

**6<sup>th</sup> Recommended List  
Project Board Meeting (RLP06)**

**at 16:15 on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011  
at PGRO, Thornhaugh, Peterborough**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Prof Graham Jellis (Chairman)  
Dr Susannah Bolton (HGCA)  
Dr David Cranstoun (HGCA)  
Mr David Houghton (Barley, Oats & Other Cereals Chairman)  
Dr Penny Maplestone (BSPB)  
Mr Nigel Moore (BSPB)  
Mrs Heather Peck (Wheat Chairman)  
Mr Gary Sharkey (nabim)  
Mr Paul Taylor (AIC)  
Mr Guy Smith (until 16:30)  
Mr Andrew Ward (Oilseeds Chairman)

**In Attendance:**

Dr Simon Oxley (RL Manager)  
Ms Denise Lawson (RL Project & Finance Administrator)

**04/01 Attendance & apologies for absence**

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for coming. Apologies had been received from Dr Jolliffe and Mr King.

**04/02 Chairman's Introduction**

Due to the busy RL Appeals Meeting and the subsequent late start of the RL Project Board meeting, less important matters will be deferred for discussion to an additional meeting to be organised in the new year to cover the outstanding issues and any additional matters.

Matters included in today's discussions will include issues which have arisen from the Crop Committees, consideration of the draft decisions, the revised format of the RL booklet and any other matters which are considered urgent. Most importantly, the new RL needs to be ratified.

**04/03 Minutes from the previous meeting**

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> September will be deferred to the next meeting.

#### **04/04 Matters arising not covered elsewhere**

All matters arising were deferred until the next meeting

#### **RL Project Managers report**

Dr Oxley will present his update at the next meeting.

#### **Operations**

#### **04/05 Reports from Crop Committees**

##### a) Oilseeds Crop Committee (1<sup>st</sup> November 2011)

Mr Ward reported that no major issues had been raised. Matters for discussion at the protocols meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November will include:

- The application of late nitrogen.
- Seed rates.
- Whether the minimum standards for light leaf spot and phoma should be raised, due to the increase in the incidence of these diseases.

The Committee had discussed the wording of Box 8 of the decision tree and wanted to ask the Board to re-examine this.

Prof Jellis agreed that the importance of the balancing features in box 8 can be difficult to judge. However, the procedures for decision making in box 8 had been made clear by the Board in previous discussions leading to the introduction of yield targets, high, medium and low weightings for variety characteristics and defined initial comparator varieties.

##### b) Barley, Oats & Other Cereals Crop Committee (3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011)

Mr Houghton reported that the cost and use of the pilot brewing tests had been considered and feedback had been received from the malting and distilling industry. It had been agreed that the test results were not being used so the committee recommended that the tests be discontinued. He asked the Board for ratification of this recommendation. The Board agreed that pilot brewing tests should be discontinued.

The Board was asked for some guidance on how commercial information should be considered and weighted at the crop committees when making decisions. This will be discussed at a later meeting.

The number of varieties being selected for sowing in trials, may have possible financial implications.

The process of producing Descriptive Lists needs consideration by the Board; specifically whether there needs to be a mechanism to remove older varieties from the Lists.

c) Wheat Crop Committee (8<sup>th</sup> November 2011)

Mrs Peck reported that the minutes circulated to breeders had been draft minutes and she had not checked them before circulation due to the time restrictions.

Discussions at the protocols meeting in December will include market requirements for the feed and biofuels industry and the relevance of viscosity to the biofuels industry.

A variety which achieves more than 2% above target yield and meets minimum standards qualifies for automatic recommendation but one which is two percent lower than target is not automatically rejected. The Board was asked to consider if this should be the case. The Board did not agree to a minimum standard for yield, which could preclude recommendation of a lower yielding variety with some special feature that would bring economic benefit to the industry.

d) RL Appeals Meeting

Matters arising from the RL Appeals meeting will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

### **Discussions**

#### **04/06 Ratification of RL**

Dr Oxley summarised the new Recommended and Descriptive Lists, taking into account the decisions which had been made at the RL Appeals meeting.

