

aab news



Image: 'Spraying pesticides in California' USDA Photo by: Charles O' Rear

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Welcome to AABNews Issue 73



What's Inside?

Management of urban woodlands poses its own problems. Here Prof Mel Jones competes with the noise from adjacent lorries in the ancient Bowden Wood, trisected by the A630 and A57 - *Vegetation Management, Sheffield Hallam University, UK, 27-28 April 2011*

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THE RANK PRIZE FUNDS

The Rank Prize Funds will again be offering vacation studentships commencing in the Summer of 2012. A total grant of £1800 per student (£225 per week for 8 weeks) will be available for students to assist in research projects in the fields of human nutrition, animal nutrition and crop husbandry. Topics should be within the remit of the Committee. Supervisors already actively engaged on appropriate projects can download the guidelines and application form from the news section on the website www.rankprize.org. Closing date for applications will be 28 February 2012

News from Council

Council met on from the evening of July 12th and on July 13th at Mickleton, Gloucestershire. We had useful discussions over an excellent dinner on Tuesday night. The Council meeting on Wednesday was preceded by a meeting of all the convenors of the specialist groups. Council received reports from specialist groups of their activity and convenors highlighted the increasing role that teleconferencing is playing in supporting engagement with members of the specialist group committees. Council recognised that face to face meetings would continue to be appropriate in many circumstances and confirmed that it was happy to support the expenses of such meetings. Council approved applications for membership from 40 new applicants and noted the breadth of interest amongst applications for membership. We look forward to working with these new members in the months and years to come. Council received reports on publications and Matt Pacey from Wiley Blackwell attended the meeting to update Council on issues from the publisher's perspective. Progress with the new journal "Food and Energy Security" continues on schedule and the contract between the AAB and Wiley Blackwells is currently with our solicitor for review - no major issues were found when reviewed by Council and so it is expected to be completed successfully before the end of August.

Convenors had discussed the

forward conference programme (2012 onwards) and brought six full conference proposals to be considered by Council for multi-day meetings for 2012. 5 were approved in full; one which will take place in New Zealand in autumn 2012 was referred back to the organiser for further information before approval. There is still an opportunity to bring proposals for one day meetings to November Council. The AAB is pleased with the breadth of the conference programme that is planned for 2012. Council received the end of probation report for Claire Hartry who has been employed as the editorial assistant associated with the new journal. This was very good and Council were pleased to confirm Claire's full contract with the Association. Claire is also responsible for developing the Association's web presence and she is investigating the use of other social media e.g. Facebook. Claire is also the editor of this newsletter - thanks, Claire. Please attend the AGM on the 14th September at the Natural History Museum, London; your input is valuable. As well as receiving the Annual report for activity in 2010, there will be an opportunity to raise any issues you think need to be drawn to the attention of Council. We would particularly like to discuss with all members their thoughts on i) the increasing international focus of the organisation and ii) the desire of Council to increase the Association engagement with students. It's your Association, do get involved.

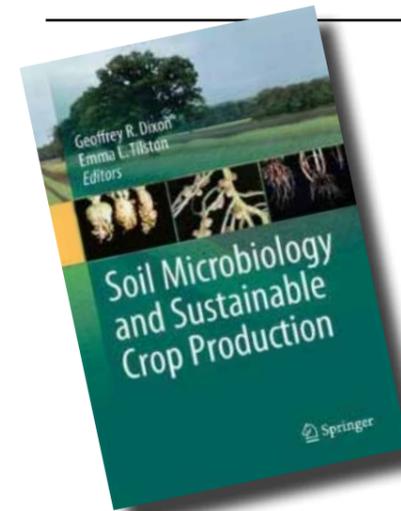
-Elizabeth Stockdale

We have been without a membership officer for some time and Council has resolved to increase our efforts to fill this honorary post, which also needs updating. In the future, more emphasis needs to be given to profile-raising, promoting the services of the Association to a wider community and developing more effective outreach, particularly to postgraduate applied biologists. Success in these areas would

have the effect of increasing our domestic membership, while developing our international activities will offer opportunities to enhance overseas recruitment. I would be very happy to review the remit of the post with prospective candidates and explore these and other ways of increasing membership and our engagement with applied biologists worldwide. If any member is interested in the post, or would like to suggest a colleague

who may be interested, please contact me directly (t.j.hocking@wlv.ac.uk) for further discussion. When nominated and elected, the officer becomes a member of Council and has opportunities to contribute to the overall development of the Association. Please consider if you can help the AAB in this role. Many thanks.

