



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FRESH PRODUCE CONSORTIUM TECHNICAL GROUP HELD ON 29th JUNE 2022

REMOTE MEETING 10.00 – 12.00am

Meeting Chair – Jon Tugwell (Fyffes)

Meeting Facilitator – Kelly Shields (FPC)

Present:

Alan Swann - Maersk
Alex Hucklesbury - Suncrop
Cara Moore - Red Tractor
Chris Goodliffe - Manorfresh
Chris Wallwork - Agrii
David Kennedy - Farm2Fork Consultancy Ltd
Felix von Eynern - GlobalGAP
Fernanda Aller - Wealmoor
Ian Finlayson - SPI Advantage
Ian Rock - Eurofins
Jakub Zalewski - Morgan Cargo
James Checkley - SGS
James Davidson - SGS
James Phillips - BBSRC
Javier Cilla - Food Experts
Jim Flambert - Primafruit
Jim Jefcoate - Food Experts
John Worth - Tesco
Jon Tugwell - Fyffes
Kelly Shields - FPC

Lizzy Nuttall - Berry Gardens
Lydia Stratton - GlobalGAP
Millicent Harwood - HSE / CRD
Morag Webb - ColeACP
Nazario Munoz - Food Experts
Nigel Jenney - FPC
Naresh Patel - i2Fast
Paul Ward - Bees N Trees
Petra Kohler - GlobalGAP
Phil Gurney - Audax
Rachel Merrick - HSE / CRD
Russell Wedgebury - HSE / CRD
Sarah von Fintel - GlobalGAP
Simon Edinborough - Karsten
Stefan de Cristoforo - Waitrose
Steve Williams - SGS
Susan Smith - Prime Produce
Tim Johnson - Fenmarc
Veryan Bliss - Suncrop

Apologies for absence: Stefan Rusev – Berry World, Mike Corbett – Tesco, Tim Johnson – Fenmarc (tech difficulties)

Minutes of the last meeting

The previous minutes of 16/2/22 were issued at the end of the previous meeting and prior to this meeting, reviewed and approved.

Matters Arising from Minutes and Completed Actions

BRCGS Global Food Standard version 9

FPC / Fyffes have provided comprehensive feedback on both Full Standard v9 and also Fresh Produce Guidelines. There is a further meeting with BRC scheduled on 9/7/22 prior to Standard launch in August 2022 (audits from Feb 2023).

Plastic Packaging Tax – guidance updated May 22

Please be reminded that the PPT return needs to be completed every quarter.

For the Quarter 1st April to 30 June 22, the deadline to submit your PPT return and payment by 29 July 22. Contact FPC directly if you have any queries.

HMRC Call for Evidence: An Independent Customs Regime response

A response was provided by FPC (thanks to Fresh Clear for participating in a detailed discussion) and a follow up call is being scheduled for further comment.

Chemical Regulation Directorate Report

A report was issued by Russell Wedgebury and Rachel Merrick. A copy of this report is available with the minutes.

Additional points of note: The PRIF Annual Report will be delayed this year. Quarter 4 results will be published in July 2022.

There was a noted fall in chlorate levels being found.

It was raised by CRD in the February meeting that higher levels of residues are reported in wholesale products. It was stated that guidance notes were being considered to assist traders.

FPC have a number of wholesale members that could support in any investigation and also have an existing guidance document (currently being reviewed) that has been used as the industry standard.

Action: FPC are happy to support CRD in relation to wholesale controls and will share the updated Pesticide Guidance draft for review to address this issue specifically.

Responsible: Kelly Shields

Timescale: 15th July 2022

High Risk Food Non Of Animal Origin Consultation

An FSA consultation is out for the review of commodities on Reg 2019/1793 which are subject to increased levels of controls.

FPC are completing a data search to provide information on the proposed changes to products as well as those products NOT scheduled for review (e.g. Kenyan Green Beans). This is based on RASFF, PRIF, anonymised industry data and (out of date – up to 2020) FSA HRFNAO testing data.

The following attendees registered an interest in providing opinions on this – M Webb (ColeACP), Jim Flambert (Primafruit), Ian Rock (Eurofins), Paul Ward (Bees N Trees).

Action: FPC to follow up with interested parties to set up meetings to discuss further. Any other companies wishing to discuss this are invited to contact Kelly at kshields@freshproduce.co.uk

Responsible: Kelly Shields

Timescale: 8th July 2022

Action: Consultation response to be returned to FSA and provided to members

Responsible: Kelly Shields

Timescale: 8th July 2022

GB / EU Divergence

A report was provided by Phil Gurney of Audax to talk through the emerging issue of GB and EU MRL divergence. Details are provided in the presentation.

A small working group has been set up to look specifically at this issue with the following aims:

- Tracking new GB and EU MRLs
- Tracking GB MRL submissions (GB use and import tolerances).
- Assessing emergent risks (including GB MRL exceedances)
- Inclusion of issues and management strategies in revised FPC Pesticide Guidance

All findings will be shared with FPC members in the upcoming FPC Pesticide Guidance update. Any members with specific issues or concerns are encouraged to contact FPC to discuss individual cases.

GlobalGAP Logo and IFA v6 Update

FPC were joined by members of the GlobalGAP team to talk through the opportunities of using the GGN logo on products being imported from overseas. The inclusion on packaging has predominantly been for horticultural products in the UK but there is scope for additional branding.

