

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

Minutes of the 89th Meeting held on 22nd September 2004 at SRI, Silsoe, .

89.1 EWG - PRESENT

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

89.1.1 Apologies

The following offered apologies:

W Taylor, H Dobson, T Swan, G Walker

89.1.2 Membership

No NFU representative appointed yet. Sec to follow up. N Kift proposed.

Madge Moore, LANTRA on email listing as is James Percy, LANTRA, neither present.

The secretary agreed that he would continue for a further year on an expenses basis following his retirement from ADAS (Feb 2005).

Action Sec –contact NFU and LANTRA

89.1.3 Minutes of the last meeting

These were accepted.

89.1.4 Matters arising from the minutes

All matters are covered by the existing agenda.

89.1.5 EWG – BCPC Function and strategy

J Fisher described recent discussions with Charity commissioners and recent meetings of the Science & Strategy Group. Full notes to be circulated separately from him via Sec. He confirmed that the P in BCPC now stood for Production, members showing concern over this, particularly to lay interpretation.

The EWG was reported to be highly valued and members were asked to review their individual perceptions of the group and value to UK applications Industry. It was agreed that the Chairman and Secretary should attend a meeting of the SSG group in early 2005 making a presentation featuring EWG-A function and potential. All members recognised the group as unique in UK, possibly within Europe. Members all challenged for time input to BCPC matters, difficult to spend time outside meetings for topic reviews. Intensive meeting sessions

suggested as effective in dealing with short response issues.

Various subjects relating to the future function of the EWG-A were mentioned: Food chain traceability issues, Organic group, balanced view of organics and pesticide use, application technology transfer.

All members were asked to submit 5 lines describing EWG function and future to the Sec. in preparation for the presentation. It was agreed that a previous paper on EWG group would be searched out and circulated for information

Action – Sec and All members

89.2 CURRENT ISSUES

89.2.1 SRI

C B-E reported possible only future option for SRI Applications group now is with AEA Technology. Pessimistically the group might not survive in present form, other subject areas highlighted within AEA Tech. Presentation by AEA Tech to SRI staff on 23/9/04. Possible staffing implications by end 2004. GAM and JF confirmed they had offered further comments in support of SRI unit.

The implied changes to this group highlighted massive change within UK Applications research field. Members all questioned the knock on effect for UK applications and those further afield. A proposal was made to stage a special meeting to consider this within the overall picture now being considered by PSD as “UK Pesticide Strategy” J Fisher agreed to approach PSD to ascertain release date for their doc, this meeting proposal to coincide with the public consultation time and possibly the EU Thematic document expected on pesticide use. C Todd outlined the procedure for BCPC support for such a workshop/conference, say 50 people, all invited.

It was agreed to proceed with this proposal and all members were asked to urgently consider a suitable technical person to head the workshop development. Further contact with all other BCPC EWGroups was proposed to ensure total coverage in planning.

Action – J Fisher, Sec and All members

89.2.2 VI Progress

It was noted that the VI target figures had generally been achieved but that known sprayer numbers were reduced following recent review. The VI web site was noted as containing many useful operator level documents and that a new round of operator courses “ Avoiding water pollution” were planned.

89.2.3 Sprayer testing Workshop, Germany

J Castell had received sponsorship at last minute from Hypro, Micron and BCPC to attend this as sole UK representative in April 2004. The secretary reported 74 delegates attended from 22 European countries. The workshop considered a wide range of countries sprayer

testing activities and the possible establishment of a European standard EN 13790. J Castell was not able to present a paper on UK activities but had many discussion possibilities on UK experience. The objective of the workshop was to canvass standardised compulsory sprayer testing in Europe using the EN 13790 test protocol and EN 12761 for new sprayers. J Castell's report is held by the secretary. A steering group from Belgium, Holland, Italy, France and Germany was proposed at the workshop. This group, to meet at own costs, to take the main findings from the workshop forward. A Directive from the EC in support of the objectives of the workshop was reported to be a real possibility.

