The BCPC Congress 2022

Providing policy and regulatory support for multi-functional UK agriculture

8-9 November 2022
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Welcome to The BCPC Congress 2022

Following the success of last year’s BCPC Congress we are delighted to be returning here to the Cedar Court Hotel in Harrogate.

The programme committee has developed an exciting programme with authoritative speakers presenting on the theme “Providing policy and regulatory support for multi-functional UK agriculture”.

UK agriculture has three key deliverables:
- To produce adequate supplies of healthy food to contribute to UK food security;
- To support environmental initiatives which benefit global food production including: biodiversity, conservation, rewilding and environmental land management;
- To contribute to UK net carbon zero targets.

What is UK agriculture doing to meet these goals and what more can be done in light of current political issues and international trade on arable crop production? What is Government doing to provide guidance, funding and regulatory support so that these deliverables can be achieved?

The sessions in this year’s Congress will aim to tackle the challenges and provide some solutions and insight into a way forward for UK agriculture. The event will also include an update from Dr Richard Daniels on CRD’s Transformation Programme, to be followed by the popular CRD Workshop on a more sophisticated approach to risk assessment.

We hope the programme we have ahead will ensure an informative and enjoyable two days.

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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# The BCPC Congress 2022

Providing policy and regulatory support for multi-functional UK agriculture

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## Monday 7 November 2022

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

## Day 1 – Tuesday 8 November 2022

### Registration and refreshments

**08.00 – 08.30**

**Welcome and Introduction (Cedar Suite)**  
Julian Westaway (General Manager, British Crop Production Council, BCPC)

**Plenary Session: Who is going to produce our food?**

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

- **10.00 – 10.30** The potential implications of biodiversity initiatives on global food production  
  Dr Roslyn Henry (Lead Researcher and Author, University of Aberdeen)

- **10.30 – 11.00** The impact of EU Farm to Fork strategy on food production, yields and self-sufficiency  
  Laurent Oger (Director Regulatory Affairs, CropLife Europe)

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

**11.30 – 12.00**  
Land use in England: looking ahead  
Jonathan Baker (Deputy Director, Defra)

**12.00 – 12.30**  
Impact of geopolitical issues and international trade on arable crop production and food security  
Nick von Westenholz (Director, Trade and Business Strategy, NFU)

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

**12.50 – 13.45**  
Lunch break (Rowan Suite)

**Stream A (Cedar Suite)**

- **13.45 – 14.20** Developments in regulating active substances in GB  
  Darren Flynn (Head of Active Substances Team, HSE CRD)

- **14.20 – 14.50** UK (GB&NI) PPP regime: an industry view two years on from the end of the BREXIT transition period  
  Sheridawn Schoeman (Country Regulatory Leader, Corteva Agriscience)

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

**15.20 – 15.50**  
Enforcement developments in the PPP sector, regulator perspective  
Laura Catterall (HM Inspector of Health and Safety/Pesticide Enforcement Officer Team Leader, HSE CRD)

**15.50 – 16.20**  
Enforcement challenges in the PPP sector  
Richard Bishop (Senior Consultant, TSG)

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

**16.40**  
Close of day 1

**16.40 – 18.15**  
Drinks reception (Rowan Suite) - Guest speaker, David Watson (Technical Director, Energy Crops Consultancy) will talk on ‘Likely future trends in energy crop production’

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**Programme**

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Day 2 – Wednesday 9 November 2022

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Jonathan Baker
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Jonathan is a Senior Civil Servant responsible for agricultural policy purpose and formulation in England as the framework is repurposed to better reward farmers for taking steps to improve the environment and animal health/welfare. In addition to developing the strategy, Jonathan and his team seek to ensure there is an implementation plan, making use of the current £2.4bn/ year of public monies.

As policy lead, Jonathan and his team manage some technical areas including the programme of statutory instruments and subsidy control. They also foster relationships with the Devolved Administrations as well as promote reforms internationally. Jonathan and his team also ensure that Defra are talking to and learning from farmers as these changes are developed and delivered. This involves working with stakeholders and farmers to build support and address concerns across the sector through a communication, engagement and marketing strategy. Prior to joining Defra, Jonathan worked for the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) as national advisor on land use. Jonathan is a Nuffield Farming Scholar.

Dave Bench
CropLife UK

Dave leads CropLife UK which promotes the essential role of science and innovation in protecting food, parks, gardens, roads and railways as well as 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 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 most notably chemicals & plant protection products.

