

Anne Thompson



Anne grew up on a family farm in Yorkshire her early years spent hand weeding and driving tractors. It was here she developed her love of Agriculture.

After gaining a BSc in Biological Sciences at Birmingham University followed by a MSc in Crop Protection at Reading University she joined AH Marks as a Field Trials officer.

In 1982 Anne joined Dow Agriculture for what was to become a 36-year career with the company in various roles including research, development and regulation. Her first role was as a Technical Officer in the north of England conducting field trials and advising farmers. In 1984 she moved to Hitchin as herbicide technical specialist and was responsible for the first technical launch of Starane herbicide, a breakthrough in cleavers control for UK farmers.

In 1988 USA beckoned and Anne took a role as a Weed Scientist in Minnesota conducting field trials in soybean and maize and discovering a new language of pounds and gallons per acre. 1990 saw the merger of Elanco and Dow and a new opportunity in the Global Headquarters in Indianapolis developing herbicides for North America. It was here that Anne became interested in herbicide resistance which was to become an important thread of research throughout her career. Later she was Chairman of the European Herbicide Resistance Working Group of industry /academics for twelve years. This group later became the Resistance Working Group of the European Weed Research Society which she Chaired for a further four years. In addition, she was a member of the Weed Resistance Action Group in the UK.

In 1992 Anne returned to the UK and the European headquarters at Letcombe Regis. This led to one of the highlights of her career when she became Technical Manager for florasulam taking the product from early development to launch working across the globe in Europe, Middle East, China and North America. During this time, she had the opportunity to work with exceptional scientists across the globe and trained many scientists in good experimental practice.

In 2001 Anne moved to a people leader role development and regulatory for UK, Benelux and Nordics based in Hitchin. During this time, she was very active in gaining acceptance of 75% low drift nozzles use in risk assessments and worked on a number of LINK projects.

Anne has served on many organisations in addition to the resistance as a member and/or Chairman. These included the herbicide Industry panel leader for EPPO guidelines for herbicides (1997-2005), member of the biodiversity sub panel of the environmental group of the ACP (2002-2004), member of the BCPC Weeds group, Industry member of the Indicator Group of the Pesticide Forum,

Chairman of the Crop Protection Association (CPA) Regulatory Expert Group (2002-2006), Chairman of the CPA efficacy group (2015- 2018), member of the Crop Life International Non-Target Plant Working Group (2000-2018).