MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE PESTICIDES FORUM, HELD ON 2 OCTOBER 1996 AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD, NOBEL HOUSE, LONDON SW1

1. Those present

Those who attended are listed at Annex A.

2. Introductions

2.1. The Chairman welcomed members to the second meeting of the Forum, particularly those attending a meeting for the first time - Professor Sir Colin Berry (for ACP), Anthony Pemberton (CLA), Paul Willgoss (FPC/BRC) and Thomas Bals (AEA, deputising for Ron Saunders on this occasion). Professor Sir Colin Berry would be leaving the meeting at 1.00 pm and would raise some items of 'AOB' before he left.

2.2. The Chairman reminded the Forum of its principal purpose, which was to advise Government on the promotion and implementation of policy on responsible pesticide use. He also reaffirmed the role of the Departmental 'observers', which was to contribute as required, to provide clarification and advice on Government policy in this area.

2.3. In response to an invitation from the Chair for Members to report any events of significance, Dr Dawson reported that Scottish Natural Heritage, under their TIBRE programme, had recently published a new Farm Management Manual.

3. Minutes Of The First Meeting (PF) min/1 and Matters Arising.

3.1. The Minutes of the first meeting were agreed.

3.2. Mr Orme confirmed that a survey of Colleges undertaking BASIS training courses, to establish whether minimisation/ICM was covered in their syllabuses was now complete and would be ready for tabling at the next meeting. This would be taken with Dr Carter's survey of University and Colleges.

   ACTION: Mr ORME/Dr CARTER/SECRETARIAT

3.3. Concern was expressed that the information paper on other Committees was not fully comprehensive. The Secretariat was asked to pursue this and to produce a revised paper for the next meeting, including details of when the Committees began work, how often they met and their lifespan.

   ACTION: SECRETARIAT
3.4. The Secretariat indicated that the R & D paper would be developed further to include non-MAFF/PSD R & D. This would be circulated at the next meeting.

**ACTION: SECRETARIAT**

4. **Presentation on DoE/ADAS Survey of ICM/IPM Awareness**

4.1. Sue Ogilvy gave a short presentation on the Survey's findings. Out of 4,280 questionnaires mailed, 1,163 (26%) were returned. This was considered by ADAS to be a normal response rate, but Members were concerned to learn whether this could be said to be a fully representative survey. It was agreed that ADAS should be invited to produce a short paper explaining why they considered the survey to be fully representative.

**ACTION: ADAS**

4.2. The survey was designed to find out about the respondents' awareness and use of particular pest control methods. 'ICM' was not mentioned until the end of the survey. One of the principal barriers to further take up of ICM/IPM techniques was identified as lack of information, with 90% of those replying saying they would like to know more. The Survey identified a number of other key issues, including farmers and growers' general lack of confidence in non-pesticide methods of pest control, their concern over the possible cost of adopting ICM, the need for the methods to be demonstrated and their preference for face to face advice from eg crop consultants, trade representatives etc. The survey also revealed the need to clarify what the terms ICM and IPM actually mean.

4.3. Members agreed the importance of developing an agreed definition and the need to clarify the objective of adopting such techniques on the farm. This included, for example, the need to take account of the impact of use and market requirements.

4.4. It was agreed that as a first step, Members who had developed definitions of IPM/ICM would send these to the Secretariat, so that a paper identifying the key points could be prepared for the information of Forum members.

**ACTION: MEMBERS/SECRETARIAT**

4.5. It was noted that other countries (particularly in Europe and North America) had developed ICM programmes and that it would be helpful to the work of the Forum if information could be collated on these.

5. **Draft Action Plan for the Responsible Use of Pesticides (Paper PF/5)**

5.1. Professor Sir Colin Berry introduced PF/10 concerning the September ACP discussion on pesticides usage and potential Forum activities. The ACP considered that three important areas for Forum attention were: training, technology transfer and indicators. It was agreed that PUSG Report No. 100, on trends in pesticide use in Great Britain between 1984 and 1994, would be circulated to Members when published, probably in November 1996.

**ACTION: SECRETARIAT**
5.2. In discussion it was agreed that the BMA could be invited to specific meetings when appropriate; that factors which determine trends in pesticide use identified and made more transparent and that, although there was a place in the market for food produced using different methods of pest control, care should be taken not to make unsubstantiated claims about its 'safeness'.

5.3. The Forum then considered the Action Plant as drafted in paper PF/5. The Chairman explained that the objective of the discussion was to agree the plan as an agenda for future discussions, rather than pursue individual actions at this stage.

COLLABORATION:

Action 1 - Develop a definition of ICM.

Agreed. Members will provide the Secretariat with details of definitions/philosophies already in existence [see ACTION under 4.4. above].

Action 2 - Consider role of protocols in promoting ICM.