Richard Bishop
TSG Consulting

Richard is a Senior Consultant helping clients meet their obligations under chemicals regulations. Prior to joining TSG, Richard was a Principal Inspector at HSE, leading the Enforcement Team at CRD which enforced REACH, CLP, PIC, biocides and plant protection products legislation across Great Britain. He was a former UK representative and Chair of the ECHA Enforcement Forum.

Susannah Bolton
Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC)

Susannah is a specialist in knowledge exchange and research translation for agriculture. She is Vice Principal for Enterprise and Knowledge Exchange at SRUC, integrating research, education, KE, skills and commercial to mobilise a collective effort to turn knowledge and ideas into solutions that will have an impact on society and the natural economy. Until December 2021, she was 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 designed to deliver technological improvements in performance in Crop Health and IPM, Animal Health and Welfare, and Environment, underpinned by technical decision support services, genetics evaluations and data capture tools. Prior to that, 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 and spent 3 years working with the research provider EMBRAPA in Northeast Brazil, following which she was responsible for international relations and external communications at Rothamsted Research.
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Laura Catterall
Health and Safety Executive
Laura Catterall is a Team Leader for one of the HSE Pesticide Enforcement Officer teams. She has worked for HSE for 23 years, 17 of which were spent as a Health and Safety Inspector in the Field Operations Division. She transferred to HSE’s Chemicals Regulation Division 4 years ago to work on EU Exit Policy before moving back into an enforcement role to focus on HSE’s implementation of the Official Controls Regulations for GB.

Dr Henry Creissen
Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC)
Henry is an Applied Plant Pathologist expert at Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC) with over a decade of research experience in various farming systems. 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. His current research focuses on developing effective IPM strategies for arable crops, increasing farmer adoption of best practice, and quantifying adoption of IPM practices at farm level through stakeholder engagement and farmer surveys.

Dr Richard Daniels
Health and Safety Executive Chemicals Regulation Division (HSE CRD)
Richard is Director of HSE’s Chemicals Regulation Division (CRD) and took up post in March 2020. He joined HSE in 1992 as a Factory Inspector and has held numerous leadership positions during his HSE career, most recently as HM Chief Inspector of Explosives. His current responsibilities include leading 400 staff in CRD to support and regulate the safe and sustainable use of chemicals in the UK across various regulatory regimes. He is Senior Responsible Officer overseeing and delivering HSE’s arrangements for transitioning CRD into Great Britain’s Chemicals Regulator - having successfully delivered the immediate changes required for 1 January 2021 operation outside the EU. Richard is joint Chair (with Defra) of the UK Chemicals Governance Group, which supports the future strategic delivery of chemicals regulation in the UK.

Dr David Ellerton
H L Hutchinson Ltd
Following his degree at King’s College, London, David completed his PhD in spring barley plant pathology at the James Hutton Institute in Scotland in 1980. He then joined ADAS for 4 years as a plant pathologist based in Cambridge before joining distributor ProCam in 1984 as Technical Director. During that time David developed a large personal farm agronomy client base of some 17000 acres. In August 2010 he joined Hutchinsons as Technical Development Director helping to co-ordinate the many technical services offered by the company, with a particular role in training young agronomists coming into the industry. Currently, he sits on the policy committee of LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming), the Fungicide Resistance Action Group (FRAG), the British Crop Production Council (BCPC), the BCPC Expert working group for diseases and the AHDB/Defra UK Cereal Pathogen Virulence Survey Steering Committee (UKCPVS).

Darren Flynn
Health and Safety Executive, Chemicals Regulation Division (HSE CRD)
Darren obtained a BSc in Biological Sciences (Plymouth) and MSc in Insect Pest Management (Southampton) and joined CRD in 1987. In 1994, he became the Head of Reviews Branch. In April 2001 he became Head of the Approvals Secretariat Branch, dealing with product registrations in the UK. From 1996 onwards he co-managed the ECCO EU peer review programme
under 91/414, with colleagues from the Commission and the BBA (BVL) in Germany. From 2004 until 2019 he was also Chair of the Commission’s Post-Approvals Issues Group and a member of the Central Zone Steering Committee for zonal authorisations. He is currently Head of the PPP Active Substance Team in CRD.

Fiona Fox
Science Media Centre

Fiona is the chief executive and founding director of the Science Media Centre, which, since it was established in 2002, has become an indispensable resource for science journalists. She has a degree in journalism and many years of experience working in media relations for high profile national organisations. Her career includes stints working for, amongst others, the Equal Opportunities Committee, the National Council for One Parent Families, and CAFOD (a leading aid agency). Fiona is also the author of Beyond the Hype: The inside story of science’s biggest media controversies.

