PROGRESS REPORT (Summary)

13 May to 5 July 2002

Project Update

Technical Architecture
The Technical Architect has completed his initial investigations and an Architecture Definition report has been prepared for consideration by the Project Board.

Project Initiation Document
A revised draft will be issued shortly.

Project Plan and Costs
The Project Plan and costs were still being revised and would be circulated shortly. A meeting was held between NIAB ITD and DEFRA ITD in June to discuss how the IT component of the project may be resourced in terms of staff. The outcome of this meeting would be included in the revised Project Plan.

Industrial Partners
Letters have been sent to United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Trade Association (UKASTA), British Association Representing Breeders (BARB) and British Society of Plant Breeders (BSPB) asking them to suggest possible companies that would be interested in participating in the project as Industrial partners. Expressions of interest have been received directly from 16 companies to date and we have been asked to approach two more that are likely to be interested. We are currently analysing the size and areas of work that the companies cover so that we ensure that all products from the project are tested. If any gaps are identified then other companies/individuals may be approached directly. The original aim was to involve a maximum of 15 companies, so there has been sufficient interest.

User requirements
Two developers from DEFRA visited PVS on 4 and 5 July 2002 to start some analysis work for the project and begin defining User requirements. They gained an overview of Seed Certification from Head of Seed Certification Group at NIAB but decided to concentrate on PBR and NL application processes first due to the seed certification review. Already quite a number of practical issues have been brought to light which will need to explored thoroughly. A User Requirements catalogue is being set up in which the essential core requirements for the system as well as any desirable components will be identified.

Industry/Agents
I have met with an interested stakeholder who was keen to keep abreast of developments so that compatibility with the service offered to his clients was ensured. At this time his likely role is thought to be that of an "Agent"

Kay Williams
Project Manager