Revised Pesticides Forum Objectives

We need to ensure that the Forum’s objectives continue to be relevant and useful. You are invited to consider the following amendments which aim to reflect current developments in relation to Sustainable Use and the Government’s Pesticides Strategy:

Since 1999, we have developed objectives that we use to plan our actions for encouraging the responsible use of pesticides. These were reaffirmed in 2007 and are set out below.

- Provide advice to the Government on developing, promoting and putting into practice policy on using pesticides, particularly maintaining oversight of the work under the Government’s Pesticides Strategy.
- Promote effective ways of helping farmers, growers, advisers and crop consultants to use technologies and techniques which reduce the risk and negative effects of pesticide use, and improve how quickly information can be shared with pesticide users.
- Promote practices incorporating technologies and techniques that are most effective and practical for reducing the negative effects of pesticides on the environment.
- Encourage discussions between ‘traditional’ and organic farming interests to make sure that non-chemical techniques for pest control are introduced into ‘traditional’ systems where it is realistic to do so.
- Encourage crop-assurance schemes which promote responsible pesticide use.
- Continue to review wider developments in agriculture (such as the influence of genetically modified crops) which may affect pesticide use, and offer advice to Ministers.
- Contribute to improving information to farmers about the negative effects pesticides may have on the environment.
- Consider how the effects of minimising pesticide use can be monitored by using indicators of environmental risk from pesticides.
- Encourage everyone who uses, advises on and sells pesticides to keep their knowledge of pesticide products and their use up to date through continuing professional development.
• Encourage the uptake of relevant new technologies and techniques by the Government, industry and growers in order to reduce the negative effects of pesticides on the environment.

• Promote comprehensive education in Integrated Pest Management and more generally on reducing the negative effects of pesticides.

• Encourage discussions between researchers and research funders, and between farmers and advisers, to make sure that research projects and research results relevant to pesticides have the most influence on practical farming.

• Tell funding organisations about any significant gaps in research and development.

• Prepare and publish an Annual Report of our activities and maintain a close working relationship with the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Pesticides Forum Secretariat
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