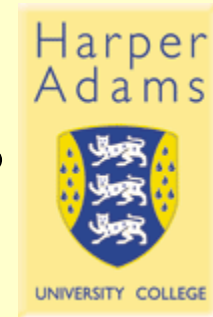


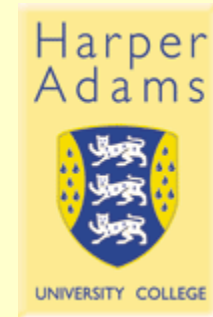
Accreditation of work-based and
lifelong learning for rural professions
and professionals : A UK case study



by

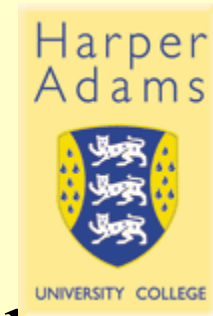
Professor Andy Cobb (Dean of
Academic Affairs) and Mr Charles Cowap
(Director of the REEDNet Programme),
Harper Adams University College,
Newport, Shropshire, UK

Aims of the presentation

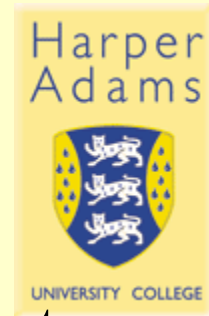


- Highlight the drivers of this activity
- Introduce the REEDNet programme
- Give examples of activities
- Explore opportunities for collaboration in a wider EU context

Drivers

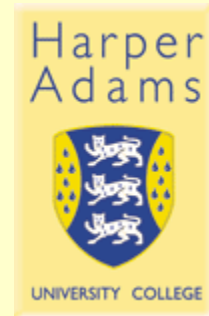


- The obligations of organisations to provide continuing professional development opportunities for their employees
- Government initiatives to promote and fund work-based and lifelong learning
- Satisfying legal requirements
- Utilising quality assurance processes to ensure that programmes are robust, challenging and fit for purpose



REEDNet

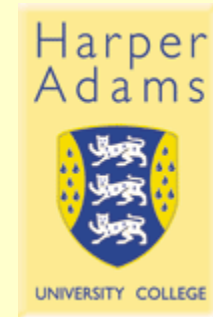
- Rural Employer Engagement Development Network
- A three year project to transform rural education, providing scientific, technical, and management training for all aspects of the rural economy
- We specialise in agriculture and land management, the food industry, animal and crop science, land-based engineering and the rural environment



REEDNet : How does it work?

- We work with employers to develop innovative training programmes focussed to their needs
- We work with other training providers in the UK to develop a national service
- We provide an independent quality framework to ensure that the learning outcomes are verifiable, relevant and lead to direct improvements in the workplace

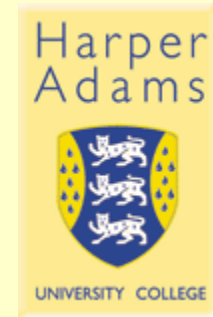
Some of our work-based learning partners



- **Government Bodies** : Environment Agency, Natural England, Rural Payments Agency
- **Professional Bodies** : AMTRA, BASIS , RICS
- **Private Companies** : Frontier Agriculture, JCB, Marks & Spencer

AMTRA

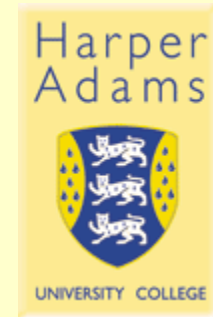
Animal Medicines Training and Regulatory Authority



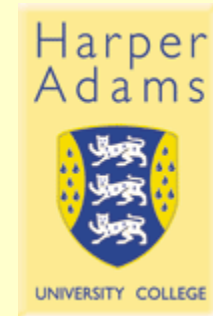
- “An independent regulatory body whose task it is to ensure that the marketing and distribution of animal medicines in the UK is undertaken in a responsible manner by AMTRA-qualified persons”
- Harper Adams is responsible for teaching materials and national assessments. It also acts as a training centre to over 1000 trainees each year

