

Ms Catherine Walker, Final year PhD Student at Silwood Park, Imperial College London with special interests in biological control and pesticide application

Ms Becky Ward, Senior Technical Officer – Agronomy at PGRO, Peterborough with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, cropping and the environment, food systems, nematology, pesticide application, plant protection and crop improvement and virology

Mr Nick Watson, Corporate Services Development Manager at NIAB TAG with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment, food systems, pesticide application and plant protection and crop improvement

Mr Mark Webster, Conservation Team Leader – carrying out practical management of sites with a special interest in vegetation management on nature reserves and other public green spaces

DEATHS

We regret to announce the following death:

Mr D Yeo, Truro, Cornwall

Under the guidance of Dr Toby Bruce (Rothamsted Research), the AAB Biological Control Group has written an AAB briefing document to provide authoritative guidance to policy makers. The document explores some of the implications of the Sustainable Use Directive (EC regulation 1107/2009) for European farmers, makes recommendations to policy makers and highlights the potential role of UK scientists in implementing the legislation. You can read it on the website or email claire@aab.org.uk for a copy.

The briefing document was prompted by an open discussion at the 'Advances in Biocontrol' conference (17 November 2010). With the impending changes in European pesticide legislation and the implementation of the Sustainable Use and Water Framework Directives, there had never been a more important time to pool UK knowledge and expertise in novel methods



“AAB Biological Control Group Policy Briefing on Sustainable Crop Protection”



of crop protection and pest management.

The overall objective of this conference was to explore means of providing alternatives to conventional chemical interventions in crop protection through integrated pest management (IPM) and integrated crop management (ICM) as well as classical biological control (CBC). The conference provided an ideal forum for young scientists, experienced researchers and practitioners to detach themselves from their usual day-to-day pressures and become totally immersed in the subject.

We selected 17 papers from those submitted. They included a wide range of biological control topics as well as other components of IPM, ICM and CBC. Each speaker was given a relatively short slot of 15 minutes with the brief to create an awareness of their research activities rather than to present detailed results. This format worked very well with

plenty of lively discussion.

In the longer term, we hope to create an annual gathering of the biocontrol community in the UK, thus paving the way for further interactions and collaborative ventures between delegates. With this thought in mind, we concluded with an open discussion exploring the best way to take the event forward. The delegates unanimously voted to make it an annual conference following a similar format to 2010.

In summary, the conference was both a financial and technical success. We believe that it is already filling an important niche for the biocontrol community in the UK and will become even more popular as this message reaches other people in the industry.

Finally, we would like to thank the main sponsors whose generous financial support helped to make the day such a great success; Fargro, HDC and Russell IPM.

-Rob Jacobson