

Dr David Cooper:

Gained a B.Sc in Zoology at University College Swansea, and a D.Phil at Oxford. His first job was at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, Edinburgh, where he became Agricultural and Plant Health Entomologist, giving advice on aphids and virus spread in seed potato and other classification schemes.

He then moved to MAFF (ADAS), Reading, as an Advisory Entomologist, before transferring to MAFF/ADAS at Harpenden as Head of Disease and Pest Assessment. Here he worked on forecasting and control – and was the representative on the Boxworth Project.

In 1990 he moved to MAFF at Nobel House, as Deputy Scientific Liaison Officer, managing arable programmes with research institutes, universities and government agencies; and contributing to R&D strategies and pesticides policy. This included overseeing LINK projects and working with HGCA, BBRO, PGRO, BBSRC, NIAB-TAG, and HRI

In 2001, Defra succeeded MAFF, and David became R&D Programme Manager/Scientific Advisor for the Sustainable Farming Systems and Biodiversity Programme, including LINK programmes. Here he was instrumental in setting up Sustainable Agriculture and Food Innovation Platform and subsequently the Agri-Tech Initiative.

Since 2011 David has been Manager/Scientific Advisor of the Crops and Horticulture Policy Delivery Team R&D Programme, overseeing programmes on crop genetic improvement and Integrated Crop Management, and Defra Food and Farming Group representative on the EU Working Group on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)

“This award is for David’s role within MAFF and later Defra in the support and promotion of R&D in the arable and pesticides sectors,” said Dr Colin Ruscoe Executive Chairman of BCPC when presenting the award. “David has been a staunch supporter of UK R&D and his knowledge and insight have been invaluable in facilitating the funding of many R&D projects. Without his expertise and engagement many areas of R&D may not have been supported.”