



MEDIA RELEASE

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The North Wyke site of Rothamsted Research launched as a LEAF Innovation Centre: a centre of excellence for sustainable farming

A new LEAF Innovation Centre is being launched today by LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), the leading organisation promoting sustainable farming. The North Wyke site of Rothamsted Research in Okehampton, Devon becomes the latest site to join LEAF's network of Innovation Centres. It will showcase sustainable farming methods, particularly in the area of grassland systems, and support the development and promotion of sustainable farming through Integrated Farm Management.

Speaking at the launch today, Caroline Drummond, Chief Executive of LEAF said:

“The North Wyke site of Rothamsted Research provides unique research capabilities for the UK. Their pioneering work into grazed grassland soils is helping to address some of agriculture's most pressing challenges. As a LEAF Innovation Centre, we will be able to access this cutting edge research and ensure that it reaches our members and the wider farming community. We are hugely excited about the opportunities this partnership will offer our members to improve the function, resilience and sustainability of farming systems. It will result in improved understanding of the complexity of grassland ecosystems and what it means for practical land management, food production and environmental goals.”

“LEAF is committed to the delivery of more sustainable food and farming. This can only be achieved through close collaboration across the food, farming and research sectors. We

have enjoyed a close relationship with North Wyke over many years and I am particularly pleased to formalise our partnership with them through their role as a LEAF Innovation Centre.”

Professor Michael Lee, Head of the North Wyke site commented: “The Farm Platform National Capability, supported by BBSRC at North Wyke, is at the cutting edge of research into sustainable grazing livestock systems. However, impact will only be achieved through the dissemination of this research to the farming community. The enrolment of the North Wyke site of Rothamsted Research as a LEAF Innovation Centre is part of our growing activities to aid the transfer of knowledge to our stakeholders to put research into action.”

The North Wyke site of Rothamsted Research becomes LEAF’s eighth Innovation Centre – a network of research organisations whose work supports the research, evidence, development and promotion of Integrated Farm Management. North Wyke is run by Rothamsted Research and contains the Farm Platform BBSRC National Capability intended to benefit the scientific community.

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LEAF Editors’ Notes:

- LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) is the leading organisation delivering more sustainable food and farming. LEAF works with farmers, the food industry, scientists and consumers to inspire and enable sustainable farming that is prosperous, enriches the environment and engages local communities.
- LEAF promotes Integrated Farm Management (IFM), a whole farm business approach that delivers more sustainable farming. IFM uses the best of modern technology and traditional methods to deliver prosperous farming that enriches the environment and engages local communities.
- LEAF Innovation Centres are research organisations whose work supports the research, evidence, development and promotion of Integrated Farm Management. They investigate and communicate practices which underpin the continual improvement of the Integrated Farm Management approach to help deliver more sustainable food and farming.

- In addition to the North Wyke site of Rothamsted Research, other LEAF Innovation Centres are: the James Hutton Institute, Royal Agricultural University, Scotland Rural College (SRUC), Harper Adams University, Stockbridge Technology Centre, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust and Bayer. For more information about LEAF and LEAF Innovation Centres visit www.leafuk.org

About Rothamsted Research

We are the longest running agricultural research station in the world, providing cutting-edge science and innovation for over 170 years. Our mission is to deliver the knowledge and new practices to increase crop productivity and quality and to develop environmentally sustainable solutions for food and energy production. Our strength lies in the integrated, multidisciplinary approach to research in plant, insect and soil science.

Rothamsted Research is strategically funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). In 2013-2014 Rothamsted Research received a total of £32.9M from the BBSRC. <http://www.rothamsted.ac.uk/>

About BBSRC

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) invests in world-class bioscience research and training on behalf of the UK public. Our aim is to further scientific knowledge, to promote economic growth, wealth and job creation and to improve quality of life in the UK and beyond.

Funded by Government, BBSRC invested over £509M in world-class bioscience in 2014-15. We support research and training in universities and strategically funded institutes. BBSRC research and the people we fund are helping society to meet major challenges, including food security, green energy and healthier, longer lives. Our investments underpin important UK economic sectors, such as farming, food, industrial biotechnology and pharmaceuticals.

For more information about BBSRC, our science and our impact see: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk>

For more information about BBSRC strategically funded institutes see: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/institutes>