



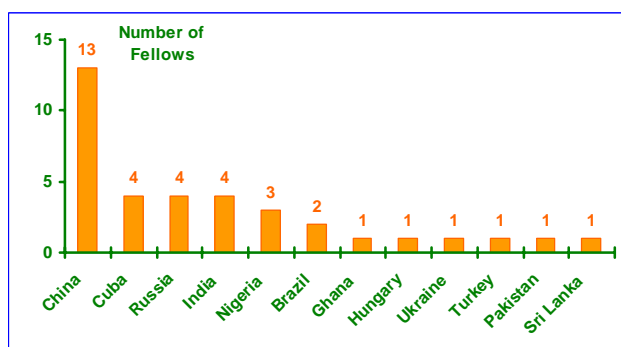
Rothamsted International

Sharing research excellence: international collaboration and capacity building for the benefit of agriculture in developing countries

ANALYSIS OF ROTHAMSTED INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS FROM 2002: PEOPLE AND PROJECTS

Thanks to the the generous donations from our supporters and income raised from other activities, 107 Rothamsted International Fellowships have been awarded since 1993.

Between 2002 and 2005, 36 scientists from 12 developing and emerging countries were able to benefit from carrying out research projects, which gave both advanced training and fostered long-term collaborations between researchers from Rothamsted and under-developed countries.



Nationality of Fellows appointed 2002-2005

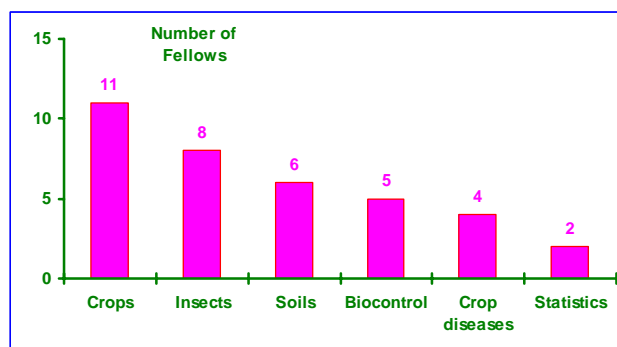
Important points on the Rothamsted International Fellows chosen between 2002 and 2005 include;

- 36% came from China which along with India, Cuba and Russia provided 70% of the Fellows
- 47% of the appointed Fellows were women scientists.
- the ages of Fellows varied between 25 and 48 years with a median of 36 years at the time of appointment

Projects were more or less evenly divided between the different research divisions based at the main Rothamsted site in Harpenden.

Research Division	No. Fellows
Agriculture & Environment	8
Biological Chemistry	8
Plant-Pathogen Interactions	8
Crop Performance & Improvement	7
Plant & Invertebrate Ecology	5

A broad categorisation of the projects undertaken indicated that most were on crops, covering subjects such as biochemistry, crop variety improvement and plant biotechnology.



Categorisation of research projects undertaken by Fellows appointed 2002-2005

Fellowships to Partnerships

One important part of the Rothamsted International Fellowship scheme is the opportunity it gives for long-term collaborations, leading to joint science publications, participation in training courses and workshops, and also in forming core groups which obtain grant funding for major projects.

A recent example of a Fellowship leading to participation in an international project is the European Union funded MiCoSPA (Microbial Control for semi-urban and peri-urban Agriculture), led by Dr Judith Pell, in which Leo Hidalgo from CENSA in Cuba is working with Prof. Brian Kerry on developing a biological control agent against soil pests in vegetable crops. Leo first came to Rothamsted in 1996 as a Fellow, and the work laid the foundations for other Cuban scientists to come from CENSA on various projects.



Vegetable crops on a farm outside Havana taking part in the MiCoSPA project on pest biocontrol

**NEW ROTHAMSTED INTERNATIONAL
FELLOWS IN 2004/2005**

**Dr Natalya Buchkina, Agrophysical
Research Institute, Russia.**

Started in November 2004 for two 6 month periods with Prof. Keith Goulding (Agriculture & the Environment Division) and Dr Penny Hirsch (Plant-Pathogen Interactions Division). Project titled "Factors controlling the microbial mediation of fluxes of nitrous oxide by nitrification and denitrification".

**Dr Alexander Konarev, All-Russia
Institute for Plant Protection (VIZR).**

Started in January 2005 for 6 months with Prof. Peter Shewry (Crop Performance and Improvement Division). Project titled "Characterization and molecular cloning of digestive proteinases of wheat bug, *Eurygaster* spp., in order to identify specific inhibitors".

