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Dr Tariq Butt
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17th October 2008

Dear Tariq

Horticulture LINK Project HL0171: Development of the entomogenous fungus *Metarhizium anisopliae* for control of vine weevils and thrips in horticultural growing media

The Programme Management Committee has considered the final report of this project.

This is a very successful and commercially exciting LINK project which has delivered on all its objectives, addressing many scientific aspects of the interaction between *Metarhizium* and other components of the substrate environment including other pest control methods in use. Some areas of research were seen as 'high quality' leading to significant findings and advances. On a specific point, with respect to crops trials already infected with vine weevil eggs (Objective 4), in view of the rapid percolation of inoculum shown in Objective 8, this has not proved that applications of *Metarhizium* have longevity as preventative treatments – growers often find the presence of vine weevil only in the later stages of development.

The project was effectively co-ordinated by Swansea and delays or setbacks were addressed or circumvented well by all the consortium partners working as a team. The work has delivered a wide range of technology transfer outputs *via* LINK and HDC mechanisms plus a good number of published and planned science papers targeted to appropriate journals.

There are good indications that as a result of the LINK project, two companies have committed at least initial steps to commercial development of strain V275. If successful, this will deliver real benefits to both industry and to government's agenda in sustainable horticulture.

The PMC has awarded a score of 8.5 ex 10 and I have enclosed the score guide used to assist it in its assessments. Please ensure this reply is circulated to all your consortium members.

Yours sincerely

David Cole

Programme Co-ordinator

SCORE GUIDE – FINAL REPORTS

The overall success of the project should be shown by entering a mark on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = poor, 10 = excellent) in the box at the foot of the first page of the LINK Completion Form.

The main elements that should be considered in awarding the mark are:

1. Whether the project achieved the targets and objectives set at the outset or those agreed during the project's life in the light of knowledge emerging;
2. Whether the research work undertaken was a high quality, innovative and resulted in an advance in knowledge;
3. Whether the research outputs offer promise for commercial exploitation and/or improved quality of life.

The 10-point scale may be considered on the following basis:

10	Excellent or outstanding project, achieved targets and objectives, high quality research work, significant outputs with real commercial potential;
8	Very good project, achieved targets and objectives, good quality research work, outputs with commercial potential;
6	Satisfactory project, achieved targets and objectives, competent research work, outputs likely to have commercial potential;
4	Not quite wholly satisfactory, but most targets and objectives achieved, research work generally satisfactory, some outputs of commercial potential;
2	An unsatisfactory project, significant non-achievement of targets and objectives, disappointing research work, outputs with little or no commercial potential.