Agreed. Protocols, among the lines of those available for horticultural produce, had a significant role to play. NFU are looking to cover broad acre crops, but they need a partner to help them take this forward. Together with BASIS, LEAF are developing some broad principles for arable crops. It was subsequently agreed (see para 8.3.) that the subject of crop protocols should be given particular consideration at a future meeting. This would include a presentation on the NFU/retailer protocols.

Action 3 - The possibility of ICM accreditation schemes.

Agreed. Members considered that accreditation schemes such as that developed by Scottish Quality Cereals provided valuable external validation of ICM practices. LEAF and NFU are currently considering their use.

PROMOTION:

Action 4 - Identify best ways of providing advisers with information on ICM.

Action 5 - Improve guidance to farmers on responsible pesticide use.

Both Actions were agreed, although there were differing views as to whether farmers or advisers exerted most influence on pesticide choice and use. It was agreed to invite Produce Studies and the Association of Independent Crop Consultants to make a presentation at the next meeting about how farmers and advisers learn about new technology and new methods of pest control.

ACTION: SECRETARIAT
Action 6 - Improving spray application methods.

Agreed. However, Members asked the Secretariat to consider rewording the phrase 'reduced volume', as this could imply either less water or less product. It was also agreed to include a reference to spray application machinery.

ACTION: SECRETARIAT

Action 7 - Improving information on environmental impact.

Agreed. Members considered more, and better, information should be made available to users, but not necessarily on the label, on which there was perhaps already too much information. One alternative could be to use more symbols, eg indicating relevant hazard, safety, environmental friendliness. PSD said that a review of labelling was due to take place shortly.

Action 8 - ICM training.

It was agreed that more emphasis could be given to ICM/IPM in statutory training schemes and that the Forum should consider other people who could be encouraged to get a qualification in pesticide use.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER:

Action 9 - Publication of guidance following Government sponsored R & D.

Agreed, subject to slight rephrasing. Departmental representatives accepted the importance of achieving effective transfer of new knowledge. For its part, Government would endeavour that all appropriate guidance was made available. A number of suggestions were made about how Government could do this, eg presentation days, demonstration on-farm etc.

Action 10 - Improving methods of technology transfer.

Agreed. Technology transfer was recognised as being an area of particular difficulty. Members agreed that thought be given to setting up a sub-group to pursue this issue. The Group's membership should include, in particular, representatives from the research, communication and farming sectors.

ACTION: SECRETARIAT

MONITORING:

Action 11 - Measuring take up of ICM techniques and developing indicators of the environmental impact of pesticides.

Agreed. Members considered that more needed to be done to raise awareness about the impact of pesticide use and agreed that a measure of impact should be developed. Suggestions for gathering data for pesticide use indices included adding questions to the annual census form and to the individual pesticide usage surveys. The ADAS IPM/ICM survey was also seen as a possible base point, with future, similar, surveys measuring uptake...
of awareness and use. It was also suggested that, as the occurrence of pesticides in water was closely monitored, that perhaps this data could be developed as an indicator. It was agreed that, with a view to a fuller discussion, the Secretariat would report on developments in this area at a future meeting.

**ACTION: SECRETARIAT**

**Action 12 - The Forum to report its activities to the ACP.**

Agreed. The Forum will foster links with the ACP and will send a report of its activities in 1996/97 to the November 1997 ACP.

5.4. Overall the proposed Action Plan commanded general agreement as a basis for future activity. The Secretariat was charged with bringing all the comments together and to drafting a 'final' version for approval, with a view to its publication, at the next meeting. This would indicate how the Action Plan would be taken forward and detail the timetable.

**ACTION: SECRETARIAT**

**6. Publicity Plans/Forum Newsletter**

6.1. Although it was agreed not to lose sight of the idea, it was considered unnecessary to have a Newsletter dedicated to the Forum at this stage. Members agreed it would be more effective to produce copy for existing journals, and periodicals such as The Adviser and newsletters etc produced and distributed by Members and other interested parties. Examples of such publications would be welcomed by the Secretariat.

**ACTION: MEMBERS/SECRETARIAT**

6.2. It was agreed that details of Forum members' publicity plans should be a regular agenda item.

**7. Presentation on SCARAB and TALISMAN**

7.1. Sue Ogilvy provided a brief overview of these two major projects, which concern the environmental and economic effects of reduced pesticide inputs.

7.2. Some of the main findings to emerge are that, although lower input systems can entail greater risk, they can perform as well as 'conventional' systems. In most cases reducing insecticide applications did not appear to affect gross margins. Reducing herbicide applications could also be economically viable, provided they were properly managed.

