Appendix 1: List of organisations contacted to seek information on organic food and farming research programmes.

Abacus Organic Association
Aberdeen City Council
Aberdeenshire Council
Action Plan DEFRA
Action with Communities in Rural England(ACRE)
ADAS
Amateur Gardening
Angling Foundation
Angus Council
Animal Health Trust
Animal Welfare Trust
Arboricultural Association
Argyll and Bute Council
Askham Bryan College
Bath Spa University college
BBSRC Office, Polaris House
Bedfordshire County Council
Bicton College of Agriculture
Bio-dynamics Association
Bishop Burton College of Agriculture
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Bournmouth University
Bridgend County Borough Council
British Agrochemicals Association
British Crop Protection Council
British Goat Society
British Grassland Society
British Sugar
British Trust for Ornithology
British Veterinary Association Animal Welfare Foundation
Broom's Barn Research Centre
Buckinghamshire County Council
Butterfly conservation
CAB International
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Cannington College
Cardiff Business School
Cardiff City & County Council
Carmarthen College
Carmathenshire County Council
Central Science Laboratory, Consumer Protection
Centre Energy & Environment
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (Institute of Terrestrial Ecology merged with CEH)
Centre for Genome Research
Ceredigion County Council
Cheshire County Council
Clackmannshire Council
Commonwork Trust
Compassion in World Farming
Conwy County Borough Council
Cornwall County Council
Country Land & Business Association
Countryside Agency
Countryside Council for Wales
Cumbria County Council
Daresbury Laboratory
Dartington Hall Trust
Denbighshire County Council
Dept. Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)
Dept. Agriculture and Rural Development Nothern Ireland (DARDNI)
Dept. of Health
Dept. of Trade & industry
Derby College of Agriculture/Horticulture)
Derbyshire County Council
Devon County Council
Dorset County Council
Duchy College,
Dumfries and Galloway Council
Dundee City Council
Durham County Council
East Ayrshire Council
East Dunbartonshire Council
East Lothian Council
East Renfrewshire Council
East sussex County Council
Economic and Social Research council
Edinburgh City Council,
Elm Farm Research Centre
Engineering & Physical Science Research Council (EPSRC)
England Rural Development - Main Contact
English Nature
Environment Agency
Essex County Council
Falkirk Council
Farm Animal Welfare Council
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
Fife Council
Flintshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Forestry Commission
Forum for the Future
Friends of the Earth
Glasgow City council
Gloucestershire County Council
Greenmount College of Agriculture & Horticulture
Greenpeace
Gwynedd County Council
Hampshire County Council
Hannah Research Institute
Harper Adams College
Henry Doubleday Research Association
Hertfordshire County Council
HGCA
Horticulture Research International, Pest Control Strategies
Imperial College, Dept of Agricultural Science, Wye Campus
Institute for Animal Health, Compton
Institute for European Environmental Policy
Institute of Biological Science, Aberystwyth, School of Management & Business
Institute of Food Research
Institute of Grassland & Environmental Research (IGER)
Inverclyde Council
Isle of Anglesey County Council
Isle of Wight County Council
John Innes Centre
Kent County Council
Kingshay Trust
Lackham Agricultural College
Lancashire County Council
Land Heritage
Leicestershire County Council
Lincolnshire College of Agriculture & Horticulture, De Montford Uni.
Lincolnshire County Council
Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)
Mark Measures Associates
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Midlothian Council
Monmouthshire County Council
Moray Council
Moredun Research Institute
Morley research Centre
Mother Earth
National Farmers Union
National Federation of Anglers
National Federation of City Farms
Natural Environment Research Council
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
New Consumer
New Economic Foundation
Newport City Council
NIAB, Plant Pathology Dept, (cereal seed health)
Norfolk County Council
North Ayrshire Council
North Lanarkshire Council
North Yorkshire County Council
Northamptonshire County Council
Northern Ireland Horticultural and Plant Breeding Station
Northumberland County Council
Norton Organic Grain Ltd
Nottinghamshire County Council
OMSCO
Organic Centre Wales/Welsh Institute of Rural Studies
Organic Farmers and Growers
Orkney Council
Otley College of Agriculture
Oxfordshire County Council
Pan UK
Pembrokeshire County Council
Permaculture Association
Pershore College
Perth and Kinross Council, Pirbright Lab
Policy Studies Institute
Powys County Council
Project Carrot, Holme Lacy College
Ramblers Association
Rare Breeds Survival Trust
Reaseheath College
Renfrewshire Council

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council
Roslin Institute
Rothamsted Research
Rowett Research Institute
Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE)
Royal Agriculture College
Royal Commission for Environmental Pollution
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Schumacher College
Schumacher Society
Scottish Agricultural College,
Scottish Borders Council
Scottish Crop Research Institute
Scottish Natural Heritage
Scottish Universities Policy
SEERAD (Scottish Office Agriculture & Fisheries Dept.)
Sheepdrove Trust
Sheffield Hallum University
Shetland Islands Council
Shropshire County Council
Shuttleworth College, Biggleswade
Silsoe College, Cranfield University
Silsoe Research Institute
Soil Association
Somerset County Council
South Ayrshire Council,
South Lanarkshire Council
Staffordshire County Council
Stirling Council
Suffolk County council
Surrey County Council
SUSTAIN
Swansea County Council
Tesco Centre for Organic Agriculture, University of Newcastle upon Tyne
The Bulmers Trust
The Countryside Foundation
The Game Conservancy trust
The Green Alliance
The Highland Council
The Macauley Institute
The National Trust
The Queens University of Belfast
The Royal Horticultural Society
The University of Reading, Veterinary Epidemiology & Economic Research Unit (VEERU)
The Vegetarian Society of the UK
Torfaen County Borough Council
UCAS
UK Ecolabelling Board
UKROFS
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare
University College London
University of Aberdeen, Plant and Soil Science
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of Central Lancashire
University of Essex
University of Exeter, Centre for Rural Research
University of Gloucestershire
University of Lancaster
University of Leeds
University of Leicester
University of Nottingham, School of Biosciences
University of Oxford
university of Plymouth, Seal Hayne
University of Sheffield
University of Southampton
University of Sussex, Brighton
University of Wales, Bangor
University of Warwick
Vale of Glamorgan County Council
Vegan Organic Network
Warwickshire County Council
Welsh Assembly Government
West Berkshire County Council
West Dunbartonshire Council
West Lothian
West Sussex County Council
Western Isles Council
Wildlife and Countryside Link
Wiltshire County Council
Womans Environment Network
Woodland Trust
Worcestershire County Council
World Wide Fund for Nature
Wrexham County Borough Council
Writtle College

Appendix 2: E-mails and questionnaire sent to organic food and farming research organisations.

4th March 2005.

Dear Colleague,

In February 2003 you very kindly took part in a DEFRA funded project that came out of the recommendations of the Organic Action Plan. It was aimed at drawing together information on funding for research through all UK public sector, private and charitable sources.

As part of a new Defra contract on research priorities for organic farming we are updating the information gathered in 2003. This initial contact is to ensure that we have the correct contact details for your organisation. Please could you respond to this email as soon as possible to let me know if this is the best email address to send some brief questions to regarding recent and current research and development that is relevant to organic farming in the UK. If not please could you advise of the correct email address.

I look forward to hearing from you

Many Thanks

Claire Aspray
Research Officer
Tel: +44 (0) 1488 658298
Fax: +44 (0) 1488 658503
Mob: +44 (0) 7881818350
e-mail: claire.a@efrc.com

Visit our website at www.efrc.com.

12th April 2005.

Dear Colleague,

Thank you very much for your prompt response to my previous email regarding the DEFRA funded project on research priorities for organic farming.

As detailed in the initial email I have attached some questions regarding recent and current research and development relevant to organic farming in the UK (you will find these in the word document attached to this email titled section 1). I have also attached an excel spreadsheet, titled section 2, with headings detailing the information we are looking for on any relevant projects your organisation may be undertaking, I have entered this project as an example. It would be greatly appreciated if you could take the time to complete these forms and return them to this email address (claire.a@efrc.com).

I look forward to receiving your response.

Many Thanks
Claire Aspray
Research Officer
Elm Farm Research Centre
claire.a@efrc.com

12th April 2005.

Dear Colleague,

Although I havent received a response to my previous email sent to you on 4th March 2005 regarding the DEFRA funded project on research priorities for organic farming I have sent this subsequent email to yourselves in the hope that you may still be able to help.

As detailed in the initial email I have attached some questions regarding recent and current research and development relevant to organic farming in the UK (you will find these in the word document attached to this email titled section 1). I have also attached an excel spreadsheet, titled section 2, with headings detailing the information we are looking for on any relevant projects your organisation may be undertaking, I have entered this project as an example. It would be greatly appreciated if you could take the time to complete these forms and return them to this email address (claire.a@efrc.com).

I look forward to receiving your response.

Many Thanks
Claire Aspray
Research Officer
Elm Farm Research Centre
claire.a@efrc.com

25th April 2005.

Dear Colleague,

Although I havent received a response to my previous email sent to you on 12th April 2005 regarding the DEFRA funded project on research priorities for organic farming I have sent this subsequent email to yourselves in the hope that you may still be able to help.
In February 2003 you very kindly took part in a DEFRA funded project that came out of the recommendations of the Organic Action Plan. It was aimed at drawing together information on funding for research through all UK public sector, private and charitable sources.

As detailed in the previous email as part of a new Defra contract on reseach priorities for organic farming we are updating the information gathered in 2003. I have attached some questions regarding recent and current research and development relevant to organic farming in the UK (you will find these in the word document attached to this email titled section 1). I have also attached an excel spreadsheet, titled section 2, with headings detailing the information we are looking for on any relevant projects your organisation may be undertaking, I have entered this project as an example. It would be greatly appreciated if you could take the time to complete these forms and return them to this email address (claire.a@efrc.com).

If we do not hear from you we will assume that your organisation hasn't taken on any more projects relevant to organic farming since your previous response in 2003 and so will use the data sent to us then.

Please send us the details of any new projects, I look forward to receiving your response.

Many Thanks
Claire Aspray
Research Officer
Elm Farm Research Centre
claire.a@efrc.com

29th April 2005.

Hi,

I sent you this email on 25th April, I know it hasn't been long but I am being chased for results from people so is there any chance you could try and complete the questionnaires for me ASAP?

Thanks for your help
Claire

Claire Aspray
Research Officer
Tel: +44 (0) 1488 658298
Fax: +44 (0) 1488 658503
Mob: +44 (0) 7881818350
e-mail: claire.a@efrc.com

Visit our website at www.efrc.com.

Section 1: OF0350: To draw together information on organic farming research through all UK public sector, private and charitable sources.

Section 1: General and Background information.

1. Organisational information.

1.1. Name:

1.2. Position:

1.3. Organisation or institute (full postal address with department, phone, fax & e-mail).

1.4. Has your organisation or institute undertaken or have you completed in the last 3 years any research and development activities (including reports) involving organic farming and food?

Yes/No

1.5. If “Yes” please go on to complete Section 2 for all activities.

1.5.1. Please complete a row for each activity or project.
1.5.2. The key and information for completion of the form is on the second sheet of the spreadsheet.

1.6. If “No” would your organisation or institute consider undertaking organic research in the future?

Yes/No.

Section 2:

Organisation/Institute name:									
Contact person:									
Project title [1]:	Reference No./Code [2]:	Abstract/Description [3]:	Start date [4]:	End date [5]:	Partners [6]:	Funders name [7]:	Total costs [8]:	Research area. [9]	Organic relevance [10]
To draw together information on organic farming research through all UK public sector, private and charitable sources.	OF0338	This project was commissioned to address action point 13 of the organic action plan and the consortium has been asked to undertake this work on behalf of DEFRA and the Action Plan Group. The objective of the project is to draw together information on c	14.01.2003	31.03.2003	EFRC ECO-Stapes	DEFRA	£14,448	6	A

Appendix 3: Boundaries of workshop exercises.

English Organic Action Plan Objectives.

- To develop the organic sector in line with consumer demand.
- To maintain consumer confidence in the integrity of organic food, and to ensure that consumers have access to accurate information about the standards to which it is produced.
- To encourage all parts of the organic food chain to work in partnership.
- To provide organic farmers, growers and processors in England with the market information they need to develop their businesses successfully.
- To ensure that consumer demand for organic produce results in tangible benefits for the English countryside and English wildlife, by increasing British farmers' share of the organic food market.