All details are provided in the presentation.

An update on the timeline for issue of IFA v6 was provided – the final standard will be launched in September 2022 and implementation will be required from Sept 2023.

Comments were raised from John Worth (Tesco) and Jim Flambert (Primafruit) relating to the poor visibility of Grasp and how this was restricting it's reach and use. Comments were taken on board by GlobalGAP and messages taken back to the wider team.

Trading in 2022

Nigel Jenney gave an update on the plant health / trading situation.

This spring / summer has seen a turbulent time in terms of governmental decision making. Planned plant health changes were scrapped for July 1st but there are still changes to inspection frequencies and cost structure. Links to changes are provided in the presentation however members are encouraged to contact FPC for specific information or guidance.

The Import / Export Guidance will be updated once the final decision making processes have been made by DEFRA towards the end of the summer.

FPC are consulting with DEFRA further on 14th July 2022 to discuss the Target Operating Model and structure of inspection going forwards. To date, there has been good engagement which has not been seen in some other sectors.

All updates and decisions will be communicated to members as soon as it is publicly available to ensure that all businesses have an opportunity to prepare appropriately. FPC are committed to ensuring that a lean, proportionate, risk-based and safe approach is taken to any plant health and food safety controls the government choose to implement.

Should any member have any concern regarding the proposed changes, we encourage you to contact us to discuss further.

Members are encouraged to access our website – www.freshproduce.org.uk – to follow our News and Guidance sections for updates.

Should members not have access to the website members area, please contact either Kelly Shields or Karen Knight to gain access / password re-set.

BBSRC Funding

A presentation was given by James Phillips from BBSRC to discuss funding opportunities that may be of relevant to FPC members. It was queried by Fernanda Aller at Wealmoor whether BBSRC are able to put businesses in touch with science / funded partners and James confirmed that this was possible.

James' contact details are within the presentation and therefore should any members be interested in finding out more, they are encouraged to get in touch with BBSRC directly.

Funding opportunities are provided on the FPC website and in the Members Update email as they become available so members are encouraged to check these regularly as well.

Any other Business

Jon Tugwell asked for an update on the Sustainability Group.

Kelly Shields informed members that due to recent developments relating to cost of living / production concerns / changes in plant health government decisions that have required significant involvement, progress had been slower than anticipated due to resources. GHG Guidance documents are planned to come out from FPC but there have been a number of recent guidance

documents that will be relevant to this released within the last 4 weeks (Wrap Food & Drink Emissions / GRI Agriculture Reporting standards).

Fernanda Aller of Wealmoor kindly offered support in the creation of documentation which KS will follow up on.

The date of the next Sustainability Meeting still to be confirmed and KS will contact the group. Chris Goodliffe asked whether he would be able to attend the next meeting.

Action: Date of next sustainability Meeting to be confirmed and communicated.
Responsibility: Kelly Shields Timescale: 8th July 2022

In response to the continuing labour crisis and Government focus on automation, FPC have launched a collaborative project with #HowToRobot. #HowToRobot are providing an exclusive offer to FPC members to help find solutions to labour challenges. This collaboration enables businesses to explore tailored automation options.

With over 16,000 international supplier solutions, the offer includes a free on-site visit from an #HowToRobot expert worth £3,000 for a limited time.

Members who are interested are encouraged to find out more here: [FPC | #HowToRobot](#)

A number of FPC Guidance documents are due for review and these are scheduled for the coming weeks. The priority being the Pesticide Guide and Import / Export Guides.

All updated guidance will be notified to members via the Weekly update and are available free of charge to members on the website.

The FPC Salary survey was issued in January 22 and in light of increasing labour costs, this may be scheduled again sooner than the annual review. It has also been discussed within FPC that a robotics / automation survey may accompany this to ascertain the current level of of uptake in the industry.

FPC are sponsoring a packhouse automation engineering skills scoping project with University of Lincoln, Gatsby and Catapult currently and this remains a focus to ensure that we are able to understand the future needs of the industry.

A brief summary of food safety news was provided as AOB (see presentation for details) as a result of time being favourable. No comments or queries were raised.

Dates for the Diary

Friday 16th September 2022 – FPC Fresh Awards. Please be sure to add this date to your diary, enter as many awards as you wish to and promote the event far and wide. It's a fantastic opportunity to invite customers / suppliers to share the successes of the industry.

Should you wish to enter an award or purchase tickets, please visit [FPC FRESH AWARDS 22](#)

Wednesday 28th September 2022 – FPC Technical Meeting. This was discussed as being an in-person event that was more of a day event with a range of topics to be more inclusive for all members. This could be a port visit that covers a visit and then specific drop in sessions.

More details to follow.

Thursday 3rd November 2022 – FPC Futures and Careers. Following the success of the inaugural Futures and Careers event last year, this event is being delivered at Peterborough Showground. The websites are now open, registration is free and we look forward to welcoming a range of speakers, stand holders, students and attendees.

Should you wish to attend, please visit [INTRO \(fpccareers.co.uk\)](#).

Should you be interested in having a trade stand, please contact our Events Manager, Linda Bloomfield, at linda@freshproduce.org.uk