COR
The colloquium of organic researchers

IOR

Notes from a COR workshop

The role of participatory processes in organic research programmes

Held at: HDRA, Ryton Organic Gardens, Coventry, CV8 3LG.
on 25th January 2005

Introduction

The aim of the workshop was to explore and discuss the relevance of participatory approach to organic farm research in general taking some on-going projects as examples. The context for the workshop was to examine:

1) who is setting the research agenda and how?
2) are the organic research programmes addressing the needs of farmers, growers and advisors, researchers and policy makers?
3) is the research addressing the needs of the wider organic movement?
4) how can wider stakeholder engagement with research be encouraged?

The outline plan for the day is provided in annex 1. During the day summaries of the research approach of four contrasting 'participatory research' projects were presented and the audience invited to compare them using various participatory methods. These notes briefly detail the outcome of these exercises. Analysis and presentation of qualitative data was discussed and some time was spent discussing and identifying research projects that might benefit from a more 'participatory approach'. This report is only intended as a set of notes outlining the day as an aide to recalling the events and as a record of the meeting.

Expectations for Day

- learn some new techniques that can be applied to work (x2)
- share experiences with others running participatory projects (x3)
- plan new research together
- good lunch
- trade-offs and synergies
- new ideas and approaches

Issues to address

- social/ natural scientist learning processes
- statistics and participatory research? How to do quality research with statistics (x3)
- how to scale up both temporally and spatially
- "balance" in action
- publishing (in journals?)
- engaging scientists or researchers

Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholders are persons, groups or institutions with interests in a project or programme. See also notes from the day are presented in annex 2.

Who?

- Primary stakeholders are those ultimately affected, either positively (beneficiaries), or negatively.
- Secondary stakeholders are the intermediaries in the delivery process.

Why?

- the identification of a project's key stakeholders,
- assessing project suitability and viability,
- assessment of interests and the ways in which these interests affect project riskiness and viability,
- linked to both institutional appraisal and social analysis.

How?

- Clarifying objectives of the analysis. Could include a checklist for identifying assumptions and risks from stakeholders, e.g.:
    - What is the role or response of key stakeholders that must be assumed if the project is to be successful ?
    - Are these roles plausible and realistic ?
    - Can negative responses be expected, given the interests of the stakeholder ?
- Placing issues in a systems context
- Identifying decision-makers and stakeholders
- Investigating stakeholder interests and agendas
- Investigating patterns of interaction and dependence (e.g. conflicts and compatibilities, trade-offs and synergies)

A group exercise using CATWOE analysis was carried out by brainstorming a list of projects or outcomes considered useful in order to advance the organic agenda (see annex 3). The exercise was useful in outlining the roles of participants in projects. It is sometimes difficult to pin down the stakes that various actors have in a project or process.

Discussion of Projects

Experiences with participatory research in four organic research projects, covering various sectors, were given (see presentations in annex).

- Participatory weeds project (annex 4)
- Participatory cereal variety project (annex 5)
- Poultry (annex 6)
- Farming Connect organic herbage seed project (annex 7)

Participants were asked to evaluate the projects using a stakeholder approach to determine who was participating and in what capacity and these are presented in annex 8. This approach to analysis of a project did not seem to work well in the time available although participants might like to take the analysis and develop them (say for changes over time, or changes from the initial project documentation). Identification of projects often involves a diffuse gathering of information over a long period. Sometimes the roles of actors or the ‘stakes’ involved are not very clear and it needs more time to develop this, perhaps by including a wider range of stakeholders in the analysis.

The results of the stakeholder analyses and project descriptions emphasised the importance of perceptions when engaged in this type of research. The participatory approach provides a different emphasis, is not a cheaper option, and can often take a great deal more organization. The results can however be more rewarding and applicable, to farmers in particular. We should also recognise that we did not fully complete the stakeholder analysis. In a more realistic situation we would need to spend longer on it and complete the different exercises,

which would enable us to analyse the implications fully (this may take many different meetings during the project even). The outcome would be to decide which stakeholders are important and whether they are acting in a positive or negative manner that might affect project outcomes. If they were negative we would need to decide what to do about it.

