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INTRODUCTION

This international event marks the 12th anniversary of this biennial conference and provides an opportunity to discuss pesticide (and bio pesticide) application issues in an informal setting with platform and poster presentations. Key workers from research institutes, industry and regulatory authorities provide a unique mix of biological and engineering sciences.

While global economies have suffered turmoil since the last conference in 2010, the demand for agriculture to provide sustenance for an ever growing population continues. As standards of living improve in less fortunate populations the associated dietary changes will further the demand on land and water resources. In addition to this, it is not just food production that vies for these finite resources but crops for energy production and other industrial uses. While the application of pesticides and bio pesticides offer opportunities in maximising production on an industrial scale it must be remembered that assistance on a small scale can also offer considerable benefits. The papers presented here contribute to the wealth of knowledge needed to support a safe, sustainable and efficient industry.

Invited speakers included:

Dr Mike Bushell (Syngenta, Jealott’s Hill International Research Centre, Bracknell, UK)
Prof. Heinz Ganzelmeier (Julius Kühn Institute, Braunschweig, Germany)

Key topic areas for sessions include:

- Handheld Application Techniques
- International Regulations and Standards
- Application of Biopesticides/Biocontrol
- Formulation/Adjuvants
- Bystander and Operator Exposure
- Precision Crop Spraying/Target Sensing Techniques
- Sprayer Loading and Cleaning/Point Source Pollution
- Control Systems for Sprayers/GPS Technology
- Spray Drift
- Spray Physics and Application Variables
- Crop Adapted Spraying
- On Target Deposition
- Greenhouse Applications
- Fruit/Vine/Vegetable Spraying

Thanks go to the session organisers (Tom Robinson, Ben Magri, Colin Mountford-Smith, Jan van de Zande, Paolo Balsari, Bill Taylor, Simon Cooper, Richard Glass, David Stock, Paul Miller, Philip Carpenter, Per Gummer Andersen and Bill Jones) for their work on editing the papers and finally to Carol, Claire and Bernadette at the AAB Office for organising the conference and producing this book.

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