



The Insecticide Resistance Action Group (IRAG)



Grain aphid on barley © Jon Oakley

The AHDB-supported Resistance Action Groups (RAGs) are informal, UK-based groups consisting of experts from the Crop Protection Association (CPA) member companies, other representatives from the agrochemical industry, a range of independent organisations, including public-sector research institutes, and the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD). The groups are completely independent of AHDB and work to produce guidance on pesticide resistance issues. There are four autonomous groups dealing with issues relating to weeds, fungicides, insecticides and rodenticides.

IRAG-UK was formed in 1997 as an informal group of representatives of CPA member companies and independent organisations involved in insecticide resistance research.

IRAG-UK is independent but maintains strong links with the Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (IRAC) which has representation only from the agrochemical industry. IRAG-UK has similar aims and objectives to IRAC but considers that there is an advantage in having a platform for both independent and commercial interests.

Aims and Objectives

To provide information on resistance avoidance and management strategies for use by UK farmers and growers, advisors and regulatory authorities by:

- Establishing a forum for the exchange and interpretation of information on insecticide resistance
- Producing guidelines and agreed statements to the media
- Identifying knowledge gaps and suggesting research needs to appropriate funding agencies
- Establishing links to exchange information and ideas with similar groups in other countries and with IRAC.

Guidelines

As part of its support to the resistance action groups, AHDB publishes IRAG guidance on its website:

ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/irag