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Providing policy and regulatory support for multi-functional UK agriculture

2-3 November 2021
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Welcome to The BCPC Congress 2021

Welcome to the British Crop Production Congress 2021 at our new venue in Harrogate. BCPC is delighted to return to its traditional face-to-face format this year which will allow plenty of opportunity for that vital networking element. As the agricultural sector faces up to unprecedented challenges, discussions and debate sparked by our great line-up of speakers will benefit all involved in the increasingly complex and competitive business of global food production.

Balancing the need to produce safe, affordable food demanded by a growing world population, while protecting the environment and the countryside, is becoming more challenging. Increasing emphasis is being placed on:

- Dealing with the impact of climate change
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Restricting the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides
- Releasing productive land for greening and carbon capture
- Monitoring the use and quality of water

The route to meeting these demands, without offshoring production and any associated environmental impacts, is highly complex.

Providing the right regulatory framework – together with advice based on science to support the decisions being taken by farmers and their advisers – will be essential for a profitable and successful agricultural sector.

The sessions over the next two days will explore how the Government’s National Action Plan for pesticide use, and the conclusions of the recent Consultation on Genetic Technologies, will steer the changing face of food production.

I hope you will find the programme enlightening and enjoy the welcome return to networking which this year’s Congress brings.

Julian Westaway – General Manager, British Crop Production Council, BCPC

The BCPC Congress Organising Committee

Julian Westaway
General Manager, BCPC

Dr Colin Ruscoe
BCPC Advisory Board

Jim Orson
BCPC Advisory Board

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Monday 1 November 2021

18.00 – 19.00 Pre-congress drinks reception and presentation of BCPC award (Rowan Suite)

Day 1 – Tuesday 2 November 2021

08.00 – 09.30 Registration and refreshments

09.30 – 09.45 Welcome and introduction (Cedar Suite)
Julian Westaway (General Manager, British Crop Production Council, BCPC)

Plenary Session: UK National Action Plan (NAP) for pesticides and new breeding techniques

09.45 – 10.00 Chair: Tony Pexton (BCPC Trustee and Farmer, British Crop Production Council, BCPC)

10.00 – 10.30 The public consultation on the NAP for pesticides: conclusions and implications
Chloe Meacher (Joint Head – The Pesticides Hub, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Defra)

10.30 – 11.00 The future direction of the NAP: the NFU’s view
Tom Bradshaw (Vice President, National Farmers Union, NFU)

11.00 – 11.30 Morning break: exhibition & networking (Rowan Suite)

11.30 – 12.00 The future direction of the NAP: the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)’s view
Hazel Doonan (Head of Agronomy and Crop Protection Sector, Agricultural Industries Confederation, AIC)

12.00 – 12.30 Defra’s public consultation on the regulation of genetic technologies: conclusions and implications
Louise Ball (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Defra)

12.30 – 12.50 Q&A session
(Chair and all speakers)

12.50 – 13.45 Lunch (Rowan Suite)

13.45 – 13.50 Stream A
Regulatory Affairs (Cedar Suite)
Chair: Iain Watt (Head of Plant Protection, TSG Consulting)

13.50 – 14.20 Developments in EU PPP regulation: impact on the UK
Dave Bench (Chief Executive, Crop Protection Association, CPA)

14.20 – 14.50 The UK PPP regulation landscape post Brexit
Janet Williams (Head of Regulatory Science – UK & IE, Bayer CropScience)

14.50 – 15.20 Break: exhibition & networking (Rowan Suite)

15.20 – 15.50 Fresh start for UK biostimulants regulation
Dr Roma Gwynn (Director, Rationale)

15.50 – 16.20 Current issues in regulation for bio-stimulants
Alejandra Querol (Regulatory Manager – UK and Ireland, UPL)

16.20 – 16.40 Q&A session (Iain Watt and speakers)

16.40 Close of day 1

16.40 – 18.15 Drinks reception and PhD research posters (Rowan Suite)
Guest speaker Patrick Stephenson (Independent Agronomist) will talk on ‘Pesticides – a view from the field’
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### Day 2 – Wednesday 3 November 2021

