

AgriR&D

AGRI PRODUCTS

R&D of AgriProducts Congress talks

Industry Developments

with

Russell Sharp

Plater Bio

Steve Lisansky

CPL

Eric Liégeois

European Commission

Jeroen Meussen

EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility

Simon Blackmore

Harper Adams University



Please can you introduce yourself

Russell Sharp, Founder and Technical Director of Plater Bio.

Please tell me about your company

Plater Bio is a biotechnology company developing a range of novel agro-inputs. We are fully independent and manufacture all our products at our site in Glossop, UK. We have particular expertise in using natural extracts as potent biostimulants, biofertilizers and biopesticides

What will you be talking about at the R&D of AgriProducts Congress?

I will be showcasing the exciting work our team have been conducting to develop chitosan derivatives. We produce a fungal chitosan at Plater Bio which has a range of potential applications beyond those that crustacean-derived chitosan is currently used for. Hopefully people will be interesting in hearing about how this project developed and how we are taking these products to market.

What industry developments are of most interest to you at the moment?

Indoor/urban horticulture is a rapidly developing sector where new opportunities are opening up. These new growing systems benefit from rethinking the way we deliver crop nutrition and protection. I am also interesting to see how the European markets adapt to a new regulatory framework for biostimulants and how BREXIT will affect the competitiveness of UK companies.

What sessions are you looking forward to joining at the congress?

I am always interested to hear people's personal experience in the discovery of their active ingredients and how their companies get a product to market. This includes the science of the discovery but also the business challenges and how this relates to the regulatory environment.



Please can you introduce yourself

Dr Steve Lisansky, Chairman and Co-Founder of CPL Scientific Limited. He has 40 years of experience in the discovery, product development, safety testing and registration and commercialisation of biological pesticides. He is consulted by companies on technical and commercial issues although at present he works exclusively with MBI. His experience includes 10 years of making and selling products and another 30 of consulting and advising, as well as editing CPL's multi-client study on Biopesticides.

He still works with his colleagues on projects within CPL Business Consultants, mainly in the food and agriculture industries. Earlier he was Chief Executive of a start-up company in agricultural diagnostics, founder of Microbial Resources Limited, an agricultural biotechnology company in biopesticides, and worked in R&D for Tate & Lyle.

He did his graduate work at Yale.

Please tell me about your company

CPL Business Consultants works on strategies, markets and technology for business development and transactions, specialising in ingredients for food, health and nutrition, dietary supplements, animal feed, petfood, agriculture, cosmetics, fine chemicals and pharmaceuticals. For more than 30 years, we have delivered high quality work, prudent advice and real action plans to a global client base.

What industry developments are of most interest to you at the moment?

In 70 years we have moved from broad spectrum 'cidal' chemicals, effective but used too widely, too imprecisely, too often and with too many side effects, to a better understanding of the biology of agriculture. We now know much more about the plants, the pests and the ecosystem, so that we are becoming able to produce food more effectively, more safely, and at a realistic (rather than the absolute cheapest) cost. Seeing these changes become real is the development of most interest to me.

What sessions are you looking forward to joining at the congress?

Those on innovation in biological understanding of agriculture .



Please can you introduce yourself

I am Eric Liégeois, team leader at the European Commission, working on policies relating to the placing of fertilising products and plant biostimulants on the EU market.

Please tell me about your company

The European Commission is the European Institution proposing regulations in various domains, including to support the harmonisation of single market rules for the whole EU. This is the case for various agro-food raw materials, such as plant protection products, fertilisers, seeds, certain machineries...where quality and safety standards are proposed by the Commission services.

What will you be talking about at the R&D of AgriProducts Congress?

I will update participants with the latest developments regarding the proposed rules for the placing on the market of fertilising products in the EU, in particular regarding plant biostimulant, a new category of products which helps the plant to better feed and tolerate abiotic stress conditions.

What industry developments are of most interest to you at the moment?

Microbial plant biostimulants are expected to be booming soon.

Jeroen Meeussen

EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility



Please can you introduce yourself

I am a plant pathologist by training. On 1st September 2015 I started work as co-ordinator for the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility. From October 2010 until

Please tell me about your company

Minor uses of pesticides are uses on niche crops or against pest problems which are not routinely encountered but may on occasion be very damaging. These niche crops have a high economic value for farmers, but are usually of low economic interest for the agro-pesticide industry. The EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility was established by the European Commission on 15 April 2015 to address the minor uses problem in a more coherent way.

The mission of the Facility is 'to enable farmers in the EU to produce high quality crops by filling minor uses gaps through efficient collaboration to improve availability of chemical and non-chemical tools within an integrated pest management (IPM) framework'.

What will you be talking about at the R&D of AgriProducts Congress?

I will provide an update on regulatory developments for biopesticides and minor uses.

What industry developments are of most interest to you at the moment?

The use of novel technologies in agriculture and the increasing market share of biopesticides.

What sessions are you looking forward to joining at the congress?

I am looking especially forward to attend the sessions 'Should biologicals be regulated to the same extent as chemicals?' and 'Bridging chemistry and biology'.



Please can you introduce yourself

Prof Simon Blackmore, Head of Agricultural Robotics, Harper Adams University and the Agri-EPI Centre .

What will you be talking about at the R&D of AgriProducts Congress?

Agricultural Robotics: What novel technologies are needed to meet the needs for growers over the next 10 years and how will robotic technology impact the way we research and develop agri products?

What industry developments are of most interest to you at the moment?

The commercialisation of research.

Please can you share an interesting fact with us

Robots will not take over the world but they will take the drudgery out of agriculture.