



Agriculture & Horticulture
DEVELOPMENT BOARD



New Project

CP 077 / HL 01109

SCEPTRE: Sustainable Crop &
Environment Protection - Targeted
Research for Edibles

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The following are members of the Consortium for LINK project HL 01109:

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- and -
East Malling Research
- and -
Rationale Biopesticide Strategists
- and -
Scottish Crop Research Institute
- and -
Stockbridge Research Foundation
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Stewarts of Tayside Ltd.
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Syngenta Crop Protection UK Ltd.
- and -
Total Worldfresh Ltd

Project Number: CP 077 / HL 01109

Project Title: SCEPTRE: Sustainable Crop & Environment Protection - Targeted Research for Edibles

Project Leader: Tim O'Neill

Contractor: ADAS UK Ltd (+ Collaborators as listed above)

Industry Representative: N/A

Start Date: 01 October 2010

End Date: 30 September 2014

Project Cost – Cash + In Kind (total project cost): £660,000 + £80,500 (£2,034,247)

Project Summary:

Devised by HDC in consultation with growers and researchers, the SCEPTRE project aims to address key gaps in crop production, especially those arising from loss of current pesticides due to changing EU legislation. SCEPTRE will deliver applied research to help secure label and off-label approvals for new and safer pesticides and biopesticides, and develop sustainable IPM programmes for use on edible crops

Aims & Objectives:

The aim of the project is to deliver applied research on high priority disease, pest and weed problems in fruit and in vegetable crops order to support approval of new products and devise integrated pest management (IPM) programmes

Three cross-sector teams of crop protection specialists will focus on the pest, disease and weed problems having the greatest financial impact on the profitability of crop production and where the likelihood of achieving a crop protection solution is good. The work programme will be flexible, adjusting as necessary to take account of significant new pest problems or pesticide gaps as they arise. Target pests in 2011 include aphids on lettuce and raspberry, powdery mildew on apple and cucumber and annual broad leaf weeds in field vegetables and strawberry. As the range of major pests affecting edibles and ornamentals are similar, ornamental growers will likely benefit through more rapid identification of potentially useful novel products

Benefits to industry:

Annual value in area of impact

The annual farmgate value of UK fruit and vegetable production in 2008 was £1.62 billion (£1.1 billion vegetables; £0.5 billion fruit) (Anon., 2008). The value has been increasing steadily since 2004 (£1.14 billion). The added value through food processing and preparation will be much greater.

Expected annual added value

Initial estimates suggest that the reduction in production of 13 fruit and vegetables due to probable pesticide losses over the next 5-10 years could be substantial; it may no longer be economic to produce some crops, such as onion and lettuce (Wynn, 2010). This project is expected to provide sustainable solutions where pesticide loss would have a major financial impact on the UK production value.

Market potential

There is potential for solutions devised to be adopted by all of the UK fruit and vegetable production sector growing crops conventionally. Some will have potential for use by organic growers. Others will have potential for use in the ornamentals sector.

Grower uptake and customer acceptance

Greater use of reduced risk pesticides and compliance with pesticide and pollution legislation meets the needs of growers, spray operators, crop workers, retailers and consumers and the environment more broadly. There is likely to be high grower uptake and consumer acceptance of treatments that reduce use of synthetic pesticides, providing they prove to be efficacious and safe.

Other benefits

- Strengthening and enhancement of UK food security
- Working towards government targets in Food 2030
- Reducing pesticide pressures on the farmed environment
- Underpinning of government initiatives to increase consumption of quality fruit and vegetables to a minimum of five portions a day
- To help improve the nation's diet
- Conservation of key applied science capabilities and resources through succession planning.
- Provides an opportunity to build a cross-European group on minor crops to address common crop protection issues, to enable greater value for a given investment.

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