Evaluation of different research approaches

(On-farm) research can take place on a number of levels as, perhaps, shown by the range of approaches taken by the four projects above. In this energizer exercise participants were asked to split into four groups and do a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis on each of four categories of research:

Contractual- researcher designed and implemented (farmer input minimal)
Consultative-researcher designed and implemented jointly (farmer manages trial)
Collaborative- joint consultation, researcher in control but farmer involved in planning and design and implements trial
Collegial- fully participatory with design, implementation and evaluation by all partners

The SWOT diagrams for each are given in annex 9. The SWOT analyses emphasize the advantages and disadvantages of the different approaches to on-farm research. It should be appreciated that the research types form a continuum and are not discrete types and that different approaches might be necessary or desirable depending on the topic or issue being addressed. In itself this was a useful exercise, as it pushed people into roles that they may not have thought about previously. As a technique, it had a valuable function.

Qualitative research and evaluation

A brief talk was given on qualitative research and evaluation. This is presented in annex 10.

A discussion indicated that the biologists present have not realised that social science approaches were also rigorous and involved corroboration and triangulation of information in order to build up reliable datasets. Agricultural journals increasingly recognise the value of such data sets and social science journals will accept them as well (e.g. geography, rural development).

In order to develop some of the ideas an exercise was presented and briefly discussed (annex 11). The exercise was not meant to imply that a division existed between quantitative or qualitative methods but rather that they are part of a continuum and when used in a complimentary way are a powerful analytical tool. Participants were urged to read various books on qualitative research methods and inform themselves of the issues. The exercise is presented in annex 11 and could be used by all researchers to examine their perspectives.

A handout on research approaches and methods was distributed to allow participants to get an overview of some qualitative methods.

Discussion possible research ideas

A brief discussion of ways to move the participatory agenda forward from the day included:

- Develop ways to measure the impact of such projects, that is monitoring change and learning

- (Global) climate change- could be better dealt with by a participatory and inclusive approach
- Local food production projects
- Biodiversity issues can be dealt with using this approach
- Health and well being projects are well suited to inclusive methods
- Education and knowledge transfer projects should be developed which take advantage of the participatory approach. We should continue a dialogue on these themes and try to develop some of them for future organic projects.

Some Issues arising during the day

- DEFRA- the role of DEFRA was discussed at many points during the meeting. Are they owners of the process and/ or actors (see stakeholder exercises). How can we draw DEFRA in or how do they want to become involved. How do they cope with participatory processes and outcomes internally?
- Why are there no extension services in the UK or why is there no funding for extension service type work? (*Note added*: There are extension services but most are privatised and farmers pay for these services. An issue for further discussion would be: is there a place for publically funded extension today? If so, what aspects of farming and rural livelihoods should it cover? Are there areas of research and extension that are now being neglected because the extension system is privatised e.g. organic?)
- How do we measure the impact of participatory projects? (*Note added*: There is a lot of literature on this, especially in development literature (e.g. NRI, DiFID) and this could be followed up.)

Summary

The day provided on overview of the use of participatory methods. The participants, mainly organic researchers, but also extensionists, were able to share a great deal on information and contribute with many different perspectives. Many of the exercises could be built upon to address some of the issues with participatory research arising from both the projects and the workshop.

Thanks to all who took part;

Notes summarised by
Gareth Davies,
HDRA, 27 January 2005

Annex 1

Outline plan for the participation workshop

Aims for day to explore and discuss the relevance of participatory approach to organic farm research in general taking some on-going projects as examples. Context for questions: 1) who is setting the research agenda and how? 2) are current organic (participatory) research programmes addressing the needs of farmers, growers and advisors, researchers and policy makers? 3) is research addressing the needs of the wider organic movement? 4) how can wider stakeholder engagement with research be encouraged?

Activity	**Who?**	**Material etc…**
Expectations for day: on arrival 1) Put expectations up on poster, 2) write up issues to address during the day 3) introduce yourself to someone new…..	all to participate HDRA staff organise	Chart for expectations (flip chart), chart for problems, main hall, minimal seating? Graffiti poster
Introduction: aims for day, project background (10 mins)	GD/BP	Laptop/projector/ Main Hall
Stakeholder Analysis: who are the stakeholders in organic research? What are there needs, expectations and rewards? Discussion groups, brainstorm, initial discussion (to be continues below) (20 mins) ***Report back*** very briefly on stakeholders to main group (10 mins)	DG to advise	Form groups, flip charts, pens, table and wall space Crib sheet available
Current Participatory Projects: (45 mins) *experiences with participatory approaches in organic research* • Weeds project (GD) • Cereal varieties (BP) • Poultry (Josie) • Farming Connect organic herbage seed project (HM)	GD, HM, BP, Josie	Projector and flip charts
Discussion of Projects: *carousel group discussion for each project with the theme* 'delivering to whom and how?'. Continuation of stakeholder analysis introduced above (45 mins) Brief **report back** to the whole group. What are the main issues emerging for each project? (15 mins)	all	Flip charts
Lunch		
Evaluation different approaches: *quick*	DG GD BP	Crib sheet, flip charts

