



Dear Member

I am pleased to report that the negotiations and due diligence processes relating to TAG's merger with NIAB have been completed. TAG now needs to hold an extraordinary general meeting to formally consider the proposals, as detailed in the attached notice. The two organisations will function as one body, but we will be retaining the TAG name and identity, and expect to add to the range of services over time. The TAG charity will also remain in existence for the time being, for various administrative reasons. The current TAG board will evolve as the organisation changes over time, and will reflect the needs of the new organisation. In addition, there will be TAG representation on the board of NIAB.

Your directors and the NIAB directors all fully and unanimously support these proposals. We are very excited about the benefits the new organisation will bring, but stress that in the short term it is very much a case of business as usual. I appreciate that the date of the EGM falls at a busy time of the arable year, but it is necessary to convene it before our accounting year end (which I anticipate will show a much improved financial performance). I urge you to complete and return the proxy forms if you are unable to attend in person.

Why is this merger so important for TAG members? If the whole process of introducing new techniques to arable farming is viewed as a single chain, with innovation such as new varieties introduced at one end, and practical agronomic advice emerging at the other, then NIAB and TAG together have unique expertise and involvement at every link of that research, development and knowledge transfer chain. The two current organisations have some areas of common activity, but NIAB is more involved with pre-commercial research, analysis, testing and molecular genetics, whilst TAG focuses much more on field trials, applied research and development, agronomy information and knowledge transfer to farmers.

Together we will be a well-resourced provider of impartial agronomy information, with national trials coverage and a comprehensive knowledge transfer network. We will be more able to provide opportunities, encouraging good young people to enter the fields of agronomy, applied research and information transfer. We intend to strengthen our team with some new key appointments in the near future. Most important, we can champion the role of independent applied research and development, demonstration and agronomy information to help improve farm productivity and competitiveness. In doing so, we also strengthen the independent voice when interacting with the large corporations and government agencies which exert such a large influence on all our farms.

What will not change is our independence, our purpose and our passion for agronomy. We will maintain our technical integrity, and continue to address the more intractable threats to arable production systems. TAG has grown from a strong base of farmer involvement and support, and we are looking for ways to improve and refresh contact with farmers and groups at local and regional levels. We will be holding a series of meetings around the country during the coming autumn, at which TAG and NIAB will together set out their vision and plans for the new organisation, and ways in which the membership can contribute to guiding its future success.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Elliott', written in a cursive style.

Geoff Elliott
Chairman