



IAPA goes on tour

In recognition of the International Advances in Pesticide Application being a truly international event the pesticide application group chose Wageningen as the venue for the January 2012 conference. The move to the Netherlands succeeded in attracting 99 delegates of which 62 were from mainland Europe, 22 UK based and 15 long haul participants, an encouraging attendance overall. Access from Schiphol International airport and rail network made for an easy straightforward arrival to the conference centre.

The conference attracted 57 platform papers and 11 posters and covered just about all walks of pesticide application. Split into 15 sessions over the 2/3 days it made for a busy programme.

The opening sessions on day one started by addressing the performance standards of spray machinery components and knapsack sprayers. Studies into the effective application of Bio-pesticides and the interaction of adjuvants and formulations turned the attention to crop surfaces and modelling the interactions of air quality for public health applications. Bystander exposure to drift and vapours was another area where modelling and practice were compared. Developments into autonomous vehicles and sensing of spray targets was a popular subject for submitted papers covering machinery large and small and crops as diverse as oranges, potatoes and vegetables, and weed control on paved areas. The afternoon extended into the early evening with the first part of the sprayer loading and cleaning session. The session continued into the second day but not before the first of the invited speakers, Dr Mike Bushell, Head of Syngenta International Research Centre, Jealott's Hill opened the day and gave a keynote address on the role of the application industry entitled the food security challenge.

A three paper session on GPS and sprayer guidance systems fitted before the days major topics of spray

drift and spray physics consisting of thirteen papers. The afternoon session convened to welcome our second invited speaker, Prof. Heinz Ganzelmeier, head of sprayer research and testing at the Julius Kühn Institute to give his views on standardisation and its role in research and the development of standards pertinent to the industry needs. Another busy day took the platform presentations to another evening close and an almost seamless move into the poster session and reception for the conference dinner.

The adoption of specialist equipment for specific crops and the efficacy of deposition on targets were the opening subjects of day three before the application in greenhouses and controlled environments rounded off the morning. As with any conference there has to be a last session of the last day and all the difficulties that brings, for us it was a session as well supported as any other. Centering on fruit, vine and vegetable spraying, it combined inputs from modelling and computational fluid dynamics in orchards to drift reduction.

A further bold move was to publish the *Aspects* in colour. Historically the conference had attracted papers containing many complex figures and diagrams that lost a lot of their impact in monochrome. Session organisers encouraged authors to make use of the opportunity and the resulting *Aspects 114* vindicates the decision.

In summing up I made an attempt to quantify what the conference and the proceedings represented. In short it probably represents the best part of a million man hours of research, it is a synopsis of the majority of applied research into pesticide application that is current and on-going in the world and a big thank you to all those who shared their endeavours with us.

- Simon Cooper, Pesticide Application Group



Editor-in-Chief Prof Martin Parry at Biomass and Energy Crops IV, in Illinois last Summer

Food and Energy Security...

has published its first editorial by Editor-in-Chief Martin Parry - Food and Energy Security: exploring the challenges of attaining secure and sustainable supplies of food and energy. Prof. Parry explains the significant research areas which this journal will publish in and why it has been launched. 'Given the rise in human population and the inevitable consequences of climate change, the challenges of achieving secure and sustainable supplies of both food and energy are Herculean. With the launch of the open access, multidisciplinary journal our intention

is to offer a forum for the discussion of the most important advances in this field and promote an integrative approach of scientific disciplines.' *Food and Energy Security* is a fully open access journal which is published in association with Wiley Blackwell. You can find out more about the journal by visiting www.foodenergysecurity.com. To submit your article please find the author guidelines on the same page. AAB Members receive an article processing discount of 20%; please select this option when submitting your manuscript.