SWOT analysis of two contrasting research approaches (participation/collegial vs contractual collaborative) What are the advantages to each and where to the previous projects fit in.…..		
Qualitative research and evaluation*: talk and discussion of researcher fears of using social science type approaches…..* Talk and/or discussion (15 mins) Exercise on characteristics of quantitative and qualitative (15 mins).	FH, GD GD	Handouts Exercise sheets
Research Proposals: *what types of research can benefit from these approaches and discussion potential research projects* Group brainstorm (20 mins) Group discussions (30 mins) **Report back** on potential research projects and funding proposals (10 mins)	GD, BP GD All All	Flip Charts
Wrap up and tea	GD, BP	

GD, 24 January 2005

Annex 2 (thanks to David Gibbon)

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS (SA)

1. Introduction

Stakeholder Analysis is the identification of a project's key stakeholders, an assessment of their interests and the ways in which these interests affect project riskiness and viability . It is linked to both institutional appraisal and social analysis: drawing on the information deriving from these approaches, but also contributing to the combining of such data in a single framework.

Stakeholders are persons, groups or institutions with interests in a project or programme. Primary stakeholders are those ultimately affected, either positively (beneficiaries), or negatively. Secondary stakeholders are the intermediaries in the delivery process.

2. Stages in processes

- Clarifying objectives of the analysis
- Placing issues in a systems context
- Identifying decision-makers and stakeholders
- Investigating stakeholder interests and agendas
- Investigating patterns of interaction and dependence
  (e.g. Conflicts and compatibilities, trade-offs and synergies)

-

- **3. Stakeholder Analysis Matrices**

Checklist for identifying assumptions and risks from stakeholders

- **What is the role or response of key stakeholders that must be assumed if the project is to be successful ?**
- **Are these roles plausible and realistic ?**
- **Can negative responses be expected , given the interests of the stakeholder ?**
- **If such responses occur what impact will they have on the project ?**
- **How likely are the negative responses and are there major risks ?**
- **Which plausible assumptions about stakeholders support or threaten the project ?**

- **Table 1. CATWOE Analysis**

• **Customers** – the victims or beneficiaries of 'T'	• **Actors** – those who do 'T'	T: **Transformation** processes – the conversion of input to output	• **Weltanshauung** – the world views which make the T meaningful in context	• **Owners** – those who could stop T	**Environmental** constraints – elements outside the system (which are taken as givens)

4. Stakeholder Participation Matrices

Who should be included when, in what capacity – project level or wider systems level ?

Table 2

	Inform	Consult	Partnership	Control
Identification				
Planning				
Implementation				
Monitoring and Evaluation				

Who should be included, when and in what capacity ?

Table 3

Stakeholder	What does this major stakeholder do in the project ?		Which groups does this affect ?	What are the implications of including or not including this stakeholder in the project ?	
	+ve activities	-ve activities		Inclusion	Not included

Stakeholder Influence/Importance matrix

What are the impacts of including or not including different stakeholders likely to be for the issues identified and the success of the project.

Table 4

High importance/low influence	High influence/ High importance
A.	B.
C.	D.
Low importance/low influence	High influence/Low importance

Annex 3: CATWOE analyses of various transformation processes

• **Customers** – the victims or beneficiaries of 'T'	• **Actors** – those who do 'T'	T: **Transformation** processes – the conversion of input to output	• **Weltanshaung** – the world views which make the T meaningful in context	• **Owners** – those who could stop T	**Environmental** constraints – elements outside the system (which are taken as givens)
Farmers (organic and potentially organic) Consumers Retailers Certifying bodies Local food markets Local communities Policy makers	Certifying bodies Policy makers Farmers? Where do researchers fit in?	"Improving Organic Standards"	"Enviromentalists" "Free trade" "level playing field" "lowest common denominator"	Policy makers Retailers Farmers Consumers	Institutional context (e.g. WTO) Costs Public relations
Farmers Organic farming Community Advisors Millers? Seed producers?	Farmers Researchers (social and natural sciences) Advisors DEFRA	"On farm cereal variety trials" also "seed treatment experiments" and "farmer interviews"	"best practice" "better understanding of processes" "robust science"	DEFRA EFRC Kingston Uni Middlesex Uni NIAB	Funding Policy Natural disasters
Farmers/ growers Consumers General public DEFRA	Farmers Advisors Researchers DEFRA	"Organic Weed Management" also "interaction and learning about weeds…"	"need more organic farmers" "reducing costs" "more effective weed management" "the market place"	DEFRA	Nature of weeds Short termism Inertia Consumer awareness Pre-conceived ideas to weed control and 'conventional' approaches Wanting clean fields Peer pressure money
Farmer Businesses	Farmers Govn't NGOs Scientists Researchers Businesses Local people	"think of technology and develop it" context development project in Sri Lanka	"increase in production to make money on world markets"	Competitors Environmentalists Tamil Tigers	Greater environmental goals, wildlife, pests

