

BRITISH CROP PRODUCTION COUNCIL

EXPERT WORKING GROUP – APPLICATION (EWG-A)

Minutes of the **97th meeting** held on **23rd September 2008** at IPARC
Silwood Park, Ascot

R Bateman (Chairman)
G Matthews
H Dobson
P. Miller
T. Swan
J. Tobutt

W Basford (Tech sec.)
J Clayton
R Glass
C Butler Ellis
T Robinson
C Ruscoe

97.1

97.1.1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from:
R Makepeace, W Taylor, J Fisher, C Todd

97.1.2 Minutes of the 96th meeting held on 12 February 2008 at Silsoe.

These were accepted with a minor revision (as posted on www).

97.1.2 Matters arising from the minutes

ISO standards relevant to this WG had now been placed on the Dropdata website.

97.2 CURRENT ISSUE

97.2.1 *Quo Vadis* EWG ?

C Ruscoe, deputising at short notice for BCPC as C Todd and J Fisher were absent, addressed the meeting outlining the BCPE receivership situation. BCPC had now obtained the BCPE publications section from the administrators. This is seen as viable section. Certain changes will be required to be registered with the Charity Commission.

BCPC in looking for future function is reported as being keen to maintain the expert working groups but is unlikely to progress with the Congress / Symposium as in past formats.

Questions related to the BCPC purpose and mission were asked.

Questioned as to the number of active WG's remained it was acknowledged that only 2 remained, namely the Applications group and the Weeds group.

It was stated that BCPC had no full time employees, C Todd, J Fisher being contractors to run the business of BCPC. Other part time staff was employed.

Group members then entered into a frank discussion which centred on BCPC purpose in the current applications industry and economic climate, voluntary action on behalf of working group membership and duplication of functions versus:

- Voluntary Initiative
- AAB
- AEA Chemicals Application Group

The BCPC Newsletter was highlighted as one to be questioned as to its value. Of the 11 members present, 8 scanned the items and referred to it occasionally when the listed subjects were relevant but 3 didn't read it at all.

Viability of BCPC was doubted if Publications and Conference sections were removed. Thus the credibility of BCPC function was at stake and group members sought clarification as to what BCPC wanted for the future. Running parallel to this considering a positive move it was agreed that a 'clean sheet' approach summarising the views of the WG members as to the value, purpose and mission of BCPC and the EWG-A should be prepared. In the short time for available for discussion this has been collated as a separate sheet attached to these minutes.

97.3 BCPC SPRAY NOZZLE CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

Discussion was deferred in view of the LINK PROJECT meeting to be held post the EWG meeting.

97.4 BCPC PUBLICATIONS

No significant discussion was held in view of the 'new' situation but some possible training outlets were mentioned as regarding the fertiliser and slug pellet spreading booklet.

96.5 STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

No further discussion was held.

96.7 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Dates and Venue were scheduled at the LINK Project meeting:

The proposed dates for 2009 are 10th March [at Hypro - EU Ltd, Longstanton, Cambridge] and September [venue TBD].