-AAB President, Trevor Hocking



Soil Microbiology and Sustainable Crop Production Edited by Geoffrey R. Dixon and Emma L. Tilston

Perspectives from the Biocontrol and Cropping and the Environment Groups "Soil and in particular its microbial diversity remains largely an unexplored world". We currently know very little about the vast numbers and forms of microbes that inhabit the soil and yet they are key to many of the natural mechanisms for controlling pests and pathogens and enhancing soil fertility. The very nature of soils has slowed their study until recently and this in turn has limited their successful husbandry. However, this is changing as molecular biology provides really powerful and effective tools for unravelling the complex relationships and interactions. The book is born out of a basic recognition that much more attention needs to be paid to the biological components of soils if we are to feed 9 billion people on this planet by 2050 and do it in a

manner which preserves natural biodiversity in a sustainable and effective way. As such, it makes a valuable contribution towards the international debate on population growth, food security and the conservation of biodiversity.

The book has been edited by Prof Geoffrey Dixon and Dr Emma Tilston, who are specialists in the area of soil borne pathogens. They have enlisted the help of 32 highly respected international scientists and authors assembling an eminent group who are able to provide an insight into all aspects of the developing knowledge of soil microbes and point to ways in which they can be utilised in support of agronomically and environmentally sustainable crop production.

The eleven chapters develop the subject in a logical sequence. The book begins with a basic discussion of sustainability and then surveys a variety of ecosystems summarising what is known about their microscopic inhabitants. There are considerations of the importance of soil organic matter husbandry as a means for enhancing microbial health and the effects of cultivation practices. Particular attention is given to tropical and sub-tropical soils as well as the impact of biocontrol. One chapter explores how the changes induced by plant breeding could affect microbial diversity and function as well as nutrient cycling in ways that are usually not considered by plant breeders. Another explores the potential impact of climate change on microbial communities in the soil. Finally, there is an economist's appraisal

of the social and economic impact of soil microbes in agriculture using specific case studies.

An overriding message from the book is that the productivity of soils will determine the eventual success or failure of efforts to satisfy the world population's needs. It is the microscopic world of the soil that holds many of the properties which will enable mankind to surmount the huge problems arising from a burgeoning population and diminishing land supply.

The cover indicates that the book will be of value to advanced undergraduate and postgraduate students, lecturers, researchers, consultants and practitioners. It is likely to provide introductory material across this broad field, providing information for biocontrol specialists on the ecosystem interactions underpinning nutrient cycling and reminding those who are more focused on soil fertility that soil microbiology has a key role in plant disease and biocontrol. Unfortunately some chapters lack figures and tables to summarise and provide case studies to support the written information. However, the book draws together a wide range of information and the chapters contain knowledge of substance and authority. We would recommend for the bookshelf of every active applied biologist if you don't have a book to underpin your understanding of soil microbiology.

-Dr Rob Jacobson
Biocontrol Group

-Elizabeth Stockdale
Cropping and the Environment



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Conference reports

Vegetation Management

Sheffield Hallam University, UK, 27-28 April 2011

Approximately every four years the AAB runs a conference associated with Vegetation Management. Past conferences have been held in York and at Studley. This year we chose a venue probably new to the AAB – Sheffield Hallam University. The location was convenient for delegates coming by train, but perhaps less so for those trying to park! But the sun shone, and the views out from the elevated conference room during breaks were clear and sharp.

The Royal Wedding had not been announced when we fixed the dates, and our conference ended up sandwiched between two bank holidays. Many potential delegates obviously took the opportunity for a week off work. Consequently the number of delegates (45) was down on numbers at previous meetings with the same theme.