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<td>Managing UK farmland to meet societal expectations</td>
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<td>09.15 – 09.30</td>
<td>Chair: Dr Chris Hartfield (Senior Regulatory Affairs Adviser, NFU)</td>
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<td>09.30 – 10.00</td>
<td>Future land use to address multiple environmental and social demands</td>
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<td>Dr Christine Snaith (Head of the CRD Pesticides Delivery Team, HSE CRD)</td>
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<td>CRD workshop (cont.): incorporating new technologies in regulatory risk assessment and product labels</td>
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<td>16.00 – 16.10</td>
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Dr Louise Ball
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Louise has a scientific background in plant molecular genetics. She received her PhD from the John Innes Centre in Norwich. Following her studies, Louise worked at Plant Breeding International in Cambridge for five years. Louise has been with Defra for more than 15 years and has dedicated most of her time to the regulation and policy surrounding genetically modified organisms.

Dave Bench
Crop Protection Association (CPA)

Dave leads the Crop Protection Association (CPA) in the UK. CPA promotes the essential role of science and innovation in protecting food, parks, gardens, roads and railways; and advocates good stewardship, better regulation and best practice. Until June 2020 Dave led the Health and Safety Executive’s work to ensure that UK chemicals regulation would be operable and effective post-Brexit. From 2011-2017 he led the UK regulatory authority for plant protection products, biocides, CLP, REACH, and PIC.

Dave has spent most of his career leading specialist teams and in strategic policy roles. Over the years, Dave has been involved in policy development and regulation in a range of areas, including genetic modification in agriculture, animal health, marine, and particularly chemicals & plant protection products.

Susannah Bolton
Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB)

Susannah is Research Director for the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), responsible for a programme of applied research on behalf of farmers and processors across the arable, horticulture, ruminant, and pork sectors of the UK. The work is split into programmes designed to deliver technological improvements in performance in Crop health and IPM, Animal Health and Welfare, and Environment. Prior to taking on her current role, Susannah was Knowledge Exchange Director and oversaw the development of the AHDB Farm Excellence Platform, a farmer network of over 70 farm businesses, delivering knowledge exchange, peer to peer learning and benchmarking. She has a PhD in Tropical Agroforestry, spent 3 years working with EMBRAPA in North East Brazil and later was responsible for international relations and external communications at Rothamsted Research.

Liz Bowles
Soil Association

Liz is Associate Director for Farming and Land Use at the Soil Association and leads the organisation’s charitable efforts. Liz has worked within the agri-food sector for over 20 years in several leading roles including supporting the development of supply chain collaboration. She is a Nuffield scholar, Director of the Oxford Farming Conference and manages one of the largest pedigree flocks of Shropshire sheep in the UK.

In her current role at the Soil Association, Liz leads the work to enable UK farming to transition to agroecological farming over the next decade. In addition, Liz is involved in the development of the Soil Association Exchange which will allow farmers to measure, monitor and monetise their farm’s environmental performance.

Tom Bradshaw
National Farmers Union (NFU)

Tom farms in partnership with his wife, Emily, and his parents in North Essex. His family farm is primarily focused on arable production but has diversified with the addition of equestrian and renewables. In addition to running a small, family-owned farm, Tom and Emily run a contract farming business growing a range of combinable crops across 1200 hectares in North East Essex.

During his time at the National Farmers Union, Tom represented the organisation as Local Branch Chairman as well as chaired the National Combinable Crops Board for two years.
Dr Samantha Cook  
*Rothamsted Research*

Sam is an invertebrate behavioural ecologist working to develop integrated pest management strategies at Rothamsted Research, UK.

The aim of her research is to reduce insecticide use in arable systems, in particular oilseed rape. Her main research interests are:

1. Developing push-pull systems based on attractant and repellent natural signalling compounds (semiochemicals) to manipulate pest and natural enemy behaviour for improved crop protection.
2. Understanding how agro-ecological methods, especially those based on plant diversification (trap cropping, undersowing, flower-rich field strips) can be optimised to reduce pest pressure and support biological control via natural enemies of crop pests.
3. Improving her understanding of the natural enemies of crop pests and quantifying their effects.

