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Iacr Report for 1998

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Aria

Rothamsted Research

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Arable Research Institute Association

As in previous years, two meetings, two workshops and a regional meeting were held in 1998.

The first workshop, on disease forecasting, was held at IACR-Rothamsted in January. As well as Institute staff, Dr Paul Meakin from the H-GCA and Dr Anthony Biddle from the PGRO contributed.

Genetically modified oilseed rape and sugar beet were the subject of the second workshop held in March at IACR-Broom's Barn. In the morning, speakers included Dr Tom Jolliffe from Avanta and Professor Graham Jellis from the PBI. The afternoon was spent touring laboratories viewing demonstrations and exhibits on biotechnology.

IACR-Long Ashton was the venue for the Summer meeting at which the topic covered in the morning was pesticides in water. All five speakers were from outside the Institute: Dr Andrée Carter (Soil Survey and Land Research Centre), Dr Andy Croxford (Environment Agency), Mr Graham Harris (ADAS Gleadthorpe), Mr Steve Higginbotham (Rhône Poulenc) and Professor Paul Miller (Silsoe Research Institute). In the afternoon members toured field experiments.

Two topics were considered at the Autumn meeting at IACR-Rothamsted. Outside speakers who contributed to the session on economics and agronomy were Mr Andrew Hebard from John King and Sons Limited and Mr Simon Lunniss from the NFU. Mr Simon Kightley from the NIAB contributed to the session on environmental impact and crop improvement.

A disappointingly attended regional meeting, with the theme keeping UK cereals competitive, was held at the John Innes Centre in late November. In addition to presentations from John Lucas, Pilar Barcelo and John Lenton, delegates heard from Dr James Brown from the JIC and from Mr Doug Stevens from the Morley Research Centre. Ben Miflin, at his last ARIA meeting as Director, provided the closing remarks.

Three Board members resigned during the year:- Dr David Brightman, Mr George Douglas and Mr Nick Poole. Dr Brightman and Mr Poole were re-elected at the AGM but Mr Douglas did not seek re-election. Mr Douglas has been a member of the ARIA Board since the Association was launched in 1990, and his considerable input and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

Although 15 new members joined the Association, there was a net loss of 23 during the year. This was disappointing and measures are being taken to recruit new members, particularly from the advisory/consultancy sectors. Despite the fall in membership, meetings were generally well supported.

Membership details can be obtained from:

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The Arable Research Institute Association Board

(as at 31 December 1998)

Chairman

Mr J.F. Oldfield

Vice-chairman

Dr D.K. Brightman

Member Directors

Mr R.C. Beldam
Mr A.J. Bide
Dr P.V. Biscoe
Mr A.E.T. Forsyth
The Hon. Richard Pleydell-Bouverie
Mr N.F. Poole
Mr J.H. Tingey
Vacant

Appointed in consultation with the Lawes Agricultural Trust

Mr A.F. Pemberton

Appointed in consultation with the University of Bristol

Mr T.W. Cox

In attendance

Mr H.M. Anderson (*ARIA Secretary*)
Dr R.K. Atkin
Mr S. James
Professor B.J. Miflin (*as Institute Director and Director of IACR-Rothamsted*)
Professor P.R. Shewry (*as Director of IACR-Long Ashton Research Station*)