Over the course of two days we listened to 28 talks and had a dozen posters to read. The plenary on the first day was given by Professor Robin Pakeman (The James Hutton Institute, formerly MLURI) on multiple objectives in vegetation management, such as balancing grass yields with biodiversity. Professor Nigel Dunnett of the University of Sheffield gave the plenary on the second day. His talk discussed sometimes controversial species mixes to achieve big, bold and long-flowering urban meadows. The offered presentations and papers were divided into five sessions: grassland, invertebrates, woodland, hedges and other. I need to apologise for the title of the last session but was struggling to think of a title that would encompass landuse change, wild bird seed provision, countryside stewardship, community engagement, brownfield sites, orchid exclosures, juniper



Bowden Wood - an ancient woodland within the city of Sheffield - contains a wealth of historical and botanical interest, and a number of management problems

regeneration, invasive aliens, moorland fires, and blanket peat restoration. Suggestions on a postcard please. A student prize was awarded to Robin Blake of Reading University for his talk on diversification of grass buffer strips to benefit butterflies. As usual, the proceedings are available as a volume (108) of *Aspects of Applied Biology*, available at all good AAB offices. For the planning, organising and running of the conference I would like to thank the AAB office and my co-organisers (Chris Britt, Andy Cherrill, Rob Marrs, Simon Mortimer, Richard Pywell, Ian Rotherham, Victoria Stokes and Duncan Westbury). After the conference proper, a small group was given a guided tour of Bowden Woods, one of many ancient woodlands within the city boundaries, by Professors Mel Jones and Ian Rotherham. For those of us used to isolated ancient woodlands, to visit one bisected by two modern "expressways" with urban problems of fly tipping and arson was an eye opener, and made the usual problems of

dog fouling and a bit of poaching rather trivial. What direction should this series of conferences take in the future? Clearly we should avoid bank holidays, and particularly Royal Weddings. A joint conference with other bodies, such as IEEM and BES, may prove to be the best way forward. Ultimately there will be a change in focus. I personally would like to see more emphasis on student presentations while Ian Rotherham would like to see more on practical restoration and on urban ecology and Richard Pywell would like to see a general conservation, rather than a vegetation, theme. Well-run but ultimately unsuccessful projects are rarely reported, but we need to learn from these "mistakes" and in my view presentations of the unsuccessful should be encouraged. I'm sure there is scope to accommodate all of these in a future conference. The organisers are willing to repeat the conference. We merely need to ensure offers of papers and an audience!

-Tim Sparks

Agricultural Ecology Research: its role in delivering sustainable farm systems

West Park Centre, Dundee, Scotland, 15-16 June 2011

A Paul Noth cartoon 'The New Yorker' 21st March 2011



Zander (from Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF, in Berlin), and agricultural-biodiversity monitoring specialist Kathrin Pascher (University of Vienna, Austria). The informal and collegiate atmosphere allowed critical-thinking to be exercised on experimental data and

'environmental-sustainability' as "profit". However he did go on to emphasise that, with the correct application of knowledge, profit can be achieved in an environmentally-friendly way. Short papers of the presentations made at the meeting are collated in the *Aspects of Applied Biology* (vol. 109), and many of these articles originated from the last 5-year Scottish Government-funded research programme entitled, 'Sustainable Crop Systems' (2006-2011).

"Herding cats to ensure profits from agricultural ecosystems"

A report on a 2-day conference entitled, 'Agricultural Ecology Research: its role in delivering sustainable farm systems' which was conceived by members of The James Hutton Institute (JHI) Agroecology research-team, and held on the 15th and 16th of June at Dundee's West Park Centre. The meeting focused on the essential role of crops and wild plants in delivering sustainable crop systems; with a special focus on the role of cropped and wild legumes (nitrogen use efficiency) in that interaction. A wide range of stakeholders were represented ranging from farmers and agronomic-advisors to life-scientists of all forms. Policy-makers were absent.

The Organising Committee comprised scientists from five different institutions: at the James Hutton Institute (Ali Karley, Cathy Hawes, Geoff Squire and Pete Iannetta), and also the Association of Applied Biologists (Carol Millman), Dundee & St. Andrew's University (Stephen Hubbard), Scottish Agricultural College (Ian Bingham and Christine Watson) and the, GWCT (Barbara Smith). The delegates who gathered from throughout Europe helped facilitate what was an excellent meeting. Invited speakers included socio-economist Peter

issues that centred on improving food-security whilst maintaining provisioning- or ecological-services. The conference generated explicit links between research, farm-management, policy and education; especially in the closing session when Director of the GWCT Nick

This meeting was also supported by the British Ecological Society - Agroecology Special Interest Group and Legume Futures. The Organisers Committee aims to deliver a multi-authored Special Issue of the *Annals of Applied Biology* based on key papers presented at, or as a consequence of, this meeting.