Changes to the tables for Winter Wheat were summarised and the new list was ratified by the Board.

Changes to the tables for Late Autumn Sown Wheat were summarised and the new list was ratified by the Board.

Changes to the tables for Spring Wheat were summarised and the new list was ratified by the Board.

Changes to the tables for Winter Barley were summarised and the new list was ratified by the Board.

Changes to the tables for Spring Barley were summarised and the new list was ratified by the Board.

Changes to the tables for Winter Oilseed Rape for the East/West region were summarised and the new list was ratified by the Board.

Changes to the tables for Winter Oilseed Rape for the North region were summarised and the new list was ratified by the Board.

Changes to the tables for Winter Oats were summarised. There were no new Winter Oats varieties to be added to the 2012/13 Recommended List. The Board ratified the List.

Changes to the tables for Spring Oats were summarised. The crop committee had proposed that Leven should not be re-sown in trials and the Breeder agreed that it should not remain on the Recommended List. With this amendment, the Board ratified the List.

The additional varieties on the Descriptive List for Spring Oilseed Rape were summarised, and the Board ratified the List.

The additional varieties on the Descriptive List for Winter Rye were summarised, and the Board ratified the List.

The additional varieties to the Descriptive List for Spring Linseed were summarised, and the Board ratified the List.

The additional varieties to the Descriptive List for Winter Triticale were summarised. Additional investigations into the lodging score will be undertaken, and with this caveat, the Board ratified the List.

#### **04/07 Review of the RL process**

This will be deferred to the next meeting.

#### **04/08 Schedule for review of and Project Board agreement on protocols and procedures over the next twelve months**

This will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **04/09 Proposals for new crop committee members - update**

Dr Bolton reported progress in recruiting new crop committee members, and suggested that those applicants already interviewed should be informed of the outcome.

Final approval of candidates yet to be interviewed will be conducted by e-mail by the end of the year.

#### **04/10 Revised proposals for the layout of the 2012/13 Recommended List**

Mrs Farrell and Dr Boys from the AHDB Stakeholders' Communications Department joined the meeting.

Dr Boys explained that the original intention behind the revised layout of the Recommended List had been to improve usability and navigation and more closely reflect industry requirements. She summarised the changes to the proposals which had been presented at the September Board meeting in response to the Board comments. The final version will be presented at the January Board meeting for approval and Prof Jellis asked that initial comments should be fed back through to Dr Boys for consideration as soon as possible.

*Post meeting note: Due to the date for the next Board meeting being set for 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012, the final approval will be conducted by e-mail.*

Prof Jellis thanked Mrs Farrell and Dr Boys for putting the proposals together.

**04/11 The draft licence for publication of data**

This will be carried forward to the next Board meeting.

**04/12 RL project accounts**

This will be carried forward to the next Board meeting.

**04/13 AOB**

The new RL will be available on the HGCA website from 10am on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November, when the embargo on the press release expires. Dr Boys will circulate the tables to Board members simultaneously.

- a) Sowing of varieties in RL trials

This will be discussed at the additional Board meeting.

- b) Release of RL tables for use by Scottish varieties consultative committee

This will be discussed at the additional Board meeting.

- c) Prospective dates for 2012 Board and Crop Committee meetings

There will be an additional Board meeting at the beginning of 2012, to discuss the deferred matters from this agenda, as well as items which have been highlighted from the crop committee and RL Appeals meetings.

The dates for the 2012 decision meetings will be reconsidered at the Board meeting to allow additional time for producing and proof reading minutes.

*Post meeting note: Following consultations, the next Board meeting has been scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012, and will take place at Stoneleigh.*

Mr Houghton thanked Dr Oxley and the RL team for all their hard work in completing the Recommended List in this first, very challenging year.

Prof Jellis thanked all the Board members for attending the meeting, and for hearing the appeals.

Signed..... Date.....