89.3 BCPC SPRAY / NOZZLE CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

89.3.1 CB-E confirmed that the scheme was now in limbo, no further funding available. A computer based selection system had been developed based on the BCPC classification but this was unlikely to develop further. T B reminded members that the BCPC scheme was now at the centre of USDA plans and that this could be included as a basis of an International standard soon.

89.3.2 RB sought guidance on a possible alternative to Agral for reference work. He prepared a paper which members had considered. Discussion highlighted the atypical nature of Agral referenced to other chemicals, whether using water with qualification as to its parameters was better and availability issues world-wide. A review considering USA use within the developing standards was proposed.

All members were asked to comment directly to RB.

Action – All members

89.4 BCPC Responses and Guidance

89.4.1 Public meeting, London 25/9/04 – James Gilmour (P Miller and C B-E attending)– Bystander Consultation response required.

Members recognised the need for responses to include assessment of hazard and risk when compared to household chemicals, e.g. bleach. JF requested further comments to him for inclusion in BCPC response. He indicated perspective to be drawn into the response e.g. 5.5 m people suggested as living in proximity to spray drift, 12 “complaints per year”, possibly 3 or 4 substantiated. Numbers of AI's being withdrawn, some representing more problematical chemicals from past problems.

Action – All members

89.4.2 Code of Practice consultation

The secretary reported that no formal response was made from EWG-A. Several members had responded representing their organisations or companies and as such felt that duplicated effort was unwarranted.

Members were very concerned as to the length of the document as proposed (reported in their responses) and its suitability to operator use. Short easily identifiable and readable sections were indicated as being more acceptable for operator use.

The relationship of the Code of Practice to Assurance schemes and protocols was discussed. Pressure on operators brought about by inclusion of COP statements in assurance scheme paperwork was acknowledged as often unhelpful to achieving good application, though records for traceability were probably justified.

89.4.3 **Bystander consultation** – dealt with under 89.4.1

89.4.4 **Arable crops** – No reported developments e.g. HGCA nozzle poster etc

89.4.5 **Horticultural crops** C K reported that the Nozzle selection poster seemed to have well received and actually seen on holdings.

89.5 BCPC PUBLICATIONS

C Todd presented the meeting with an overview of current application handbooks, all originating in the main from the EWG-A. All inputs of time and money were discussed linked to sales, either potential or actual. A detailed ‘pre revision’ review of “Using Pesticides” by Helen Riby was distributed to members

Discussion highlighted the cost of publication, stocks held, alternative sources of information (VI developing etc), potential sales to training organisations (LANTRA etc), partners/sponsors, promotional activity enhancing BCPC, overseas collaboration and alternative versions of same technical message. Handbook relevance to Assurance protocols was recognised.

No decisions were made re publication need but all members were asked to consider H Riby’s comments and report back to the Sec.

Action – All members

89.6 Wastes

TB reported that an Agricultural Stakeholders Open forum on Wastes (mainly concerned with plastics) was scheduled to be held in October, in London. Whilst the group felt that this subject area was not directly relevant to application, RG reminded the group that they should be aware of the relevance of plastics disposal when compared to plastic container design, closed transfer reusable containers and residue issues.

89.7 STANDARDS DEVELOPMENTS

Reported by TB as no real change since last meeting. So moves within Europe to include standard on Buffer zones. TB to forward details to Sec. Otherwise last meeting minutes repeated here.

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'

89.7 FUTURE CONFERENCES ETC.

AAB Centenary Conference, 15-17 December, includes Application, Biocontrol and IPM

AAB Workshop May 2005 – single day, Spray Waste Management, Harper Adams,
Shropshire

SCI, London Oct 26/10 – Formulation aspects

BCPC, Glasgow, November 2005, Theme of Food, Crop and Environment

Poster Application session. Waste disposal and Management

TB noted that no plenary session included in the above, particularly when EU Thematic strategy doc would be published. C Todd responded offering BCPE assistance if session needed.

89.8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

89.9 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 12th April 2005, Venue to be confirmed. N Kift, NFU to be invited to review Wastes issues.