

Report of CPHP meeting between UZ, Agritex and Wye College

31/1/00

Baggs, E.M. and Mangwayana, E.

This meeting was attended by: Ken Giller (UZ), Esther Mangwayana (UZ), Irene Koomen (UZ), Liz Baggs (Wye), Darius Sanyatwe (Agritex), Langton Mukwereza (Agritex) & Wellington Chaonwa (Agritex).

The following issues were raised:

Identification of potential production sites. An initial visit was proposed for Friday 4 February with the district Agritex officer to start identifying possible sites. Esther will have a crucial role in identifying sites around sewage farms such as Crowborough and Ingwe. Access to sites was raised as a potential problem. It was proposed that production sites would be selected where sewage water is applied as heavy metal contamination is expected to be more localised compared to that of pesticide residues. Rape was identified to be the most important test crop, although other leafy vegetables will be included in an initial broad sampling regime.

Pesticide use. It was proposed that PPRI (Plant Protection Research Institute) should be approached for details about pesticide applications (types, timing, rates etc.). Irene Koomen will pursue this. Irene was identified as possibly having an important role in advising on reduced/optimal pesticide usage and recommending appropriate management practices for reduced inputs, thereby offering a practical solution to farmers.

Market surveys. Agritex are currently working in appropriate markets (Mbare and Chikwanha) and agreed to add questions to existing surveys to identify sources of produce. It was agreed that this would commence soon.