She is an inaugural member of the BCPC Pests & Beneficials group, a member of the Crop Protection Committee of the GCIRC, and convenor of the Entomology subsection of the IOBC Working Group ‘Integrated Control in Oilseed Crops’. She is also an Associate Editor of the journal Pest Management Science.

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Dr Henry Creissen  
*Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC)*

Henry is an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) expert at Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC) with experience working in various sectors of agricultural research. After completing his PhD in plant ecology and pathology at the John Innes Centre in 2013, Henry worked as a Researcher for the Organic Research Centre, UK. In 2015, he took a position as a postdoctoral research scientist with Teagasc, Ireland where he worked to improve IPM approaches in arable farming and further the adoption of best practices at the farm level. In his current role at SRUC, Henry is a work package leader in Scottish Government funded work focused on IPM. His current role has offered him opportunities to develop strong relationships with research institutes in the UK, EU, and Africa.

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Hazel Doonan  
*Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)*

Hazel graduated from Leeds University with a degree in Agricultural Zoology. Following this, Hazel received her postgraduate diploma in Crop Protection at Harper Adams University and joined a crop protection business in the southwest as a BASIS qualified agronomist. Following relocation to the Midlands, Hazel continued working as an arable agronomist until 2001 when she took on the role of managing a regional agrochemical department in Shropshire with a national distributor. Hazel joined the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC), based in Peterborough, in 2004 as Head of the Agronomy and Crop Protection Sector. She is responsible for management and coordination of the sector.

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James Copeland  
*National Farmers Union (NFU)*

James is the Senior Environment & Land Use Adviser for the NFU in the North East Region (Yorkshire, Co. Durham and Northumberland) and leads their Environment Team. He joined the NFU in 2009 after working for Defra’s science agency on both National and European projects. His current role includes taking a strategic overview on matters relating to land management and the environment as well as ensuring policy is both sustainable and realistic. As a farmer’s son from East Yorkshire, James is passionate about the development of agri-business.
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**Dr Roma Gwynn**  
**Rationale**

Roma is a biopesticide specialist with over 35 years of experience. She began her career as a research scientist for biocontrol companies and now works as an independent specialist on a global scale. She has an MSc in Technology for Crop Protection and a PhD in Biological Control from Reading University. Roma has taken a lead role in the development and registration of many new biopesticide technologies (semio-chemical, botanical and microbial substances). Roma specializes in bringing biopesticide products to market by streamlining bio-discovery, product development, registration and marketing. Roma has been an expert for regulation of biocontrol agents (OECD, EU, FAO/WHO). She is an independent board member for AHDB Horticulture and Vice-President of IBMA. Roma is involved with farmer projects, including AHDB SCEPTRE + and AMBER projects. She was editor of the BCPC ‘The Manual of Biocontrol Agents’ and supports CABI for their Bioprotection portal.

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**Prof. Marc Hanheide**  
**University of Lincoln**

Marc is a Professor of Intelligent Robotics & Interactive Systems in the School of Computer Science at the University of Lincoln, UK as well as Director of the University’s cross-disciplinary research centre in Robotics, the Lincoln Centre for Autonomous Systems (L-CAS). Marc is the lead researcher in many national and international research projects, funded by H2020, EPSRC, InnovateUK, DFG, industry partners, and others, as well as the director of the EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in Doctoral Training in Agri-Food Robotics (AgriFoRwArDS). His work focuses on researching autonomous robots, human-robot interaction, interaction-enabling technologies, and system architectures. Marc specifically focuses on aspects of long-term robotic behaviour and human-robot interaction and adaptation. His work contributes to robotic applications in care, logistics, nuclear decommissioning, security, but particularly in agriculture, where he leads projects and developments in agricultural robotics at Lincoln. Marc features regularly in public media, has published more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and is actively engaged in promoting the public understanding of science.