Annex 4. Participatory investigation of the management of weeds in organic production systems (OF0315)

Participatory investigation of the management of weeds in organic production systems

IOR HDRA the organic organisation ADAS

defra DEFRA funded project OF0315

Participatory investigation of the management of weeds in organic production systems

- DEFRA funded project OF0315
- 4 years - total cost £400,000- started August 2002
- Collaborative led by HDRA in partnership with EFRC, HRI, ADAS and RULIVSYS
- DEFRA evaluating participatory approach
- we aim…..

Aims of the project

"…..to define weed problems together with organic farmers and growers, propose ways of addressing these problems, and then research solutions in order to arrive at the most appropriate for use in organic systems."

Project approach

- approach and methods have been continually modified as a response to the developing interaction between farmers, advisors and researchers.
- (at present) the project is taking on a role of facilitating discussion and learning between 'stakeholders' (mainly farmers, growers, researchers and advisors, but also widening to include conservation and other concerns) on issues surrounding organic weed management.
- therefore has developed an emphasis on process as well as trying to produce practical and useful outputs.

Specific Project approaches:

- learning from and gathering of knowledge relating to weed management from organic farmers
- a review of the scientific literature (research knowledge) and other sources of information (including advisor knowledge)
- identifying (and prioritising some) weed related problems to work on
- monitoring and trialling weed management strategies or technologies on-farm
- promoting the sharing and development of knowledge within the organic (farming) community
- promoting an approach in which all participants- farmers, advisers and researchers- have equal voices in the design, planning and implementation of the project

Project methods:

- meetings/ workshops, focus groups, field walks and open days during which learning takes place among all participants
- case studies of weed management on farms
- scientific/grey literature review(s)
- monitoring weed management practices on-farm (recording difference and monitoring change, exploring novel methods such as use of photographs)
- 'researcher led' trials
- 'farmer led' field trials

Project methods:

- development of website…..
- leaflets, popular press articles, a technical booklet, and, where appropriate, refereed scientific journals….. ….

http://www.organicweeds.org.uk

Project outcomes: three themes have emerged

- Docks and perennial weeds
- System approaches to weed management
- Knowledge collation and dissemination

Project outcomes: on weed management in organic systems

- organic weed management is an intensely practical business
- weed "problems" are essentially systemic and cannot be "solved" by simple cause – effect analysis but require a deep understanding of land history, timing and spatial context.
- it is often not clear where 'scientific' research can help as each farm system is in some senses unique
- consequently farmers/growers do a lot of 'practical experimentation' on their farms (which includes observation, informal investigation and simple comparisons (i.e. experiential learning)
- researchers and advisors are best used to support this on-farm practical research (through providing information, monitoring, and devising ways in which farmers can do some of their own assessments by using qualitative indicators such as photographs and scores)
- basic research into weed biology provides a useful underpinning to resolving weed "problems"

Project outcomes: outputs (what will the project deliver)

- Knowledge development (combining farmer, advisor and researcher knowledge for more effective weed management options)
- Web based weed management information for organic farmers and growers, advisors (and researchers)
- A series of unique farmer case studies which present stories of weed management histories and weed management in practice
- Knowledge/protocols for on-farm trials to support on going farmer research
- Closer links between farmers, advisors and researchers in defining weed research agendas through the development of regular fora for reviewing , re-planning and re-designing research approaches and methods

Project outcomes: outputs (what will the project deliver)

- Specific topics for basic or applied research (funding applications?)
- Proposals on research methods which include more interdisciplinary, systemic and participatory research
- Proposals for a greater emphasis on the research process as a complement to research products
- An understanding of how farmer participatory research can add value to conventional , researcher- driven formal research approaches

Annex 5: OF0330: Cereal Varieties for Organic Production: Developing a Participatory Approach to Seed Production and Varietal Selection.

A COR Workshop. The role of participatory processes in organic research programmes

Dr Bruce D Pearce

IOR- Elm Farm Research Centre.

