

# The UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP)

## Full Minutes of the meeting of the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP) held 23 July 2024

*The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting.*

### **Those present:**

#### **Chair:**

Mr J Clarke

#### **Members:**

Prof T Butt (Biopesticide cloud); Dr I Cano Cejas (Biopesticide cloud); Dr D Chandler (Biopesticide cloud); Prof J Coulson; Dr J Garratt; Mr M Glynn; Dr R Gwynn (Biopesticide cloud); Dr C Harris; Dr I Katsiadaki; Dr R Mann; Dr M Rose; Dr A Rowbotham; Mr P Stephenson; Prof D Spurgeon; Dr M Wakefield (Biopesticide cloud); Prof M Whelan and Prof M Wright

#### **Assessors:**

Ms K Chukwubike (UKHSA); Mr B MacDonald (Welsh Government); Mr A Murchie (representing the Northern Irish Government); Ms G Reay (Scottish Government); Dr C Snaith (HSE) and Mr D Williams (Defra)

#### **Advisors:**

Dr S Brescia (HSE); Mr J Dale (HSE); Mr A Dixon (HSE); Mr N Graham; Ms R Leete (Defra); Mr B Maycock (FSA); Dr J Newman (Environment Agency); Ms M Reed (HSE); Dr S Qassim (Natural England); and Ms M Wade (HSE)

#### **Others:**

Ms A Davison (PRiF Chair); Ms A Gibson (Defra); Ms K Middlehurst (HSE); Ms P Robinson (HSE); Mr M Roberston (HSE); Ms C Simion (HSE); Ms L Shipley (HSE); and Mr A Wilder (HSE)

#### **Apologies:**

Prof M Eddleston and Mr G Shawe (Natural England)

## **Agenda Item 1: Introduction**

1.1 The Chair reminded the meeting of the confidentiality of the papers and their discussions. If Members believed that they had a commercial or financial interest in any of the items being discussed, they were required to declare their interest to the Chair and Secretariat prior to the meeting. They may then either be invited to absent themselves from the discussions, not participate and/or not be involved in any discussions and decision-making, unless invited to do so.

1.2 Four Members identified potential conflicts of interests. They were deemed to be non-personal, non-specific conflicts and it was decided they could remain and participate in discussion on the relevant agenda items.

1.3 The Chair welcomed Mr A Murchie and Ms K Chukwubike who have joined the committee as representatives of the Northern Irish Government and the UK Health Security Agency respectively.

1.4 The Chair further welcomed the members of the Biopesticide Cloud who have joined the meeting to support on the consideration of Sweet Lupin.

## **Agenda Item 2: Full Minutes of the previous meeting [ECP 1 (66/2024)]**

2.1 Members noted that the minutes of the January meeting had been agreed via correspondence and published prior to this meeting.

## **Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising and Forward Business Plan [ECP 2 (66/2024)]**

3.1 The Secretariat provided an update on matters arising from previous meetings and invited Members to suggest any additions/amendments to the forward business plan which would be incorporated before the next meeting.

3.2 Members noted they held a familiarisation session on the active substance process with relevant HSE specialists in place of the May meeting.

3.3 The Secretariat highlighted that the 2023 ECP annual report had been published since the last meeting.

## **Agenda Item 4: Active Substance – Sweet Lupin [ECP 3 – 3-1 (66/2024)]**

4.1 HSE introduced the item, noting that it is a new fungicidal active substance with intended use for foliar application to strawberry and tomato crops. Members noted that no registrations or authorisations for sweet Lupinus Albus extracts currently exist in GB although there are authorisations for products in the EU, Canada and the USA.

4.2 HSE had identified several potential areas that would require advice, and Committee Members could explore any aspects of the risk assessment and underlying guidance they considered to be of interest.

4.3 The Committee held preliminary discussions on the issues identified by HSE and began to formulate their advice.

**Action: Members**

## **Agenda Item 5: HSE Stewardship updates**

5.1 HSE updated the Committee on the ongoing stewardship programme for products containing aminopyralid. Members noted that HSE were content that the data showed no significant deviations from previous years and continued to demonstrate an overall trend of a decline in reported incidents.

## **Agenda Item 6: Overview of the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF)**

6.1 The Chair welcomed Ms A Davison, the chair of the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food, who presented to the ECP on the role, remit and on overview of the current work of the PRiF.

6.2 Ms A Davison noted that PRiF members had raised the post-approval monitoring of non-traditional Plant Protection Products (PPPs) as an area of joint interest between the committees.

6.3 Members thanked Ms A Davison for her informative presentation and discussed various aspects of the residue monitoring programme including:

- how risk assessments account for the potential peeling of various fruit and vegetables and the underlying consumer consumption data used when applying a peeling factor.
- the impact of residues on livestock, both in terms of animal welfare and the impact on the end product, such as in milk and meat.
- to what extent the data collected by the residue monitoring programme could help assess impact of various assurance schemes.

6.5 Members agreed to liaise with the secretariat on how best to approach a potential joint work programme on the post-approval monitoring of PPPs when maximum residue levels are not set.

**Action: Secretariat**

## **Agenda Item 7: Date of next meeting**

7.1 10 September 2024 – To be held in a virtual manner.

## **Agenda Item 8: Any other business**

### **8.1 2023/2024 Emergency Authorisation [ECP 4 (66/2024)]**

8.1.1 HSE presented the details of all emergency authorisation applications received by HSE in 2023/24. This is provided as annual update for the committee's information.

### **8.2 Update from the Department on Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

8.2.1 Defra noted that a new ministerial team had been appointed with Steve Reed OBE MP as the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

8.2.2 They noted the exact portfolios of each minister had yet to be confirmed but that the Secretary of State had publicly outlined his five priorities for the department.

### **8.3 Chair's Report**

8.3.1 The Chair noted that he and Dr C Harris had finalised the ECP's audit of the emergency authorisations undertaken by HSE in 2023/24. He thanked all those involved for their support and work to help facilitate this.

8.3.2 The Chair confirmed that the secretariat are in position to formally offer applicants the vacant toxicology and ecotoxicology posts, the intention is to have these new members in place for the September meeting.

**Ethan Clabby  
ECP Secretariat  
September 2024**