

British Crop Protection Council Expert Working Group on Application

The Expert Working Group shall consist of a Chairman nominated by the Chairman of the Science & Technology Committee and approved by Council, a Convenor/Secretary and members (appointed by the chairman of the Expert Working Group) from appropriate Council member organisations. The Expert Working Group shall have the right of co-option either to full membership or for the duration of specific discussions or activities. The Chairman of the Science & Technology Committee and the General Secretary of BCPC shall be members *ex-officio*.

Terms of reference

1. To review all matters concerning the physical application of chemical and biological pesticide products for crop protection and growth regulation and propose action to improve application systems, including recommendations for research and development and technology transfer.

The group is contributing to the current update of the BCPC R7D Needs in Crop Protection document.

An ad hoc working group is planned to formulate guidance on spray/nozzle section, having cross-committee membership for specific crop or pest related recommendations.

2. To provide advice and act as BCPC spokesman on application matters to official bodies such as MAFF and other departments/agencies responsible for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; British and International. Standards and the Health and Safety Executive, and to seek representation on their committees as appropriate.

Current work includes input to Departments on pesticide buffer zones and alternative policies for Local Environmental Risk Assessment for Pesticides (LERAP); comments on Codes of Practice; foreseeable need to corroborate risk assessment modelling frameworks for environmental and human hazards arising from spray drift.

3. To set up ad hoc working groups to undertake specific tasks subject to approval by the Science & Technology Committee and budgetary provision. Each group shall be disbanded upon completion of the task for which it was set up.

An ad hoc working group has been set up to complete revision of the International BCPC Spray/Nozzle Classification Scheme; another has been set up to formulate general basic guidance on spray/nozzle selection.

4. To facilitate and/or promote the exchange of information on application technology between agrochemical suppliers, equipment suppliers, research development and advisory organisations, farmers, growers and others.

There is a foreseeable need to create ad hoc working groups to deal with queries arising from the implementation of the revised International BCPC) Spray/Nozzle Classification Scheme, operation under ISO standards.

5. To facilitate and/or promote development in application technology which are of benefit to the crop protection industry, the environment and crop protection generally. The objective is the improvement of spraying and other application methods, and means for safe handling of pesticides, to achieve safer and more efficient pesticide treatments.

Revision of the existing training material used widely by farm operator training bodies will help achieve the objective.

6. To draw up an operating budget annually for submission to the Science & Technology Committee.