25th January 2005. HDRA.

OF0330: Cereal Varieties for Organic Production: Developing a Participatory Approach to Seed Production and Varietal Selection.

Participatory Cereals.

- Four Year Project .
  - Started on 1st August 2002.
  - Finish on 31st July 2006.
- Costs of £295K
- Aim: To develop a robust system for identifying, testing, multiplying and marketing cereal varieties, lines, mixtures and populations best suited to organic production in different parts of the country.

Objectives.

- 1. Develop a participatory research and development methodology for UK organic farmers using variety trialling and the management of seed-borne disease as examples.
- 2. Collect information on the range of cereal varieties currently grown by organic farmers to help identify the major priorities and constraints among the varieties available.
- 3. Establish a pilot programme of cereal variety trials with organic farmers on organic farms using the methodology developed by Objective 1.

Objectives.

- 4. To obtain information on which seed-borne diseases, including ergot, may cause problems in the organic seed production chain of wheat, barley, oats and triticale, and to examine any relationship between organic husbandry conditions (seed rate, sowing date, rotation etc.) and incidence/severity of disease.
- 5. Determine whether cultivars with good potential for organic production are resistant to one or more of the seed-borne disease problems.

Objectives.

- 6. Working with farmers (Objective 1), review and identify a range of organically acceptable seed treatments and processes, considering both chemical and physical methods, and test these under organic conditions to determine efficacy.
- 7. Formulate a code of best practice for the production of certified organic seed, and for the processing of seed on organic farms.
- 8. To evaluate the participatory research and development approach throughout the entire research process and produce guidelines and materials for best practice. Data will be collected throughout the duration of the project.

How the project ran.

- Desk study on participatory methods.
- Development of UK methods.
- Survey of varieties used.
- Survey of diseases.
- Variety resistance tests.
- Seed treatments tests.
- Pilot and then further field trial with farmers.
- Study, analysis and evaluation of the approach.

Evaluation of the Approach.

- Expectations different for different actors.
  - Funder.
  - Biologists.
  - Social scientists.
  - Farmers.
- Planning.
  - Field trials & Ownership.
  - Scientific rigour.
  - Training and learning.
  - Dissemination/Communication.

Evaluation of the Approach.

- Current experience and immediate needs.
  - Biologists - Positive.
    - Scientifically robust methods are being developed – Participatory?
  - Biologists – negative.
    - Understanding others needs.
    - Failing to make others understand our needs.
    - Getting farmers involved.
    - Boundaries of the project.

Evaluation of the Approach.

- Current experience and immediate needs.
  - Farmers.
    - More regular support.
    - Scientists more sensitive to their needs.

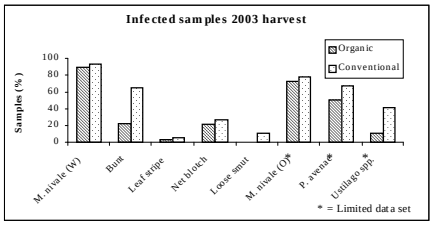
Evaluation of the Approach.

- Lessons for the future - farmers.
  - Experience of mistakes has been recognised.
  - Develop better relationships with scientists.
  - 18 of the 20 came back.
- Lessons for the future – biologists.
  - Experience of mistakes has been recognised.
  - More inclusive planning.
  - Better communication.

Personal Experience.

- COMMUNICATION!!!
- Dynamics.
- Entrenched ideas.
- Scary.
- Juggling different expectations, priorities, interests.
- Frustrating!!
- Reward!!

Some results.



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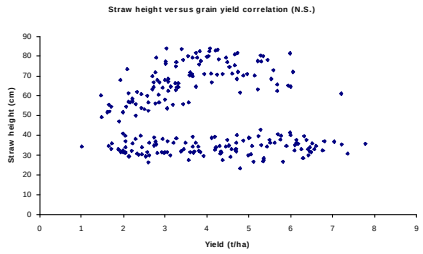

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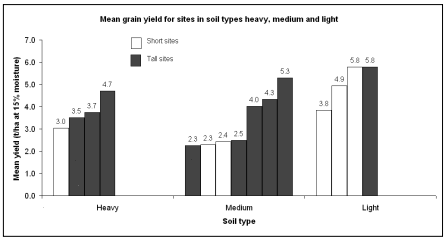