NI Organic Development Strategy

- Establish a new 'lead group' for organic sector development in NI
- Organic Farming Scheme to provide continued and even funding throughout the year
- Establish an 'Organic Business Centre'
- Enhance provision of education, training, advisory and business (including market information) services
- Establish a targeted R&D programme
- Promote strategic development of commodity marketing groups
- Increase promotion and allocation of capital and revenue grants for organic production, processing and market infrastructure development
- Introduce a capital grant scheme to assist in meeting organic livestock standards
- Campaign to promote greater awareness of organic produce amongst NI consumers
- Devise proposals for restructuring organic farming support in NI.

Scottish Organic Action Plan Objectives.

- Support for organic producers
- Support for the effective marketing of organic produce
- Research to support the development of the organic sector
- Development of organic standards appropriate to Scottish circumstances

Welsh Organic Vision.

"…a thriving community of organic interests in Wales …integrating producers, consumers and a wide range of businesses…"

Draft IFOAM Principles.

- *The Principle of Health.* Organic Agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal and human as one and indivisible.

- *The Ecological Principle.* Organic Agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.

- *The Principle of Fairness.* Organic Agriculture should be built upon relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.

- *The Principle of Care.* Organic Agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

Research & Development.

- *Research*: Systematic investigation to establish facts.

- *Development*: Systematic use of the knowledge or understanding gained from research.

Appendix 4: Details of public workshops.

Workshop.	Date
Public Workshops	
HDRA, Ryton Organic Gardens, Coventry, WARWICKSHIRE, CV8 3LG.	2nd March 2005
Lakeview Country Club, Old Coach Road, Lanivet, Bodmin, CORNWALL, PL30 5JJ.	16th March 2005
The Kempen Room, The Maltings, Ship Lane, Ely, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, CB7 4BB	7th April 2005
Nantyffin Motel, Llandissilio, Nr Clynderwen, PEMBROKSHIRE, SA66 7SU.	12th April 2005
Bowland Suite, Myerscough College, Bilsborrow, Preston, LANCASHIRE, PR3 0RY.	12th April 2005
Oakley Arms Hotel, nr. Blaenau Ffestiniog, GWYNEDD, LL41 3YU.	14th April 2005
Westex Lounge, Royal Bath & West Show Ground, Shepton Mallet, SOMERSET, BA4 6QN.	14th April 2005
Greenmount Campus, College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise, ANTRIM, BT41 4PU.	20th April 2005
Commonwork, Bore Place, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, KENT, TN8 7AR.	26th April 2005
The Grampian Hotel, PERTH, PH2 8EH.	3rd May 2005
Dryfesdale Hotel, LOCKERBIE, DG11 2SF.	4th May 2005
The Ugie House Hotel, KEITH, AB55 5BR.	5th May 2005
Scottish Highlands and Islands Consultation.	13th June 2005
Other Workshops/Consultations.	
COR Socio-Economic Group. Bristol.	10th February 2005
Levercliffe Group. Wales	22nd February 2005
EFRC staff. Berkshire.	1st March 2005
Mid-Wales, OCW & Research Staff. Wales	13th April 2005
Welsh Horticulture Group. Wales	16th April 2005
Welsh Organic Strategy Group. Wales	19th April 2005
Expert Group Meeting. Birmingham.	21st June 2005.

Appendix 5: Invitation, agenda and invite list to Expert Group Meeting 21st June 2005.

Sustainable Farming and Food Science Division
Cromwell House
Dean Stanley Street
Room 607
Westminster
London SW1P 3JH

Telephone *0207 238 1506*
Website *www.defra.gov.uk*

May 2005.

Dear Colleague

What should Defra organic farming research & development deliver?
Expert Group Meeting – 21st June 2005 at the Holiday Inn Birmingham Airport.

You may be aware that Elm Farm Research Centre, SAC, Organic Centre Wales and Greenmount College in Northern Ireland have been working together to help Defra identify organic farming research and development needs for the UK.

They have just completed series of regional workshops to consult with the whole of the organic sector ranging from producers to consumers. They now wish to present their draft findings to an 'expert group' who can help in the interpretation and refinement of the output of the stakeholder workshops. It is envisaged that this expert group will enable the project to provide focused and realistic recommendations to Defra/ACOS.

We have identified you as an expert who can make a valuable contribution to our work. We would be very grateful if you, or a colleague you wish to nominate, could participate in this expert group at a meeting on 21st June 2005 at the Holiday Inn Birmingham Airport. I attach the meeting objectives and an agenda for the day along with information on the project as a whole.

I hope you can attend. To do so, please complete the attached form and return it to Dr Bruce Pearce at Elm Farm Research Centre by mail or to bruce.p@efrc.com or fax to 01488 658 503 by 16th June 2005. If you require further information please contact Bruce at Elm Farm.

Yours sincerely

Dr Donal Murphy-Bokern
Head of Arable Crop and Farming Systems Science Unit
Email: donal.murphy-bokern@defra.gsi.gov.uk

What Should Organic Farming Research & Development Deliver for You?

Expert Group Meeting.

Tuesday 21st June 2005. Holiday Inn. Birmingham Airport.

Background to the project.

Defra has sought expert scientific support for the R&D sub-committee of the Advisory Committee on Organic Standards (ACOS) and have commissioned a project led by Elm Farm Research Centre with Organic Centre Wales, Scottish Agricultural College and Greenmount College in Northern Ireland to undertake work to facilitate the ACOS R&D sub-committee in its function of providing advice to Defra on priorities for research needed to inform relevant UK policy making and the development of the organic sector in line with the organic action plans for England, Wales and Scotland and Organic Farming in Northern Ireland: A development Strategy.

The project seeks to identify and analyse issues and aspirations that stakeholders feel should be addressed by publicly funded organic farming research in the UK. The overarching objective of the project is to inform the ACOS R&D sub-committee in its work on identifying research priorities for the UK organic farming and food sector through the identification and analysis of the issues and aspirations that stakeholders feel should be addressed by publicly funded research into organic farming in the UK. The work has been separated into 5 sub-objectives.

1. Create a collated directory of existing organic research priorities currently held by Defra.
2. Create a directory of existing current and completed research in the UK particularly in relation to the priorities identified in objective 1.
3. To consult organic stakeholders (through a series of regional workshops and a web based approach) to identify the issues and aspirations they feel should be addressed by publicly funded research into organic farming in the UK.
4. Facilitate exchange of information on the project to the ACOS R&D sub-committee.
5. Provide a full final project report that is sufficiently detailed to provide an audit trail of the report's projects findings and output.

Why should you attend and what we expect from the expert group?

This expert group meeting addresses part of the work within sub-objectives 3 and 5 of the project. We have undertaken an extensive public consultation exercise throughout the UK and now want to bring the findings of this to key actors within the organic food and farming sector (the expert group). We envisage that this group will be able to assist us in ensuring that no key issues for the UK food and farming sector are missing. We also believe that the expert group will be able to act as a check as to whether the findings are realistic and feasible.

The finding presented within the projects report will be will used by ACOS/Defra in informing their organic farming research priorities. Attendance at this meeting enables you to have early sight of the draft report and have an input

Objectives.

1. For key actors within the food and farming sector (the expert group) to identify how UK organic food and farming research can address their goals.

2. To present the key findings of the consultation and seek comment.

3. To present draft report of the project and seek comments within 14 days of the meeting.

Draft Agenda.

10:30	Registration and Coffee	
11:00	Welcome and introduction.	Christine Watson (ACOS R&D committee)
11:15	Defra statement.	Donal Murphy-Bokern (Defra)
11:20	Priorities exercise in groups.	All
12:30	Priorities exercise consolidated.	All
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	Project presentation (process)	David Gibbon (Project team)
14:15	Project presentation (findings)	Bruce Pearce (Project team)
14:45	Feedback from exercise.	Project team.
15:00	General discussion.	Bruce Pearce
15:30	Next actions and close.	

✂ ----------

Please respond using the form below. If you cannot attend but wish to nominate someone else from your organisation please do so.

I can/cannot attend the Organic Farming R&D needs Expert Group Meeting.

Name:……
Organisation:……E-mail……

Any special dietary requirements:…….

Please respond by **16th June 2005** to Dr B D Pearce, Elm Farm Research Centre, Hamstead Marshall, Nr Newbury, Berkshire, RG20 0HR. bruce.p@efrc.com or fax: 01488 658 298.

Invitation List.

	Organisation	Name
1.	Abacus Organic Associates	Stephen Briggs
2.	Aberdeen University	Jamie Robertson (Livestock Projects Manager)
3.	ACOS board	Oliver Dowding Catherine Fookes Fiona Gately Alan Gear MBE Roger Hitchings Malla Hovi Rex Humphrey MBE Brian Kaye Susanna Lewis JP Charles McDonald David Peace Nabilai Suma Jeffrey Vergerson Julian Wade Christine Watson C/o Robin Fransella – Defra please forward.
4.	ACOS Certification committee	Brian Hendley David Main Graham Collier Jane Beaumont Nabs Suma Nicola Cannon Pam Beha Stephen Briggs Susanna Lewis C/o Robin Fransella – Defra please forward.
5.	ACOS R&D sub-committee	Christine Watson Ian Alexander Chris Atkinson Stephen Briggs Sue Fowler Dan Powell Matt Reed C/o Robin Fransella – Defra please forward.
6.	ACOS Technical committee	Brian Hendley David Younie Gabrielle Lanceley Helen Taylor Hugh Mowat Jan Deane John Dalby Roger Hitchings Susanne Padel C/o Robin Fransella – Defra please forward.
7.	ADAS	Dr Bill Cormack
8.	ADAS Wales	David Frost
9.	Ascisco Ltd	David Peace
10.	BBSRC	Professor J M Goodfellow CBE
11.	Bedfordshire County Council	Mike Kenworthy (Strategic Director-Environment)
12.	Bio-Dynamic Agricultural Association	Timothy Brink

13.	British Grassland Society	Dr John Vipond - President
14.	British Potato Council	Mike Storey
15.	British Poultry Council	Marie Burnett
16.	British Retail Consortium	David North
17.	British Society Animal Science	Alan Duncan - Chairman of Technical & Ethical Committee
18.	British Trust for Ornithology	Dr Rob Fuller
19.	British Veterinary Association	Chris Collins - Head of Veterinary Policy
20.	Bucks County Council	
21.	CABI Bioscience	
22.	Centre for Rural Studies	Dr John Davis
23.	CMi Certification	David Braxton
24.	COSI	Jessie Hackstall-Smith
25.	Country Land and Business Association	Colin Hedley
26.	Countryside Agency	Margaret Clark - Acting Chief Executive
27.	Countryside Council for Wales	Roger Thomas - Chief Executive
28.	Crofters Commission	Shane Rankin - Chief Executive
29.	CSL (Central Science Laboratories)	Professor Tony Hardy
30.	DARD Environmental Policy Branch	David Small
31.	DARD Science Service	George McIlroy
32.	Defra	Roger Unwin
33.	Devon County Council	Ian Hutchcroft (Sustainable Prosperity Manager)
34.	Duchy College	Dr Jean Burke (Organic Project Leader)
35.	EcoStopes	Christopher Stopes
36.	Eden Project	Dr Tony Kendle
37.	English Nature	Ian Alexander
38.	English Organic Action Plan Group	David Barling Lucy Bjorck Sue Dibb Dominic Dyer Renée Elliott Catherine Fookes Peter Hall Colin Hedley Richard Jacobs Nic Lampkin Peter Melchett Andrew Opie Peter Whitehead Lawrence Woodward C/o Robin Fransella – Defra please forward.
39.	Environment Agency	Hannah Bartram
40.	Environment Agency Wales	Richard Lewis Davies
41.	ESRC	Professor Ian Diamond
42.	FARM	Peter Lundgren
43.	Farm Animal Welfare Council	Professor Christopher Wathes
44.	Farmers Union of Wales	Arwyn Moreton Owen
45.	Farmers Union of Wales	Rhian Nowell-Phillips
46.	Food Standards Agency	Richard Harding
47.	Food Standards Agency Scotland	Anna Whyte
48.	Food Standards Agency Wales	Joy Whinney - Director
49.	Forestry Commission	Peter Freer-Smith
50.	Friends of the Earth	Emily Diamand
51.	FWAG Cymru	Glenda Thomas
52.	FWAG England	Steven Hunt
53.	FWAG Northern Ireland	Sean Convery
54.	FWAG Scotland	Steven Hunt

