



**Minutes of the ESTA Working Group Meeting held on**  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020**  
**Video Conference**

Chris Bates	Openfield
Kevin Woodman	Agrii
James Taylor-Alford	Syngenta
Gary Jobling	Kwizda-agro
Sarah Godwin	Germaines
Lorraine Chambers	KIWA
Jaclyn Redman	KIWA
Tim Lacey	Bayer
Amalia Kafka	ESA
Catherine Barrett	AIC
Gillian Barrow (Chair)	AIC

	<b>Action point summary</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
3.a.	WG Terms of Reference emailed	GB	Jul 2020
4.a.	Define ESTA WG Aims	Working Group	Sep 2020
4.b.1.	Compile ESTA bullet point info sheet	Working Group	Sep 2020
	Add HSE to contact list	GB	Sep 2020
4.b.2.	Lobby manufacturers	Working Group	Dec 2020
4.b.3.	Add ESTA to Red Tractor review	GB	Sep 2020
4.b.5.	ESA lobby EC	ESA/AIC	Oct 2020
4.b.6.	Add ESTA Benefits sheet to web site	GB	Jul 2020
	Send out to Stakeholder list	GB	Jul 2020
5.a.	Historic engagement ESA & NAAC	CB	Aug 2020
5.b.	NAAC discussion	KIWA/AIC	Sep 2020
7.a.	Seed Treatment Guidance Document	AK	Jul 2020
8.a.	Polymer Draft Regulation	AL	Jul 2020

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Rae Cook (Elsoms), Paul Taylor (Elsoms), Jill Hewitt (NAAC), Jim Black (Frontier)

### **2. Action points from minutes of the last meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed. Not all action points have been cleared and have transferred to the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020 minutes.

### **3. New Chair and Vice Chair**

**GB** reported that the group remains without a Chair or Vice Chair and she has asked for volunteers. The group meets twice a year (July & December).

- a. **ACTION:** GB to email Working Group members Terms of Reference.

#### 4. ESTA update - KIWA

##### LC presented

- 17 businesses within ESTA across 25 sites, 24 in the UK, 1 NL
- 3 approved assessors and 1 technical reviewer
- Jaclyn Redman is to become ESTA Scheme Manager at KIWA
- 1 new application currently in quotation phase in NL
- Highest number of non-conformances raised at one site is 2
- Timescales met for all raised NC's
- 18 audits undertaken with 0 NC's raised
- Common areas of non-conformity – Training Records, Calibration/Loading Records/Results, Incorrect labels, Internal Audit

##### AK presented

- 130 sites – updated database +/-
- 17 countries EU & Non EU – Turkey and Ukraine
- 90% Maize & Oil Seed Rape, 100% Sugar Beet, lower figures for vegetables and nearly 100% for cotton production

Commented that currently not many manufacturers involved

Raised that the ESTA WG needs to reevaluate the direction of the group and it needs to be represented in a positive way

Commented seed processors need to protect farmers

- ACTION:** Decide what the Aims of the Working Group are – need to future proof the industry and seed treatment businesses, sustainability and farming message. WG members to discuss internally within their organisations and report back at interim meeting

The following **ACTIONS** were transferred from the meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and additions highlighted in blue

##### b. ACTION:

Number	Action	By who
1	Contact and inform the following about ESTA:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRD – these are seen as particularly important.</li> <li>• Defra</li> <li>• Fera</li> <li>• CPA</li> <li>• NFU</li> <li>• AHDB</li> <li>• BSPB</li> </ul>	AIC
	Propose WG compile bullet point information sheet to be shared with above organisations once 'Aim of Working Group' is agreed	WG
	Suggested adding HSE to the above contact list – promote the protection of operatives and the	AIC

	environment. Demonstrate adherence to the scheme. Following label instructions.	
2	Lobby manufacturers and the above where possible.	ESTA WG
3	Add ESTA to the Red Tractor review - RT Review Group /Board	GB
4	Discuss with NAAC *	AIC/KIWA
5	Lobby ESA to inform the EC	AIC/ESA
6	Update the ESTA benefits sheet - Not presently on website finalised March 2020 by GR - Send out to Stakeholder list	GB GB

