



## **HGCA BOARD MEETING**

23 October 2013 at Woodside Conference Centre, Glasshouse Lane, Kenilworth CV8 2AL  
SUMMARY MINUTES

### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2013 were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

The triennial review was now not expected to begin until the next financial year.

Board members not currently sitting on advisory committees would be invited to take up the two places on the Finance Committee when Stewart Vernon and Cath Clelland finished their terms in March 2014.

A draft of the final GM report was expected by the end of November. It would be sent to the HGCA Board before it was released.

### **HGCA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The two new Defra ministers had visited the Chairman's farm recently. Their brief was cereals, oilseeds, wine and hops and the Chairman stated that we need to work as closely as we can with them to develop their industry knowledge and offer expertise where we can.

The process to recruit a replacement AHDB Chairman to take up post from April 2014 would be undertaken by Defra. The recruitment drive to replace six members of the HGCA Sector Board who finish their term next year was underway. Board members from the growing, processing, milling and feed sectors would be sought to ensure consistency of industry knowledge.

The contract for the IT contractor to undertake the e-Passport project would be awarded in November and the pilot was expected to begin in April 2014 and would run until March 2015.

### **SECTOR DIRECTOR REPORT**

Two new grower members had been appointed to the BCE Committee; Stephen Watkins and Ian Jackson.

Meetings were being held with all the companies involved to discuss how to develop the fungicide performance work in advance of procurement in 2014.

The HGCA Water Road Map had been published and copies were circulated.

250 farms had been surveyed for the Mycotoxin Risk Assessment but half of the forms that came back were unusable and of the data that was available, many the risk assessment scores were inaccurate.

### **FINANCE AND STRATEGY**

Levy income would not be reviewed until Q2 levy income data was available at the end of November.

It was clarified that the aim of the reserves policy was to hit £3.5m by the end of the new corporate plan: they currently stood at £3.1m. If an excess of the reserves target was reached then a deficit budget could be run to reduce the sum in agreement with the AHDB CEO and Chairman.

60 levy audits had been conducted during 2013 which had resulted in £120k of additional levy being brought in.

The Board approved the Draft Corporate Plan for 2014/15 which incorporated the following new activities: AHDB Resource-Use Calculator / New R&KT Strategy consultation / horizon scanning / Bright Crop / AHDB Sector Skills Initiative / new R&KT calls on grain quality and pests.

The corporate priorities were there to help levy payers and their aim was to improve productivity and cost management, to prevent and manage disease, to assist market development and export developments, to understand and respond to the regulatory environment and to respond to skills and development needs.

### **SUSTAINABILITY**

The Board approved a plan to develop a baseline measure of sustainability. The issue was growing in importance because of triple bottom line reporting, CSR, differentiation/competitive advantage and understanding raw material supply.

### **REGIONAL TEAM IMPLEMENTATION**

An update was given on the implementation of the Regional Team and what had happened over the summer months since the last members of the team had started.

Plans for future work included a national network of 24 monitor farms, a national network of 50 arable business groups, to provide a powerful benchmarking capability and to implement a programme of pro-active grower engagement activities.

To date, team development had included branding workshops, monitor farm workshops, development of CropBench and Iqube survey and workshops.

### **EDUCATION**

An update on objectives, audience and budget for HGCA's education programme was presented. The *Grain Chain* programme was supported by HGCA.

It was confirmed that the education work undertaken by HGCA was delivered with other partners and there was discussion around consideration as to how to get into more inner city schools, along with possible incentives to allow schools to go out and buy flour etc. A sharing scheme for equipment had previously been undertaken.

### **APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE**

The Board approved expenditure for the following projects:

- a) HGCA disease monitoring network 2014 (2140008)
- b) Mycotoxin contamination: assessment of risk in livestock systems
- c) Exploitation of resistance genes from oilseed rape for control of light leaf spot (PhD 10)
- d) Understanding the genetics of wheat yield to deploy high and stable yielding wheat varieties across UK environments (PhD 23)
- e) Understanding interactions between *Ramularia collo-cygni* and barley leaf physiology to target improvements in host resistance and disease control strategies (PhD 16)

### **AOB**

There was no other business for discussion.

The next meeting of the HGCA Board would be held on 22 January 2014 in Kenilworth.