55.	Greenpeace	Robin Grove-White - Chair of Board
56.	Growing with nature	Alan Schofield
57.	HDRA	Dr M Lennartson (Director, Research and Development)
58.	Helen Browning	Eastbrook Farm
59.	Home Grown Cereals Authority	Graham Jellis
60.	Horticultural Development Council	Colin Harvey
61.	HRI	Professor Simon Bright
62.	Hybi Cig Cymru	Gwyn Howells, Chief Executive
63.	IGER	Richard Weller
64.	Institute of Animal Health	Eric Hillerton
65.	Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association	Pascal Phelin
66.	John Innes Centre	Professor Chris Lamb
67.	LEAF	Caroline Drummond
68.	Mark Measures Associates	Mark Measures
69.	Marshalls of Butterwick	Phillip Effingham
70.	Meat and Livestock Commission	Mike Attenborough - Technical Director
71.	Milk Development Council	Kevin Bellamy, Chief Executive
72.	National Farmers Union	Alex Dinsdale
73.	National Farmers Union of Wales	Dylan Morgan
74.	National Trust	Rob Macklin - Head Of Agriculture
75.	National Trust for Scotland	Robin Satow - Head of Land Agency
76.	National Trust Northern Ireland	Mrs Ruth Laird
77.	NERC	Professor Alan Thorpe
78.	New Economic Foundation	Ed Mayo (Director)
79.	Newcastle University	Carlo Leifert
80.	Newcastle University	Liz Stockdale
81.	NFUS	Craig Campbell
82.	NIAB	Jane Thomas
83.	NIAPA	Jim Carmichael
84.	Norton Organic Grain Ltd	John Norton
85.	O&F Consulting	Simon Wright
86.	OAMG	Andrew Trump
87.	OMSCo	Nick Saphir
88.	Organic Action Plan Group (NI)	Christopher Stopes Brian Gray Rex Humphrey Richard Jacobs David Laughlin Brian Lockhart John McCormick Liam McCarthy Roy McCracken Michael Mullan Eric Reid Eileen Thompson James Twine c/o Stuart Beeson Please forward.
89.	Organic Farmers and Growers Ltd	Richard Jacobs
90.	Organic Food Federation	Julian Wade
91.	Organic Trust Limited	Helen Scully
92.	QMS	Dr Charlotte Maltin
93.	Quality Welsh Food Certification Ltd	Moss Jones
94.	Reading University	Malla Hovi
95.	Rothamsted Research Centre	Stephen James (Assistant Director)
96.	Royal Horticultural Society	Simon Thorton-Wood
97.	RSPB	Richard Farmer

98.	RSPB (NI)	Aidan Lonegan
99.	RSPB Scotland	Jeremy Wilson
100.	Scottish Agricultural College	Mike Smith (Research Manager)
101.	Scottish Consumer Council	Martyn Evans - Director
102.	Scottish Environment Link	Lisa Schneidau
103.	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency	Chris Spray
104.	Scottish Organic Milk Producers Association	Stuart Jamieson
105.	Scottish Organic Producers Association	Christopher Atkinson
106.	Scottish Stakeholder Group	Nick Cooke Carey Coombs Timothy Brink Craig Campbell Christine Manson/Belinda Mitchell David Younie Cerri Ritchie Martyn Evans Lisa Schneidau C/o Ron Vass Please forward.
107.	SEERAD	Rosi Waterhouse
108.	Silsoe Research Institute	Nick Tillet
109.	Soil Association	Phil Stocker
110.	Soil Association Certification Ltd	David Peace
111.	Sustain	Jeanette Longfield
112.	Sustainable Development Commission	Jonathon Porritt CBE
113.	The British Egg Marketing Board Research and Education Trust.	Alan M Beckett MBE NSch
114.	The Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research (SNIFFER)	Ruth Wolstenholme
115.	Ulster Farmers' Union	Clarke Black
116.	University of Bristol	Dr Toby Knowles
117.	University Of Cardiff	Everard Smith (BRASS)
118.	University of Exeter	Dr Matt Lobley (Senior Research Fellow)
119.	University of Gloucestershire	Dr Carol Morris (Senior Research Fellow)
120.	University of Nottingham	Dr Debbie Sparkes (Lecturer in Agronomy)
121.	University of Oxford, Wildlife Conservation Research Unit	Dr Ruth Feber
122.	University of Wales/OCW	Nic Lampkin
123.	Vegan Organic Trust	Jenny Hall
124.	Water UK	Steve Ntifo
125.	Welsh Assembly Government	Alan Starkey
126.	Welsh Assembly Government	Ken Stebbings
127.	Welsh Assembly Government EPC Committee	Alun Ffred Jones Mick Bates Glyn Davies Lorraine Barrett Carwyn Jones Helen Mary Jones Irene James Carl Sargeant Sandy Mewies Brynle Williams C/o Kathryn Jenkins please forward.
128.	Welsh Consumer Council	Nich Pearson - Director Welsh Consumer Council
129.	Welsh Development Agency	Huw Thomas
130.	Welsh Strategy Group	All members C/o Lisa Penny please forward
131.	Which?	Peter Vicary-Smith - Chief Executive

Appendix 6: Consultation response post 21st June 2005 expert group workshop.

Dear Bruce,

Many thanks for giving us the opportunity to comment on the documents from the workshops. Andrea, Gary, Paul and I have contributed to a collective response:

- Overall we feel that there is no clear distinction between the statements given in response to the question about delivery by 2015 and the more urgent needs. We think that some of the statements are in the wrong category. The whole document would benefit from further distillation and prioritisation to identify those areas that will make the most impact economically and environmentally. For example, in the section addressing delivery by 2015 it should be possible to provide an overarching statement for each section and then indicate below how this might be achieved.

- Some of the areas listed have already been addressed in research projects, either for conventional, or in some cases, for organic production systems. Some current or new projects are also addressing areas that have been identified. There needs to be a process of matching up what has been done already with the list of statements - possibly in brain-storming sessions? We also wonder what happened to the series of desk studies funded by Defra a few years ago to identify relevant research that had been done in key areas such as composting and weed management.

- We think that there is still a lot of information from conventional research that is not being used by, and/or made available in the right format to, organic growers. At one level it would be good if information generated by the HDC was available to all organic growers (some presumably do get this information). Although some information would be of limited use, there is plenty of other information (including fact sheets, pest and disease identification cards, pest incidence bulletins, meetings) that would be helpful. On another level, much of the Defra-funded research that we do at Warwick HRI is relevant to organic growers, particularly as the pressure on conventional growers to reduce inputs is increasing all the time. The same must be true of the work done at Rothamsted and other research centres.

- Specifically, it occurs to a number of us that further work on composts and mulches and their properties (e.g. in suppressing disease, providing habitats for predators) would be of great value. Secondly, we feel that work on arbuscular fungi should be a knowledge gap rather than a long-term goal, because it will be needed for the development of closed nutrient systems.

Many thanks again for involving us in this exercise. We will be pleased to help in any way we can in the future.

With best wishes,

Rosemary

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Fax 024 7657 4500

From: Deborah.Winstanley@co-op.co.uk
Date: Mon, 4 Jul 2005 13:59:11 +0100
To: gabrielle.lanceley@organicfarmers.org.uk
Cc: Ian_Burgess/MAN/CWS@CWS.co-op.co.uk
Subject: Re: Organics - £2 million R&D grant from Defra

We take very seriously our commitment to the supply of organic products...

We have a serious problem with the consistency (and predictability of supply), of organic produce, over the calendar year.

High priority for R and D, from our point of view,would be developing understanding of how organic 'works' ie understanding the 'balance' systems within soil that delivers positive benefits eg consider 'bugs' in the soil and how organic crops can tolerate and even flourish, with 'bug counts' that would, in conventionally farming, give rise to serious damage.

Thus, soil, cropping systems and how these react with the environment, would be high priority.

The objective quantification of taste and healthful improvement, for organic produce over conventional produce, would be important for us also, to give substance to any positive marketing for organic produce.

Regards

Debbie Winstanley
Quality Assurance Officer - Fresh Produce & Meat
Tel: 0161 827 5728
Fax:0161 827 5750
Mob: 07747 622579

Central Science laboratory

Comments and suggestions on the document entitled: What should R&D deliver for the organic sector by 2015?

Section 1 Policy and Standards

1. With regard to item i in this section we would add to the phrase "A unified world organic standard" the words "…and a means to enforce it"

2. With regard to item iv (identified and enhanced public good benefits of organic farming). We suggest that this needs to also refer to identification of potential disadvantages so that they can be assessed and research conducted to quantify and overcome them. For example establish if there is a greater potential for establishment and spread of indigenous and non-indigenous pests and diseases.

Section 2 Supply Chain and Marketing

1. In item ii two groups (vulnerable and marginal groups) are identified as targets for buying a wider range of organic produce. We did not feel it was clear why these two groups had been selected?

2. Item ix (Restore concept of consumer choice of preferences and consumption of organic food): We felt that to tackle scepticism in some quarters of the farming industry (and perhaps some consumers), this should be clearly based on valid assumptions of real benefit. Perhaps these words could be added to this item in the consensus document?

Section 4 Cropping Systems

1. Items x and xi refer correctly to the need to quantify effective management strategies for pests and diseases in organic production. Again to counter scepticism in certain quarters, and to provide an essential basis for the developing an understanding of the real pest and disease problems that may develop if organic methods are adopted more widely, comparative surveys of organic and conventional production need to be undertaken during the coming years. In addition, further strategic quantification of how pest/disease dynamics/epidemiology are affected by organic production is needed. All this is needed to ensure that the "negative effects" that you refer to in the knowledge gaps section of the consultation document are properly identified – there is currently a tendency with some people to overstate or understate these (depending on their private opinion on organics) and we need to have a clear scientific basis to move forward from.

Section 6 Processing and Storage

Within this Section, we comment only on one aspect: the storage of durables.

1. The consensus statements are high level and therefore broad ranging. It is of some considerable concern that organic stakeholders do not appear to be aware that storage, even of durables, poses them a real challenge: reliance on "appropriate packaging" is simplistic and potentially dangerous. R&D is therefore required to establish the relative risks to organic durables and perishables of the various agents of biodeterioration whether macrobiological (insects, mites, birds, rodents), microbiological (fungi, bacteria), physical (temperature and humidity, including climate change) or chemical (caused by residues of approved materials used during production). This is probably best expressed by inserting a new point ii. "Provision of

methods to counter irreversible damage to organic crops during storage" and starting the next point "Processing methods that maximise...."

2. Point ii. is not helpful because it does not define the knowledge gaps, it implies that improvement is achievable and it ignores problems further along the organic food supply chain. There are several specific areas where research is urgently needed which are noted in sections 3 and 4 below and encompass the early detection of biodeterioration risks, control against such risks by methods that are acceptable to the organic community and the environment, and methods by which to demonstrate unambiguously that quality has not been compromised. In short, there is no integrated strategy for the storage protection of raw materials that have been produced organically. Neither are there methods to confirm the organic status of raw materials produced abroad but imported to this country.

3. More specific suggestions for urgent research requirements are noted in sections 3 and 4 of this document:

   Although 'grain' storage is only a minor component of Processing and storage, in section 3 we have concentrated on the most urgent information or knowledge gaps that R and D should address. However, they are also illustrative of urgent requirements for other commodities. As background to these comments, it should be noted that there are no proven appropriate fabric treatments for agricultural stores and no proven rapid methods available for disinfestation. In the light of this, the suggested improvement of quality control in your consensus document may appear to some to be somewhat irrelevant? It should also be noted that we have been told many times that surveillance of imported' organic' produce is a priority from the point of view of UK producers.

   Research requirements:
   (Please note: Some of the comments in this section originated from an earlier report which does not appear to have been brought to your attention. You should therefore note that, for example Defra and HGCA no longer fund work on controlled atmospheres, neither is much work on energy efficiency likely to be conducted at SRI. I may be able to obtain a copy of the report of this project and other documents referred to below if you would like them)

   A recently completed Government-funded project (OF0171) has produced a database of organic farming research programmes which provides details of around 700 current or recently completed projects undertaken by research centres in 14 European countries. None of these projects were specifically on grain storage.

   The recommendations for research on stored cereals outlined in an HDRA review on the storage of organic produce (Bevan et al., 1997) included: -

   1. Organically acceptable methods of store cleaning and fumigation.
   2. Development of energy efficient drying systems.
   3. Detection of invertebrate pests.
   4. Distinguishing between predator and prey.
   5. Removal of beneficial invertebrates from grain.
   6. Accurate sampling strategies.

The subjects of store cleaning and potential alternatives to fumigation (item 1) were considered in an earlier section of this report. Controlled or modified atmosphere grain storage is the subject of current research funded by MAFF and HGCA.

