

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

Minutes of the 90th Meeting held on 12th April 2005 at NFU House, London.

90.1 EWG - PRESENT

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

89.1.1 Apologies

The following offered apologies:
W Taylor, T Swan, T Bals, P Miller

89.1.2 Membership

The Chairman welcomed Bob Hadway, HSE, to the meeting as he had recently taken over from Graeme Walker.

C Butler-Ellis described her new role following her move from SRI to the Pesticide Action Network. She confirmed that PAN existed as a charity with a main interest in reducing hazards of pesticides to the environment and that it supported British Agriculture. She offered a more comprehensive review of PAN function at a forthcoming meeting.

All members outlined and updated their representation on the working group. The Chairman pointed out that the web page for the EWG (http://www.dropdata.net/bcpc_ewg) had gradually expanded from its original purpose (protocols for the nozzle classification scheme) and requested that members of the EWG send in short summaries and photos for the page.

H Dobson also outlined changes in his function, now including 25% of time within PSD advising on research policy. He confirmed that he is still employed within the National resources Institute but is based at IPARC. The Chairman confirmed that with CBE's move to PAN, P Miller would be representing SRI on the group for the foreseeable future.

Following S Gemmill's resignation from the group it was confirmed that no NFU representative had been appointed yet. N Kift had been contacted but he had offered further names. James Percy, LANTRA, is still understood to represent their interests on the group but no recent contact received.

The Chairman reported that he had received interest in the Group's activities from David Inseal of Sprays International and sought members comments. It was suggested that this might be acceptable but to remind D Inseal of BCPC Business Membership.

Action R Bateman

90.1.3 Minutes of the last meeting

These were accepted.

90.1.4 Matters arising from the minutes

All matters are covered by the existing agenda.

90.2 CURRENT ISSUES

90.2.1 Farm Waste regulations

The secretary introduced the changes due as the Agricultural Waste Regulations expected to come into force July 2005. He referred to the current Defra campaign entitled Environment Sensitive Farming drawn up following all registered holdings and stakeholders receiving a consultation document upon the regulations

A key web site for the campaign is www.environmentalsensitivefarming.co.uk. ADAS is running the campaign in the main with contributions from technical specialists, some independent, for activities, which include local farmer meetings, self-help groups and regional activities.

The web site lists many links to others where official guidance can be obtained covering Regulatory controls, waste management and recovery options, Opportunities for recycling waste and waste minimisation as well as the Import and Export of farm manures.

Particular reference was made to the incineration of pesticide containers, with the situation summarised at the link within the web site listed above.

Further reference was made to the severely protracted development of the biobed research. An announcement was expected very soon on the EA position and exemption clauses under the waste regulations understood to being drawn up now. See www.biobed.info

Little information was available on the development of a pesticide container recycling scheme though it was hoped that there would be a paper on this area at the forthcoming Glasgow conference.

09.2.1.2SRI

Little information was available regarding the future of SRI, though the hope existed that some facility/service might be possible at Wrest Park.

90.2.2 Voluntary Initiative

This was reported as meeting some of the target issues so far as operators and machines were concerned with the recent 2004 repeat survey confirming various changes e.g. 17% less sprayers since 2001. It was reported that the recent report by the House of Commons, suggested that the effects on pesticide use were not necessarily so marked. (Environmental

Food and Rural Affairs Committee Report, entitled Progress on the use of Pesticides-The Voluntary Initiative, report 2004-2005)

This can be found on

<http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm200405/cmselect/cmenvfru/258/25802.htm>

90.2.3 UK National Pesticides Strategy document

J Fisher reported that there would be a meeting within BCPC during week beginning 18th April and that a draft of the BCPC response would be available and circulated to members.

Action J Fisher

90.2.4 EC Thematic Strategy.

Members expressed concern at the simplistic and inappropriate way the EU consultation was being handled. This was particularly in respect to responses being sought on significant areas such as mandatory certification and inspection of sprayers.

In his absence an email from T Bals was passed to the meeting. Members felt that the only way to respond to this situation was that a letter should be sent from the EWG of BCPC directly stating the limitations of this approach. The Chairman agreed to draft this response and circulate to members for urgent comment before despatch ASAP.

Action R Bateman

90.2.5 ACP ALTERNATIVES PAPER

G Matthews outlined that in response to a paper presented on alternatives the response had been limited. Issues such as registration, intellectual property rights etc had been seen as challenging. Pheromone producers could be seen as possibly benefiting but the overall picture was not clear.

J Fisher suggested that this was something that the Pest and Diseases Group could be involved with and would speak to Peter Walters with reference to this.

R Glass indicated that he was involved with discussions on setting up a network of excellence, which would be involved with ways of reducing pesticide uses. CSL were involved with this and possibly might have proposals in 2006.

Action J Fisher

90.3 BCPC SPRAY / NOZZLE CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

C Butler-Ellis reported that the situation was largely the same as reported in the 89 meeting minutes. Possible future of the scheme was dependent on the SRI situation to some degree. H Dobson enquired as to whether PSD had received any proposals for funding any

furtherance of the scheme. This was affirmed by C. Butler-Ellis. All members agreed that this area was significant in the use of the BCPC scheme within VI guidance and across the world.

The Chairman reported that he had now placed a modified version of the E Southcombe's original paper on the web site, this can be found directly at http://www.dropdata.net/bcpc_ewg/ESES_noz.pdf

90.4 BCPC GUIDANCE

Little development had been noted in either the agricultural or horticultural sections of the industry. No updates of the Arable or Horticultural nozzle selection posters for instance. This item would be included on the next agenda to ensure continuity of review.

90.5 BCPC PUBLICATIONS

C Todd indicated that the Using pesticides booklet and the 3 handbooks were all due for some revision but essentially that two of the handbooks had an urgent need for revision. He stated that the Boom and Fruit Sprayers Handbook sold 1200 per year and the Amenity and hand held Sprayers around 2000. Of the latter 93% went to Training groups or Trainers. Lantra had bought stocks this year. Discussion highlighted the Parliamentary Reported referred to earlier which on pages 19 & 20 highlighted the need for developments in the amenity sector. It was acknowledged within the meeting that this industry sector highly changeable with staff and that continuity training was very difficult. Equally application and wastes were closer to end contamination routes, e.g. off hard surfaces etc stressing the need for sound training and equipment operation.

Deficiencies within the UK Pesticides guide were highlighted by J Tobbutt, C Todd indicating that manufacturers updates on pesticides were often infrequent leading to gaps or outdated information remaining within publications.

The secretary confirmed that he had been approached by C Todd to act as Technical Editor within handbook revisions and was likely to accept the contract offered.

90.6 STANDARDS DEVELOPMENTS

No report was available from T Bals. The past meeting minutes are copied here for this item.

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'

90.7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

90.7.1 Membership

90.7.2 Open meeting – H Combella

Approaches had been received within the group membership for a meeting to consider an International Technical Specialist Application Alliance.

Members felt progress with this would be linked to SRI developments and to defer action for a while.

90.7.3 Pesticide Forum Meeting

C Butler-Ellis stated that she, T Bals and P Miller will be preparing a paper for the Forum meeting. She asked whether BCPC would support such a paper, to which the meeting agreed.

90.8 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 22nd September 2005

Venue to be decided

Note : BCPC, Glasgow, November 2005, Theme of Food, Crop and Environment Sessions. on Application, also Waste disposal and Management