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**Dr Chris Hartfield**  
**National Farmers Union (NFU)**

Chris’ career in the farming industry started in research, with six years spent working on the biocontrol of pest insects. He then spent four years working with farmers to deliver UK Government agri-environment schemes, before joining the National Farmers’ Union sixteen years ago. Most of his NFU career has been spent on horticultural policy, heading-up that team for two years. In 2017, Chris moved to join a new NFU plant health unit as Senior Regulatory Affairs Adviser and headed-up the NFU’s science and regulatory affairs team for a short while. His work focusses on the regulatory process and its implications for availability and use of crop protection products as well as the relationship with UK regulatory authorities and international regimes. Chris is the NFU policy lead on Brexit, pesticides, bee health and insect pollinators. He led the NFU’s ELM IPM project and is a driving force behind the NFU’s plant health strategy.

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**Stuart Knight**  
**NIAB**

Stuart is Deputy Director at NIAB Cambridge and Director of NIAB Agronomy. He joined NIAB from The Arable Group in 2009, having worked in operational, research and technical roles. With 30 years of experience as a research agronomist, Stuart’s main interests are combinable crop husbandry and performance, including nutrient management; fungal disease control; evaluation of crop protection chemicals; managing variation and decision support. He recently worked on the impact of farming systems and management practices on the economic and environmental performance of farms, leading Project 1 of the Defra and Welsh Government funded Sustainable Intensification Research Platform (SIP) from 2014-2017. Stuart is currently leading a review of the opportunities for diversifying UK agriculture through investment in underutilised crops. Stuart was
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President of the Association of Applied Biologists in 2019 and 2020. Coming from a farming family, Stuart retains a strong, practical interest in farming.

Chloe Meacher
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Chloe jointly heads up the Pesticides Hub in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The Hub is responsible for ensuring the safe and sustainable use of pesticides and mainstreaming integrated pest management, working closely with the Health and Safety Executive. Chloe is an expert in developing, driving, and communicating sustainability strategies and policies. Chloe has wide-ranging experience in retail, central government, and consultancy. She has also worked on high profile challenges of EU Exit and Covid-19 at the centre of Government.

Tony Pexton
British Crop Production Council (BCPC)

Tony is an arable and pig farmer in the East Riding of Yorkshire, producing wheat, OSR, barley, vining peas and beans, as well as bacon pigs. He is a BCPC Trustee, a former Chair of NIAB and a Nuffield Scholar. Tony is also a former chair of DEFRA/Industry funded Sustainable Arable Link research programme management committee.

Alejandra Querol
UPL

Alejandra is a Regulatory Manager at UPL with a portfolio primarily focused on biosolutions. She is an agricultural engineer with significant experience in the crop, plant protection products and fertiliser sectors. She is particularly interested in how regulatory processes differ from country to country. Likewise, how local regulations and different interpretations can make a difference in marketing certain formulations. Alejandra closely follows the regulatory changes for biostimulants and new fertiliser product regulation. Alejandra is also involved in developing CEN standards for the EU Fertiliser Products Regulation (FPR) (EU) No 2019/1009.

Alan du Rieu
Nufarm

Alan joined Nufarm after spending 30+ years in the agriculture business with leadership roles at UPL, Arysta and Syngenta. Alan began his career as an agronomist and transitioned to R&D, sales, marketing and management roles in the UK, Europe and Asia. Based in Norfolk, Alan leads the North Europe teams to deliver Nufarm foundational products and develop novel solutions to the agricultural industry.

Dr Christine Snaith
Health and Safety Executive, Chemicals Regulation Division (HSE CRD)

Chris joined the Health and Safety Executive in 1991, initially working on the registration of non-agricultural pesticides under the then national arrangements, COPR (Control of Pesticides Regulations, 1986). After five years, she won a place on a civil service wide development scheme and spent over 20 years in a variety of posts within HSE. Her roles ranged from positions within HR and stakeholder engagement to regulatory roles such as operational policy on cross-cutting safety issues (e.g. workplace transport and falls from height) and establishing environmental impact assessment arrangements for decommissioning nuclear reactors. Following this, Chris led a team of specialist inspectors through a period of significant change as proactive occupational ill-health prevention became a higher priority for HSE/GB. Chris returned to chemical regulatory schemes in 2018 and heads the Plant Protection Products Unit, based in York. As of June 2019, she took on the chairmanship of the newly established OECD Drones Working Group.
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**Grant Stark**  
Health and Safety Executive, Chemicals Regulation Division (HSE CRD)