Energy efficient drying systems (item 2) have in the past been the subject of much research funded by MAFF and HGCA at the Silsoe Research Institute (Nellist, 1988), but with the current situation relating to SRI is unlikely to be carried forward. This largely focused on near-ambient drying systems rather than continuous, hot-air dryers. Most effective near-ambient drying is achieved by relatively expensive microprocessor or computer-control but these strategies have yet to be fully evaluated and units have not been widely marketed. Costs of drying are discussed briefly in the Grain Storage Guide but there is no discussion of alternative fuels. By developing more detailed text on costs for an organic module to IGSM, it is likely that more information gaps will be identified requiring further research.

Items 3, 4 and 6 are well-covered by the main information sources listed at the beginning of the report, and items 3 and 6 and were in the past the subject of on-going research by MAFF/Defra and HGCA. However, this area is likely to be largely or wholly cut at the end of this financial year, leaving even organic storage unfunded. For item 4, the distinction between beneficial (predator) and pest (prey) insects in IGSM could be made clearer, for example by using the categories in the Grain Storage Guide or the CSL identification poster which distinguishes between primary, secondary and non-damaging species.

Research on items 4 and 5 will be required as part of the development of biological control strategies for UK grain which so far have been largely confined to commissioning work on proof-of-principle for MAFF/Defra together with state-of-the-art reviews for HGCA and Defra (Cox and Wilkin, 1996; Cox, 1999). Investment in practical-scale research may have been hindered because of the market requirement for grain to be free from free-living pests including mites, a requirement that does not distinguish between beneficial and harmful organisms. In part, this may be an attempt to avoid complications that might be caused by attempting to distinguish between pest and beneficial species. This report has already referred to the removal of pests by grain cleaners, and, as implied by item 5, further information in this area may enhance the prospects for the use of beneficial invertebrates as biological control agents.

Other topics on which there is no objective research, and therefore no quantifiable information, include: -

Alternatives to structural treatments
Use of biological agents.
Use of diatomaceous earths as structural treatments.
Effect of vacuum cleaning.
Effect of steam treatments.

Alternatives to fumigation and admixture
Hot-air disinfestation using grain dryers.
Top-dressing with biological control agents (combined with cooling).

4. During the course of a second earlier study (OF0176), the following areas were identified as requiring R&D to further improve the storage of organic grain:
   (1) Assess organically acceptable methods of store structure cleaning, including vacuum cleaning, steam treatments, and diatomaceous earths.
   (2) Develop more energy efficient systems for drying and cooling grain and consider the use of renewable energy sources.
   (3) Improve invertebrate pest monitoring through enhanced trap design, incorporation of lures, and more effective sampling strategies.
   (4) Assess the practicality of using grain dryers for disinfestation.
   (5) Study the effectiveness of using biological control agents to remove residual infestations in storage structures, and top-dressing or bait trap application techniques to control grain surface infestations in cooled bins.
   (6) Conduct a comprehensive survey of organic grain storage facilities to determine the range and numbers of pest and beneficial arthropod species present.
   (7) Consider strategies to encourage the conservation of existing natural populations of beneficials, and produce user-friendly identification guides.
   (8) Assess the feasibility of covering bulks of stored grain with a breathable material to prevent bird contamination and the absorption of moisture.
   (9) Assess methods for the removal of beneficial arthropods from grain before marketing.
   (10) Consider the use of semiochemicals to improve the effectiveness of beneficial arthropods.

Section 8 Environment and Resources

1. There has been much work on buffer strips and beetle banks which is directly transferable to organic farms and therefore although we agree with the general need for further work in support of organic production, it is essential that a clear strategic view is taken concerning what precisely is required from the new work. This needs to be reflected in the comment. We would suggest that consideration of metapopulations and distribution would be the first step, although this would be prohibitively expensive if attempted experimentally. Other approaches will enable the problems to be solved within a finite budget.

Section 9 Human Health and Food Safety

1. The issue of mycotoxin production by pathogens (fungi) attacking crop plants is one that needs urgent attention in relation to organic production.

Section 10 Research Methods

1. The impact of large areas of organic production on wider crop production (e.g. as sources or sinks of pest and disease problems, needs further research.

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Our ref: **PS05/264**

Direct line: **020 7331 7447**

Email: **Alex.Dinsdale@nfu.org.uk**

Date: **4 July 2005**

Dear Bruce,

WHAT SHOULD R&D DELIVER FOR THE ORGANIC SECTOR BY 2015?

I would like to thank you and EFRC for giving the NFU the opportunity to contribute to the above project. Clearly deciding on where the future priorities for organic R&D lie is an important issue and one which has benefited from the input of farmers, growers and other stakeholders.

At the last meeting in Birmingham on the 21st June you invited comments on your preliminary summary of consensus statements from previous workshops. Below I have commented on a number of the suggestions raised therein, but before that I wish to make some more general points regarding organic R&D.

I think that the UK organic farming industry would benefit tremendously from a system allowing international knowledge transfer of research, and successful techniques developed, similar to ERANET. Whether such a mechanism already exists as part of IFOAM I am unsure, but in the same way that CORE ERANET seeks to reduce the duplication of organic research within the EU, so an international system could reduce international duplication. Furthermore such a system could also allow the transmission of ideas and systems which may have been commonplace, say, in the US, for a number of years, but of which we in the UK are unfamiliar.

I think that it is always important, when considering any aspect of organic agriculture, not to look at organics in isolation from conventional agriculture. Both provide a means of producing food and share many similar aspects and issues. Looking at the two separately, or worse, pitting the two against one another, does no good for either production method and can only serve to cause confusion and anxiety amongst consumers of both. Furthermore, when it comes to R&D I believe that there should be a mechanism in place which allows the effective transfer of knowledge between the two production systems to ensure that R&D in both sectors provides maximum benefit.

I will now provide comments on some of the individual research statements:

1. Policy & Standards
I am concerned about point v. and the desirability of setting such targets. By all means organic production should be encouraged, but it should be market development which takes the lead, rather than production targets which could have negative impacts on organic markets.

2. Supply Chain & Marketing
My first point is supported by point v. here and we would welcome the development of more effective marketing strategies, led by a robust producer-retailer partnership.

4. Cropping Systems
Point i. provides a useful example of where one aspect of R&D could be beneficial to both organic and conventional agriculture. Climate change is clearly an issue and there would be considerable scope here for a 'joined-up approach.'

I am also pleased to see, and this also applies to points vii, viii and ix in section 5, Livestock Systems, references to research into practical aspects of production, as laid out in points x, xi and xii.

7. Economics and Rural Development
Another area where appropriate R&D could benefit both organic and conventional farming is improving social conditions, as stated in point v. Similarly, in section 8, Environment & Resources, point iii. is also a matter of concern for conventional production.

I hope that you find these comments useful.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Dinsdale
Production Standards Adviser

Dear Bruce

I was very sorry to have missed the recent meeting at Birmingham – life is extremely busy as we have a major project here in the West Midlands that is addressing some of the issues raised in the consultation. Indeed I would reckon I am, as Company Secretary of the Green Grocer Limited and the leading member of the steering group, becoming a leading expert in alternative distribution and retail systems. We have in the broadest sense been dealing with many of the issues in Section 2 but not specifically in relation to the organic method. We can discuss all this in detail if you wish and I would add that the Soil Association including Helen Browning are aware and supportive of what we are trying to achieve.

I will now pass my comments and views on parts of other sections in which I have a level of expertise and / or interest.

Preliminary Summary

Section 1: Item ii is a very important – standards must be based on science but this is a big task and is a long-term project. People accept sound reasoning – there is not enough emanating from organic commentators.

I am very much in favour of increased public procurement and I am involved in this through a Defra funded Public Procurement Project (summary attached; full report available if interested). COST is an issue as it is for the 'broader cross section of the public' (Section 2, ii). The Farm Resource Exchange Network (Haward & Collier, 1999) was conceived to address this issue in part. This with the Green Grocer concept might just deliver 'affordability'.

Section 2: For the sector to progress, many of these issues need to be addressed – the IGD / Food Chain Centre have great skill in working to understand markets – I refer particularly to items v, vi and vii. Much of the other is PR / Marketing / Information Transfer.

Section 3: Soils – requires addressing as a priority and there must be opportunities to collaborate with existing and planned work. Soil structure and physical issues including erosion should be included.

Section 4: Cropping Systems – climate change – critical need and again collaboration with the non-organic sector research I would have thought. I agree all the other points need attention – care is required with season extension – good for income but is it the best for food quality (see later).

Section 6: Storage – there has to be a lot of existing work and applications that can be adapted to the organic method – science & ethics though have to conjoin.

Product innovation – loads going on and the Green Grocer may have a philosophy that fits the bill.

Section 7: In part would be addressed via the Green Grocer Supply Chain Model.

Section 9: Human Health and Food Quality – this is handled poorly by the sector – too many broad statements – 'x produced organically contains more y' – in consequence it may contain less of something else which negates the positives - some clinical and / or good scientific evidence is going to be needed to convince Jo Public and get sceptics on side – long term and expensive.

Section 11 – There is an urgent need to communicate well what is the organic method and the interpretation of standards & certification – this is a priority. Drop ii – very, very dangerous in my view & potentially misleading and damaging without high quality irrefutable evidence.

Iii, iv & v – got to get on with it - vitally important including good systems for technology & information transfer between farmers, growers & food producers.

As for urgency:

Supply chain development – may drive or support some of the other objectives in section 2.

Section 4 – develop the mechanisms to ensure that all the existing knowledge, of which there is much is transferred and applied PLUS training in relevant areas.

Section 6: Item ii is transferable now – loads of info so lets get training farmers etc.

ITEM iii – Thought we are into FRESH FOOD OF HIGH QUALITY – to me LONG TERM STORAGE OF most VEG is an unacceptable proposal.

Section 11 – Item ii – agree with the scientific evidence but this is long term if reliable clinical data is to be created.

Items v to x – could be achieved with a modified Farm Resource Exchange Network (FREN) concept.

That's about it Bruce – hope it makes some sense. Loads to do what?.

Give me a call if you want to discuss. At the Royal Sunday & Monday (Green Grocer / Warwicks Rural Hub near to confrerencecarea) & Tuesday on the Abacus stall (part of the day).

Best regards, Graham

01295 680127 / 07889 360133

Dear Bruce,

I would comment on the R&D delivery document to make a plea for effective understanding of water use, water conservation and optimisation of water use efficiency in organic growing systems. This is where climate change impacts will be highly significant. This understanding will be vitally important, even if growing systems reduce the impact of competition from weeds etc.

Chris Atkinson

Dr. Christopher John Atkinson

East Malling Research
New Road
East Malling, Kent
ME19 6BJ
01732 843833

Bruce,

Interesting and fine.

Only one query on where the importance of K in the the soils list came from. This is not an urgent scientific issue as the OF0114 project showed that as K is all about chemistry it can be considered in much the same way as for conventional production -i.e. same analysis same interpretation of indices etc. Phosphorus (P) especially given its relevance for waters is a much more difficult issue that I don't see being completely resolved even with the LINK project in Sustainable Arable on P rock in organic systems about to kick off.

Liz

Elizabeth Stockdale
SAFRD, University of Newcastle

Tel: 0191 222 6915

Hi Bruce
Thanks for a very interesting meeting last week in Birmingham. I have a few comments on the summary of statements from the workshops. First I thought not all comments could be addressed by r&d as some were educational issues.

What should R&D deliver?
1] Policy and standards – I think there is some info on barriers to conversion and why farmers go in and out of organic farming reported in University of Exeter DEFRA funded research. I also collected some detail on the latter as part of my research project OF0343 obtaining feedback from farmers participating in dairy herd health and welfare assessment and benchmarking – soon to be available in my final report.

2] soil – i] information exists in form of technology transfer/course material eg from Liz Stockdale;
v] the DEFRA project OF0316 'Improved guidance on the use of fertility building crops in organic farming' has added to knowledge on this subject. Project due to end this month, but now has 1 year extension.

3] cropping systems – QLIF project is addressing copper issue in potatoes in particular; BPC has done work on prediction of wireworm infestation in potatoes, based on previous cropping, with a view to avoiding problems and planning rotation.
Re stockless systems, I'm not sure what this means but I think the broad definition should include market garden/mixed veg, salad and fruit, horticultural systems including protected cropping and field veg production all with an element of niche market high value novel crop production in there.

