, particularly as the text had been drawn within the generic information of fertiliser spreading to increase readership. It was acknowledged that the text was in electronic form to be progressed at any time.

88.6.2 Nozzle cards – as included in the Nozzle Selection handbook / Boom and Fruit sprayers

The secretary had circulated the Nozzle card current layout and content for consideration prior to reprinting. It was agreed that all members should review the cards and report back to the secretary by 19th April.

88.7 STANDARDS DEVELOPMENTS

TB updated the meeting on ISO standards activities (in italics) as below:

WG 4 - Field measurement of spray drift (TB) - *a draft international standard was out for comment*

WG 5 - Knapsack sprayers (WAT) - *work on knapsacks was concluding, extension to cover knapsack mistblowers had started.*

WG 6 - Cleaning of sprayers - *draft international standards finalised.*

WG 7 - Drift classification of sprayers and nozzles - *Germany was producing another draft international standard (the first draft had been rejected).*

WG 8 - Deposit measurement in bush and tree crops - *the UK has had little influence on this.*

WG 9 - Colour coding of nozzles - *progressing.*

Italy would lead a new work item on induction hoppers.

TB advised the meeting that a Scandinavian/German led advisory group on standards development was likely to be formed and was proposing the following work items:

Nozzle classification by droplet spectra - US and BBA leading
Laboratory measurement of drift potential - WAT and BBA leading
Deposit measurement in field crops - IMAG leading
Pesticide labelling - WAT leading study
Best management practices - Belgium was leading a study on field crop sprayers, Italy a study on bush and tree crop sprayers

BSI was developing a draft standard on Variable Rate Application'

88.8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The area of developing legislation in Waste Control directives and associated legislation was discussed. Members considered that this would be worthy of inclusion in the next or a special BCPC Meeting. Development ideas for a workshop on this area were discussed. Members were invited to consider the proposal and notify any subject area or speaker to the secretary.

From this proposal and linked to developments such as SRI restructuring a number of members felt that the industry needed a special meeting convened to consider 'A UK Pesticide Strategy' Suggestions on this area were also invited to be notified to the Secretary.

Action – All members and Secretary

RJM raised the issues of re-categorising certain chemicals with respect to LERAPS linked to developing legislation.

TB indicated that he believed that the 'Green Code' was almost out for revision and that he trusted

87.9 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 22 September 2004

C B-E suggested that this could be held at SRI. She would confirm availability to the secretary.

BCPC Scientific Strategy Group Invitation Letter

Dear X

BCPC Science Strategy Group

You are aware of BCPC and its long-standing involvement in the science of managing pests, diseases and weeds in the context of agriculture, horticulture and amenity areas. The work of BCPC in providing a scientific forum for discussion and the dissemination of information in this area has until now been founded on several working groups, each covering particular specialist aspects of the organisation's sphere of interest.

Following a strategic look ahead, the BCPC Council has decided that the organisation will broaden its perspectives beyond a focus on crop protection (although this will continue to be an important core element of its work) to embrace the totality of science that impinges on crop production and integrated farming systems. One manifestation of this change of emphasis is the creation of a new primary Scientific Strategy Group for BCPC that will report directly to the Board of Management and will set the agenda for the organisation.

The scientific competences required of the members of the SSG are:

- Farming Systems
- Food
- Food Chain
- Government Science
- Research Council Science –
- Industrial Research
- Environment
- Integrative Crop Protection
- Arable Agricultural and Food Biotechnology
- Genomics
- Regulatory Science

The chairman will be Professor Peter Bunyan and the secretary Dr John Fisher

The terms of reference agreed by the Council are:

1. To keep under strategic review the science relevant to integrated farm management of arable and alternative crops and grassland.
2. To advise the Executive Board of significant relevant scientific developments and opportunities and suggest appropriate actions.

3. To convene and integrate Working Groups in specialist scientific and technical areas and to approve the content and form of the dissemination of their findings.
4. To produce as appropriate, periodic reports on R&D strategic and tactical needs and any other scientific matters of public importance for integrated farm management in the UK.
5. To keep under strategic review the financial framework for science and technology relevant to integrated farm management in the UK.

These terms of reference are of course open to suggestion for change at the first meeting of the new Group.

We have informally approached our preferred candidates for the competences on the Group, including yourself (for the xxxx competence) and I am pleased to say that all agreed to join. I am now writing formally to invite you to join this Strategy Group to cover the area of ++++++. You would not be limited only to this area, because we expect all members to contribute to all aspects of the deliberations and to contribute to the future of BCPC. A full list of the expected members is attached and I should just add that we expect the Group to meet twice a year in London for a day and to conduct other business by e-mail.

I hope that you will now be able to confirm your membership in the near future.

Yrs etc.