Annex 6: The Participatory Approach: Poultry Research at Sheepdrove Organic Farm

The Participatory Approach: Poultry Research at Sheepdrove Organic Farm

Josie O'Brien BSc (Hons.) MSc

Poultry Researcher

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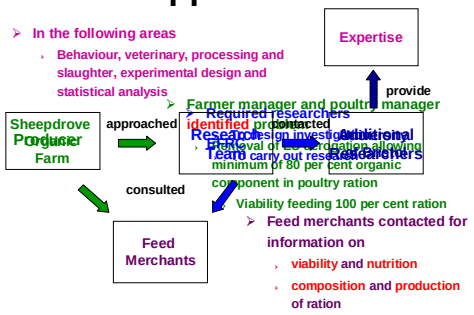
Introduction

- EFRC contracted by Peter and Juliet Kindersley of Sheepdrove Organic Farm
  - To conduct research into, and develop a silvo-poultry system at Sheepdrove organic farm
    - Envisaged by Sheepdrove
    - Designed using organic and holistic farm ideals
  - System was designed and implemented

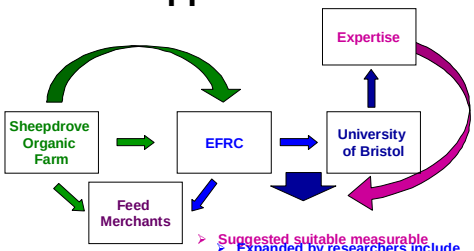
Past Research

- Result of development partnership spreads to other areas
  - problems or 'symptoms' identified by Sheepdrove poultry staff
  - 'cause' investigated by EFRC research team
    - Migration
    - Effect of temperature on bird weight
    - Effect of initial bird weight on final weight
- Current research
  - Instigated by Sheepdrove staff

Approach



Approach



- Suggested suitable measurable parameters
- Expanded by researchers include measurable parameters
- Effect on
- Producer set research objectives
- Agronomic and Economic factors
- Research addressed needs of producer
- Behaviour Health and Welfare
- Joint techniques for measurement
- OBJECTIVE: To compare 100 percent organic ration with an 80 percent organic production ration

Parameters

- Weekly weights
- Weekly behavioural observations
- Gait scoring (1 week prior to slaughter)
- At slaughter
  - On-line flapping
  - Feather damage and cleanliness
  - Contact dermatitis
  - Dressed carcase weight
  - Wing haemorrhages and red wing tips
  - Carcase bruising, damage and conformation

On-Going Development

- Offered ideas
- Raised potential problems and learning curve
- Informed farm staff of training opportunities
- Animal welfare courses

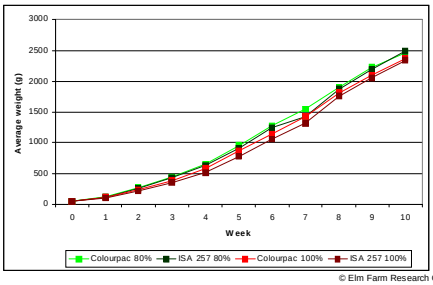
Sheepdrove Organic Farm → EFRC ← University of Bristol

- Offered ideas on further development
- Discussed of measurable parameters
- Discussed of experimental design
- Carried out research

Experimental Results

Agronomic and Economic Factors

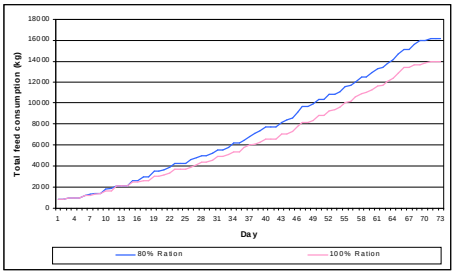
- Growth curve average live weight



Experimental Results

Agronomic and Economic Factors

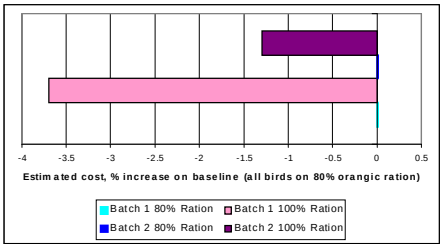
- Feed Consumption



Experimental Results

Agronomic and Economic Factors

- Feed Costing



Experimental Results

Behavioural, Health and Welfare Factors

- Behavioural Observations
  - Some significant difference were identified between the two rations - No trends
  - Cannibalistic behaviour could reflect nutritional deficits - low levels of essential amino acids
  - Absolutely no difference in cannibalistic behaviours
    - Virtually no incidence
- Gait Scoring
  - Low levels gait scores – no sig. different in rations
  - Good leg health and welfare

100% Organic Ration

Summary

- No justification on economic health or welfare grounds for an extension of the derogation to allow for an 80% organic poultry ration