Prof Janet Sprent (Dundee University Division of Plant Sciences), shows off her nitrogen-fixing nodules on *Vicia faba* (field bean), which have great potential to deliver multiple benefits

Sotherton likened managing scientists to "herding cats". Farmer Simon Henderson (The Fenton Centre), has redefined

For more information contact Carol Millman at the AAB, or Pete Iannetta at the JHI.

-Pietro Iannetta

Advances in Cider and Fruit Wine Technology

Pershore College, 7 April 2011

A specialist session on Cider and Fruit Wine production held at Pershore College focused on the major issues for small scale production and benefited greatly from the college having cider production on site. Award winning samples from the college press were popular tasting aids and an ideal illustration of what can be achieved.

Attendance at the session was predominantly from small scale producers who brought a wide range of concerns. Managing fermentation microbiology was a common issue along with illustrations of analysis for managing quality. A number of delegates were keen to know how to plan an ideal cider orchard and control their raw materials. Achieving consistency is a major target of food manufacturers but the conference also discussed whether the inevitable variability of fruit gives vintage production a marketing advantage.

A detailed contribution from Chantelle Jay of East Malling Research Centre provided a wealth of background for those producers looking to establish their own fruit stock and to orchard managers. An increased interest in varietal products is providing strong support for specialist cider production but there is inevitably a long lead time before an investment

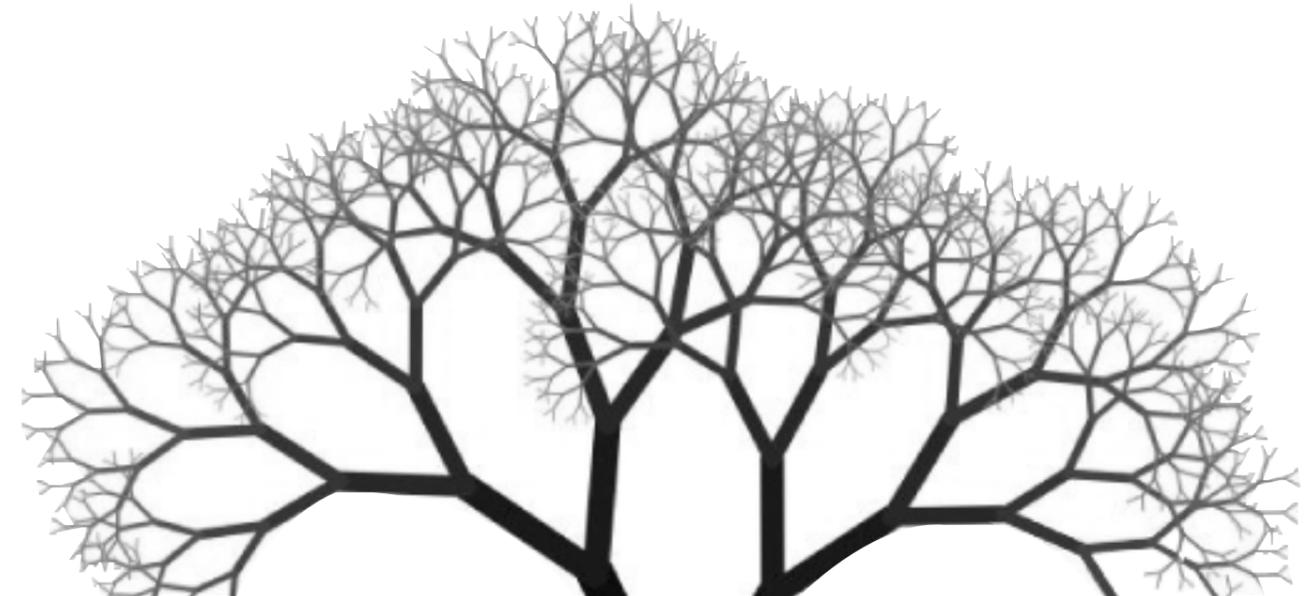


may be realised. Richard Toft from Pershore College outlined production issues with clear guidance on how to achieve best quality from variable input with many examples of specialist knowledge. A good example being not to use apples larger than your fist as spoilage moulds penetrate into the core which cracks as apples grow too large.

