WGIN Stakeholders Meeting

17 November 2010, RRes

Programme

10:00 Arrival and coffee

10:15 Welcome – *Peter Shewry, RRes*

10:20 The wheat market – an international perspective -
*Michael Archer, HGCA*

**The Wheat Genetic Improvement Network**

10:40 WGIN: Overview and update on RRes WGIN research
– *Kim Hammond-Kosack, RRes*

11:00: Genetic diversity of the Watkins collection – *Luzie Wingen, JIC*

11:20Water and heat stress throughout the crop cycle *- John Foulkes, University of Nottingham*

11:40 Coffee

**End user developments**

12:00100% UK wheat – *Paul Molyneux, Hovis*

12:20Wheat quality requirements – *Simon Penson, Campden BRI*

*12:40* Bioethanol production – *David Maxwell, Vivergo*

13:00 Lunch / Poster session (posters on wheat research)

**Wheat initiatives**

14:00The Crop Improvement Club – *Simon Bright, BBSRC*

14:20 Wheat sequencing project - *Gary Barker, University of Bristol*

14:40Wheat LoLa - *Graham Moore, JIC*

15:00 CIMMYT 'wheat yield consortia'*– Martin Parry, RRes*

15:20 Bio break

**Farm level yields**

15:30Discussion panel on UK wheat field yields lagging behind
breeders projections

Discussion Chair: Peter Shewry, RRes

Panellists:

* Chris Bean, technical director, United Agri Products
* Ian Blackhouse, National Farmers Union Combinable Crops Board
* Roger Sylvester-Bradley, principle research scientist, ADAS
* Tim Isaac, regional advisor, Country Land and Business Association Limited Eastern Region
* Richard Law, farmer
* Ian Mackay, statistical geneticist, NIAB
* Richard Summers, wheat breeder, BSPB/RAGT

17:10 Tea and finish

**Panellists’ biographies:**

**Chris Bean**

Chris was appointed Technical Director of UAP in 1996 when the company was formed as the result of the merger of the two existing agrochemical distribution businesses Willmot Pertwee Ltd and Independent Agriculture. Chris joined the Kent based Willmot family business in 1976 following a degree course in Botany at Manchester University. As well as managing the UAP technical team which is responsible for overseeing the technical direction of the company and the updating and training of the 100 plus agronomists and trainees, he is also very involved in giving advice directly to farmer customers in Kent and South Essex on a range of crops including cereals, potatoes, rape, vegetables, salad crops and herbs. Outside of work, family takes up a fair amount of time – although little gets in the way of a lifelong dedication to Arsenal football club!

**Ian Blackhouse**

Ian Backhouse farms 800 acres of wheat, barley, oilseed rape with sugar beet and finishing beef cattle at Goole, East Yorkshire on heavy silt soils. Grain is dried and stored on the farm and marketed through merchant trade and farmer cooperatives backed up by a hedging strategy. Ian employs the services of an agronomist to walk the farm and support crop protection and nutrition decisions. Ian is in his second two year term a Chairman of the National Farmers Union of England and Wales Combinable Crops Board, and has served on the Board for five years and before that on NFU's Council. Ian currently represents European Farmers' union COPA COGECA as Vice Chairman of the bioenergy group and has a background in the seed trade, sales and accountancy. Ian is married with two children and enjoys skiing and property renovation.

**Roger Sylvester-Bradley**

Roger is a Principal Research Scientist at ADAS Boxworth and special professor in temperate crop physiology with the University of Nottingham. He has been with ADAS for 30 years working on crop management, crop nutrition and crop improvement; amongst other things, he initiated the concept of Canopy Management, now recognized worldwide. Roger leads the ERYCC LINK project, due to report in 2011, which has brought up-to-date Austin’s analysis of genetic improvement in UK wheat.

**Tim Isaac**

Tim gained a degree in agricultural business management from Wye College in 1996, where he was also awarded the Worshipful Company of Farmers gold medal and the NABIM prize for crop production. He embarked on a career in farm and estate management and qualified as a rural surveyor in 2000 and an agricultural valuer in 2001. He is currently Deputy Director of the Eastern Region branch of the CLA, advising and representing members on all aspects of rural business management and lobbying all levels of government on key rural issues. He is a member of the Institute of Agricultural Management and qualified as a Chartered Environmentalist in 2007. Outside of the CLA, he is Chairman of Tendring Hundred Farmer’s Club and an arable contracting business and previously chaired his local Farmer’s Discussion Group. He has travelled extensively, but now lives on and runs his family’s small grassland farm in north-east Essex.

**Robert Law**

Robert is a first generation farmer and is a strong believer in mixed farming and environmental stewardship. He farms about 1,500 ha (3,700 acres) on the Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Essex borders as well as managing a further 500ha (1200 acres) in Nottinghamshire. Most of the land is on a first wheat / break rotation, other crops grown are barley for pearling, winter oats, winter rye, peas, grass for grazing and hay production, mustard and sugar beet. All crops are grown to Conservation Standards. 240ha are permanent grassland to support a 2,500 ewe flock, a number of catch crops of stubble turnips are also grown to support the sheep enterprise through the winter as well as being used to feed bought in store and ewe lambs. Robert is an advocate of the Campaign for the Farmed Environment, all his farmland is in ELS (Entry Level Stewardship) as well as Countryside Stewardship and farm woodland schemes. Robert was Farmers Weekly Farmer of the Year in 2006; he hosted 'Cereals 2010' and is a Farmers Weekly columnist.

**Ian Mackay:**

Ian is the quantitative geneticist at NIAB. Recently, he has re-analysed historical data from UK NL/RL to argue that in recent decades the vast majority of improvement in yield of winter wheat is attributable to plant breeding, with little evidence that changes in agronomy have contributed. He has initiated collaborative grant applications and research in genomic selection, association genetics and the multiparent advanced generation intercross (MAGIC). Previously Ian ran the statistical genetics section of a biopharmaceutical company, Oxagen Ltd. for six years. Prior to that he was co-founder and research director for nine years at the plant breeding company Lion Seeds Ltd. This was established by management buy-out in 1990 from Nickersons, for whom he had worked as a plant breeder for 11 years. Ian is also responsible for the content and teaching on the intensive two week annual NIAB course "Quantitative Methods in Plant Breeding."

**Richard Summers, European Cereal Breeding Lead, RAGT Seeds**

Richard currently leads cereal breeding and research at RAGT. He is responsible for four winter wheat breeding programmes (in France, Germany, the Czech Republic and the UK) durum wheat, triticale, winter barley, associated research groups in genotyping, analytics, pathology and breeding support (including accelerated breeding methods, parental development and glasshouse facilities) and also for trialing and the development of breeding lines for non‐core geographies in Europe and elsewhere in the world. He began his career at the Plant Breeding Institute (PBI) in 1984 and after the sale of PBI to Unilever he worked as a winter wheat breeder in the UK and France until 1999 (producing over 35 commercially listed varieties with his team). Unilever sold their plant breeding activities to Monsanto in 1998 and during Monsanto ownership Richard became responsible for the company’s wheat breeding activities in Europe and South Africa. After the sale of the European wheat breeding programmes to RAGT in 2004, Richard took on his present role.