Grant currently leads CRD’s Committees, Evidence and New Technologies team within the Health and Safety Executive. His responsibilities include coordinating the provision of independent scientific advice from the ECP and PRiF. Grant has been with CRD for almost 30 years and has worked across a variety of pesticide policy and delivery roles, including environmental protection. Grant’s past work includes developing the first iteration of the LERAP scheme, overseeing the issuing of authorisations and approval documentation, MRL legislation, implementing the Sustainable Use Directive and developing the current version of the National Action Plan. Grant has a BA in Contemporary European Studies from the University of Dundee.

**Iain Watt**  
TSG Consulting

Iain is the Head of Plant Protection at TSG Consulting. In his current role, he is the primary contact for communication and coordination of customer enquiries for TSG’s plant protection services. Iain has worked for over 30 years in multiple disciplines in the crop protection sector, both in the UK and overseas. This includes primary and applied forest research, agricultural/horticultural extension in Latin America and various technical and regulatory roles within the industry. Prior to joining TSG, Iain worked for a UK based company as a Regulatory Affairs Manager with global regulatory responsibility for 14 years. He brings extensive experience of plant protection product authorisation processes from many markets, with a particular focus on the EU and the US. In addition to this, Iain held a role as Regulatory Affairs Manager at the UK industry trade association, the Crop Protection Association, where he acted as the liaison between member companies and UK regulatory authorities. Iain has a degree in Zoology from Aberdeen University and a postgraduate MSc from Imperial College in Applied Entomology.

**Julian Westaway**  
British Crop Production Council (BCPC)

Julian joined BCPC in 2014 as General Manager and was later appointed to Chairman of the BCPC Advisory Board. Julian’s extensive experience in agriculture and electronic publishing serves him well in BCPC’s portfolio of products and activities. After gaining his degree in Agriculture Science, Julian joined the Milk Marketing Board before being appointed to Group Production Editor of the Chemicals Group for RBI. In 1996, Julian established the Farmers Weekly Interactive and later became Electronic Publisher for the Farmers Weekly Group. Upon leaving RBI, Julian joined Defra as Senior Editor of the Rural Business Advice Channel and then joined UBM as Online Commercial Manager for the Farmers Guardian Group. Prior to joining BCPC, Julian worked for Point Two, an innovative equestrian air jacket manufacturer, as General Manager.

**Dr Adrian Williams**  
Cranfield University

Adrian’s career began in waste management research and evolved into a wide range of experimentally based agri-environmental research including biological treatment systems, silage conservation, gaseous emission measurement and control, and improved manure management methods. He later concentrated on mathematical modelling, initially using process models and later in whole-farm agri-environmental and systems modelling as well as environmental Life Cycle Assessment (LCA).

After moving to Cranfield, Adrian developed the systems based LCA work which expanded rapidly. His work addressed subjects such as individual commodity production, packaging to extend product life and consumption and livestock health national dietary change. He is part of the team that improved and delivers the UK agricultural greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. Recently, Adrian has focused his attention on the LCA of GHG removal (or net emissions technology – NET), particularly soil management. In addition, Adrian has contributed to multi criteria assessments of agriculture and the valuation of the environmental impacts of scientific activities.
Speaker Biographies

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Janet Williams
Bayer CropScience

Janet is Head of Regulatory Science for the UK and Ireland at Bayer CropScience Ltd, based in Cambridge, UK. In addition, Janet is also the current Chair of the UK Crop Protection Association (CPA) Policy and Regulatory Group.

Janet has a Masters’ degree in Toxicology from the University of Kentucky in the US. For the last 30 years, Janet has worked in agrochemical regulatory affairs for companies such as Fisons, Rhône-Poulenc, Aventis, and Bayer.

She is in regular contact with the Chemicals Regulation Division (CRD) of UK Health and Safety Executive and the Pesticides Registration and Control Division of the Ireland Department of Agriculture. Janet is one of the key figures leading the industry on the future of Great Britain and Northern Ireland policy on pesticide regulation.

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