# What are charities currently doing?

Graham Jellis Chairman, Grants Committee The Perry Foundation

# Charities with an interest in postgraduate studentships

Not a definitive list but at least eight member charities of AFCP have an interest in studentships and seven of these are currently funding them

#### The Charities

- Chadacre Agricultural Trust
- Dairy Crest and NFU Scholarship Fund
- Douglas Bomford Trust
- Felix Thornley Cobbold Agricultural Trust
- Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust
- Morley Agricultural Foundation
- Perry Foundation
- Royal Horticultural Society

#### Numbers of studentships

Between them, these charities are currently funding c. 45 studentships (ie about 15 per year).

On average, this is 2–3 per year each.

### Funding

- Currently, only two of the charities responding to my questionnaire fully fund new studentships
- This means that there are great opportunities for collaborative funding – both between charities and with others.
- All the eight charities who are interested in funding studentships are willing to consider ways of improving joint funding.

#### Areas of funding

- Some charities only fund in very specific areas of research or regions of the country; others have a much broader remit.
- Areas which are already being funded and would be of interest to a number of charities include:
  - Soil
  - Plant and animal disease management
  - Utilising agricultural 'wastes'

#### Strategy

- How do/should charities select which students to fund?
  - By the project (strategy)?
  - By the institute?
  - By the quality of the student?

#### Strategy

- How do charities allocate studentships?
  - Strategy

Are the current needs of the industry considered, is there a process for prioritising these?

Could AFCP help with this – for example by providing links to the strategies of those with greater resources, such as AHDB?

#### How do we progress collaboration?

- If we really want to progress collaboration we, as charities, need to think about how we make things easier for potential students and institutes
- Timing of calls for applications
- Application form
- Advice to potential applicants
- Do charities with similar aims want to try and think about research priorities?

#### The message

- Charities do not want to loose their individuality but at the same time want to ensure that their, often very limited, funds are used to best advantage, for the benefit of the agriculture/horticulture industries.
- Working together, and with others such as AHDB and BBSRC, in the funding of postgraduate studentships, will help charities to achieve their aims.

## Thank you





This year BCPC wants to encourage young people to attend, including post-graduate students

Plans to include student posters

Currently on-going discussions with UBC (who take the lead in organising the conference) about a student session or day.

Would your charity/organisation like to be involved?