

CROP PROTECTION AWARDS

Hamish Kidd reports on a few recent awards made in the area of crop protection

ACS Industrial Innovation Award

Five scientists and the President and CEO of AgraQuest have been named recipients of Industrial Innovation Awards from the American Chemical Society's Western Region for their innovation in the discovery and development of Serenade® biological fungicide. In a recent ceremony at Santa Barbara, California, Sherry Heins, Denise C. Manker, Jennifer Ryder Fox, Stephen Flanagan, Jimmy Orjala and CEO Pamela G. Marrone of AgraQuest, Inc., in Davis, California, received their awards.

Serenade®, a *Bacillus subtilis* (QST713 strain), was found in an orchard in Fresno County, California, and has been developed by Marrone and her team into a biological fungicide to control a variety of fungal and bacterial diseases, including grey mold, powdery mildew, leaf and stem blights, and fire blight. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved the product for agricultural and home and garden use, and it is also approved for use by organic growers.

AgraQuest is developing and commercializing a pipeline of natural pest management products; Serenade® is its first product and will be the foundation for the discovery and development of other natural products for the pest management industry.

The BCPC Medals

At its recent conference at Brighton the British Crop Protection Council (BCPC) the BCPC Medal to three crop protection professionals for their outstanding contributions.

Professor David Atkinson

David joined East Malling Research Station in 1969 where he worked for over 15 years on crop root systems, orchard soil management, herbicide use and agronomy. During this period he also acted as an advisor to NFU Soft Fruit committee and its Strawberry Breeding sub-committee, was the joint editor of the classic text *The Herbicide Glyphosate*.

In 1985 David was appointed Head of the Soil Fertility / Plants Division at the Macaulay Institute conducting research on soil factors influenced crop performance through effects on roots and their associated microorganisms.

In 1988, he became Professor of Agriculture at the University of Aberdeen, a joint post with the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC). His has risen over the years to his present position as Vice Principal (Research and Education) and Academic Director. He is SAC spokesperson on both

Organic Agriculture and GM Foods, in both of which he continues to have research interests.

Catharine Knott (see page 224 in this issue)

Cathy joined the Processors and Growers Research Organisation (PGRO) in 1975 where she was employed for 25 years, becoming 'The Authority' on weed control in peas and beans.

Whilst at PGRO, she was involved in the development of most of the herbicides for legume crops. Her variety screens showing the 'reaction to herbicides' have been used by manufacturers, distributors, consultants and farmers as the 'bible' on crop safety. Cathy campaigned vigorously to encourage manufacturers to maintain registration of products to use on legume crops. Many older active substances will not be supported in the EC review because manufacturers cannot justify the cost of support for minor uses. As a member and latterly chairman, of the BCPC Minor Uses Working Group, she played a vital role in creating the list of requests for 'Essential Uses' which Pesticides Safety Directorate has submitted to the European Commission.

Ted Southcombe

Ted joined Fisons in 1969 as an agricultural engineer where he built up a wide-ranging knowledge of all types of pesticide application equipment. As well as designing and developing a range of crop sprayers for lease/hire to UK farmers, Ted worked on many research projects involving the application of the company's agricultural and pest control products both in the UK and overseas.

As the company FBC merged to form Schering and subsequently AgrEvo, Ted became Head of the Applications Department from which he took early retirement in 1999. He still remained active on the BAA Agronomy and Applications Committee as an applications specialist representative for the industry. Through the committee he was key in drawing together applications specialists from all parts of the industry, to develop principles and guidelines for pesticide application, including the *BCPC Spray and Nozzle Classification System* which has now been developed into an international system. His BCPC publications *Hand-held and Amenity Sprayers Handbook* and the *Boom and Fruit Sprayers Handbook* along with his *Get the Best out of your Sprayer* handbook and slides set, are used extensively as the basis for training and certification of all UK pesticide equipment operators.