Waitrose
Pesticide Load Indicator

Background
In order to inform and improve company policy in relation to the safe and sustainable use of crop protection chemicals, Waitrose wish to adopt an indicator-based approach to the identification of risks to human health, biodiversity and the environment, which will be used evaluate crop protection plans from farmers world-wide who supply fresh produce to Waitrose. AERU have therefore been contracted to identify and adapt suitable indices in order to meet the joint objectives of:

- Minimising the effect on biodiversity, in particular, non-target species (e.g. honeybees).
- Replacing pesticides based on older chemistry with those based on more modern science.
- Respecting new legislation and protecting surface and ground waters.
- Promoting the uptake of Integrated Farm Management (IFM).
- Managing pest and weed resistance.

Approach
AERU have drawn on their many years experience in manipulating pesticide properties data (most notably through the PPDB (Pesticide Properties DataBase), in order to develop and amended a version of the pesticide load indicator developed by the Danish EPA. This will be presented in the form of a user-friendly decision support tool, allowing the rapid integration of modern data into company policy and on-farm practice. To be globally applicable, the system will function for a very wide range of synthetic and naturally occurring pesticides, including those beyond European chemical regulation systems and be equally applicable to variable climatic systems.

About Waitrose
Waitrose (www.waitrose.com) is one of the UK’s leading food retailers, and forms the food retail division of the John Lewis Partnership, the largest employee owned company in the country. It currently has around 290 Branches and employs 56,500 people (known as Partners). Waitrose sales account for 4.9% (£5.76bn) of the UK’s grocery market and have one of the largest growth rates in the sector.