

**SUMMARY OF THE CEREALS & OILSEEDS BOARD MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 25th JUNE AT 10.00 A.M.**

TEAMS MEETING ONLINE

PRESENT:

Paul Temple (Chairman) (PT), David Bell (DB), Tony Bell (TB), Clare Bend (CB), Jane Biss (JB), Iain Davies (ID), Howard Leland (HL), Russell McKenzie (RM), James Standen (JS), Patrick Stephenson (PS), David Walston (DW), Mark Wood (MW),

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Grantley-Smith (MGS), Dhan Bhandari (DB), Derek Carless (DC), David Eudall (DE), Paul Gosling (PG), Tess Howe (TH), Haroon Jabar (HJ), Richard Meredith (RM), Paul Neve (PN), Tim Isaac (TI), Caroline Burniston (notes) (CB1)

CHAIR WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

PT welcomed the Board members to the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Nicholas Saphir was confirmed as an apology.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19th MARCH 2020

The Board agreed the minutes from the previous meeting held on the 19th March 2020 were a true record and can be signed off by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING AND ACTION POINTS FROM THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19th MARCH 2020

MGS confirmed a rethink around the environment role in relation to the new strategy being developed, Jon Foot to attend the October meeting to present on this matter.

DE informed members that the data from the AHDB (on-line) Variety Planting Survey was being finalised, with a release date for 8th July. IPM was confirmed as an ongoing priority, there was an eGrain Passport update in SSD report with CLG approval confirmed as the next stage for the proposal.

The RL Consortium Agreement is to be reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose, for the next 5 years of the RL programme.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



PT shared his thoughts around this year's expected poor harvest with greatly reduced OSR. Scotland is abnormally dry but with a huge planted area of Spring Barley.

The malting sector's difficulty around COVID were discussed along with new ways of working in this digital age being debated and the importance of a reliable Broadband signal in place to support this.

The opportunities for visiting RL trials was discussed. There is clearly much to be learned from seeing crops develop in real-time at the RL sites as well as generating data for the RL tables at the end of the year. Concerns was also raised around the fact that in some cases when tendering for land, land agents did not appear to be attaching any soil information.

SECTOR DIRECTORS REPORT

MGS raised the issue of the importance of putting the word 'productivity' back into the draft strategy following feedback from the NFU that it wasn't sufficiently stated. MGS confirmed that the general external feedback is that we are correct to not focus on export activity going forwards. MW stated the importance of communicating the strategy out to a wider audience.

JS enquired about promoting farm software going forward. DC confirmed that software meetings were taking place with large providers to make it available to many more growers but confirming there was no timeframe established yet for this integration of Farmbench into 3rd party farm software. Not everyone yet has IT systems compatible with Farmbench.

ID enquired about gene editing. PT stated the Scottish government approach is of concern due to their anti GMO/gene editing position. PT confirmed it was important that we monitor trials to establish the positives and negatives of the techniques and outputs.

SKILLS UPDATE

TH gave a presentation on this area which was met with much interest. JS enquired around the integration between what we are doing and the link between other delivery organisations.

SIGN OFF RL PROCUREMENT FOR NEXT 5 YEARS PROGRAMME

PG delivered his paper to the Board and discussed in detail the changes to the trials. The environmental impact and sustainability of trials was discussed in detail. OSR budget confirmed as £400K. PS enquired if the RL was designed to pick up the advantage of the IP and where we will stand going forward on IPM and whether guidelines had been produced to support this. It was confirmed that there hadn't been.

MW requested the possibility of a mid-term review or some structure to make the data more available. PG stated Rust scores would be reported differently this year. RM commented on the importance of local trials and the benefits to seeing them along with the usefulness of the data. The Board confirmed their agreement to proceed.

IPM PROJECT UPDATE

PN gave a presentation on IPM relating to Plant Health work and the resources being put into this area. PN offered a high-level overview on an approach that could sit cross-sector over all the IPM work being undertaken. This would be based on establishing what IPM practices are working best out on farms. CB gave her approval on the simplified approach and discussed in detail small plot replicated trials. PS stated the need to have a coordinated approach. MW confirmed the importance of linking into Emily Pope's work in relation to the big data picture.

DEVELOPING A DRAFT STRATEGY FOR AHDB ON OSR



MGS delivered the paper and then sought feedback from the members. DB confirmed the paper highlighted the challenges and should be supported whilst taking a levy from OSR growers. MW agreed the crop should not be written off. The protein content in the crop was confirmed as a favourable attribute making the crop difficult to replace. JB confirmed from a consumer's perspective we should continue to grow and support the crop. CB confirmed the success rate of the crop is slowly improving. PS asked that we do not under-estimate the value of OSR in this current climate and agreed with the feeling of being duty bound to support the crop but stated the importance of reviewing how we allocate levy funds. The overall agreement was that AHDB should continue to support the growing of OSR in the UK.

MGS stated the importance of having a credible plan which is evidence based. To this end he suggested that there were more pieces of information that needed to be collected before we could finalise our strategy. Members indicated their approval of this and agreed that the draft plans were heading in the right direction. The Board agreed that as part of the process AHDB should seek a wider industry view.

A detailed discussion developed on how the MF's are dealing with this issue, as they presented an opportunity to promote best practice ideas. CB confirmed that variety choice and hybrid discussions were key and that the industry needed to know what was in the pipeline that will help the fight against Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle.

MGS agreed to come back to the Board in October with a finalised draft strategy. In the meantime a monitoring programme for CSFB impact would be put in place, and the additional desk research will have been completed. External industry contributors will be approached to sense check the proposed strategy.

The Board agreed on this approach.

AOB

MGS reported to the Board that the next 5-year strategy remains in draft form and is likely to go out to the industry throughout the summer for consultation. Before that the Board will be required to review and sign off the document. CB1 will contact members with suggested late July dates for an extra Board meeting to do this.

PT confirmed his intention to hold the October meeting face to face at HQ. He also raised the recent release of the new RL App and encouraged everyone to download it and feedback any comments.

PT closed the meeting at 1pm and thanked everyone for their attendance.