Mark Hall
MKH Farming

Mark is Managing Partner at MKH Farming as well as Head of Sustainability (Europe, Africa & Middle East) at Syngenta. After graduating with a BSc (Hons) in Agriculture & Land Management, he joined the Farm Management Training Scheme with Velcourt Ltd and managed farms with them for 5 years. Mark moved to work with Strutt & Parker - first as a Senior Consultant, then he became an Associate Partner in 2003. Mark completed a full-time MBA in Finance, Economics, People Management in 2008. Following his MBA, he joined Syngenta where he has held various positions, leading Marketing and Business Development & Planning Departments for

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North Europe and leading marketing developments for Syngenta globally. His current role allows him to take learnings from the regenerative farming he does at home and apply it commercially in Syngenta.

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 seventeen 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 focuses 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 the GB pesticides regime post EU-exit, bee health and pollinators. He leads the NFU’s work on the SFI IPM standard and is a driving force behind the NFU’s plant health strategy.

Dr Roslyn Henry
The University of Aberdeen

Dr Roslyn Henry is a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Aberdeen. Roslyn’s research interests lie in exploring the interplay between food security, land use and biodiversity. She obtained her degree in zoology and her PhD in ecological modelling at the University of Aberdeen. Roslyn then worked with the University of Edinburgh for a number of years, developing global land use models to explore land use and food security issues, before returning to Aberdeen. She has expertise in individual based ecological modelling and global land use modelling with a number of peer reviewed publications.

Dr Dr Rachel Irving
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Rachel is the Deputy Director for Chemicals, Pesticides and Hazardous Waste. She holds a PhD in Modern History, as well as a Masters and BSc in History, all of which she studied at the University of Durham. Rachel has over 12 years of experience working in the civil service and has worked both domestically and internationally. Her current remit covers pesticides, where she is working with her team to improve policy and regulation since leaving the EU. Her work also covers the international management of both chemicals and pesticides, in which she has been working on conventions and negotiations to ensure environmental protection in less economically developed countries. She has a strong interest in making sure that government works well – and working with organisations outside of government to help deliver this. Rachel has also spent time in the third sector, working as Head of Strategy and Planning at Amnesty International.

Phil Jarvis
Voluntary Initiative

Phil has been Chair of the Voluntary Initiative (VI) since January 2021. The VI promotes and champions Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approaches to food production. Phil is currently Chair of Albanwise Farming and Environment, a rural business managing the rural landscape on 10,000 hectares. Phil has an interest in streamlining policy and research into practical applications for farmers and land managers. Phil is the former Head of Farming, Training and Partnerships at the GWCT Allerton Project. The demonstration farm has been extremely influential in feeding into UK landscape policy and is involved in many National and European collaborations. Phil completed a MSc in Sustainable Agricultural Management at Harper Adams University and between 2016-2019 was a member of the BBSRC Agriculture and Food Security Strategy Advisory Panel. Phil is also a member of the National Farmers Union, Environment Forum and former Chair.
Dr Jon Knight
Independent Consultant

Jon is an independent consultant working in the broad area of pest management. Originally trained as an agricultural zoologist, he worked on ecological and pest management problems at Imperial College for 24 years as a post-doc, lecturer, and senior lecturer. In 2012 he moved to the Agricultural and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) becoming Head of Crop Protection for horticulture, potatoes and combinable crops. Jon’s research work has ranged across practical pest control projects encompassing biology, economics behaviour and policy in both the UK and abroad in temperate and tropical systems. The overall objective has been to provide multidisciplinary, robust and practical IPM solutions to pest management problems. He is currently a visiting lecturer at Imperial College London, Chair of the British Beet Research Organisation Stakeholder Committee, Non-executive Director of Crover Limited and a Trustee and Director of the East Malling Trust.

Laurent Oger
CropLife Europe

Laurent is the Director for Regulatory Affairs at CropLife Europe. The association represents the highly innovative, R&D-driven crop protection and plant biotech industry in Europe. After studying European Law, Laurent worked for the French Agri Cooperative Association in Paris, then at Brussels level. He joined the European Crop Protection Association (ECPA) in 2008 which became CropLife Europe in January 2021.

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Jim Orson
British Crop Production Council (BCPC)
Jim graduated from the University of Reading in 1969 and joined the state advisory service, serving various roles from Local Advisor to National Cereals Specialist. In 1998, Jim became Director of the Morley Research Centre in Norfolk and later became Technical Director of NIAB TAG until his retirement from full-time work in 2007. Over his career, Jim developed special interests in weed control, wheat production, and agricultural systems and has been invited to Australia, New Zealand, and Canada on several occasions to speak on these topics. He served on the UK Government’s Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP) for six years and the UK Government’s Advisory Committee for Releases into the Environment (ACRE) for ten years. Jim is currently on the strategy group of the Voluntary Initiative and is a member of the BCPC Advisory Board, as well as a member of AgriFood Charities Partnership board.