Dr Carol Moraes, EMBRAPA, Brazil.

Arrived in February 2005 to start a 12 month project with Dr Mike Birkett in the Biological Chemistry Division. Her project is titled "Novel mass spectrometry-based approaches for investigating the impact of plant activators in induced plant defence".

**Dr Deying Ma, Xinjiang Agricultural
University, China.**

Started in April 2005 for 12 months with Dr Ian Denholm (Plant and Invertebrate Ecology Division). Project titled "Biology and insecticide resistance of whiteflies (*Bemisia tabaci*)".



Deying Ma (left), Carol Moraes (centre) and Alex Konarev (right) at the Royal Show in July 2005

**AFRICAN FELLOWS PROGRAMME
SECOND ROUND**



The African Fellows Programme (AFP) was started in July 2004 and is targeted specifically at African scientists who wish to access European expertise in order to address immediate problems in African agriculture.

Scientists can be based at any university or institute throughout Europe.

A second call for AFP pre-proposals was made in February 2005 and selected full proposals were assessed by a science panel which met in July 2005.

From 100 pre-proposals, 13 full proposals were received. From these, three projects were approved without any conditions and details will be made available in our next Newsletter.

Combining both the July 2004 and February 2005 calls, a total of 169 pre-proposals have been received from 23 out of 54 African countries. Most of the pre-proposals have been from Nigeria (23%), Kenya (17%) and Uganda (8%).

The next deadline for pre-proposals is 14th October 2005. Guidelines and application forms are available from this web site:

www.rothamsted-international.org/HTML/Fellowships/

DUBLIN MEETING

A special session has been organised on 8th September at the annual meeting of British Association for the Advancement of Science to be held in Dublin, Ireland. The theme will be on how science can help development in Africa. More details can be found at this site:

www.rothamsted.bbsrc.ac.uk/Research/FoS2005.html

**DONATIONS TO
ROTHAMSTED INTERNATIONAL**

Rothamsted International is a not-for-profit charity organisation and we rely on donations to pay for our Fellowships.

If you would like to make a donation, then please contact Bill Bell or Marie Orford at:

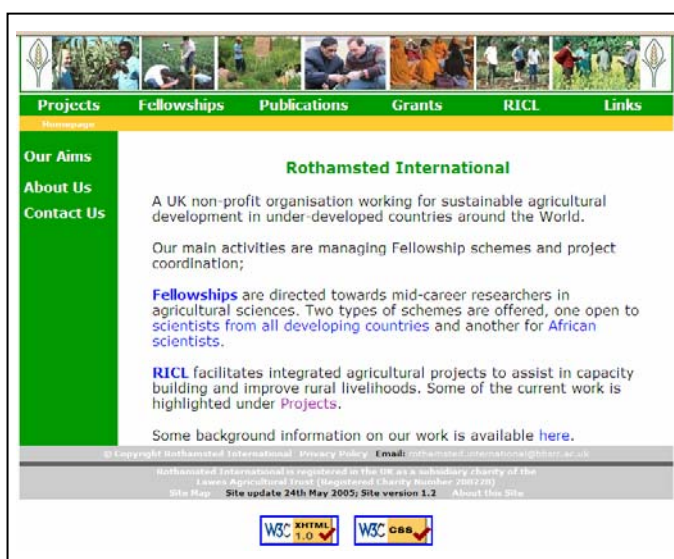
rothamsted.international@bbsrc.ac.uk

NEW INTERNET WEB SITE FOR ROTHAMSTED INTERNATIONAL

The internet web site was drastically redesigned in December 2004 and the new address is:

<http://www.rothamsted-international.org/>

The intention behind the new site was to have a simple menu bar, minimise graphics and to convey information in a simple manner for users. The pages should be easy to view and download using computers with "slower" hardware and older web browsers commonly found in many institutes, universities, internet cafés and hotels in developing countries.



Screen shot of the main page

The site also gives information about several projects coordinated by Rothamsted International with Rothamsted Research, and these pages will be expanded during 2005. There are guidelines and forms on how to apply for Fellowships, as well as links to organisations and institutions involved in agricultural development.

NEWS ABOUT ROTHAMSTED STAFF

Janet Riley, United Nations Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

Janet works on quantifiable indicators for biodiversity and sustainable development at Rothamsted Research.