4] livestock systems – i] and iii] **GOOD POINTS, URGENT NEED FOR INFORMATION** LISA project, QLIF, Abacus and our OSC work here in Cornwall are all currently contributing to knowledge in this area;
vii] should include breeds for dairy systems as well as beef/sheep etc; viii] QLIF, OSC, Defra funded work carried out by Raye Keatinge, Peter Bates etc;
x] health and welfare assessment system developed by University of Bristol for range of farm animals, Uo Bristol/OSC collaborative work; current project run by SAC and also work in Scandinavia and elsewhere in Europe on this subject. Most were developed for non-organic systems and so not all criteria assessed were necessarily relevant to organic systems. Re definition of organic parameters – needs care as there are inbuilt constraints to improvement in systems - see my final report later. Implementation successfully on farm still the challenge

Knowledge gaps?
1] Policy and standards – vi] links with having a scientific basis for standards

2] soil – erosion prevention should include cropping as well as livestock mix and density, eg potatoes and some field veg grown in rows or cereals with tram lines for weeding operations etc can cause massive run off leading to soil erosion and ground water pollution (see publications by Harrod et al on Defra funded research)

3] livestock systems – iv] **THE BEST ONE** IN MY VIEW AND LINKED TO 4] i, iii and x ABOVE. study the impact of feeding regulation change on farm businesses and on animal welfare on organic farms. OSC had already identified this as a priority area for investigation.
Ix] include re-assessment of 'mkt requirements' eg are these really of packaging, supermkts etc; include identification of breeds and management protocols for producing quality beef within 30 months. (comments from OSC survey 'have difficulty finishing my Jersey cross steers'; 'my North Devons go fat too quickly')

4] economics – iv] cost of production – OCW and OSC have some regional detail on this and are collecting more. Benchmarking is important element of this to assist farm businesses and inform R&D requirements. Farmers tend to find regional data more usueful in contrast to at national level.

5] human health etc – iii] reduction of pathogens – small scale on farm food handling, processing and packaging should be targeted as high risk area

Hope this helps

Regards
Jean

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From: <Alan_Wilson@waitrose.co.uk>
To: "Gabrielle Lanceley" <gabrielle.lanceley@organicfarmers.org.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2005 5:18 PM
Subject: Re: Organics - £2 million R&D grant from Defra

>
> Dear Gabrielle
>
>
> Thank you for your email dated 28th June. On this occasion I am able to
> comment upon your attachments and give a Waitrose perspective to the
> research debate. I hope the following is helpful
>
> 1. I would suggest the long list you supplied is prioritised.
>
> 2. Waitrose would be wary of supporting one global standard. If in the
> interests of national trade the high standards laid out by The Soil
> Association are compromised we could find an even greater case for two
> tier market which at the lower end could raise consumer questions about
> what organic means. (Chickens)
>
> 3. R and D to even out yield performance of the main crops in relation to
> conventional is required.
>
> 4 Actions that increase the accessibility of organic food to all ages and
> social groups. This is not simply lowering of organic prices but measuring
> appropriate cost of the surveillance and impact of conventional food
> produciton.
>
> 5 Methodology to test and prove organic origin would be fantastic. Even if
> we could move in this direction it could be used as a tool for greater QA
> assurance for some crops.
>
> 6 Waitrose believe there is a scientific case for reduced field size to
> ensure such issues as soil erosion and biodiversity. Does scientific
> support this ? Should standards be amended ?
>
> 7 What is the environmental impact of organic farming ? Can this be
> measured by conventional methods or a new told be developed to enhance
> marketing claims and consumer expectations ?
>
> 8 Seed heath a major issue for growers
>
> 9 Pest control in brassica crops. Understanding how we can introdcue
> biological controls in field crops is a key area.
>
> END
>
> Alan

Bruce Pearce
Elm Farm Research Centre
Hamstead Marshall
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Berkshire
RG20 0HR

28 June 2005

Dear Bruce

ACOS Research Sub Committee – Review Project

Just a quick letter to provide a few thoughts, based on my own experience, before you get to the end of the project.

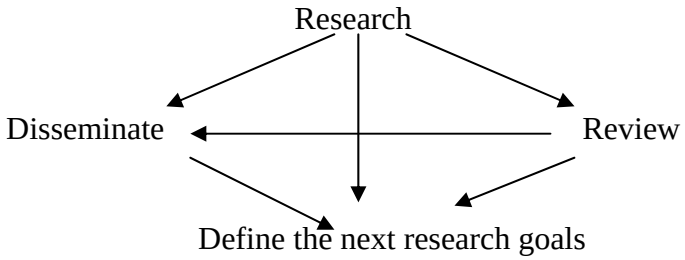
It seems to me that there are broadly two reasons why government might wish to spend money on organic research. The first is to inform policy decisions. For biodiversity this worked really clearly – do the primary research; is there a difference in biodiversity performance between organic and non organic farms? Then provide a clear and comprehensive review of the findings and suddenly the policy decisions became much easier to make. I do appreciate that other factors were operating as well to create 'political pressure' for the change but from the science perspective that seems to me to be what happened.

Secondly, once the decision has been made that the industry is worthy of public support then there is a rationale for spending money to improve the performance of the industry – to produce better organic farmers.

In the years that I have been associated with this work I have been exposed to a variable quality of research from the very good to the frankly misconceived. Even at the good end however there seems to me to have been a lamentable failure to:

1. Get the results of the work promptly to where it will do the most good and
2. To systematically review the present state of knowledge, both to facilitate 1 and to show up the important gaps in knowledge that further research might fill.

This process:



seems, to me, to be fundamental.

In terms of public policy we have, at least for the time being, won the biodiversity debate. However, there are a number of other areas where I suspect we could substantially lessen the scope for debate about 'benefits' (thereby better informing public policy and consumer choice) by more systematically following the protocol we used for biodiversity. I have listed

some of these on the attached note and, putting my money on the table, this is what I hope the soils project that Lois is now working on will do for that subject area.

Finally I think we need to have some mechanism for separating research subjects that are interesting from those that are important. The issue of scale is a good example. To an ecologist this is a really interesting point – do you get a bigger bang if all your organic is concentrated into contiguous units or if it is widely dispersed in a matrix of conventional farmland? But even if we knew the answer to this would it really effect public policy or consumer choice? I would take some convincing and, unless convinced, am bound to question if the organic research budget is the correct funding mechanism.

Best wishes

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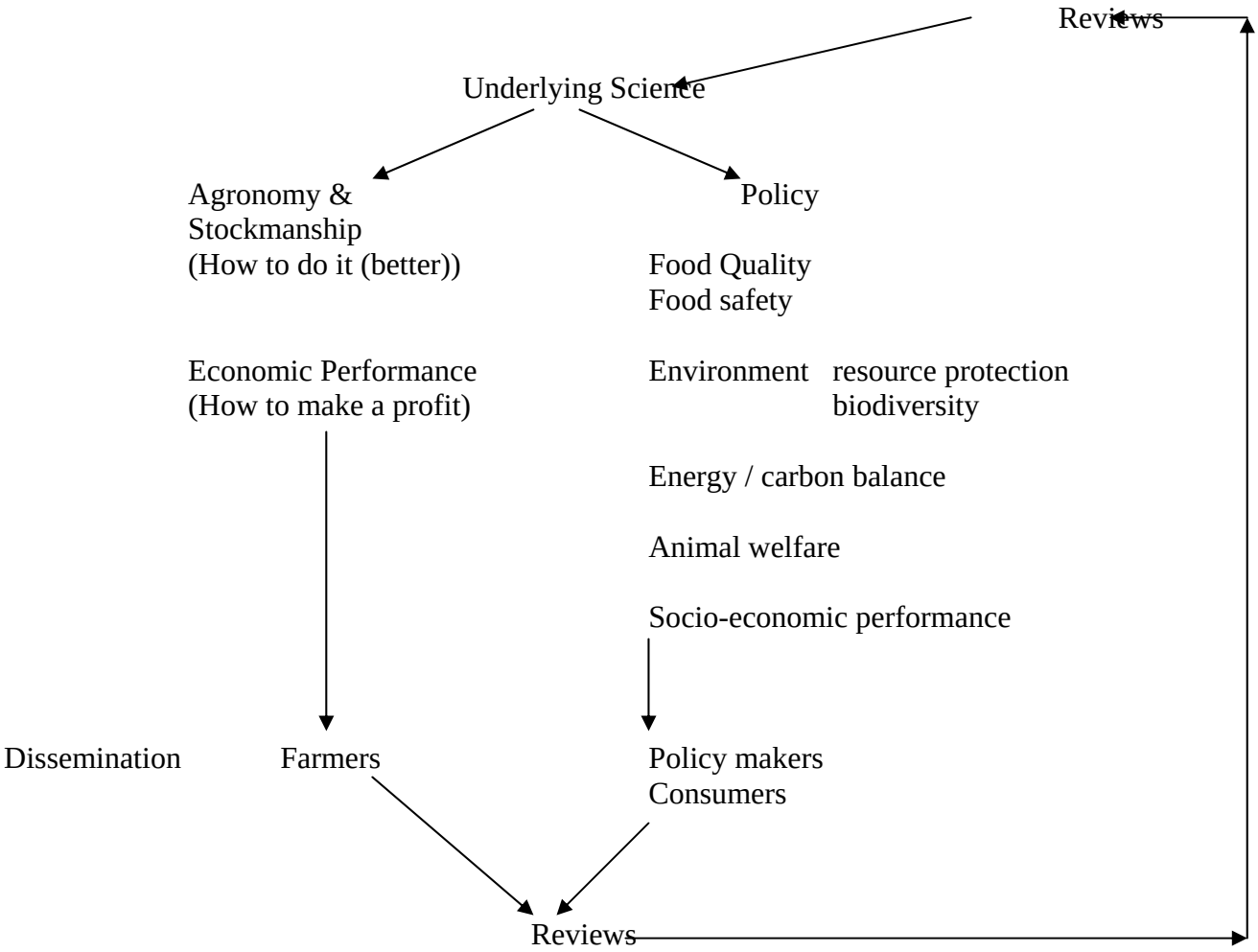
By email

FILE NOTE

Presentation from ACOS research sub meeting on 31 Jan – 1 Feb 2005 – Reseach Priorities.



Dear Bruce

Thanks for inviting me to the expert group meeting last Tuesday. Sorry I had to leave early but I thought it was a worthwhile day and I hope you feel it was a success.

I have two comments which relate (unsurprisingly) to Environment & Resources.

First, I think there is a need to consider what environmental gains might be associated with purely grass-based organic systems. Most work has focused on organic systems containing arable and it is pretty clear that there are benefits from these systems. The picture is much less clear for pure livestock enterprises.

My second comment relates to the point about scale and thresholds which I raised at the meeting. I think this could be framed rather more explicitly. We really need to be asking questions like "What could organic farming contribute environmentally, if we dramatically increased its extent". Currently in England only about 2.8% of land is farmed organically, including land under conversion. What would be the implications of increasing that area to say 10% or 25%? The gains may well be non-linear i.e. greater than expected from the increase in area. Indeed there are ecological reasons for thinking this would the case, especially if large tracts of countryside were managed organically.

Best wishes

Rob

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Dear Bruce,

Overall the Workshop was most useful and it was interesting to hear other delegate's views on research priorities In my opinion, the two most important topics for organic R&D for livestock are:

- Scientific evidence for the level of animal welfare in organic farming systems.
- Species-specific husbandry to maintain health, welfare and performance in organic farming systems.

Thank you for you for inviting me to the Workshop.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Wathes
FAWC Chairman

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26/07/05

Bruce,

I know you asked for comments on the consultation meeting notes by yesterday - I did not make that deadline but having now been through all the workshop notes, would still like to send a few comments through to you.

