



HGCA BOARD MEETING

30 May 2012 at AHDB, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warks
SUMMARY MINUTES

Matters Arising

Some work had been done with Defra but no further progress had been made to identify the disparity in oilseed rape levy tonnages.

AHDB Ballot process was now in operation. Only one request had been received relating to HDC division.

Changes had been made to the yield figure and these had now been applied to 2012/13 budgets going forward.

A resolution had been reached within budget on the UK Cereal Pathogen Virulence Survey, following negotiation with NIABTAG on the UK Cereal Pathogen Virulence Survey. Some funding had been obtained from FERA for the next 2 years.

The Green Food Project report had now been synthesized and the outcomes from all of the groups were being pulled together into one report. To be discussed further at the Strategy Day.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman confirmed that he had now accepted a further three-year term as HGCA Chairman.

As two Board members whose term had finished this year also sat on the Finance Committee, the future and role for the committee would be reviewed.

A petition supporting GM trials in the UK had been circulated, which John Godfrey and Ian Crute, AHDB Chief Scientist, had signed. An HGCA report evaluating the costs and benefits of adoption/non-adoption of GM would be commissioned in August.

Sector Director's Report

Discussions were currently being held with Defra regarding AHDB being included in a marketing freeze. This would have significant impact if AHDB were to be caught up in it as at least £16m of AHDB's spend would be captured.

FERA was actively talking to different organisations about how work on the National Lists could achieve full cost recovery. HGCA had been asked by FERA to take on an official supervision role which would involve ensuring that NL and RL protocols were the same, validation of the trials and the data handling for the National Lists.

Discussions were underway with Defra to attempt to identify what areas of work Defra might be looking to walk away from but they hadn't been able to say so far.

Work was underway to look at the models other countries use to identify feed on farm and a more accurate program was being investigated. Richard Whitlock had now taken over as Chair of the MICC.

The education strategy had attempted to pull all of AHDB's education activity together but work was underway to identify areas suitable for further joint working.

Finance and Strategy

The latest HGCA accounts (pre-audit) showed that the year had finished slightly ahead of forecast. An

overall surplus was slightly reduced by additional AHDB support costs against budget.

An interim valuation showed that the Pension Scheme was in surplus but HGCA had to carry a negative pension reserve until such time as the triennial valuation shows that the scheme was in surplus.

Strategy Day agenda

Programme for the Strategy Day on 10 July included a review of progress since March 2010 and to agree any modifications to strategies. Considerations to operating environment would also be discussed.

Business Improvement

The Cereal Liaison Group had asked HGCA to undertake a feasibility study for an e-grain passport project. F4F had been procured to provide technical input and the study included industry consultation.

Key drivers for the project included the inability of paper system to continue to meet industry data requirements, the increasing data requirements – Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and supply chain specific data needs e.g., OSR, RED. A decision point was expected post-harvest 2012.

Concerns included cost, levels of IT capability and a practical solution to be available if the technology failed. Ownership of security data would need to be tightly managed.

Regional activity

A proposal was presented for the development of a regional team for HGCA in an effort to grow our business improvement activities. A number of work threads were currently outsourced to contractors including the *Arable Business Groups and Monitor Farms*. The proposal looked at whether we could continue to grow these activities and improving HGCA branding.

Current regional business improvement activity in England was limited to Arable Business Groups (ABGs), which would form the foundation on which future regional activity would be built. An English Monitor Farm programme would be a future aspiration and would be closely linked to the development of a regional team.

The Board approved a proposal to see a fully costed proposal at the July Board meeting.

Approval of committee expenditure

The Board approved expenditure for the following projects:

- Soils call projects:
- Platforms to test and demonstrate sustainable soil management: integration of major UK field experiments
- Using yield maps to manage soil variability
- Wastes, Organic Matter, Soil and Structure

Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on 11 July 2012 and would be preceded by a Strategy Day meeting on 10 July.