Janet is involved in the as yet uncompleted Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) which was launched by Kofi Annan in 2001.

The four year MA project looks at how human well-being is affected by changes in ecosystems, and response options to ameliorate or improve ecosystems for human well-being and poverty alleviation.

Her contribution included an overview of potential ecosystem changes and also helping to define policy responses for interventions by governments in developed and developing countries. All the reports prepared by the group are awaiting publication later this year.

More information, links and downloadable Powerpoint presentations can be found on the MA website:

<http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx>

Greg Devine, mosquito control in Peru

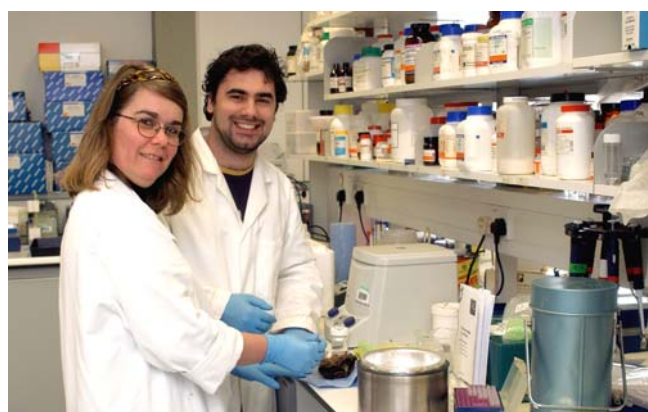
Since 2002, Greg has been on secondment from Rothamsted in Peru working on various ways for improved insecticide resistance surveillance and control of mosquitoes transmitting malaria, as part of the Amazon Malaria Initiative. He has also been successful in getting grant funding for projects with researchers from Peruvian and US organisations.

We hope there will be opportunities to assist Greg's work in Peru, for example by identifying appropriate training opportunities for Peruvian scientists working on vector control.

Simon Atkins, fungi in South Africa

Simon moved to the Environmental Biotechnology Group (EBG) at Rhodes University in 2004. He is now working on using fungi in the bioremediation of mining industry wastes.

This is quite a change from his PhD and post-doctoral studies which were on the use of the fungus *Pochonia chlamydosporia* to control nematode pests in vegetable crops. During his time at Rothamsted Research, Simon worked with Prof. Brian Kerry and Dr Penny Hirsch on using molecular techniques to monitor *Pochonia* applied to different soils and crops. Simon also jointly supervised several of the Rothamsted International Fellows from Cuba.



Simon with Belkis Peteira from CENSA, Cuba

FINAL RAI FUNDRAISING EVENT

On 29th April 2005, we sadly held the final fundraising event organised by Rothamsted Alliance International (RAI). The occasion involved a talk by Lesley Bilinda, who described her experiences during the Rwandan genocide in 1994.



Shirley Greatrex and Stephen James

At the meeting, Shirley Greatrex, as Chairperson for RAI, presented Stephen James with a closing balance cheque for £1915 as a donation to the Rothamsted International Fellowship Scheme. However, local fundraising for Rothamsted International continues with the RI Film Club organised by Gill Tattersfield, and the Club meets monthly at Rothamsted.

PROFILE RAISING EVENTS

During 2005, the staff at Rothamsted International attended several meetings and conferences to publicise the work we do.

These included the 3rd General Assembly of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) at Entebbe, Uganda and the Royal Show at Stoneleigh, UK. At the FARA meeting, Paresh Shah was able to visit several organic farms working with the Kulika Charitable Trust. Kulika carry out education and training and help deliver farmer extension services for the Ugandan government.



Demonstrating composting techniques for kitchen gardens, NARO showground, Jinja, Uganda

Rothamsted International Staff

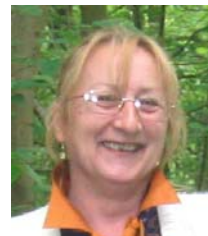
Photos of staff members in 2005, except Stephen James, Chief Executive, who is pictured on the left.



Judy Mann, Deputy Chief Executive



Marie Orford, Fellowships Coordinator



Sorrell Cunningham, Finances



Paresh Shah, International Liaison



Kathleen Howe, Alumni (volunteer)



Bill Bell, Fundraising (volunteer)



Dudley Christian, Databases (volunteer)

FEEDBACK

If you have any comments or suggestions on how to improve the pages, then please contact Paresh Shah by emailing the following address:

paresh.shah@bbsrc.ac.uk