The issue of cider microbiology was further addressed with a focus on the different yeasts involved in fermentation. A major issue for discussion was the merits of natural succession by indigenous yeasts compared to the consistency offered by pure yeast inoculation. The action of bacteria in conducting maturation reactions was covered in detail by Belinda Kemp from Plumpton College Wine Centre with specific advice on the production of sparkling wines.

A brief workshop allowed demonstrations of microscopy to illustrate yeast species and contaminants and the session was completed by an informative visit to the college cider plant managed by Richard Toft. With so many opportunities for gathering autumn fruit the production of cider and wine has considerable potential not just commercially but also by institutions, farms and landowners. A repeat of the session may usefully expand its remit and encourage a broader range of production in the future.

-Keith Thomas



Systems Approaches to Crop Improvement

Rothamsted Research, 14-15 April 2011

The term systems biology has been applied to a number of trends in current bioscience research, including that applied to crop science and plant breeding. Because it has been applied to more than one trend, some of us have been a bit vague as to what it actually means. Perhaps the easiest way to define it is to contrast it with an earlier trend, the reductionist approach, which breaks down complex systems into their component parts and studies each one in isolation. Systems biology, on the other hand, looks at how all of the components of a biological system interact. The complexity of biological systems has meant that mathematical modelling has played an important part in systems biology. In the case of a metabolic pathway, data on gene expression, enzyme activities and kinetics, metabolite levels and products are combined to generate a model, and the model is used to develop hypotheses which can be tested by experimentation. The results of the experiments are then used to refine the model, develop new hypotheses and design a new round of experiments.

Systems approaches are also used to study the interactions between plants and the environment, exploring how these interactions give rise to the function and behaviour of a natural or agricultural system in response to variations in climate pressure from pests and pathogens, and the availability of water and nutrients. Systems approaches are proving to be powerful techniques in crop improvement, helping to identify traits and to accelerate the breeding process.

The AAB conference on Systems Approaches

to Crop Improvement at Rothamsted in April provided an opportunity for crop scientists to exchange knowledge and identify new frontiers in this exciting area of interdisciplinary research. It was also a chance for those less familiar with the systems approach to get an idea of how it could be applied to their research. I was delighted that one of the leaders in the field, Mikhail Semenov, agreed to co-organise the meeting, and Mikhail put together an exceptional line-up of speakers from France and the Netherlands as well as the UK. The programme included presentations on a wide range of food and energy crops, and reflected the variety of ways in which the term systems biology is used. For example, we enjoyed a superb presentation on mechanistic models for intracellular rhythms from Andrew Millar of Edinburgh University, and an equally fascinating talk on the role of participatory plant breeding involving local farmers in the development of a sweetpotato variety in Uganda from Richard Gibson of the University of Greenwich. Systems biology is a hot topic at the moment and the conference suffered somewhat from competition with others on the same subject. However, as often happens when the number of delegates is not too great, the question and answer sessions were lively and the conference was hugely enjoyable. Thanks to my co-organiser, Mikhail Semenov, and to the AAB office staff.

-Nigel Halford

GM Crops: From basic research to application

Rothamsted Research, 28th -29 June 2011

Over sixty delegates attended a conference entitled 'GM Crops: From basic research to application' at Rothamsted Research on 28th -29th June 2011.

Keynote presentations from Profs. Maurice Moloney and Tina Barsby opened and closed the meeting which was further divided into three sessions focussing on platform transformation technologies, traits and risk assessment/regulation. Students and more experienced researchers gave presentations describing the tools and resources available for plant transformation and transgenic approaches to the modification of lipid metabolism, cell wall components, insect resistance etc.

The second day was dominated by specific issues of risk assessment and regulation with a well-received talk from Ian Pigott, a local farmer who stood in at very short notice for one of the four Chinese delegates who

unfortunately failed to receive their visas on time. Generous sponsorship was provided by the *Journal of Experimental Botany* who also commissioned several manuscripts from the meeting.

