

Judging panel



Alan Baylis

Chair, SCL's BioResources Group
Nuvistix Innovation

Dr Alan Baylis is an independent consultant with 30 years' experience: from running a UK arable farm to R&D management in Syngenta and previously in Zeneca and ICI. An agronomist and crop physiologist, he has specialised in herbicides, adjuvants and plant growth regulators. His career has covered the discovery process, through field testing to marketing. He is Chair of Agrisciences Group. Dr Baylis has BSc and PhD degrees from the University of Leeds and an MBA from Henley Business School.



Asitava Sen

CEO, CropLife India

Asitava Sen is the chief executive officer of CropLife India. Prior to CropLife India, Asitava had worked in leadership and senior advisory positions for various international and multinational organisations such as The World Bank Group, The World Economic Forum, FAO and Rabobank. CropLife India is an industry association of 15 R&D driven member crop science companies, jointly representing approximately 70% of the crop protection market and responsible for 95% of the molecules introduced in the country so far.



Jackie Bird

Former editor, Agrow

Dr Jackie Bird was the editor of Agrow for over a decade from 1996 until 2007. She started working as a science journalist in 1988, after having completed an MSc in animal breeding and a PhD in plant ecology. She wrote on animal health and on agriculture before becoming editor. She works freelance for Agrow, covering EU affairs.

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Jim Bullock
Director, iFormulate Ltd

Jim Bullock is co-founder of iFormulate Ltd which provides consultancy and training services in Formulation Technology to industries including pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, biocides and cosmetics. iFormulate currently delivers training in agrochemical formulation on behalf of ATI/ Informa. Previously, Jim led R&D projects in formulation chemistry at ICI/Zeneca and at BASF he headed colours formulation development and managed marketing, strategy, R&D and regulatory activities in biocides.



Jonathan Shoham
Consulting analyst, Phillips McDougall

Jonathan Shoham is a Consulting Analyst with Phillips McDougall, part of IHS Markit, which provides business intelligence for crop protection and seeds. He is also an advisor to The Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture. He worked for ICI/Zeneca/Syngenta in a variety of technical and commercial roles for over 30 years before going freelance in 2011 since when he has worked for clients in the private, public and academic sectors, specializing in business intelligence for Crop Protection and Seeds. He has a PhD in Environmental Economics, an MBA and a first degree in Chemical Physics.



Lawrence Middler
Senior analyst, Phillips McDougall

Lawrence Middler holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry and has worked in industry for many years for a major contract research organisation, undertaking pre-clinical registration studies in environmental fate and degradation, primarily for ag-vet molecules in development. He joined Phillips McDougall in 2014 and is now a Senior Analyst, responsible for analysing intellectual property in agrochemicals, as well as tracking novel active ingredient research. In this role he also updates the AgriService Product Section and Product Directory.

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Matthew Cossey
CEO, CropLife Australia

Mathew Cossey has served as Chief Executive Officer of CropLife Australia since 2011. He is also a director of the Agricultural Biotechnology Council of Australia. He leads advocacy on crop protection, agricultural biotechnology and industry stewardship in Australia. Prior to joining CropLife, he was a senior executive with a leading global defence and technology company, was General Secretary and Campaign Director for a major Australian political party, and also served as a Chief of Staff and Senior Adviser in the Australian Parliament.



Phil Smith
Publishing director, Agribusiness Intelligence

Phil Smith is the publishing director for Agrow and Phillips McDougall. He worked in the crop protection industry at May and Baker, Rhone-Poulenc and Aventis for 16 years as an R&D chemist in the herbicide and fungicide teams, including the fipronil and isoxaflutole groups and then as a project leader for multidisciplinary rice and total herbicide discovery programmes. He joined Agrow in 2000 as editor of the product intelligence database before moving into various publishing management positions.



Rob Westervelt
Editor-in-chief, Chemical Week

Rob Westervelt is editor in chief of Chemical Week and has covered the global chemical industry for more than 25 years. Westervelt joined IHS Markit with its September 2010 acquisition of Chemical Week and SRI Consulting. He was named editor of Chemical Week in December 2006. His team is responsible for coverage and analysis of news and trends affecting the global chemical industry. Before being named editor in chief, he was senior editor, responsible for news and markets coverage of the Americas.

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Sanjiv Rana

Editor in Chief, Agrow and Chair of the Judging Panel

Sanjiv Rana is editor-in-chief at Agrow, the London-based global crop protection news service. He has been a journalist for over 15 year and has been leading Agrow since 2007. As Agrow's editor and analyst, Sanjiv has expertise on global and regional developments in the crop protection industry and is a regular speaker at industry conferences. After acquiring an MBA from India's top business school, IIM Ahmedabad, he worked in the agrochemical industry before turning to business journalism. Prior to becoming Agrow's editor-in-chief, Sanjiv also obtained an MA degree in international journalism from the UK.



Dr SiangHee Tan

Executive director, CropLife Asia

Dr Siang Hee Tan is the executive director of CropLife Asia, the Asian operation of an international trade association with a presence in 91 countries. At CropLife Asia, he is responsible for directing Regulatory Affairs, Intellectual Property Rights, Crop Protection, Seeds and Biotechnology and Advocacy & Outreach programmes in 15 Asian countries. He is involved in various UN agendas including "The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". Dr Tan holds a BSc in Plant Pathology from the Universiti Pertanian Malaysia, an MSc in Genetic Engineering from Universiti Putra Malaysia and a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology (Plant Virus) from Okayama University in Japan.



Shubao Sun

General Secretary

China Crop Protection Industry Association (CCPIA)

Shubao Sun has been the general secretary of the China Crop Protection Industry Association (CCPIA) for ten years and then has been the president of CCPIA for over a decade. He started his career in the agrochemical division of the China Petroleum and Chemistry Commission in 1990. His work for the National Development and Reform Commission on pesticide policy issues has involved drafting several high profile policies.