Highlights and Lowlights

- Production scale trial
- Farmers facing problems directly involved in research to tackle problems
- Re-evaluation of needs and direction possible
- Experience and input of several partners
- Rewarding for partners
- Forging useful links for future information exchange
- Boundaries to possibilities of research
- Effective communication – researcher understanding of farmer needs
- Effective communication – farmer understanding of research needs
- Scheduling and organisation
- Retaining research focus sometimes difficult
- Personalities

Conclusions

- Successful approach?
  - Produced valuable applicable results for farm
  - Addressed a major issue causing current concern for organic poultry producers
    - Removal of 20% non-organic feed component derogation in August 2005
  - Applicable to wider organic movement outside Sheepdrove Organic Farm

Conclusions

- Successful approach?
  - Good distribution of results
    - Farm - regular updates on progress and farm report produced
    - Researchers in team – Report produced and circulated
    - Feed merchants - Results discussed and data made available
    - Wider Farming Community - Presentation of research findings at conferences
    - Researchers - Presentation of research findings at conferences
    - Researchers - Publication in scientific journals

Conclusions

- Successful approach?
  - Discussion of results and possible directions with partners
    - Development of further trials
  - Further Trials
    - Small scale
    - Further investigation into one hundred percent organic rations with differing compositions
    - Trials to factor in the effect of season, in particular winter weather and temperatures

Summary

- This project successfully incorporated participatory type approach
- Trial provided
  - Robust findings valuable to all involved
  - Good relationships between partners
  - Learning curve for future trials
  - Potential and ideas to continue this work

Annex 7: Improving the availability of organic forage seed (Heather McCalman, IGER)

Introduction of the EU regulation requiring organic farmers to use 100% organic herbage seed is getting closer. Currently they are enjoying derogation from this because suitable seed is not available. For 2004 seeds mixtures must contain at least 50% organic seed. This breathing space before full 100% organic seed gives the organic industry time to improve the availability of suitable species and varieties.

In a recent survey, organic farmers in Wales identified persistence, total annual yield and early spring growth as the most important characteristics of a seed mix. Sourcing organic seed of such forage varieties is essential for the continued development of the organic sector.

Following a series of farmer discussion group meetings, where these concerns were highlighted, a feasibility project funded by Farming Connect is looking at the potential of producing organic forage seed in Wales .

Experimental plot work at IGER has been tackling some of the challenges in organic seed production. Four farmers from organic discussion groups, with a range of farm types and systems are involved in developing this work by hosting field scale demonstration plots.

Field plots designed with the farmers have focused on different approaches to forage seed production. Initially the emphasis has been on weed control, crop nutrition and integration of forage seed production into the farming systems using perennial ryegrass, hybrid ryegrass and timothy seed crops.

Harvesting, drying and cleaning of seed have also been covered. The first demonstration area of the hybrid ryegrass variety Aber Linnet was successfully harvested in July 2003, with further areas to be harvested in 2004.

To involve all stakeholders, the project includes Organic and Seed Certification bodies, as well as seed companies to progress organic forage seed production in Wales and to develop a better understanding of the challenges involved.

(from http://www.iger.bbsrc.ac.uk/Practice/GTT/OrganicSeed.htm)

Annex 8: Stakeholder participation matricies

Weeds project

	Inform	Consult	Partnership	Control
Identification	DEFRA	HRI, EFRC, ADAS, RULIVSYS	Farmers, researchers	DEFRA
Planning	DEFRA		Farmers advisors	Uncertain?
Implementation	Farming community	Environmental bodies Certification agencies	Farmers advisors	Uncertain?
Monitoring and Evaluation	Farming community		Farmers advisors	Uncertain?

Cereal Project

	Inform	Consult	Partnership	Control
Identification	OAMG OSP farmers	OAMG OSP Farmers millers	OAMG OSP Farmers Seed cleaners	OAMG OSP farmers
Planning		Farmers OAMG OSP	Seed cleaners	Researchers
Implementation	Advisor		Seed cleaners	Farmer Researchers
Monitoring and Evaluation			DEFRA Advisors Farmer	DEFRA Researcher

Poultry Project

	Inform	Consult	Partnership	Control
Identification	Bristol Uni		EFRC	Sheepdrove Organic Farm (SOF)
Planning	Feed merchants	Bristol Uni	Bristol Uni EFRC SOF (all aspects)	
Implementation	SOF	Feed merchants Bristol Uni	SOF (farm staff and manager) EFRC Bristol	EFRC
Monitoring and Evaluation	SOF (all)	Bristol Uni	SOF(staff and manager) EFRC Bristol Uni	EFRC SOF (control of output)

