

Perry Court Farm , Petham, canterbury

14/18/1996

BD AA Research Group - Experimental Circle

Dear Richard,

Please forgive the long delay in replying to your letter of 26th April, for which many thanks. I have been living with the question of how to make the Bd work more effective and widely known. and the relationship between the various "organs" of the BDAA seems to be of paramount importance. We now seem to have lost our H.Q. at Clent (which in the past has also been "Heart Quarters" as well as "Head Q!") and somehow one feels that the Experimental Circle should take on a much more central role in the whole life of the BDAA. It was originally entrusted to carry the BD work in the various countries. In the UK, there was much overlapping of Circle membership and other BDAA committees and groups, albeit they were on a very modest scale. The situation has now changed or appears to have done. There seems to me to be one overriding question - how can we so inspire those working on the land, including ourselves, to greater efforts in the face of almost overwhelming pressures from other directions - bureaucracy, finances, manpower etc! If we can make our farms and gardens sSo outstanding, and they surely can be with BD methods, then all the rest will follow - membership. publicity funding etc.

How do we do this? Unity is strength and to be united we must meet more often. We are very thin on the ground and national meetings are very expensive in time and money, so will not be possible more than once or possibly twice a year. Regional meetings or special project ones will be easier because time and travel costs can be less in the former whilst in the latter the enthusiasm and dedication for a particular project close to ones heart will give the necessary spur!

With this in the background the suggested re-amalgamation of the research group and the Experimental Circle takes on an added importance as it can potentially give a wider co-ordinated group of active people who can also initiate regional Experim./Research groups. We had a very successful one in the S. East many years ago which also had its own newsletter. This joint working and meeting in regional areas could lead to different regions taking on particular projects (e.g. seed breeding)

..... - Katherine Castelliz has, I believe been in contact with you about this coming together so maybe you have also had further thoughts on how best to go forward. signed Alan.