## 5. NAAC approval from ESA – update

\*Mobile Contractors

- Germaines confirmed they do test for mobile contractors
- Clarified that Heubach Testing is now a requirement in the June 2020 UK ESTA Standard. Previously it wasn't, however, the majority who were in the scheme were tested and all results forwarded to AIC
- Commented that mobile versus static operations is two separate streams in a business. Campaign and drive involvement of mobile contractors, it is imperative to protect the industry. ACTION: lobby internally within Agrii
- A separate scheme for mobile contractors would not be necessary as ESTA could be used.
- Mobile contractors may struggle a little as they need a QMS but there is no technical reason why they couldn't be certified, if they join through AIC there would be helped to get up to speed
- Manufacturers are not tightening the screw for ESTA participation, all manufacturers should be part of it
- The WG could support 'one-man band' with information and setting up QMS
- Agreed it is achievable, there are electronic systems, templates etc. Need to involve NAAC to either write their own scheme or adopt ESTA – AIC. Group understood NAAC had long stated they would have an alternative scheme, but this has not been created. From a business viewpoint there are benefits to being responsible
- Question - people with contacts at DEFRA/CPA do they know if the ESTA Scheme is promoted?
- Very little appetite as organisations are too far away from it.
  - a. ACTION: CB to investigate levels of historic engagement.
- If the mobile operators are not covered difficult for AIC to say we covers the market, as mobiles do half of seed treatment.

b. ACTION: AIC & KIWA joint discussion to be arranged with NAAC

## 6. Vegetable Crop Group Seed Treatment Forum

Elsoms apologies received

## 7. EU Developments - ESA

AK presented

## Seed Treatment Guidance Document

- 10 years in development
- Autumn 2018 – Public Consultation
- September 2019 – 2-day Workshop held for Member States and Commission – invited to understand outcomes of Seed Treatment Guidance Document. Day 2 visited an ESTA certified site – good feedback and impression
- There are 2 parts to the Seed Treatment Guidance Documents
  - Regulatory – authorities/EU/legislations
  - Risk Assessment – delayed due to discussion
- Regulatory section has been updated and shared with EU Commission
  - a. **ACTION:** AK to share with WG *Note – it will not be the final version*
- Legal services working with amended version, discussion and vote hopefully by the end of July

## 8. Micro plastics and polymer seed coatings

### AK presented

- ECHA proposal expected end of 2020, then it goes to Commission.
- Draft regulation in 1-2 years and another 5 years after that entry into force to bring in bio-degradable polymers

Requested clarity as to whether the 5 years was to phase out plastics?

- Based on the current proposal timescale is not sufficient for plant protection, seed industry need additional time, suggested 8 years transition period and yes plastics to be phased out
- Another public consultation – objective as to why +5 years needed – consultation due to finish end of summer
- Regulation expected in 2022 (+/- 5 or 8 years) it will apply in the EU and if you want to export to the EU you would have to comply
- Sufficient time is needed for the transition

Commented difficult to register new treatments in the UK, ESTA is even more important One positive around EU Exit and domestic review of new products could be faster regulatory process in UK around micro plastics

- a. **ACTION:** AK will share information and Public Consultation

## 9. AOB

**GB proposed** an interim meeting before next working group in December – all parties in agreement

## 10. Date of next meetings for 2020

A doodle poll will be sent for the interim meeting to be held by video conference in September. The December Working Group is already scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> December 10.30-14.00, location to be confirmed.

Gillian Barrow  
9<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### Footnote to minutes 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Meeting held with Jill Hewitt and Nigel Day from NAAC and Gillian Barrow (AIC) regarding the minutes, the NAAC's existing scheme for Mobile Seed Contractors and the requirement for mutual recognition of schemes