

International Advances in Pesticide Application 2008

The International Advances in Pesticide Application conference was held at Cambridge University's Robinson College on 9-11 January 2008, and attracted scientists from a wide range of countries and disciplines. The platform presentations highlighted the international aspect of scientific and engineering advances related to safe and efficient crop protection techniques across the world, which included a presentation by Collins Wanyama of Real IPM in Kenya. A number of papers presented recent work to quantify spray drift and the development of techniques to reduce losses. There were inputs from regulators in the UK, Netherlands and the USA and a discussion which considered how best to set unsprayed buffer zones, and possibilities for a harmonised approach within the EU. Sessions also included the use of new techniques to apply pesticides, including the use of sensing techniques, which can recognise the target, so allowing pesticides to be delivered more effectively. Papers dealing with tree and bush spraying highlighted the need to match the application technique to the target as changes occur during the growing season. Digressing from crop protection, papers covering vector control in Florida and Africa highlighted a very different approach to using pesticides. Graham Matthews presented an overview of the work done by IPARC, which celebrated its 50th year in 2005, and continues to play an active role, particularly in the developing world. We look forward to seeing everyone at our next conference in 2010.

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