The comments made in the consultations are very wide ranging and comprehensive (as you suggested), and I am sure almost any research subject could be fitted under the general headings. However there are a couple of areas that I feel need to be specified more clearly and one or two that may be missing completely. Needing to do this quickly I am simply going to list the additional points/comments I would like to make:

- Animal welfare is mentioned on several occasions but this was often linked with comparisons between organic and conventional. Our view is that more work is needed on animal welfare across all species - specifically - with poultry there are still fundamental issues such as featherpecking, leg disorders, chick mortality, organic breeding flocks, the breeds used, acceptability of these breeds to the markets. For dairy cattle lameness and mastitis are still problems and the issue of dairy bull calves is still to be addressed. In sheep, more needs to be done on lameness and fly strike, and lamb mortality. Our view is that more work needs to be done on what constitutes good welfare, usable welfare indicators, and management to improve a whole range of welfare related issues.
- Organic aquaculture - this is missing from the consultation completely yet is a growing sector with huge potential public demand. Research is needed to support and guide the development of this sector
- Baking and cooking techniques for UK grains - how could we increase usage of UK wheats in mainstream baking, and what more could we do to use a wider range of cereals in baked goods (to include all common grains plus non common grains - also what health benefits would this bring)
- Making food and farming more attractive to UK workers/ youngsters. The sector is suffering from (and will suffer more yet) from a lack of new entrants to both business and the workforce. This includes food processing and manufacturing as well as farms. What are the action points that need to be taken to encourage more into the sector, what opportunities exist, what needs to be done to give employment conditions that attract youngsters?
- Blowfly control without environmental risks (cypermethrin). This is the environmentally driven apsect of blowfly control mention under the animal welfare heading. We urgently need to find solutions to a regularly occuring problem (high chemical use due to high risk), which is causing environmental damage although the welfare implications of non use within our current sheep systems is unthinkable.
- Human sewage - getting it back onto organic farms. Closing the organic nutrient loop in a sustainable way is essential - we need research to give guidance on what treatment sewage needs to be safe for use on organic farms, how could sewage systems be changed to avoid chemical contamination/ heavy metal contamination in the first place, what would be a sustainable level of sewage application to land - at what stage within a rotation should it be applied, and finally how would this need to be explained/sold to the buying public. All this with the aim of an EU reg change.
- Food wastes for organic pigs and poultry. Organic pork and poultry systems are heavily reliant on cereal and protein use and it could be argued that they are suspect in terms of energy sustainability. They always used to be linked with utilisation of food wastes (swill, veg waste, dairy procesisng waste etc). What would be needed within the modern organic sector to get some of these products into the pig/poultry food chain, what cost savings would this provide, how much more (or less) energy efficient would this be, how might this lead to better constitutional health in both the livestock and the consuming public.
- The role of organic food as a human immune system/ disease resistance mechanism. Low immune levels and poor disease resistance seem to be becoming more common. Food production and eating habits should form part of the battle against such poor constitution - yet we seem to be heading towards a more sterile food approach. What is the right balance, does this approach bring unacceptable risks (I want to be challenged to the extent that my immunity is improved but I dont want to be poisoned!)
- Organic fruit production. We simply need much more - research needed on many aspects around increased organic fruit production as an integrated part of farming
- Soils management and trace element/mineral balances in bovine TB control. There seems to be anecdotal evidence of reduced TB incidence on farms where soil trace elements, imabalances and deficiencies, are being adressed. Also some are trying to improve the health of badgers by mineral trace element feeding. This needs researching along with other Defra strategies.

- The value of soil management in livestock systems and the use of appropriate strains (harmonisation of land and livestock). This is linked to the above point but looks deeper into the long term relationships between land and suiatbility of livestock present over generations - evolution of a strain/breed to be compatible with its surroundings.

  I apologise again for this being so last minute but do hope that it is helpful. Also please keep me informed of progress with the review report and if there is the chance for us to comment or be involved in any future stage please let me know.

  Bets wishes

  Phil

Phil Stocker
Head of Food & Farming
Soil Association

Appendix 7: Full report on consultation process.

What Should Organic Farming Research and Development Deliver for You ?

A stakeholder participatory study on priorities for organic research for the R&D Sub-Committee of the Advisory Committee on Organic Standards

REPORT ON THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION

by

David Gibbon

(Rural Livelihood Systems)

July 5th 2005

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1. Introduction and Background

The project under review was funded by DEFRA and led by Elm Farm Research Centre (EFRC) with the participation of Organic Centre Wales, Scottish Agricultural College and Greenmount College in Northern Ireland. The study was to provide information to the Research and Development sub-committee of the Advisory Committee on Organic Standards (ACOS) that would assist in the development of a strategy for the development of action plans for the organic farming in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The consultation process in this study consisted of a series of facilitated workshops which were to be held with a wide range of stakeholders throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The workshops were attended by farmers, growers, researchers, advisers, processors, wholesalers, retailers and general consumers on a voluntary basis.

The consultant was contacted in mid-February 2005 and asked to undertake a review of the process of consultation in this project. This would involve: - participation in some of the planned workshops, monitoring the planning and re-planning process, gathering some feedback from the workshop participants and facilitators, attending the core group review meetings and participating in the presentation and review with the expert group meeting. The review also called for a written report and a contribution to a paper on the whole process. The full terms of reference for the process consultant are in Annex 1. The only slight modification to these terms of reference was that the planned paper that would emerge from this whole exercise will be a joint paper written by the core planning group.

2. Consultation Study Objectives

The detailed objectives of the main study were to:-

1. **Collate a directory of organic research priorities currently held by Defra from such organisations as other government funders, certification bodies, regional producer groups, levy bodies and research providers.**
2. **Provide a directory of existing and completed research in the UK particularly in relation to the priorities identified in objective 1.**
3. **To consult organic stakeholders to identify what affect they want organic farming research in the UK to have.**
   - **Organise and facilitate up to fifteen regional public and stakeholder engagement workshops.**
   - **Undertake direct one to one interviews with key stakeholders.**
   - **Collate and analysis the information from the interviews and workshops to identify research themes.**
   - **To carry out an analysis and report of the consultation process.**

4. **To facilitate exchange of information on the project to the ACOS R&D sub-committee.**

5. **Provide a full final project report that is sufficiently detailed to provide an audit trail of the report's projects findings and output.**

3. Workshop preparation and conduct

Publicity and contact with potential participants. .

It was decided early in the planning process that the main way in which the consultation would proceed was through a series of open workshops to which a wide range of stakeholders were invited to attend on a voluntary basis. The Organic Centre Wales facilitator also used the opportunity of a number of scheduled meetings in Wales to conduct the exercise with researcher and advisory groups. The workshop consultation process was publicised through all the usual channels that were used by EFRC, HDRA, SAC, OCW, and Greenmount College NI. A web-based version of the consultation process was also established on the SAC for browsers to make contributions through this means. In the initial stages of the consultation process, there was some concern about the relatively few potential participants who had confirmed their attendance at the planned workshops and particular concern about the relatively low number of farmers who intended to attend. A timely message to all HDRA members generated interest among small growers and consumers and probably broadened the representation from different stakeholder groups.

Invitations from DEFRA to those expected to attend the expert consultation to be held on June 21st (distributed by Defra) was delayed until May, resulting in some uncertainty over the potential attendance figures at this meeting.

There was some concern early in the process that certain groups, particularly dairy farmers for example, may not be easy to reach and that they were unlikely to attend these kinds of meetings. The suggestion was made that it might have been possible to run the exercise with existing farmer groups that met on a regular (or occasional) basis. In the end it was decided that, although this could have been an effective way of reaching "difficult to contact" groups, it was not practical within the limits of the project budget. This point will be re-examined in the conclusions to this report.

Workshop design and process

The design of the 15 stakeholder workshops was developed by the core facilitation group. This resulted in an agreed format and methodology for the conduct of the workshops. The workshop approach was tested at meetings at the annual meeting of the socio-economic group of the COR.(February 10th) , WDA programme (February 22nd) , EFRC (March 1st) and HDRA(March 2nd) . Lessons were learned from these experiences that were incorporated into the final design of the subsequent workshops. The final format probably varied a little depending on individual styles of the key facilitators and the timing and structure of the different workshops. The general form of the (Power Point) presentation is recorded in Annex 2 in Word format. The principal steps were as follows. After introductions, the presentation of the underlying principles of the exercise and the methodology for interaction, the first question - "What should R&D deliver for the organic sector by 2015?" - was presented. Participants were paired and asked to compose 5 research priorities. After 10-15 minutes the pairs were doubled and asked to reduce their 10 priorities to 5. This process was repeated with

progressive doubling depending on the totals numbers present and the outcomes of manageable sized groups (8s or 16s) were captured on flipcharts or boards and the groups were then asked to vote for their key priorities. All sets of priorities from the whole process were collected and recorded later. The whole exercise was repeated using question two - "What are the most urgent information or knowledge gaps that R&D should address?"
Some workshops ran over a lunch break and some were held in one afternoon or evening session.

4. Methodology for the process review

The methodology used by the process consultant involved:-

- **A study of the project document, the workshop design and planning process and the facilitation of the workshops.**
- **Attendance at a number of the workshops as a participant observer.**
- **Interaction with the workshop participants during and after the workshops through semi-structured interviews, telephone conversations and later e mail correspondence.**
- **Discussions and exercises with the workshop facilitators to examine and record the learning process.**
- **Participation in the Expert Group meeting and involvement with facilitation and recording of this meeting**
- **Early drafting of analysis for submission to the core team and participants for comment and feedback.**

5. Observations on the workshops attended.

The consultant participated in the Bodmin, Myerscough, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Ely workshops. They were attended by very different mixes of stakeholders and different numbers of participants. In most cases, the interaction between stakeholders who did not know each other, worked well and it resulted in some lively discussions. Many people who regarded themselves as "consumers" were well connected to the organic movement and several were small holders or growers who might have been farmers or growers in the past. Many participants were not used to the participatory method which required immediate interaction with others in a rapidly changing scenario. They might have preferred more time for introductions and the development of an understanding of what was to be expected. However, most got the idea quickly and became deeply engaged. For some "consumers", the first question was perhaps too general and demanding, although it did generate many early thoughts about the need for education and market access issues which were not directly the concern of many existing research systems. Some problems arose with people who had a very specific agenda that they wished to carry through to the end of the process of doubling. Male dominance was also evident in some groups. However, in general, the process did seem to work well and most participants, particularly those who had never been involved in such a consultation process before, appreciated the fact that they could make a contribution. Some of these issues are dealt with in greater depth in Section 6 below.

A question arose as to whether the participants should be initially placed with their own stakeholder group and then subsequently mixed and remixed as the process went on. This might have prevented the same small core group moving though the process with the same agenda.

The break in the process was valuable as it enabled participants to interact on a more informal basis. It also enabled the consultant to develop further dialogue about the effectiveness of the process and to arrange further discussions after the workshop.

6. Feedback on the process from workshops

The consultant gave (or asked all facilitators to give) all participants a short set of questions on the process together with a stamped addressed envelope. See Annex 3. They could answer the questions before leaving (as some did) or return them later. Of the 294 participants who attended the workshops, 240 were sent the questions and 152 responded. (63%). It is important to note that this was not a formal questionnaire and the set of 10 questions were designed to get a rapid feed-back on some aspects of the process. These responses were supplemented by later conversations with participants and facilitators, phone calls and the consultant's own participation in 4 of the workshops.

The feedback from the workshops is summarised in Annex 4. No attempt has been made to break down responses by region in view of the skewed numbers of workshops from different parts of the countries and the variable attendance. A discussion of the main findings is presented below[1].

Stakeholder groups

46% **of the respondents were farmers/producers, and of these 12% were arable, 14% horticulture, 14% livestock and 11% mixed farms.** 25 % **were consumers,** 14% **researchers,** 6% **advisers,** 2% **processors,** 2% **retailers,** 2% **small holders, and** 2 % **were from other institutions and agencies. As an exercise in consulting with both producers and consumers it may be judged as a success, but both the processor and retailer stakeholders were only weakly represented.**

Contact about the workshop

Most people were contacted through their membership organisations through regular mailing or e mail lists. The HDRA mailing seems to have made the most contacts, but a variety of other contacts, including friends, seemed to have persuaded some to attend.

Sufficient information about the workshop?

A large percentage of respondents (61%) **considered that the information about the workshop objectives and purpose was clear before the workshop began.**

[1] Note that the percentage figures given in this section refer to people responding to the questions, not to the overall numbers attending the workshops

Expectations before the workshop?

Responses to this question were varied but some had an expectation that the participants would sit and listen to a lecture. Others were expecting group discussions and to meet other stakeholders. Yet others had fears that ideas, particularly those of consumers, may not be heard.

Clarity of purpose of the workshop at the start of the interaction?

95% **of respondents were satisfied that the purpose of the workshop was clear shortly after the start of the session.**

How well did the process work?

81% of the respondents felt that the process worked either very well or moderately well.

How could the process could be improved?

27% **suggested that there was a need for more time to develop a discussion on some of the issues. Some wanted to begin in small groups and then split up.** 16% **wanted the problem of dominant males addressed as this had spoiled the discussion in several cases.** 14% **felt that the process led to generalisations and the loss of some key points, and** 9% **wanted a longer introduction and more information. Other suggestions were that: - there should be a wider range of stakeholders particularly producers, present, the participants should be remixed in between each phase of interaction and question 2 should have preceded question 1.**

What did the participants get out of the workshop?

