

## TOPICS DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS MADE BY THE AHDB RECOMMENDED LISTS PROJECT BOARD 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

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### **Board members present:**

Peter Gregory (Chair)  
Greg Dawson (Chair of Oilseeds Crop Committee)  
Marion Self (Chair of Barley, Oats and other Cereals Crop Committee)  
Patrick Stephenson (Chair of Wheat Crop Committee)  
Chris Piggott (AIC)  
Steph Speirs (BSPB)  
Jenna Watts (AHDB)  
Lisa Black (Independent)  
Mark Ineson (MAGB)  
Russ McKenzie (AHDB)  
Richard Summers (BSPB)  
Chris Guest (BSPB)

**Apologies:** Alistair Gale (UKFM),

**Observers:** Louise Everest (BSPB), Sarah Woolford (AHDB)

### **Key Items Discussed**

#### **1) Precision bred organisms**

AHDB had been contacted by Defra to discuss the potential impact of secondary legislation arising from the Genetic Technologies (Precision Breeding) Act of 2023 on the Recommended Lists.

The RL Board discussed the implications for trialling varieties in the devolved nations of the UK, how varieties would have to be recommended and how precision bred varieties might be identified in the RL.

#### **2) Minor crops**

Increasing costs for all trials may require a reduction in the number of trials overall. The Board discussed the value of the described lists for minor crops. The value of independent information on variety performance was highlighted.

#### **3) Data analysis**

The Board discussed the statistical methodology for analysing the RL data. Different methods have different strengths and weaknesses but there is an increasing consensus that a different method would improve the output. AHDB will continue to work with external statistical consultant BioSS to bring a proposal to the Board.

#### **4) RL Board strategy**

The Board received an update on the key performance indicators (KPIs) for the strategy. Progress has been made on the majority of the KPIs and there was discussion on the most appropriate metrics for some KPIs.

Maintaining a high proportion of UK wheat in UK bread is a challenge and the weather has caused significant quality issues, which is out of control of the RL. The wheat crop

committee will review the criteria for recommending Group 1 varieties to ensure they are still appropriate.

#### **5) RL review update**

The Board discussed the outputs of the scoping reviews on the RL fungicide programme and nitrogen use efficiency.

The Board rejected the recommendations from the fungicides review as failing to adequately address the nuances of the issue. AHDB will use its comms channels to improve understanding of the rationale behind the programme.

The nitrogen review had been discussed by the RB209 technical advisory group who were concerned that the proposal to have some trials at lower N input would not provide the information growers want. The AHDB RL team will meet with them to discuss other options.