-Huw Jones



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NEW MEMBERS ELECTED 12-13 JULY 2011

Mr Ayan Almerei, PhD Student at the University of Plymouth with a special interest in plant physiology & crop improvement & GM crops

Mr Fadil Al-Swedi, Student at the University of Plymouth with a special interest in plant physiology & crop improvement

Mr Quaye Amos, Research Scientist at SUNY-ESF USA with special interests in cropping and the environment, plant physiology & crop improvement, biomass and bioenergy and Soil-plant nutrition and agronomy

Dr Gudbjorg Aradottir, Post-doc in Chemical Ecology at Rothamsted Research with special interests in cropping and the environment, pesticide application, plant physiology & crop improvement, biological control and food systems

Mr Tim Beddoes, Research Scientist - plant biotech at Advanced Technologies (Cambridge) Ltd with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, cropping and the environment, food systems, nematology, pesticide application, plant physiology & crop improvement and virology

Dr Dhan Bhandari, Research Manager at AHDB-HGCA with special interests in plant physiology & crop improvement, food systems and feed quality and safety

Dr Nick Birch, Senior Research Entomologist with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment, food systems, nematology, pesticide application, IPM and GM crops

Dr Maurice Bosch, Senior Research Scientist at IBERS with a special interest in plant

physiology & crop improvement
Dr Marianna Cerasuolo, Post-doc Researcher - Crop Modeller at the Centre for Bioenergy and Climate Change, Rothamsted with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment and plant physiology & crop improvement

Mrs Fiona Charge, Plant Molecular Biologist at Advanced Technologies (Cambridge) Ltd with special interests in cropping and the environment and plant physiology & crop improvement

Dr Matthieu de Carbonnel, Post-doc in agronomic traits at Syngenta Biotechnology Inc, USA with special interests in cropping and the environment and plant physiology & crop improvement

Dr Jayne Green, Gene Discovery Manager at Advanced Technologies (Cambridge) Ltd with a special interest in plant physiology & crop improvement

Dr Richard Gulliver, Ecological

Consultant with a special interest in plant ecology, grasslands, woodlands, orchids and otters

Dr Glyn Harper, Potato Pathologist at AHDB Potato Council with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, food systems, nematology, pesticide application, plant physiology & crop improvement and virology

Mr Chris Harrold, Regional Technical Advisor with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment, nematology, pesticide application and plant physiology & crop improvement

Dr Wendy Harwood, Strategic Research Scientist - crop formulations at John Innes Centre with special interests in cropping and the environment, plant physiology & crop improvement and biotechnology

Ms Gemma Hayton, Research Technician at Advanced Technologies (Cambridge) Ltd with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, cropping and the environment plant physiology & crop improvement and virology

Dr Corrine Herouet-Guicheney, Working at Bayer SAS France with special interests in food systems, GM crops, biotechnology and toxicology

Dr Peter Hoebe, Plant Population Geneticist at SAC with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment, plant physiology & crop improvement and evolutionary breeding

Miss Fenni Kang, PhD Student at Ecole Centrale Paris, researching crop modelling with special interests in cropping and the environment, food systems, plant physiology & crop improvement, simulation phenotyping and modelling

Dr Ann-Kristin Koehler, Research Fellow working on crop modelling to provide adaptation strategies under progressive climate change with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment, food systems, pesticide application and plant physiology & crop improvement

Mr Martin Lainsbury, Consultant from Norfolk with special interests in biological control, cropping

and the environment, pesticide application and plant physiology & crop improvement

Dr Ian Lane, Pastures, Fodder and Feed Specialist - freelance consultant in international development with special interests in cropping and the environment and plant physiology & crop improvement

Dr Fiona Marshall, Senior Lecturer at the University of Sussex with special interests in cropping and the environment and plant physiology & crop improvement

Dr Solange Monteiro de Andrade, Researcher at Embrapa, Brazil currently an academic visitor at Broom's Barn working on wheat drought stress with special interests in cropping and the environment and plant physiology & crop improvement

Mr Fahim Muhammad, PhD Student at CSIRO Australia with special interests in virology and plant biotechnology

Mr Jakub Olewski, PhD Student at SAC/University of Aberdeen with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, cropping and the environment and food systems

