

ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

The Institute of Agricultural Management (IAgrM)

RICHARD COOKSLEY¹

Background

The Institute of Agricultural Management is one of the two organisations which are working together to bring you the new International Journal of Agricultural Management. The Institute originally started as the Farm Management Association in 1965, following an idea which came from a suggestion at the 1963 Oxford Farming Conference for a need for a professional farm management body.

Milestones in the Development of IAgrM

- 1963: Derek Pearce (when Chairman of the Oxford Farming Conference) suggested the need for a professional farm management body;
- 1963: Bob Starling wrote to 20 leading farm managers suggesting the formation of a Farm Management Association;
- 1964: Meeting in Mitre Hotel, Oxford (during Oxford Farming Conference), which appointed a steering committee;
- 1965: Inaugural Meeting of the 'Farm Management Association' in the Café Royal, London on the 6th April;
- 1965: First National Conference which was held in Harrogate with the title of 'The Outlook';
- 1967: The first issue of the journal '*Farm Management*' was published;
- 1971: The Farm Management Association was instrumental in the formation of the International Farm Management Association (IFMA);
- 1971: First IFMA Congress staged at Warwick University by Farm Management Association members;
- 1978: The Farm Management Association became a 'special interest group' of The British Institute of Management and was renamed the 'Centre of Management in Agriculture' (CMA);
- 1987: CMA became independent of the British Institute of Management;
- 1992: The 'Institute of Agricultural Management' was formed within the Centre of Management in Agriculture;
- 1995: The Institute of Agricultural Management became the parent body, containing the Centre of Management in Agriculture;
- 2004: The Institute held its 40th annual National Farm Management Conference and celebrated its 40th year;
- 2010: A new grade of 'Professional' member of the Institute was formed;
- 2011: After publishing the 'Farm Management Journal' since 1967 the Institute joins with the International Farm Management Association to publish the International Journal of Agricultural Management.

The Institute today

The Institute is the management organisation for those engaged in farm management in the UK and is funded almost entirely by membership subscriptions. It runs the Annual National Farm Management Conference and organises a number of other events including a National Farm Visit. Until 2011 IAgrM has published the Journal of Farm Management four times a year since 1967, and periodically produces publications of management interest such as the biannual Farm Managers Survey 'Their Jobs and Their Pay'.

As well as the national organisation there is a number of local branches, each with its own programme of meetings and farm visits.

The Objectives of the Institute of Agricultural Management are:

- To promote high standards in the business and practice of management in Agriculture;
- To promote training in management understanding, skills and experience;
- To encourage the provision and attainment of professional qualifications in the principles and practice of agricultural management.

The Institute fulfils these objectives by:

- Being a focal point for those who work in agricultural management;
- Promoting the status of Farm Management as a profession;

¹ Director, Institute of Agricultural Management

Richard Cooksley

- Publishing a quarterly journal and other management literature;
- Holding conferences, workshops and farm visits;
- Providing information on management and ancillary courses available in agriculture and associated industries;
- Encouraging local discussion and contact through a network of local branches;
- Co-operating with any other organisation and/or sectors of the economy to enhance farm management generally;

IAgrM and the Future:

Agriculture and the requirements of those who work within the industry continue to change and IAgrM will continue to develop and adapt to the needs of its members.

The membership of IAgrM is unique in the UK, and possibly in Europe, covering virtually all areas of management within agriculture and related industries. As well as farmers, farm managers, students and others engaged directly in management in agriculture and associated rural businesses, persons in other groups associated with management in agriculture in its widest sense, such as consultants, advisors, academics research workers etc are also welcome to apply for membership.

A new grade of Professional Member (P.Agric) has been formed, a formal recognition of professionalism

The Institute of Agricultural Management

within agriculture and the rural sector, providing accreditation of members' competency. This grade of membership requires provision of ongoing confirmation of continuing professional development by submission of CPD (Continuing Professional Development) records.

For further information on membership and other IAgrM activities please contact the IAgrM offices at: IAgrM, Portbury House, Sheepway, Portbury, Bristol, BS20 7TE, UK. email: enquiries@iagrm.org.uk, url: Website: www.iagrm.org.uk

About the author

Richard Cooksley originally trained as an electrical engineer but made the change from engineer to general management. He has some 35 years' knowledge of the agricultural, animal feed manufacturing, feed materials processing, biomass and storage industry within the UK and overseas having held a number of senior rôles.

He is Director of the Institute of Agricultural Management, Board Member of the Society for the Environment and provides a secretariat service for the Bristol Corn & Feed Trade Association and BIAC (British Institute of Agricultural Consultants). He has a number of interests outside the industry, one of which is giant onion growing and another is being a member of the Portishead International Ski Team.