Role of Horticultural Development Council (HDC) & the UK Minor Use (SOLA) Programme

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- HDC funded by levy payment from growers
- Co-ordinate Research and Development on key issues for UK industry
Finance - coming in 2005/06

Total income = £4.74M

- FV: £1,617,000
- PC: £1,276,000
- HNS: £693,000
- M: £517,000
- SF: £149,000
- BOF: £277,000
- CP: £160,000
- TF: £53,000
- Total income = £4,740,000
Who decides how the money is spent?

- Growers!
- Growers, together with scientists and consultants develop research ‘strategies’
- These strategies are the ‘high priority’ areas that industry agree should be tackled as a matter of urgency
- Elected Panel members discuss and vote on projects
Money spent – by issue

- Crop protection: 48%
- Labour utilisation/ergonomics: 16%
- Product scheduling/supply chain: 12%
- Substrates/fertilisers/seeds/other inputs: 5%
- Varieties/product quality/market opportunities: 6%
- Water/energy management: 7%
- Waste management/environment: 6%
Aim of HDC’s crop protection work – maintain the armoury

- Conventional pesticides
- Biological Control Agents
- Cultural methods
- Varietal resistance
Crop Protection

- Key part of HDC work is the SOLA (minor use) programme.
SOLA

- Specific Off Label Approval
- Edible crops must be supported by residues data – to demonstrate consumer safety
- No Crop Safety data
- No efficacy data

- All use is at the risk of the user
- No manufacturer liability
SOLA programme

- HDC secures some 20 to 40 new SOLAs per year

- See PSD website for details [www.pesticides.gov.uk](http://www.pesticides.gov.uk) or CSL Liaison

- Total of approx 1638 SOLAs

- Cost to UK growers since programme began – approx £4.7 million
SOLA Programme

- Trials data generation is funded by HDC (UK growers) – **NO** Government funding
- Generated by contractor – all to GLP
- Also obtain data from Manufacturers
- Minor Use Mutual Recognition
- EU collaboration/data exchange
EU initiatives on minor uses

- EU Minor Use Groups set up in 2003
- Taken lead on specific projects
- Looking at target based approach to find solutions
  - considering cultural and chemical
  - residues trial collaboration
International co-operation

- Trials – co-operation so far
  - e.g. spinosad – raspberry Be, CH, UK
  - spiridiclofen - blueberry US, Can, UK
- Zonal authorisation based on similar climates EU – or worldwide
- The wider Europe or world - crop areas…….
  when does a minor crop become major?
- For example spinach – UK 545 Ha
  Germany 3,400 Ha
  Northern Europe > 9,000 Ha
  Rest of world - ????
The way forward – Global harmonisation

- US IR4
- Canada work with IR 4
- Australia – own minor use programme
- Europe – Largely at MS level – support from government varies

- All have a recognised minor use problem
- What is the potential for funding to find a common solution
The way forward
European and Global collaboration - Requirements

- Residues and Approvals database
  - To establish what alternatives are available elsewhere, supported by residues data
  - To reduce duplication of effort by encouraging data sharing
The way forward
European and Global collaboration - Requirements

- Need harmonised guidance about residues data generation -
  - Accreditation (GLP/GEP)
  - Number of trials,
  - which crop to support full group,
  - potential extrapolation – extension/update to Lundehn guidelines

- Co-operating countries need to agree a mutually acceptable GAP
The way forward – Global harmonisation

- Potential to use residues data from elsewhere (climates changing)
- Zonal Authorisations – EU or wider
- Crops tolerant of certain conditions – eg spinach

In order to do this may need -

- Collaborative studies – worldwide
Minor Uses Are Important!

Thank you!

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