



CIRC • CROP IMPROVEMENT RESEARCH CLUB

# Crop Improvement Research Club Update for WGIN

Simon Bright, Jayne Brookman,  
CIRC Co-ordination  
Biosciences KTN



# Context

- Global challenges of food security and climate change
- UK strategy for food security
  - [www.foodsecurity.ac.uk](http://www.foodsecurity.ac.uk)
  - BBSRC leads for research councils
- Drive towards greater translation of research results
  - Impact agenda
  - Partnerships with industry

# BBSRC: Industry Clubs

- Industry club funds leveraged by BBSRC
  - Research agenda tailored with club members
  - Science base attacks the research challenges
  - Strong co-ordination and networking
- Successful model already
  - BRIC, DRINC, IBTI
  - Crop Improvement Club has additional funding from Scottish Government

# Benefits to research groups

- Basic research with translation in mind
  - BBSRC quality standards and processes
- Additional studentships available to successful grantholders
- Network building
  - Industry links within the club
  - Co-ordination and dissemination externally
    - Biosciences KTN Plant Sector
    - Support to access follow-on funding sources



# Part of the bigger picture

- Business engagement with research
  - ◆ Industry Partnership Awards (BBSRC)
  - ◆ Knowledge transfer partnerships (TSB)
  - ◆ Sustainable Agriculture Innovation Platform (TSB)
- Training and skills
  - ◆ Advanced Training Partnerships (BBSRC)
- Culture change towards translation of research



# Crop Improvement Club



CIRC • CROP IMPROVEMENT RESEARCH CLUB



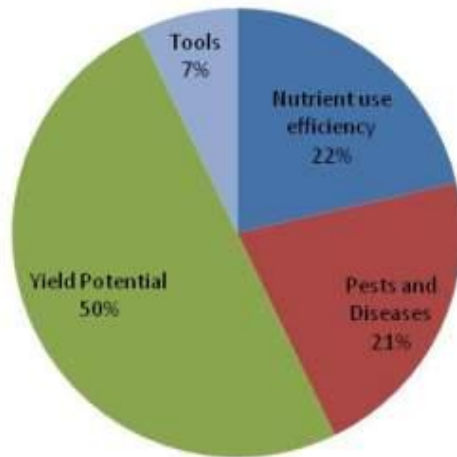
# Research Challenges

- Crops: Wheat, Barley, Oilseed Rape
- Targets: Productivity
  - Sustainable high yields with lower inputs
    - Yield potential, pest and disease resistance , resource efficiency
- Targets: Quality
  - Wheat, barley functionality and consistency

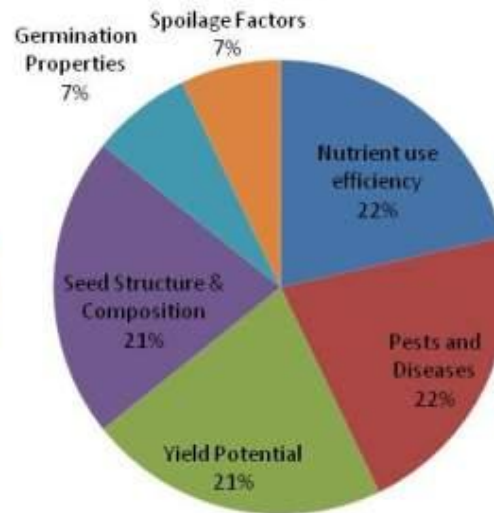
# First Call- Outline Applications

46 total- 14 OSR, 14 Barley, 17 Wheat

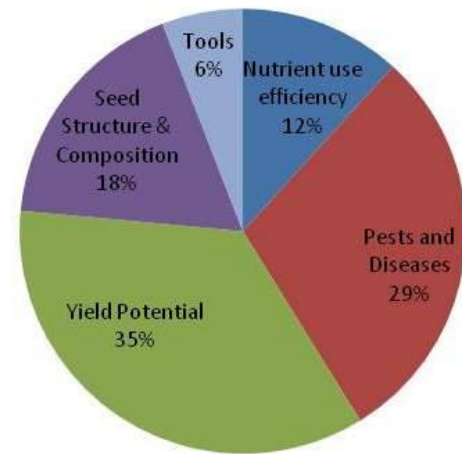
Oil Seed Rape



Barley



Wheat

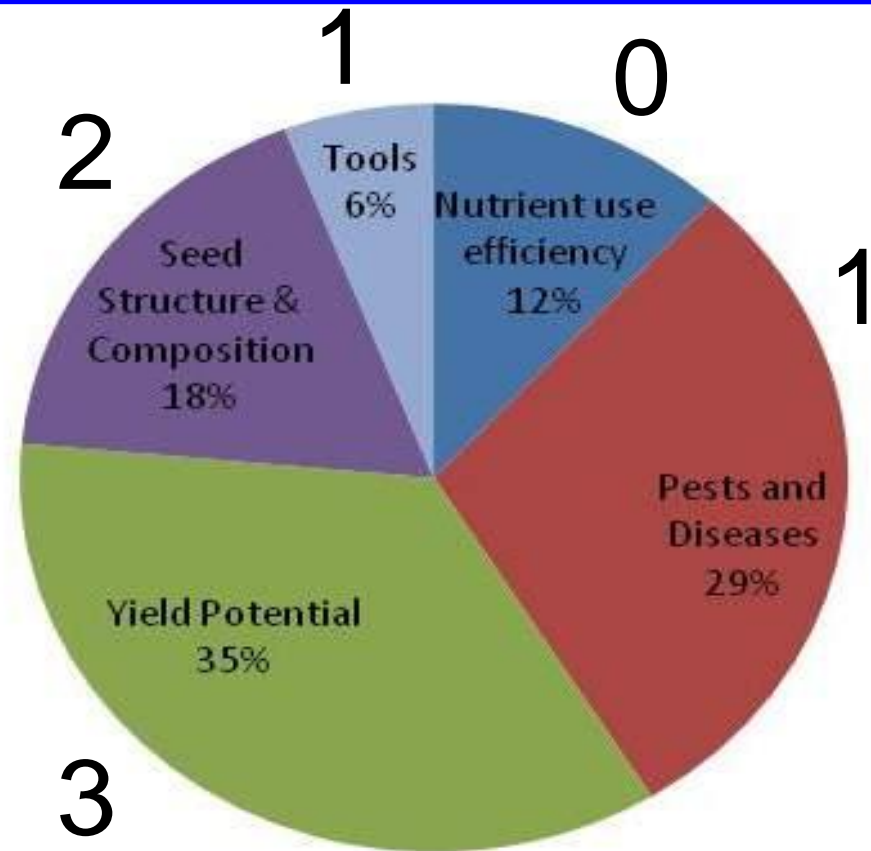


Categories for analysis not quotas



# Wheat: 7 full proposals

- Sept '10 applications in
- Referee feedback Jan '11
- Committee 1<sup>st</sup> March
- April 2011 award date



# CIRC Second Call

- Spring 2011 target date
- Call composition being discussed
  - ◆ Elements missing from Call 1?
  - ◆ New priorities?
  - ◆ How much focus/ pre-selection of areas?
- Co-ordination team seeking member feedback

# CIRC Co-ordination team

- Maximise impact
- Support the delivery and reporting of the projects
- Support the further development of the club

[jayne.brookman@biosciencektn.com](mailto:jayne.brookman@biosciencektn.com)

[bright@jbright.demon.co.uk](mailto:bright@jbright.demon.co.uk)