Mr Kunal Prasad, Student at the University of Sunderland with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, cropping and the environment, food systems, nematology, pesticide application, plant physiology & crop improvement, virology

Dr Phil Putwain, Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University of Liverpool/Terrestrial Plant Ecologist with a special interest in the restoration and management of semi-natural vegetation communities on damaged substrates, mineral wastes and derelict and brownfield land

Mr Adam Rodgers Molecular Biologist - plant biotech at Advanced Technologies (Cambridge) Ltd with special interests in cropping and the environment and plant physiology & crop improvement

Mr Stuart Smith, PhD Student at the University of Aberdeen with special interests in land use management, vegetation management, uplands and

carbon sequestration
Mr Harley Stoddart, Research Manager at AHDB-HGCA with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, cropping and the environment, pesticide application, plant physiology & crop improvement, virology, industrial use of crops, biofuels, bioenergy, biomass, biopolymers and biomaterials

Dr Luke Tilley, Entomologist at Stockbridge Technology Centre with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, cropping and the environment, food systems, nematology, pesticide application, plant physiology & crop improvement and virology

Miss Grace Twiston-Davies, PhD Student at the University of Reading with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment and biodiversity

Dr Robin Walker, Researcher at SAC with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, cropping and the environment, food systems and plant physiology & crop improvement

Mr Sacha White, PhD Student at the University of Warwick with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control and cropping and the environment

Prof Lanqin Xia, Professor of Plant Molecular Biology at the Institute of Crop Science, Beijing focusing on wheat molecular biology and genetic engineering with special interests in biological control and plant physiology & crop improvement

Mr Mark Young, Research Scientist/Information Technologist at The James Hutton Institute with special interests in cropping and the environment, food systems and plant physiology & crop improvement

Dr Nadia Zamarripa, Interested in applied mycology and bacteriology and biological control

Prof Zhengyan Zhang, Research Professor on wheat genetics and mol-cloning of genes related with wheat disease resistance at the Institute of Crop Science, Beijing with special interests in plant physiology & crop improvement and virology