This stimulated a range of responses from: "an insight into farmer problems" **(25%)**, to "an opportunity to make a contribution to an important process" **(25%),** to the "understanding of different views", **(16%),** and "enjoyment and fun" **(7%)**

Who should be the key stakeholders in future research?

This prompted a mention of all stakeholders (7%) **and more specifically, Farmers** (36%), **Consumers** (25%)**, researchers** (8%) **and organic organisations** (8%)**. The surprising figures are the relatively high one for consumers and the low one for researchers. At least it emphasises the importance of producers and consumers who have hitherto been rather marginal in the development of research priorities.**

Other comments on the process?

Inevitably, this prompted a very varied response. In general, participants were impressed with the process and glad to have been involved in what they considered to be an important consultation. Many wanted more information on existing research to be more readily accessible. Some were disappointed with participants who had come to push their own agendas. Others felt that the process led to too many general statements and some

contradictions in the outcomes. Some were very complementary about the facilitation and one or two were very negative about the whole experience.

There were useful suggestions about the continuation of such a process as a regular part of research review and re-planning. There were several suggestions about the need for better information and education on organic food and although this might not strictly be considered as research, there might be a case for the development of a better understanding, particularly among low income groups, of the health benefits of organic foods.

There were some differing comments from individuals on who they felt should be present at such consultations. Some felt that consumers should not be present and several felt that more retailers should be present. Several felt the DEFRA staff should not be present at these workshops.

Some concluding statements and suggestions

In addition to returning the one page form, several participants wrote down their thoughts at length in accompanying letters and added newspaper cuttings and propaganda for their favourite action group on the environment and development. A few made some useful suggestions about the format of future consultations and how to tackle some of the emergent problems from this exercise.

1. **The problem of dominance**
    - **Ask participants to list priorities in each of the following areas: policy, social, technical, environment, marketing, etc. This would prevent people who only wanted to carry through their agenda.**
    - **Intervene forcefully to steer the dominant individuals away from their behaviour and allow equitable participation by others.**
2. **An alternative format and process**
    - **Start with 'n' stakeholder groups; each generates 5 priorities (10min); Group moves to another table (less one who remains); add to initial priorities (10 min); move on round room until everyone has contributed to every short list; summarise outcomes.**

Some quotations from participants:

1. **Who decides on the final balance of priorities? The resources available are never enough, so hard decisions have to be made.**
2. **Even the humble man has an opinion and a story to tell – he just needs an opportunity to find a voice**
3. **Do not forget key priorities for small farmers.**
4. **There is a gulf of understanding between producers and consumers.**
5. **Organic production is the first step towards holistic production systems which will be essential in 30 years time.**
6. **I am confident and encouraged that Defra might, at last, take organic farming seriously.**
7. **We need this process on regular basis every year.**
8. **I hope that someone is listening.**

Some of these comments show that the consultation has stimulated some profound thoughts about the importance of this interaction and of including many who have not been involved in such processes in the past. It has also raised some expectations that need to be addressed in the future.

7. Facilitator feedback

On the feedback and planning meeting on May 19th, the core group discussed the workshop outcomes and also spent a little time on reflecting on the process from their perspectives in an abbreviated SWOT analysis. The facilitators were also sent a short set of questions on backgrounds, experience during the workshops and lessons learned. (Annex 5). The outcomes of these exercises are presented in Annex 6.

Comments on these responses.

In general the facilitators did not have many problems conducting the workshops. The numbers attending were not overwhelming and most had sufficient assistance to manage the responses and keep the process moving along.
It was felt that a little more time would have been helpful, particularly during the final stages of the process. More intervention might have been helpful to reduce dominance and to keep people mixing with different stakeholders.

It was suggested that the inputs from consumers were valuable. The mix of participants was thought to be beneficial. It as good to have both farmers and consumers present, although there were too few farmers. The venues needed to be large enough for movement between tables and for display. The method met with general approval and several said that they would use it again elsewhere.

The main strengths of the workshops were that:-

- **Both producers and consumers were having a dialogue.**
- **The process was flexible which could begin immediately without a long historical introduction**
- **The pilot workshops were useful to develop and refine the method**
- **There was a constant review and refinement of the method as the workshops continued**
- **The mixing of genders in facilitation**
- **The facilitator style was appropriate**
- **The break in the middle was important**
- **The mixing of stakeholders generated good interaction and networking**
- **Traceability of all the contributions and data handling**

The weaknesses of the process were considered to be:

- **Challenging people to think in a way that they were not used to (a risk)**
- **The questions were difficult for some people**
- **Not organic food at some workshops**
- **Not presenting historical information at the start**
- **The problem of dominant males**
- **Uneven geographical coverage (nothing in North east)**
- **The timing of the event was not good for some. e.g. Dairy farmers**

- **Insufficient introductions at the beginning**

On further reflection, some comments were made by the core group that could lead into future workshop design:

- **Question 1 was easier for consumers, question 2 was easier for producers**
- **The ratio of facilitator to participant was 1: 8**
- **A proposal was to give a dummy question at the start to enable the participants to be comfortable.**
- **Facilitators agreed that they would use the method again in other situations.**

8. Expert meeting (June 21st)

This meeting generated a number of new ideas under the main themes which had emerged from the stakeholder workshops. Most participants felt that the dialogue had been productive and useful as it moved through a three stage process, but several would have liked to have had more time for a concluding discussion. Several questions were raised at the end of the meeting that will need addressing in future interactions. One was about how to ensure that there is sufficient weighting given to people with small or quiet voices. The methodology that was adopted was designed to cope with this but it had not always been successful.

One participant was disappointed that there were no meetings in the North East of England. There were people who were very keen to attend but they did not get due notification and could not attend other workshops. The team assured the participants that there was wide circulation of information about the workshops, but in some cases, this information did not reach everyone.

There was interest from this group on what criteria were to be used by ACOS and Defra to select the final listing of topics for research. The response was that the basic rules and principles, as set out at all the meetings, would apply. A Defra spokesperson pointed out that there was some overlap between research needs in conventional and organic systems and hard choices had to be made between priorities. It was also made clear that several key themes are also supported by other funders and this needed to be taken into account at an appropriate stage.

The suggestion was also made at this meeting that better use could have been made of existing user group meetings that take place on a regular basis. A quick exercise on research priorities could be accommodated by most small working groups and at annual R&D meetings. Similar suggestions came out of informal discussions in the stakeholder workshops.

9. Discussion

It is the view of this consultant that the planning of these workshops was careful and thorough. There was also an important learning process which came though the first few workshops and led to the refinement of the content and structure. The geographical spread of the workshops was far from perfect and could be improved in the future to get a better representation.

Attendance at meetings of this kind for some people is always difficult. Small dairy farmers are a particular case in point. It is possible that such people could best be contacted through existing discussion groups that meet on a regular basis and hold a facilitated review using similar methods.

The overall numbers of people attending these meetings was thought to be satisfactory and a wide range of stakeholders attended. All people made significant contributions to the dialogue and to the lively interactions with other stakeholders. There do remain questions about how far individuals can represent the different interest groups from which they emerge. How far do we cater for both large and small farm groups and large and small retailers and how do we decide which has the greatest weight?

Facilitation was carried out with experienced people and this contributed largely to the success of the events. In some cases, the facilitators were perhaps too lenient on dominant males who wanted to push through their set of interests though the doubling process and this needs addressing in future. However, this should not detract from the overall productivity and enjoyment of the events which many participants reflected clearly in their responses.

The outcomes from the dialogue were considerable and these have been captured and filtered in the on-going analysis and synthesis exercise. They will be combined with the outputs from the "expert group" outputs to form the final summary for ACOS.

Both participants and facilitators have provided some valuable reflections on the process which, not only provides a constructive analysis of the existing exercises, but also gives strong leads on how such exercises could be conducted in future.

There was some discussion of the format and approach of the method used. Before taking any final discussion on the format for the next exercise, the comments of participants and facilitators should be reviewed and any future exercise should take account of both different stakeholder interests and of the need to create a dialogue between interests groups. Many agreed that such an exercise would be valuable if it were repeated on a regular basis.

10. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

It is concluded that the process of participatory consultation worked well and perhaps rather better than had been initially anticipated. There are, of course, ways in which the process could have been made both more efficient and effective, and there are many suggestions in this report, from both participants and facilitators, as to how this might have been done.

The workshops were attended by wide range of stakeholders, many of whom were able to contribute to a process in which they had previously not been involved. Some of the interactions that the workshops enabled, for example between farmers and consumers and between researchers and consumers resulted in some new understanding of different perspectives and priorities. There was recognition in some workshops that the perspectives of processors and retailers needed greater attention. The perception by some consumers and farmers, that researchers only play a relatively minor role in current and future R&D was surprising and suggests that researchers need to develop a more effective communication system with other stakeholders about their roles and responsibilities.

The facilitation process, which involved teams of both men and women in most cases, was effective. The use of a highly participatory style was greatly appreciated by most participants once they had understood the process. However, it also allowed the opportunity for the occasional dominant male actor to steer the proceedings in a particular direction. This behaviour should not be tolerated in future meetings.

The process and outputs have raised expectations amongst those who participated and it is important that the contributions made are properly recorded and taken into account in the next phase of the process. Clear promises were made in the workshops that this would happen. There was a clear desire to see this process repeated on a regular basis and to engage a wider group of stakeholders in the review and re-planning of existing research activities.

It finally remains to ask whether the questions asked in the process in the workshops goes far enough in attempting to steer the direction and quality of organic research and development. Is it enough to identify <u>what</u> the priorities should be, or do we need to be also asking the same stakeholders <u>how</u> research should be conducted and <u>who</u> should be the main actors in the continuing process? With the growing realisation that both formal and informal research (research conducted by farmers) and participatory research (researchers, advisers and farmers as partners) have a place in the search for more sustainable and systemic solutions to problems, there is a case for a wider debate about the process of research itself.

Recommendations

The following recommendations emerge from this study:-

1. **This kind of process of open, participatory consultation on organic research and development priorities should be conducted on a regular basis with a wide range of stakeholders.**
2. **More effort needs to be made to capture the views of key stakeholder groups who were weakly represented here. (e.g. retailers and processors)**
3. **In order to get better representation of different stakeholder groups, there should be a greater use of existing formal meetings. For example, farmers user groups, organic conferences, membership groups and at open days.**
4. **It is important to recognise that sub-groups within larger stakeholders (livestock farmers and horticultural growers, small and larger farmers) need representation in**

such an exercise and should be given due consideration in relation to their numbers and value to society.

5. **In this kind of interaction, there is an opportunity to make more use of the open communication and interaction system between key actors. Strengths, weaknesses and gaps could be detected and addressed.**
6. **The use of both women and men as facilitators should remain.**
7. **At different times in the workshops, existing stakeholder groups should work together and also cross-stakeholder groups should interact. Some form of the carousel method of interaction could be combined with the progressive doubling approach.**
8. **This kind of participatory approach could be developed further interaction on other topics and also to enhance the interactions between farmers and other stakeholders. .**
9. **It is important to develop better ways of disseminating information about what is happening in organic R&D and also to work more on raising the awareness of organic food across a wide spectrum of consumers.**

Annexes

Annex 1. Terms of reference for the analysis of the consultation process on the Research priorities study for DEFRA / ACOS by RULIVSYS Ltd.

Background

The consultation process will consist of a series of facilitated workshops with a wide range of stakeholders throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The workshops will be attended by farmers, growers, researchers, extensionists, processors, wholesalers, retailers and general consumers on a voluntary basis. The workshops are designed to elicit responses to the question: "What effect stakeholders throughout the UK want organic farming research and development to have?"

Outputs

The consultant is asked to deliver the following outputs:-

1. **To analyse the consultation process from the outset to the delivery of the final report.**
2. **To engage in the process and interact with the designers, facilitators and participants before, during and after the workshops.**
3. **To participate in the final review of the process with the design team.**
4. **To deliver a report with recommendations on the process and guidance on future exercises to the project coordinator in time for the final project report submission in June 2005.**

5. **To draft and submit a paper on the process and the lessons learned for submission to an appropriate journal.**

Methodology

The methodology used will involve:-

1. **Study of the project document, the workshop design and planning process and the facilitation of the workshops.**
2. **Interaction with the workshop participants during and after the workshops through semi-structured interviews, telephone conversations and e mail correspondence.**
3. **To attend a number of the workshops as a participant observer.**
4. **Interviews with the programme designers and workshop facilitators to examine and record the learning process.**
5. **Early drafting of analysis for submission to participants for comment and feedback.**

The company is to provide 10 days of time for this work

Annex 2 What Do You Want Out Of Organic Food & Farming Research?

