

## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS:**

Workshop to stay small, maybe even smaller than this time. It was suggested that anyone who wants to attend also has to contribute.

Longer and more directed/specific discussion sessions were requested.

Meeting is too technology based – more on concepts/biology was requested.

More post-docs and PhD students should attend/give talks

Buffet should have been held together with poster session, not on first evening when most of the delegates have not even arrived.

More representation from funding bodies and breeders would be good.

## **LIST OF ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED:**

I truly enjoyed the format and content of the meeting. This is a valuable workshop for cereal researchers but to be an effective format for discussion it will need to remain small. This fosters discussion among participants.

Suggest reverting to the idea that this is a workshop not a conference. That may hopefully encourage dialogue and change the dynamic of the meeting. Suggest all participants need to present something - either a talk or a poster. Previously we did not accept all comers - rather we looked at the applications and attempted to get the right balance between PI's, Postdocs, students, industry and grant awarding bodies.

As someone who is not from the UK but now living and working here, I think having a UK based forum to talk about UK-specific issues but hearing some international perspective is valuable and I think you have the balance pretty right. It would be a shame to lose that by expanding the meeting.

The workshop was well run and informative but it might have been beneficial to have more discussion and fewer talks. Any such discussion would have to be properly led however, either focusing on suggested topics or perhaps stem from a controversial talk?!

This was my first attendance at the workshop as I have just changed scientific fields. I found it a useful way to meet people and to learn in a relatively "unthreatening" atmosphere. I felt that the timetable was a little rushed and that longer breaks/longer discussion times would have been more beneficial for me, and probably new researchers, to allow us to make the contacts necessary for the future.

I found the meeting very interesting and useful. There did not seem to be enough time though to buttonhole people as the meal took a long time and you were restricted to those on your table. An informal buffet might be better.

Finally - the discussions are very interesting and get people thinking. Perhaps there could be more time allowed for these.

Although it is difficult to achieve it would be desirable to set up better opportunities for lively discussion. Q&A following a presentation on a tight time schedule doesn't work. 'Break out' topic groups with a collective feedback session generally seem to work better.

Excellent workshop but to many people, most of whom did not contribute. It has to be a condition of attending that you contribute something

Surprisingly few contributions from RRES, especially since they were one largest contingent in the audience

Some smaller workshops  
Demonstrations of bioinformatics tools and resources

Any possibility of approaching European funding agencies for a biennial international event to run either parallel to, or interleaved with, the current workshop?

I enjoyed this meeting very much. The atmosphere was informal and not intimidating, and the discussions after the sessions were about fundamentally important things, such as how we in the UK improve on converting the huge amounts of data to useful knowledge and understanding for the benefit of applied science and plant breeding.

My first attendance at these meetings, so I have nothing to compare it with, but as you can see I was happy with the meeting

The emphasis was slightly biased towards marker and expression monitoring technology rather than traits/concepts.

As suggested at the workshop, PhD students and new post-docs should also be encouraged to present their work.

This is a good opportunity for industry and academia to get together. It also benefits considerably from inputs from overseas and from experiences in other crops that are relevant to cereals.

I wonder if maize genetics and genomics could be considered for inclusion. Agreed it is not small grain but is a good model and applied research tool.

As a post doctorate whose money for travel comes directly from my research grant, I was disappointed that the free welcome buffet was on the first night, when a lot of people were still travelling to the event. I would certainly have attended if I was able to give up another day of work to be in Norwich by 7 pm. I didn't attend the dinner on Thursday night as £25 is fairly expensive. I also think the Quality hotel was very expensive (considering again that the funds come from my research money). It was similar for the Swallow hotel in Dundee. A cheaper option would be great.

It was difficult to be enthusiastic about the posters after a long day and without some sort of mixer with wine/snacks like we had at Dundee. Once again, the money spent on the buffet on the Wednesday night might have been nice for this session when everybody was there.

I agree with the suggestion made that there be some talks given by postgraduates and younger researchers. However I did enjoy the programme, particularly some of the international speakers.

I don't want the meeting to become a large international meeting, but nor do i want it to be restricted to UK specific issues. I think the UK cereal community lacks people studying the biology of cereals and people connecting with developing countries where the relevancy of our work could be greater. As such the meetings reflect the work going on in the UK which seems to be heavily focused on technology, particularly markers, and an overly attentive contact with breeders. No meeting I go to is as heavily dominated by technology as opposed to biology.

Perhaps more sponsorship can be achieved by getting some of the big companies to fund the event while they themselves can have stalls promoting their wares!!

This year's sessions were too focused on marker specific breeding and QTLs, which although interesting can lose the audience's interest span and concentration. Talkers perhaps should consider a pre-amble or more general introduction for those novices in the audience.

Provide wine for the poster session!

This was a really good meeting but more than that it is genuinely helping to foster a sense of community for cereal genetics in the UK - just as has GARNET for Arabidopsis and MAS has for US cereal community. It would be a tragedy if it stopped. If the breeding community can help in lobbying for support please let us know - another reason for having them represented on steering group.

I think it important to decide boundaries of this Cereal Network - i assume it includes breeding and we had a good turn out of breeders given that there were conflicting meetings for some elsewhere - but i think we need to be explicit and say that it does include breeding - as otherwise there will be no outlet for scientific developments in Crop Science. It is the only route to market so we need to work together.

There was less of a presence from breeders and end users this year which was a shame.

I also reiterate a comment made this year that more representation from funding bodies would be good.