

## **Rothamsted Research Quality Statement**

Rothamsted Research is committed to complying with the standards of the RCUK Policy and Code of Conduct on the Governance of Good Research Conduct, Joint Code of Practice for Research (JCoPR), BBSRC Statement on Safeguarding Good Science Practice, BBSRC data sharing policy and the environmental standard, ISO 14001.

Rothamsted Research provides a quality-oriented environment:-

- Senior management approval of science projects before submission to sponsors.
- Scrutiny to ratify the statistical design, management and output for all field, glasshouse and CE experiments.
- Institute wide information tools, such as databases of standard operating procedures, risk assessments, COSHH forms, scientific samples, chemical stocks, staff CVs, training and laboratory notebooks.
- Laboratory notebook procedures to ensure all operations are recorded, signed and dated, primary data are linked to secondary data, sample location is easily identified and in-house training is recorded.
- Electronic data are maintained and backed up on networked servers. Every week a full copy is cycled to a separate physical location.
- Environmental targets and objectives are set and environmental performance is monitored in accordance with ISO 14001.
- A well-defined training programme for postgraduate students.
- Experienced, professional staff provide scientists with support services including experimentation under field, glass and controlled environmental conditions.
- High quality academic support services ( Computing, Library, Statistics, Bioimaging, Analytical Labs, Contracts, Finance and Quality Assurance)
- Regular calibration and maintenance of equipment.
- Senior management approval of all publications prior to submission and a policy that emphasises submission to peer-reviewed journals.
- Facilities are available for Rothamsted to conduct work to support pesticide and semiochemical product approval or authorisation under its ORETO licence number 249, expiry 26 March 2013. Work is conducted to the requirements of this licence if specifically requested by sponsors. Note, Rothamsted Research does not follow GLP is not accredited as a test facility under the Good Laboratory Practice Regulations, 1999.

Project Leaders are responsible for science project work, including that of sub-contractors. Project planning involves risk management of the project. Staff and students on appointment are selected on the basis of how their skills meet the requirements of the project. Training is provided at induction and thereafter identified through annual staff appraisal. Responsibilities of staff involved in the project are formally set out in their written job description and forward job plan.

Monitoring and improvement of scientific and environmental standards is achieved through the operation of internal and external procedures:-

- Monitoring of science output by senior management.
- Reviewing progress of projects.
- Evaluating reports from internal audits of science projects against the JCoPR, from all Rothamsted activities against the requirements of ISO 14001 and from all external audits.