



Nutrient Management Planning (NMP) update (March 2010)
IMPORTANT POINTS OF CLARIFICATION & NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The following points result from the feedback from the first 'Train the Trainer' events, and further evaluation.

1. NMP CPD training can only be delivered by trainers who have attended a 'Train the Trainer' event AND passed the exam.
2. The NMP exam is not required to retain FQA status; the proposed on-line assessment (see 6.) is sufficient. Those wishing to take the exam as a module of the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy must undertake their training with a BASIS Approved Trainer.
3. A Trainer's Handbook has been commissioned to help ensure consistency in training. This should be available by the end of April. All who attended earlier 'Train the Trainer' events will get a copy.
4. Additional 'Train the Trainer' courses are being arranged and dates will be published at:
<http://www.basis-reg.com/media/documents/NMPTraintheTrainerEvents.pdf>
5. Maximum CPD points cannot be claimed for training completed in less than the minimum 2 days. However, the recommended training time for FQA's undertaking the NMP training is 2½ days. Suitable and sufficient training is not possible in less than 2 days.
6. NMP training is a specific CPD requirement for all FQAs to maintain their status. It will ensure all FQA's get the same level of training in a focussed subject area - part of an initiative to enhance and demonstrate the overall professionalism of the industry. An online assessment is proposed to record and verify the training process efficiently and to ensure retention of FQA status. This will be less demanding than an examination – particularly in terms of trainee's time, or examiners' costs.
7. The training programme, provided it is undertaken over at least two days attracts 24 CPD points: 12 to be claimed on completing all 6 modules successfully for the current year and 12 points accrued for the following year.
8. The course should be recorded as a single training instance for CPD, not as 6 separate modules; points should be applied for through the BASIS Professional Register department.

NMP EXAMINATION (optional)

- The NMP Exam (including viva) is now recognised as equivalent to a BASIS Advanced Crop Module leading to the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy.
- A one day refresher course is recommended for those wishing to take The NMP Exam which will be available at suitable dates and venues and must be conducted with a BASIS Approved Trainer.
<http://www.basis-reg.com/media/documents/NMPApprovedTrainers&ExamDates.pdf>
- The exam will take 1 day to complete.
- The exam consists of 2 written papers (multi-choice and scenario) and a panel viva with industry experts.
- Exams are organised by BASIS according to demand, with at least 8 candidates and no more than 12.
- It is unlikely that an exam will immediately follow the training modules and hence the one day refresher course.
- Undertaking and passing this exam provides a route for anyone, whose BASIS Professional Register (with Fertiliser Category) membership has lapsed, to rejoin. Details are available on request.
- Exams should be applied for in the normal way through the BASIS Exams & Training department.

In Summary:

- All those wishing to claim CPD for the training need to complete the 6 modules of the NMP course.
- Successful completion of the on-line assessment is a requirement for those wishing to maintain FQA status.
- The NMP Exam is optional for those wishing to use this course as a module of the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy.
- Those taking the NMP exam need to take the on-line assessment as well, in order to maintain their FQA status.

Geoff Dodgson
Chair, FACTS Committee
12 March, 2010