7.3. An annual report on each project will be published following completion of the 1996 harvest. Reports covering the whole of each project will be prepared in due course; a comprehensive conference on the outcome of each project is currently planned for Autumn 1998. Some concern was expressed about the full results coming out so long after the last harvest. However, it was explained that it will take some six months to generate all the
1996 results followed by time to put together and draw conclusions from the results so that they reflected fully the six years work.

8. **Any Other Business**

8.1. Paper PF/11 was introduced by Geoff Bruce. Members agreed that future Agendas would focus on particular themes in the Action Plan, so that discussion could follow on from a presentation on a particular topic.

8.2. For the next meeting, Members agreed that it would be helpful to focus on problems associated with technology transfer. With this in mind, the Secretariat would investigate the possibility of inviting Produce Studies to give a presentation on how farmers and growers learn about pest control measures. In addition, the Association of Independent Crop Consultants, who had expressed an interest in being involved with the Forum, would be invited to give a presentation on how their members learn about new technology and how they pass this new information on to farmers and growers.

8.3. For the future, interest was expressed in hearing more about NFU/Retailer Protocols and the Scottish Quality Cereals programme and how these might be developed into advice on ICM techniques for broad acre crops.

**ACTION: SECRETARIAT**

8.4. It was agreed that the next meetings would be held on 5 February, 18 June and 8 October 1997. Each meeting would begin at 11.00 am and be scheduled to end at 3.30 pm.

8.5. It was agreed that, to improve communication amongst members, the Secretariat would circulate address and contact details of all members to the Forum.

**ACTION: SECRETARIAT**

Note: The Actions from the meeting are summarised at Annex B.
ANNEX A

THOSE PRESENT AT THE SECOND MEETING OF THE PESTICIDES FORUM

Chairman

Dr David Shannon  Chief Scientist, MAFF

Members

Professor Sir Colin Berry  Advisory Committee on Pesticides
Mr Tony Pike  British Agrochemicals Association
Dr Keith Dawson  United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Trade Association
Mr Thomas Bals  Agricultural Engineers Association
Dr David Brightman  National Farmers' Union
Mr Anthony Pemberton  Country Landowners Association
Mr Charles Russell  Scottish Farmers' Union
Mrs Helen Bower  Women's Farming Union
Mr Peter Beaumont  The Pesticides Trust
Mr David Richardson  Linking Environment and Farming
Mr Richard Knight  Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
Mr Paul Willgoss  Fresh Produce Consortium/British Retail Consortium
Mr Jim Orson  ADAS
Dr Stuart Wale  Scottish Agricultural College
Mr Barrie Orme  BASIS Registration Ltd

Presenters

Mrs Sue Ogilvy  ADAS
Mr Tim Davis  Pesticides Safety Directorate
Observers

Mr Geoff Bruce  Pesticides Safety Directorate
Dr Peter Corcoran  Department of the Environment
Mr Tony Cronin  Department of Trade and Industry
Mr John Bouckley  Health and Safety Executive
Mr Roy McLachlan  Scottish Office
Ms Lynn Griffiths  Welsh Office
Mr Brian Murphy  Department of Agriculture, Northern Ireland

Secretariat

Dr Andy Croxford  Department of the Environment
Mr Matthew Wells  Pesticides Safety Directorate
ANNEX B

ACTION LIST

MEMBERS

1. If appropriate, provide the Secretariat with definitions of IPM/ICM by end November.

2. ADAS to consider and confirm that the responses to their ICM survey are fully representative, in time for the next meeting in February 1997.

3. Members will provide the Secretariat with copies of Newsletters etc published by their organisations, to give an indication of the types of channels that are open for articles from and about the Forum by end November.

4. Mr Orme and Dr Carter to confirm the BASIS University and Colleges surveys on current pesticide minimisation, activity/knowledge by end December.

SECRETARIAT

1. Circulate papers from Dr Carter and Mr Orme summarising a survey of University/Colleges and BASIS members action to promote the responsible use of pesticides for next meeting in February 1997.

2. Produce a revised paper on the scope of other committees that concern themselves with the use of pesticides, for meeting in February.

3. Prepare a paper summarising R&D relevant to the Forum's work, for meeting in February.

4. From Members' submissions, prepare a paper highlighting the key components of ICM philosophy, for meeting in February.

5. Draw up a final draft Action Plan for approval by the Forum at the meeting in February.


7. Prepare draft proposals on setting up a sub-group to consider improving methods of technology transfer, for meeting in February.

8. Report on developments in producing indicators, for meeting in February.

9. Invite the Association of Independent Crop Consultants and Produce Studies to give a presentation at the February 1997 meeting on technology transfer.

10. Consider inviting for the June 1997 meeting, the NFU/Retailers and Scottish Quality Cereals, to give presentations respectively on crop protocols and on guidelines for IC in broad acre crops.

11. Circulate contact details of Forum Members with the minutes.