BASIS

British Agrochemical Supply Industry Scheme

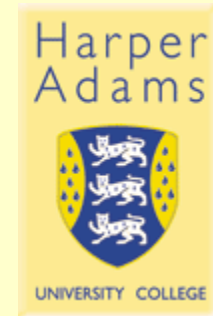


- “An independent registration and standards scheme serving pesticide, fertiliser and other allied organisations and interests”
- All suppliers and users of agrochemicals in the UK must be registered with BASIS. They must satisfy stringent requirements in their knowledge of soil and water, plant nutrient requirements and environmental safeguards



Environment Agency

- Working with Harper Adams and other providers to deliver a professional development plan for their staff
- Designed for policy makers and Environment Officers
- About 200 delegates each year complete a series of 1 to 5 day programmes in agriculture, soil management, water quality and waste management

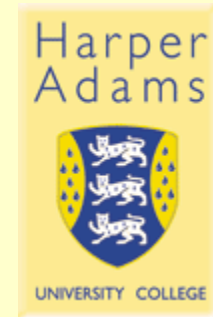


Marks & Spencer Ltd

- Harper Adams works with this international food retailer to train company auditors for their “Field to Fork” quality assurance scheme for fresh produce
- Company assessors need to understand the legal and scientific basis for their accreditation requirements and that standards are consistently applied

How does it work?

The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection

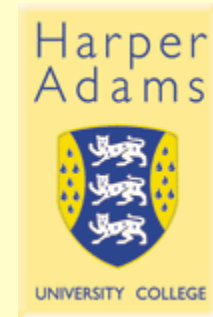


- **Why?** A statutory requirement for any person selling or supplying agrochemicals for use in the UK
- **For?** Candidates will normally be employed in the crop protection industry or will have experience of production or amenity agriculture
- **Aim** : To provide underpinning knowledge and understanding of crop protection agents

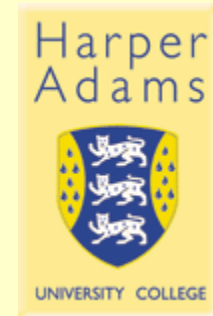
Learning Outcomes

- Identify pests, weeds and diseases of cultivated plants and how to control them
- Evaluate impact of control strategies on food and operator safety and the envt
- Formulate crop protection plans
- Evaluate economic and environmental benefits of technological advances and developments in crop protection

Learning and Teaching Strategy



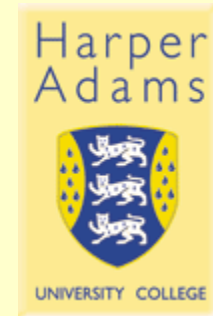
- Comprehensive course notes related to the learning outcomes
- Small group delivery in class, workshops and in the field
- Delivered as 3 four day residential courses
- Can study by distance learning plus an intensive revision week



Assessment Strategy

Candidates need to pass all four elements to meet the learning outcomes

- Written examination
- Project
- Practical test on pest, weed and disease identification
- Oral examination



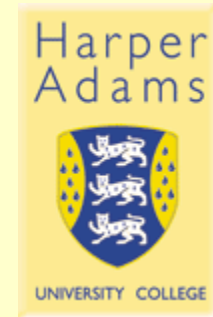
Credit value : 30 credits at L3

- **Progression** : Candidates can take further modules to achieve 120 credits and be awarded a Graduate Diploma in Agronomy, which is at Bachelor Level
- **Quality Assurance** : Harper Adams Assessment Boards are equivalent to existing Bachelor programmes

Opportunities

- This model of learning can operate throughout the EU
- There is a central role for governments to drive and support these developments
- Training providers can collaborate to provide courses to suit national need
- ICA could oversee and ensure appropriate quality and standards of programmes

Contact us



- www.reednet.org
- ahcobb@harper-adams.ac.uk
- cdcowap@harper-adams.ac.uk