

## Report from Farming Systems Design Workshop – 6 March 2013

The AAB Farming Systems Design Workshop in Newcastle in March 2013 discussed the need for a core group of researchers to focus on the analysis and design of farming systems in the UK. While many existing organisations and groups in the UK see farming systems as part of their remit there is no umbrella group or united voice for farming systems research. A group such as this would have a number of roles including networking, influencing the research agenda, highlighting and building consortia for funding opportunities, data and resource sharing (experimental/analytical). The group would need to be both interdisciplinary and cross a range of agricultural systems and scales. The remit could encompass a wide variety of traditional land uses but also be forward looking e.g. vertical farming. We propose that this would be a working group under the AAB but liaising with

BSAS/BES/AES/BSSS/Permaculture Association/ Farm Woodland Forum/IAGRE and others as appropriate. The group does not need a formalised structure but one model suggested was using the format of the UK Weed Liaison group.

The group's first activity would be to run a discussion session at the Rethinking agricultural systems in the UK conference in December with the purpose of thinking about UK based activities and opportunities to link into the European Community of Practice launched by ESA.

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If you have any **ideas** for conference topics and/or would like to get more involved in developing the scientific programme for a meeting then please get in touch via your group or:



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Group committees are now developing the proposals for the conference programme for 2014.

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## Food and Energy Security...

### Brazilian plant Physiology Meeting (9-12 Sept, Pocos de Caldas, Brazil)

Three of the Food and Energy Security Editors including Editor in Chief Prof Martin Parry were present at the Brazilian Plant Physiology meeting from 9-10 of September in Pocos de Caldas. Bill Davies gave a talk on 'Making a journal indispensable to researchers and teachers' and Martin on 'Creating new journals and moving society journals to the market place' in order to create a buzz surrounding the AAB's newest journal. Prof Ricardo Azevedo Chaired the session after giving his paper on 'Addressing oxidative stress by toxic metals: what's up to the future,' earlier in the afternoon.

The talks and participation were tremendous, with very good and positive feedback overall from the conference delegates.

The team succeeded in getting good visibility both for the journal and Wiley. During the talks and in the presentations they made sure FES and Wiley were easily seen. With Ricardo Azevedo taking some 20 printed *Annals* issues to show and give away at the stand along with the other journals.

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