

BRITISH CROP PRODUCTION COUNCIL

EXPERT WORKING GROUP – APPLICATION (EWG-A)

Minutes of the **93rd meeting** held on **5th October 2006** at the **Hypro – EU Ltd**, Station Road, Longstanton, Cambridge, CB4 5DS

EWG members present

R. Bateman (Chairman)
J. Fisher
P. Miller
J. Tobbutt

W. Basford (Secretary)
G. Matthews
T. Swan

93.1.1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from:

Bill Taylor, Tom Bals, C Butler-Ellis, R Makepeace, Hans Dobson, R Hadway and T Robinson.

93.1.2 Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February at PAN, London

These were accepted.

93.1.3 Matters arising from the minutes

93.1.4 All other matters would be covered as agenda items.

93.2 CURRENT ISSUES

93.2.1 LINK proposal

‘Optimising pesticide use in arable agriculture by improving nozzle selection based on product efficacy to give optimised use and improved spray drift control’

The Link proposal was discussed following an outline given by P Miller. The main thrust of the work would be to consider the two areas of drift and efficacy. The meeting discussed the purpose of the proposal and certain areas of the detail proposed.

Further detail, beyond the draft proposal circulated was to be confirmed in a meeting following the BCPC group meeting, the outcome of that meeting resulted in the points given below:

1. The proposal will develop a classification scheme combining both efficacy and drift (as two scores).
2. The initial approach will be to identify three groups of reference nozzles, evaluated to agreed protocols, that will be used to classify:

(a) standard flat fans (as before), (b) sprays with air included droplets and (c) "narrow spectrum" nozzles (with a low relative span).

3. Variability of deposit will be used as a surrogate for efficacy, being considered its most important determinant. However we will not ignore concentration, VAR, etc. and the classification will be versatile and "pragmatic" enough to accommodate other factors.
4. The influence of droplet spectrum on efficacy and risk of drift will be major outputs for use in a commercial environment. This in-depth scientific study will underpin straightforward protocols for assessing any new nozzles (that use current technology) which might be introduced at a later stage.

P Miller asked that all present respond with any further thoughts on the proposal direct to him within 1 week. R Bateman expressed the view that if successful, the EWG-A would be an important forum for peer review on progress of the project.

93.2.2 BCPC EWG Applications Group

The secretary introduced this topic outlining the recent poor attendance at EWG meetings. The purpose of the group was discussed and how this fits in with the changed role of BCPC and the pressure on everyone in the industry to justify all time during employment. A feeling of lack of function, beyond the current handbook revision and Link proposal was discussed.

The increased presence and focus of AAB concerning conferences was also noted.

No simple conclusion was drawn following re-affirmation of the EWG value from J Fisher.

93.2.3 Web site: BCPC and links to the EWG-A pages

R Bateman introduced this subject. J Fisher indicated that the BCPC site was BCPE driven and funded. Certain subjects- *e.g.* novel crops on the BCPC web site were noted. The EWG-A pages, on which minutes of these meetings are posted together with other information, are currently on a sub-directory of the www.dropdata.net site with prominent linkage to the BCPC site.

The EWG-A pages are prepared on a voluntary basis, and their function and links from the main BCPC site were discussed. R Bateman sought confirmation on how these linkages should be maintained. Further detail was to be discussed within BCPC shortly and no firm decisions were made at the meeting.

93.2.4 BCPC Newsletter

J Fisher indicated that R Joice had started an electronic newsletter following BCPE Board support. This was seen as confirming and improving the link between members and Council. Subjects and useful contributions welcomed to R Joice.

93.3 BCPC SPRAY/NOZZLE CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

No report considered beyond the development in the link proposal as above.

93.4 BCPC Publications

The secretary confirmed that both Small Scale Spraying (replacing Hand Held and Amenity Sprayers) and Field Scale Spraying (replacing Boom and Fruit Sprayers handbook) were both to be launched at the forthcoming BCPC conference in Glasgow. He understood that the booklets so far circulated had received favourable responses. He agreed to ensure all EWG members had been provided with copies of both books. Any member having not received these to contact secretary

The booklet 'Using pesticides' was now being reviewed further to revision – any comments on this booklet to the secretary ASAP.

93.5 Standards Development

In the absence of Tom Bals there was little new information to discuss on this topic.

92.6 Any Other Business

Workshop meetings in 2007 in Australia were noted, following recent emails from A Hewitt.

Thanks were expressed to T Swan to Hypro-EU for the facilities and hospitality for the meeting.

92.7 Date and Venue for the next meeting

This was fixed for Wednesday 21st March 2007 and Wednesday 3rd October 2007 hopefully at Whittlesford and Longstanton respectively.