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The UK Agri-Food Science Directory



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and partner organisations

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Preface



*Professor John Beddington,
CMG FRS, Government Chief
Scientific Adviser*

The world faces an enormous problem – in the short-term, unprecedented price surges experienced over the last year have led to a global food price crisis. Reversals in the gains made in the fight against poverty and hunger, humanitarian crises and social unrest are evident in many parts of the world. In the long-term, humanity is faced with the burden of feeding a rapidly increasing population projected to grow from 6.2 billion today to around 9.5 billion by 2050, with fewer resources, all under the shadow of climate change and environmental degradation.

Governments in rich and poor countries alike have been forced to consider a variety of measures to deal with these mounting challenges. Rising food costs, for example, have caused many to question government policy to increase the production of renewable energy from biofuels since much needed arable land has been diverted from food production. Ironically, the gains we have made towards the rightful goal of alleviating global poverty are exacerbating the situation. As people become wealthier an increasing proportion rise out of poverty and leave a bigger footprint on the planet's resources, as they demand high-value agricultural products and more meat and processed food, compared with the desperately poor.

If these food security challenges are to be successfully addressed, other complex issues such as climate change, water conservation and the need for low carbon energy will also need to be tackled. A new 'greener revolution' will be essential if global food security is to be achieved. A rapid and large investment in science, technology, innovation and knowledge exchange is needed to develop sustainable agricultural practices that improve our ability to win the battle against the pests and diseases that ruin in the region of 40% of crops in the field, cause significant post-harvest losses and limit livestock production. All the improvements in productivity need to be achieved with smarter use of fertilisers, pesticides and water. We also need to recognise that fisheries provide around a third of global livestock production and we must find ways to preserve and enhance aquatic sources of protein – what some have called a 'blue revolution'.

The UK has a significant opportunity to continue to deliver excellent, innovative science to contribute to solving the world's food security problems and I welcome the IATC and UKCDS initiative to raise awareness of UK agri-food science expertise in this directory.

*Professor John Beddington, CMG FRS,
Government Chief Scientific Adviser*

Introduction



*Philippa David,
Director, IATC*



*Dr Andrée Carter,
Director, UKCDS*

The UK is a recognised world leader in science, innovation, research and development. As a result of this expertise our agri-food sector is one of the most productive, innovative and safe in the world. It is perhaps for this reason that we have taken the provision of safe, plentiful food for granted – but increasingly, the UK agri-food science sector has a major role to play in supporting the global response to the current food and biofuel security challenges through research collaboration and knowledge exchange.

UK science is the key to continued advances in productivity and sustainability. Take rinderpest – an infectious cattle disease – during the last major outbreak in 1982 – 1984 it had a devastating impact on Africa's livestock, causing losses valued at over £300m. UK scientists were behind the development of a vaccine that has resulted in near global eradication of this disease. For an estimated investment of only £2m, the overall economic benefit to Africa alone, is estimated to be at least £25b in additional food output, plus the unquantifiable, positive impact on peoples' livelihoods.

The International Agri-Technology Centre (IATC) and the UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (UKCDS) have jointly produced this second edition of *The UK Agri-Food Science Directory* to raise the understanding and profile of our considerable national and international agri-food science expertise.

The directory provides an exciting opportunity to link UK institutions and scientists with overseas partners including, international governments, businesses and fellow scientists. Funded by the Regional Development Agencies and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), IATC promotes and supports the UK's agri-food science sector to develop and realise its international potential. UKCDS works to facilitate coordination and raise awareness of UK science that can benefit developing countries. We are working together to ensure that those who want to access UK agri-food science skills and know-how have the relevant information and contacts.

Throughout 2009 we will liaise with the scientific communities and other stakeholders both in the UK and overseas to understand how *The UK Agri-Food Science Directory* can be developed to ensure that key information is readily available and accessible, and to provide an international platform for recognition and promotion of the UK's agri-food science capability. We would be very pleased to hear views from both scientists and the user community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. David'.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Carter'.

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How to use this Directory

The Directory is divided into three sections

Section 1 – Directory of Organisations

This section provides an alphabetical listing of organisations in the agri-food science sector. Each entry gives a brief overview of the organisation, its key areas of research and contact details. Information has been extracted from publicly accessible websites and every attempt has been made to provide consistent information within the limitations of each individual website and the vastly differing structures of UK scientific organisations. Priority has been given (but is not limited to) those organisations or parts of organisations that have a clear agricultural, food science and technology or aquaculture focus that have more than a single publication listed in the science mapping section.

All universities are included under 'U', in alphabetical order, even if they are referred to as 'X' University as opposed to University of 'X'.

For international dialling, telephone numbers should be preceded by +44 and the (0) ignored.

Section 2 – Science Mapping Profiles

The science mapping section provides a hierarchical listing of subjects by Sector, Sub-Sector and Topic followed by the top ten leading institutions prioritised by the number of published papers from January 2006 – September 2008 capturing the most recently published research performed by UK institutions. The science mapping profiles have been produced using the CAB Abstracts database (www.cabi.org) which provides comprehensive coverage of research outputs from over 150 different countries and in over 50 different languages.

The database covers all agricultural and related disciplines, including veterinary science, horticulture, aquaculture, food science and nutrition, biotechnology, applied economics, environmental science, and international development. For logistical reasons, each search profile is restricted to the top ten results, where this restriction creates a long "tail" of institutions with a small number of hits, a subject expert has used relevance to determine which ones should appear in the top ten.

Section 3 – Science Funding Organisations

This section lists some of the main UK funding agencies, their areas of interest and contact details.

The audience for this publication is primarily targeted at individuals and organisations outside of the UK looking to find specific skills, expertise and know-how within the fields of agri-science, food science and aquaculture. UK institutions and users of the directory are invited to contribute their views on how future editions of *The UK Agri-Food Science Directory* can be improved to better service the needs of those wishing to access UK institutions and their scientists.