PROGRESS REPORT

14 December 2004 to 18 March 2005

Project Update

Project plan

No development work has been carried out as we are still awaiting Work Package Order (WPO) to be agreed for release 1.6 of Seed Certification and for REFLEX.

Work continues on bug fixing and releases to fix these were made to live on 7 March and 16 March. Problems were again experienced with the test system which delayed release of some fixes for several weeks.

Work on specification of requirements for release 1.6 of ESP has been carried out and items continue to be added to the list based on customer feedback. Once costings have been provided by IBM these items can be prioritised to agree what will be included in the final release. The requirements so far include:

- Interface with E-domero
- Removal of mandatory requirement for IACS number to be supplied on cert 2
- Change to cert 3summ to ensure results recorded for all appropriate categories and levels
- Changes to enforcement reports
- Changes to application reports
- Facility to produce final cert 10 seed test reports as per paper format
- Improved search facilities
- Change to crop inspector records to cater for number ranges used by Scotland
- Review of all forms for consistency

User testing and End to End testing

User testing continues as and when required.

Government Gateway issues

We wrote to David Myers in February to express concerns about support arrangements for the eGovernment Unit’s Government Gateway and DIS systems. There have been significant problems using the Single Sign On facility and the DIS boxes and substantial resource has been required to solve problems.

It is unlikely that there is an alternative to using the Government Gateway but it is accepted that clear performance and service levels are required.
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Previous problems with the IBM helpdesk failing to follow up calls with the Gateway have not recurred.

Technical Update

NIAB DIS Box
A meeting was held on 27 January between PVS, ICF and IBM to discuss the problems experienced with support for the NIAB DIS box. This resulted in agreement to move the NIAB DIS to Guildford so that it would be a much easier job for IBM to provide support. A WPO is in the process of being agreed to take this matter forward.

Test System
The stability of the test system continues to cause a serious concern. A release due in September was delayed until December because of problems and despite IBM carrying out a number of actions to provide a more stable system problems happened again in the first few weeks of this year resulting in a release due in January being delayed until March. Problems were resolved in mid February and we have not experienced any further problems since then.

NIAB XML Server
Problems experienced on the test system have shown that it could be possible for the NIAB XML server to be overwhelmed if there is a significant volume of messages. This issue needs to be addressed for the future.

Progress with CAL, ATS and F4F

ATS have said they will try submitting some cert 2 bulk now that some recent changes have been made to the live system. These have not yet been submitted

F4F have asked if we would be willing to fund our development costs if they meet their own to provide a bulk upload solution. We are still trying to make contact with F4F to progress this.

Seed Cert Regulations Project

Unit development of all forms needed for go-live has been completed. We are essentially now addressing issues arising from interactions between the forms and bug fixes.

The key remaining issue is the interaction between forms when copying Cert10 seed test data to the seed lot record for re-entered seed lots. A decision on whether the 31 May go-live date can be achieved will be reviewed on 31 March.

Go-live of Cosacs on 31 May is important to allow time to implement automatic processing of ESP data. The two main areas of work are putting the business rules in place and developing procedures to handle non-compliant data.
REFLEX

The REFLEX Analyst has now left the team. She has not been replaced and no further analysis work is being undertaken at present.

Most specification documents have been signed off by the senior user. The final document setting out detailed use cases is currently being reviewed.

Development work for REFLEX is still suspended pending the result of the bid for 2005/06 and completion of WPO.

Finance

There is budget remaining for 04/05 as no development work has been undertaken whilst awaiting WPOs to be agreed. We are seeking agreement for this budget to be rolled forward to 2005/06.

Bid process for 2005/06 still under way

Publicity, Training and Guidance

Demonstrations carried out at premises of

A F Monk  
Cebeco Seed Innovations  
DLF Trifolium  
English Sugar Beet Seed Co  
Harlow Agricultural merchants  
James Mortimer  
L B Hayes  
Nickersons  
Premium Crops  
Sherborne Processing  
Walnes Seeds  
Woodheads Seeds

Planned activities for the coming month

i. Progress contacts with 3rd party software suppliers

ii. Complete contact of all potential ESP users and carry out demonstrations as requested

iii. Agree Work Package Orders for release 1.6 of ESP and plan for Reflex

iv. NIAB DIS box to be moved to Guildford.