

## **BRITISH CROP PRODUCTION COUNCIL**

### **EXPERT WORKING GROUP – APPLICATION (EWG-A)**

Minutes of the **94th meeting** held on **21<sup>st</sup> March 2007** at Syngenta, Whittlesford, Cambs

#### **EWG members present**

R. Bateman (Chairman)

J. Fisher

P. Miller

J. Tobbutt

W Taylor

W. Basford (Secretary)

G. Matthews

T. Swan

H Dobson

T Robinson

#### **94.1**

##### **94.1.1 Apologies**

Apologies for absence had been received from:

Tom Bals, R Glass, R Makepeace, R Hadway.

R Hadway had asked that he now be a ‘papers only’ member responding when needed. C Butler-Ellis now to attend as deputy to P Miller as required.

##### **94.1.2 Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2006 at Hypro – EU**

These were accepted.

##### **94.1.3 Matters arising from the minutes**

All other matters would be covered as agenda items.

#### **94.2 CURRENT ISSUES**

##### **94.2.1 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’

A draft of the proposal was outlined as virtually the final version and budget figures were now included. Members involved were asked for authoritative signatures to the proposal following the meeting. Others were asked for other comments within one week of the meeting.

##### **94.2.2 Web pages**

R Bateman introduced the need for review of the Dropdata web pages in relation to BCPC pages and links involved. It was suggested that better links are required between Working Group information and technical information.

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#### **94.3 BCPC SPRAY/NOZZLE CLASSIFICATION SCHEME**

## **Spray quality definitions**

P Miller drew the meetings attention to the fact that the new Scottish C of P included numerical detail of spray quality boundaries. This was confirmed by reference to the England and Wales C of P. This issue was agreed as contrary to all guidance from the BCPC Working group and no reference to the reference nozzles system was made.

Members agreed that this indicated a totally unacceptable situation and that the WG should make their feelings known to PSD via the Chairman.

### **Action Chairman**

## **Reference Nozzles**

Discussion covered whether there was any need to change the reference nozzles citing the difference in nozzle angle on the 06 size. This instance raised issues of European manufacturers nozzles which may fall into different spray qualities. This highlighted communication routes from BCPC to ISO functions. It was agreed that this was through T Bals in the case of the EWG and T Swan and P Miller offered to review and summarise the situation to T Bals. Further concern was expressed over how sprays were sampled in European studies.

Action T Swan, P Miller

## **94.4 TOPPS, Train the Operators to prevent Pollution from Point Sources.**

W Taylor presented an outline of this world wide project and emphasised the goal of the project in keeping pesticides out of water. Review of the project by visiting the web site [www.topps-life.org](http://www.topps-life.org) was recommended. He invited everyone to feel free to contribute to the project and to identify with the project. Concerns were raised as to whether the project was duplicating Voluntary Initiative information and how it aligned with other countries Codes of Practice. Such concerns were not seen as challenging the aim of the project but would highlight differences between countries at varying stages of pesticide application development.

## **94.5 BCPC Publications**

**94.5.1** Application Booklet Series. W Basford reported that progress was now finalising the draft of Using Pesticides. Small Scale Spraying and Field Scale Spraying had now in publication for some months and good responses had been received.

**94.5.2** Seed Treatment Booklet. J Fisher reported that this had now been reviewed and published.

**94.5.3** School Books. J Fisher reported the recent launch of the School book series and that these filled a niche for a balanced view of Pesticide Use within the UK.

**94.5.4** New Crops Booklets. J Fisher indicated that this recent booklet offered a wide resource covering the whole adoption process of such crops into UK farming systems.

J Tobbutt and others questioned whether all such publications could be available at some benefit to Expert group members, particularly where members had spent time freely contributing to such work. It was recognised that currently was not in place but J Fisher agreed to pursue the matter.

#### **94.5.5 BCPC E Newsletter**

Members agreed that the E Newsletter was valuable but questioned whether it could be forwarded to anyone and thus again highlighted the 'value' of BCPC membership. BCPC 'membership' thus again was questioned for benefit and input by working group members.

### **94.6 Standards development**

T Bals forwarded the following comments in his absence.

**94.6.1 Droplet sizing Standard**, important for the proposed LINK project. There is a WG meeting in Paris in April and Andrew Hewitt's latest communication on this Standard is available to members.

**94.6.2** A proposed standard on liquids to simulate agrochemicals. BBA have produced a draft which I think is severely deficient. Contact is invited to T Bals regarding this.

**94.6.3** BBA are proposing possible International Standards on Good Spraying Practice and Dose Reduction (the latter conceived simply as volume reduction from a conventional application achieved by recycling or sensor controlled spraying!). The UK (BSI) don't see either topic as suitable for a (prescriptive) international standard.

**94.6.4** A new Standard for relatively cheap comparative drift measurement/ comparison of complete sprayers in the field (as opposed to the current International Standard for field measurement of spray drift which is geared towards producing data for regulatory purposes and is thus complicated and expensive). At present one Italian study is known but is considered insufficient to construct a Standard around it. Any bright ideas would be welcomed!

### **94.7 Any Other Business**

**94.7.1** BCPC Press arrangements J Fisher enlarged on his email of 05/03/2007 indicating that it is hoped that better handling of publicity or BCPC profile at all levels would result.

**94.7.2** RPA Cross Compliance issues. Press coverage and farmer experience was noted highlighting the use of full label rates in application which was challenging

many routine applications at low volumes throughout the country. It was reported that PSD were aware of the situation and on going considerations should soon resolve the current situation.

#### **94.7.3 BCPC groups**

Soil and Water group

A meeting of this new group was reported to be planned for 23 March 2007

BCPC Machinery group

This new group was outlined and its bearing on EWG – A was considered but not thought to be duplication

Bio Technology

Group based at Rothampstead, looking at Applied Plant biotechnology

Land Management

Group to deal with Non crop income, some discussion as to what BCPC has to offer in this area.

Old Science and technology panel

Group to be wound up, next meeting likely to be last. Secretary or Group Chairmen to be invited to final meeting

#### **94.7.4 Events**

AAB Conference Jan 9-11<sup>th</sup> 2008, Cambridge

AAB Workshop, GPS applications, John Deere Training School May 17<sup>th</sup>  
2007

#### **94.8 Date and Venue for the next meeting**

This was confirmed for Wednesday 3rd October 2007 at Hypro-EU, Longstanton

Thanks were expressed to T Robinson, Syngenta for the facilities and hospitality for the meeting.