Sheridawn Schoeman
Corteva Agriscience
Sheridawn is a Country Regulatory Leader for Corteva Agriscience, a ‘pure play agriculture’ company. Sheridawn has more than 30 years’ experience in the crop protection industry having gained an Applied Biology degree with crop protection options. Early years were spent in the area field trials, before transitioning to regulatory affairs covering national and international geographies, providing depth of exposure to regulatory regimes, and processes. Sheridawn is currently a Deputy Chair of the CropLife UK (Policy and Regulatory Group) supporting the trade association leadership on emerging aspects of the new Plant Protection Products regime.

Tony Pexton
Farmer, 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.

Dr Colin Ruscoe
British Crop Production Council (BCPC)
Colin is the Chairman of the Advisory Board of BCPC, Communications Director for SynTech Research Inc and Chair of the Scientific Committee (Development) for the IVCC (Innovative Vector Control Consortium). Colin was previously manager of research stations, business planning, global and European product development, as well as managing bioscience research and insecticide discovery for Syngenta legacy companies.

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.
For Plant Protection Products, Murray sees the greatest challenge for Europe will be to ensure a balance between sustainable and secure food production, with a more considered approach toward managing environmental impacts throughout the food chain rather than focussing solely on restrictions to chemical inputs necessary to provide high yields and improved quality of crops, grown in an ever decreasing area.

He would like to see further reductions in the regulatory hurdles currently in place for Biopesticides [including pheromones and naturally occurring compounds] and non-pesticidal materials as necessary to achieve this.

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Murray recalls “in 2002 our work was focussed largely on local national support. Many EU Laws were in their infancy and interpreted in a variety of ways by Member States. Communications with the Authorities often included meetings and open discussions to agree the most appropriate approach to applications which were printed and posted ... with little formatting and no electronic submissions. Back then, data handling was considered a physical exercise!”

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Speaker Biographies

Grant Stark
Health and Safety Executive, Chemicals Regulation Division (HSE CRD)
Grant is currently head of the Evidence, Committees and New Technologies team in the UK Health & Safety Executive’s Chemicals Regulation Division. Grant has worked extensively in the field of pesticide regulation for almost thirty years, negotiating, developing and implementing EU and national law on product authorisation and use, setting of maximum residue levels and using monitoring data to determine standards and impact of pesticide use. His responsibilities include ensuring that Great Britain (post EU exit) has access to appropriate independent scientific advice and evidence to continue operating and developing a robust, effective regime that takes into account new knowledge, technology and practice. A key part of this role involves consideration of the impact of new technologies and ensuring regulation does not impede but actually facilitates adoption of practices that can improve the sustainability of pesticide use.

Nick von Westenholz
National Farmers Union (NFU)
Nick took up the post of Director of EU Exit and International Trade for the National Farmers Union (NFU) in January 2017 to manage the NFU’s approach to the policy implications of leaving the EU. Since October 2020, Nick has been Director of Trade and Business Strategy, managing the NFU’s policy work on international trade and farm business competitiveness. Nick has enjoyed a varied career both within and outside agriculture. He worked for a London-based public affairs agency for many years, and also trained as a lawyer, being called to the Bar in 2007. Having previously been Head of Government Affairs at the NFU, he served as Chief Executive of the Crop Protection Association (CPA) from 2013 to 2016, representing the UK plant science industry. Nick currently sits on the government’s Strategic Trade Advisory Group and the independent Trade and Agriculture Commission.

Iain Watt
TSG Consulting
Iain is the Head of Plant Protection team at TSG Consulting and he is the primary contact for communication and coordination of customer enquiries for TSG’s plant protection services. Iain has over 34 years’ experience in multiple disciplines in the crop protection sector, both in the UK and overseas, bringing extensive knowledge of plant protection product authorisation processes in many markets, with a particular focus on the EU and the US. Iain’s career experience includes applied forest research, agricultural/horticultural extension in Latin America and various technical and regulatory roles within 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 also held a Regulatory Affairs Manager role 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. Iain is currently the Moderator of the IBMA Natural Substances Working Group, Regulatory Topics.

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 work experience background 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 become 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 Commerical Manager for the Farmers
Speaker Biographies

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Guardian Group. Prior to joining BCPC, Julian worked for Point Two, an innovative equestrian air jacket manufacturer, as General Manager.

Janet Williams
Bayer CropScience

Janet is Head of Regulatory Science for the UK, Ireland and Nordics 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, Rhone-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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