IGER Project

	Inform	Consult	Partnership	Control
Identification	Farmers EU standard	Farmers Cert bodies Seed certs and industry Plant breeders Extension agents	Farmers Certification bodies Seed certifiers Seed industry Plant breeders Extension agents	Industry
Planning	Farmers Extension agents	Certification bodies Seed certifiers and industry Farmers	Farmers Certification bodies Seed certifiers Seed industry Plant breeders Extension agents	Farmer
Implementation	Farmer IGER	Farmer IGER	farmer	Farmer
Monitoring and Evaluation	Seed certification	Extension agents Seed certification		Funder

Annex 9: SWOT analysis of on-farm research approaches.

Contractual

Strengths: Targeted and frame limited Controlled Primary stakeholder focus Evaluation easy Easy funding, costing and management	*Weaknesses:* Narrow Inflexible Like a circle, limits innovation Often short term Complex systems not described
Opportunities: "more work needed" syndrome keeps cash flow into research can be generalised and extended to other farmers?	*Threats:* Depends on "funder" fashion Farmer interaction and changing goals, changing mind

Consultative

Strengths: Focused Rigorous Some farmer involvement	*Weaknesses:* Don't address a need Not enough farmer involvement Not relevant Unequal ownership
Opportunities: Knowledge exchange between farmer and researcher Scientific innovation Farmer opps advisor involvement to take research forward	*Threats:* Can go off at a tangent No uptake of results Ignore important factors

Collaborative

Strengths: Covers all partners (research, advisor, farmer) Statistically rigourous Relevant Direct dissemination to partners Commercial confidentiality All own project	*Weaknesses:* Hard to maintain focus More difficult to plant Increased admin costs
Opportunities: Better knowledge transfer to wider audience Good feedback Building new or improving existing relationships Better understanding of others needs	*Threats:* Commercial confidentiality Lack of accountability/ un clear Too much compromise Inappropriate implementation

Collegial

Strengths: All involved Inter disciplinary More equitable	*Weaknesses:* Lack of control Takes longer Requires learning how to work together
Opportunities: Relevance to all involved (meeting needs) Develop new way to work Learn about each other New perspectives	*Threats:* Failure to reach consensus Such a big team that it is unmanageable

Annex 10: Using Qualitative Methods in Organic Farming Research

Using Qualitative Methods in Organic Farming Research

Frances Harris
Kingston University

1

- Qualitative research is not wishy-washy, but collected with structure and method and analysed rigorously to provide sound results

2

Data collection: Sampling

- Probability sampling and non-probability sampling
- Identifying small samples
  - Purposive sampling
  - Snow-balling
  - Clustered sampling
- Other issues
  - Trustworthiness
  - Cooperation
  - Access
  - Key informant

3

Data collection: Interviewing

- Establish a relationship with interviewee which is relaxed, informal, equal
- Establish a mutually convenient time and place to meet
- Semi-structured interview
  - Core questions, but flexibility to explore issues in more detail
  - Use interrogators: who? what? where? when? why? how?
  - Use scales, rating, ranking exercises
- Take copious notes, or record interview on tape
- Post interview, add context, fill in gaps

4

Data Analysis

- Review notes / Listen to tapes
- Identify key themes and issues
- Use coding in notes
- Develop analysis tables
- Draw out themes

5

Quality control in qualitative research

- Consistency
  - Researcher trained in interviewing techniques
  - SSI ensures comparable data collected from each interview
- Corroboration
  - Triangulation
- Evidence
  - Document the process

6

Case studies

- Illustrate issues clearly
- Provide opportunity for depth of analysis
- Enable more holistic analysis
- Useful in explaining relationships

7

Summary

- Qualitative research is a useful method for discovery, explanation
- There is a structure and method to qualitative research which will provide academic rigour
- Qualitative research complements, rather than replaces, scientific research

8

Annex 11: Characteristics of quantitative and qualitative research; look at the quantitative column, fill in the complementary characteristics on the qualitative side.

Quantitative	Qualitative
Scientific	
Objective	
Data are numbers	
Deductive	
Explanation/ prediction	
Generalisation	
Nomothetic	
Large sample sizes/ macro scale	
Incidence and frequency	
Artificial	
Subjects/ objects	
Society	
Data gathered by technology or prescription	

After doing the exercise does this make you any more or less apprehensive? Why? How could you address any issues that are emerging?