NOTICE OF NON AAB CONFERENCES

18	Aug-11	Landscape ecology and ecosystem services , Wolverhampton, UK
18	Aug-11	Landscape ecology for sustainable environment and culture , Beijing, China
25-30	Aug-11	10th international congress of plant pathology (ICCP 2013) , Beijing, China
28-31	Aug-11	Grassland Farming and Land Management in Mountainous Regions , Austria
28-2	Aug/Sept-11	Integration Protection of Fruit Crops Hasselt , China
30	Aug-11	Frontiers in Historical Ecology , Switzerland
1	Sep-11	International congress on applied biology Mashhad, Iran
1-2	Sep-11	Microbial Pathogenesis: the key to better therapies , Dublin, Ireland
3-6	Sep-11	Annual Scientific meeting fungal development and pathogenesis , Exeter, UK
4-8	Sep-11	PR-Proteins and Induced Resistance Against Pathogens and Insects , Switzerland
5-7	Sep-11	II Balkan symposium on fruit growing , Romania
5-7	Sep-11	SGM 'Autumn 2011 Conference' York, UK
6-8	Sep-11	Landscape ecology and ecosystem services , Wolverhampton, UK
6-9	Sep-11	ISNH8 (Herbivores). 'University of Aberyswyth , Wales, UK
6-9	Sep-11	Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference , South Africa
7-14	Sep-11	Tillage Live , Abingdon, UK
8	Sep-11	Weed management in arid and semi-arid vegetables and Weed management systems in Vegetables , Heusca, Spain
10-12	Sep-11	I international symposium on Mycotoxins in nuts and dried fruits , Iran
11-14	Sep-11	8TH International Symposium on Mycosphaerella and Stagnospora Diseases of Cereals , Mexico City
11-15	Sep-11	XIII Eucarpia symposium on fruit breeding and genetics , Poland
11-15	Sep-11	II ISHS genetically modified organisms in horticulture symposium: Paving the way for a sustainable future , Pretoria, South Africa
11-16	Sep-11	4th European Whitefly Symposium , Rehovot, Israel
11-16	Sep-11	XIII International symposium on biological control of weeds , Wai Koloa, Hawaii
11	Sep-11	The 19th International conference on environmental indicators , Israel
12	Sep-11	3rd symposium on environmental weeds & invasive plants, (intractable weeds and plant invaders) Ticino, Switzerland
12-14	Sep-11	BES Annual Meeting Sheffield, UK
13	Sep-11	3rd meeting of IOBC working group Integrated Control of Plant Feeding Mites. Krumlov, Czech Republic
13	Sep-11	Climate Change Network Team Conference 2011(CCNT11) , Westminster, UK
14	Sep-11	ALPSP International Conference , Heythrop Park, UK
14-16	Sep-11	Animals, Man & Treescapes , Sheffield Hallam, UK
15-17	Sep-11	Botrytis-Sclerotinia Post-Genome Workshop , Lyon, France
16	Sep-11	2011 International conference on Biotechnology and Environment Management Singapore
19-21	Sep-11	Environmental effects of nanoparticles and nanomaterials , London, UK
19-21	Sep-11	Exocytosis in animals, fungi and plants , London, UK
19-22	Sep-11	North american weed management assn. annual meeting , Winnipeg, Canada
18-22	Sep-11	VII international symposium on in vitro culture and horticultural breeding , Belgium
20-21	Sep-11	BGS 10th Research Conference , Belfast, N.Ireland
21-23	Sep-11	2nd workshop of the EWRS working group Weed Mapping , Jokionen, Finland
25-28	Sep-11	Integrated protection in field vegetables Backaskogs, Sweden
26-29	Sep-11	World Congress on Conservation Agriculture , Brisbane, Australia
27-29	Sep-11	Nitrogen in plants, soil and environment Kiel, Germany GSPN, SoA
28-01	Sep-Oct	International symposium on plant biotechnology towards tolerance to stresses and enhancing crop yield , India
29	Sep-11	Open general meeting of the International Fertiliser Society , London
2-5	Oct-11	IOBC/WPRS Integrated protection and production in viticulture Lacaau, France
2-7	Oct-11	3rd EWRS symposium on Weeds & Invasive plants (Agricultural Weeds and Plant Invaders) , Ascona, Switzerland

RANK PRIZE FUND POSTGRADUATE STUDENTSHIPS

Applications from supervisors are invited for a Rank Prize Nutrition Fund Post-Graduate Studentship in Human Nutrition, to start in October 2012. The maximum grant will be £10,000 pa for four years which can be used to fund partially a studentship with support from a Research Council, Charity or other source. Additional funds of up to £1,000 are available annually for the student to attend UK and/or overseas professional conferences. The application form can be obtained online at www.rankprize.org. The closing date is 30th November 2011 and the award will be announced by 20th December 2011.

OFFICERS OF COUNCIL – 2011

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AAB FORWARD CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

2011

- 14 September **AAB Annual General Meeting**
The Natural History Museum, London
- 18-22 September **Working Group "Integrated Control in Protected Crops, Temperate Climate"**
Norton Park Hotel, Sutton Scotney (IOBC Working Group)
- 21-23 September **Biomass and Energy Crops IV**
Champaign, Illinois, USA (AAB Multidisciplinary/University of Illinois)
- 12 October **New technologies for early pest and disease detection**
The Olde Barn Hotel, Marston, Lincs (AM&B Group)
- 29 November **Biopesticides Conference**
The Olde Barn Hotel, Marston, Lincs (Biological Control Group/IBMA)
- 30 November **Advances in Biological Control**
The Olde Barn Hotel, Marston, Lincs (Biological Control Group)
- 13 December **Advances in Nematology**
Linnean Society of London (Nematology Group)
- 20-21 December **Making Crop Rotations Fit for the Future**
The Great North Museum at the Hancock, Newcastle upon Tyne (Cropping and the Environment Group)

2012

- 10-12 January **International Advances in Pesticide Application**
Wageningen, the Netherlands (Pesticide Application Group)
- 28-30 March **International Advances in Plant Virology**
The Convention Centre, Dublin (Virology Group/ SGM)
- September **Flowering and Food Security**
University of Reading, UK

Further details of our activities are available on the AAB website: www.aab.org.uk

AAB Conference Services are available to anyone in the scientific field.
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