(Word version of the Power point presentation used in the workshops)

Defra funded project OF0350 on behalf of ACOS.

1. Background.
   - **ACOS (Advisory Committee on Organic Standards).**
   - **Defra funded project.**
   - **Public consultation throughout the UK.**
   - **Your input to this workshop will influence the future direction of research.**
   - **ACOS will advise Defra on the future direction of research and development (R&D) for organic sector**.

2. Process.
   - **Progressive doubling.**
   - **Into pairs.**
   - **About 10 minutes.**
   - **Write down a maximum of 5 points.**
   - **Find another pair.**
   - **About 10 minutes.**
   - **Consolidate and write down a maximum of 5 points.**
   - **Repeat…….!**

3. First Question. "What should R&D deliver for the organic sector by 2015?"

4. Boundaries.
   - **Need to address the Organic Action plans.**
   - **Within organic principles.**
   - **Deliverable through R&D.**

5. Definitions of Research & Development.
   - **Research (www.cogsci.princeton.edu): Systematic investigation to establish facts.**
   - **Development (www.nsf.gov): Systematic use of the knowledge or understanding gained from research.**

6. Question 2. "What are the most urgent information or knowledge gaps that R&D should address?"

7. Next steps.

   - **Workshop statements - Filter 1: action plans, organic-ness, R&D – resource investment needed – Filter 2: Organic-ness, Ease and impact – research priorities – research strategy**.

8. Finally.
   - **Form available from www.efrc.com, www.sac.ac.uk, www.ruralni.gov.uk, www.organic.aber.ac.uk**
   - **Outcome of all the workshops will be put onto www.efrc.com at the end of June.**

- **Our final report will be delivered to Defra/ACOS by the end of June.**

- **Thank you all for participating.**
- **Your contribution will count.**

9. Additional information:

English Organic Action Plan. (Also **given as a handout to all participants**)

Objectives:

- **To develop the organic sector in line with consumer demand.**
- **To maintain consumer confidence in the integrity of organic food, and to ensure that consumers have access to accurate information about the standards to which it is produced.**
- **To encourage all parts of the organic food chain to work in partnership.**
- **To provide organic farmers, growers and processors in England with the market information they need to develop their businesses successfully.**
- **To ensure that consumer demand for organic produce results in tangible benefits for the English countryside and English wildlife, by increasing British farmers' share of the organic food market.**

Draft IFOAM principles.

- **The Principle of health.**
- **Organic Agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal and human as one and indivisible.**
- **The Ecological principle.**
- **Organic Agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.**
- **The Principle of fairness.**
- **Organic Agriculture should be built upon relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.**
- **The Principle of care.**
- **Organic Agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.**

Annex 3. Questions to workshop participants

Organic Research Priorities for Defra / ACOS. A review of the process.

Dear Workshop Participant ……

I have been asked to carry out an assessment of the consultation process in relation to this study and would be very grateful if you would answer a few questions that would help us in this task.

1. **Please state the workshop that you attended ……..**

2. **Please state what particular stakeholder group to which you belong: - Farmer (livestock, arable, horticulture, mixed), researcher, adviser, processor, retailer, wholesaler, DEFRA, consumer, or, if other, please say who or what group you represent.**

3. **How were you contacted about the workshops?**

4. **Did you have enough information about what the objectives and purpose were before you came?**

5. **What were your expectations before the day started? (brief notes)**

6. **Was the purpose of the day clear soon after the start of the session?**

7. **Do you think that the process of interaction worked: -** ***very well, moderately well,***
   Satisfactorily, not very well, very poorly**. (ring one of these) Please say why and how the process might be improved further.**

8. **What do you feel** you **got out of the workshop session ?**

9. **Who do you think should be the key players/ stakeholders in determining organic**
   research priorities in future ?

10. **Please make any other comments (use reverse of this page if necessary)**

Annex 4. Summary of responses from workshop attendees

Organic Research Priorities for Defra / ACOS. A review of the process.

Summary from all workshop returns received.

NB. **Numbers are the numbers of people responding, numbers in brackets are the percentage response.** [2]

	People actually attending workshops	**294 people , of which 240 were given the set of 10 questions.**
	QUESTIONS	RESPONSES **152 (63 %)**
2.	Particular stakeholder group to which you belong ?	**Farmer- arable 17(12); F-Horti. 14.(10) ; F-Livestock 19 (14); F-Mixed 15(11) ; Farmers/Producers: total 65 (46); Consumers 34, (25) ; Researchers .20 (14) ; Adv. 9(6) ; Proc.3(2) ; Ret.3 (2) ; Small H 3.(2); Institutions/Agencies 3 (2)**
3.	How were you contacted about the workshop ?	**HDRA, 44(32) ; Mail 24(17) , e mail 22 (16); OCW, 10 (7) ; EFRC 10 (7) ; SA, 8(6); COR 6 (4); friend 7, (5) ; SAC, 5 (3); OSW 3 (2)**
4.	Was there sufficient information before workshop ?	**Yes, 93 (61) No, 59 (39)**
5.	What you're your expectations and concerns ?	**A lecture ; To sit and listen ; Group discussions ; To propose topics ; Meet different stakeholders ; Ideas might not be heard ; Needed more preparation ; Opportunity to discuss ; To give my opinions ; That consumer issues would be heard None**
6	Was the purpose clear soon after start of session ?	**Yes , 142 (95) Partly 4 (3) , No 3 (2)**
7.	How did the process work for you ?	**Very well, 70 (47);moderately well, 51 (34) ; satisfactorily, 20(13) ; not very well, 5 (4) ; very poorly, 3 (2) [note : *a total of 81 % were more than satisfactory]***
7a.	How could the process be made better ?	**More time, 12 (27) ; Manage the dominance of men better, 7 (16) ; Process leads to generalisations , 6(14) ;More thorough introduction and more information, 4 (9) ; Wider range of stakeholders, 3 (7) ; More producers, 4 (7) ; Re -mix participants between phases 3 (7); Organic food 2 (5) ; Work in small groups first, 2 (5) ; Should have had Q 2 before Q 1; More help to people not used to workshop format .**
8.	What did you get out of workshop ?	**Insight into problems of farmers , 16 (25) : An opportunity to make a contribution to an important process, 16 (25), Understanding of different views ,10(16) ; : Discussion of**

[2] Note that the number of responses for all questions are not the same as several respondents did not answer all the questions

		different views 7 (11) Enjoyment and fun 4 (7) , Information 4 (7) ; Influencing research agenda 2 (3) Consumer views 2 (3) ; Future ideas 2 (3)
9.	Who should be key players in future research ?	**Farmers 93 (36) ; Consumers 53 (25) ; Res, 21 (8) Organic organisations 21 (8) ; All stakeholders 18 (7) ; Defra , 9 (4) ; Retailers 10 (4) ; Processors 10 (4); Companies/ the industry, 8 (3) Certifying bodies, 7 (3) ; Adv, 6 (2), Environmentalists , 4 (2)**
10	Other comments on process	**Good format and discussions ; General discussion needed; Info on existing research ; Not using existing expertise ; More time to discuss results in plenary , Too many people with own agenda to push; Process encourages generalisations , Boundaries of questions not clear , Better introductions at beginning , Educate public better , Need for independence of research , Clash of producers with consumers, Afternoon was duplication , Too many contradictions in outcomes , More work on food labelling, Special problems of smallholders, Exclude big companies, Include supermarkets, Waste of time and money , Disappointing , Facilitators were excellent Make sure participants get results of workshop. Needs to be an on-going process, Too many consumers present , Research should clarify not confuse. Educational research on organic food is essential , Defra people should not be present at these workshops**

Some suggestions and quotes **:-**

9. Ask participants to suggest one (or more) priority in each of the following areas **: social, technical, policy, environment, marketing etc., This stops people pushing own agendas**
10. **Allow individual stakeholder groups to discuss and record their priorities first, then mix them up later.**
11. Who decides on the balance of priorities ? **Money is never enough, so hard decisions have to be made .**
12. Even the humble man has an opinion and a story to tell – he just needs an opportunity to find a voice**. (Kieth farmer on the importance of farmer involvement in research) .**
13. Do not forget key priorities for small farmers
14. **Most suggestions based on daily experience. However, this is based on historical unsustainable systems.** Organic production is the first step towards holistic production systems which will be essential in 30 years time.
15. Confident and encouraged that Defra might, at last, take organic farming seriously**. (Lockerbie)**
16. Need this process on regular basis every year**. (In order to have a wide review of existing research and to plan future).**
17. There is a gulf of understanding between producers and consumers

18. I hope that someone is listening

Annex 5. Questions to facilitators

Evaluating the organic research prioritisation process :

Facilitators are asked to comment briefly on the following questions:-

1.Your background and expectations before the process began

- Which workshops did you facilitate or assist in ?
- Previous experience and knowledge of this kind of exercise
- Your expectations on roles, process and outputs
- Your own institutional role, expectations and support

2.Experience during preparation and conduct of the workshops

- Did the design process appear to be adequate to achieve the intended outputs ?
- Was the process of interaction in the workshops sufficient (timing, participation, interaction, summary and presentation) to produce useful outputs ?
- Have you any informal comments back from participants about how useful and enjoyable the day had been ?
- Any other feedback on the process and the task of analysis of outputs ?

3.Lessons that might be carried forward

- Have you any reflections on the design process and the methodology adopted ?
- Personal lessons to carry to other areas of work : relationships and communications
- Comment on the effectiveness of having a mix of participants / stakeholders
- Initial perceptions about the value and relevance of the outcomes from these exercises as a means of determining short and longer term research priorities.

Annex 6 . Summary from Facilitators

Summary of Facilitator responses from workshops

Questions	
1. Background and expectations	
1.1 Which workshops	**all**
1.2 Previous experience	**Several with lots**
1.3 Expectations	**Problem of mixing people , Questions were difficult , Difficult people**
1.4 Institutional role , expectations and support	**Limited support**
2. Experience during prep.and conduct of workshops	
2.1 Design process adequate to achieve outputs ?	**Yes. Some concern over limited time available. Needed guidance**
2.2 Was the process of interaction sufficient ?	**Yes. Needed more time, Final stage difficult. More time for Q1 to get idea understood. Need strong facilitation**
2.3 Informal feedback on use and enjoyment ?	**Yes, good fun and enjoyable . Positive comments**
2.4 Any other feedback	
3. Lessons to carry forward	
3.1 Reflections on design process and methodology ?	**One question only . Dummy Q1 ? Consumer inputs impt. Facilitators need to be well briefed. Careful wording of question . Useful**
3.2 Comments on venues and timing.	**OK. Needs space . Org catering impt. Timing that suits all is impossible (dairy farmers) ,**
3.3 Personal lessons to carry forward to other areas of work . relationships and communication	**Good way to empower people. Remember how people like to contribute . Method could be used for other circumstances**
3.4 Effectiveness on mix of participants	**The mix is important . Dominant individuals need controlling . Good to have farmers and consumers . May need to consider initial division of different groups /stakeholders, Too few farmers ,**
3.5 Value and relevance of outcomes from these exercises as	**Important that many different people were involved . Many common statements which could be good. Maybe general q first ? Does it matter that few have an idea of what scientific**

a means of determining short and long term research priorities	**res. is about ? . Needs to be combined with expert group consultation . Some subjects were lost ? (no)**

Summary of discussions at meeting 19th May

Strengths	Weaknesses
Fun	**Asking people to think in a way that they are not used to.**
Producers and consumers together	
Flexible process	
Challenging phrasing of questions	**Challenging phrasing of questions**
Feeding people and telling them.	**Not organic food at workshops.**
Not presenting historical information at the beginning.	**Not presenting historical information at the beginning.**
Pilot workshops useful.	**Alpha male.**
Trust and experience in the area of the workshop teams.	**Coffee at the beginning**
Constant review and reflection of process as it developed.	**Geographic coverage – nothing in the northeast?**
Mixed gender of facilitators	
Traceability and data handling	
Time keeping	
Break in middle	
Mixing of participants – informal net working	
Added benefit for participants – net working	

Comment:

Q1 easier for consumers, Q2 easier for producers.
Timing of event never right!
Facilitator to participant 1:8
Dummy question to learn the process – just in pairs.
Introductions at the beginning.
After first workshop at HDRA, rewrote presentation, refined process and developed the mechanics of the process.
Facilitator style
Facilitators would use the process again (not seen before)