



# The RELU Programme and its Unfolding Research Agenda

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Rural Economy  
and  
Land Use  
Programme





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# RELU – Key Public Challenges

Rural areas have encountered change and upheaval in recent years. Key public challenges include:

- Restoring trust in food chains
- Tackling animal disease in a socially acceptable manner
- Sustaining agriculture in a liberalised economy
- Promoting robust rural economies
- Mitigating threats from climate change and invasive species
- Reducing stress on water catchments





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# RELU – Key Public Challenges

This is no ordinary research programme

RELU is responding to two fundamental demands:

- For joined-up science
- For socially accountable science

Basic premises of RELU are:

- Major challenges cut across disciplinary boundaries
- Inclusive stakeholder engagement is crucial





# Joined-up Science in RELU

The Programme aims to:

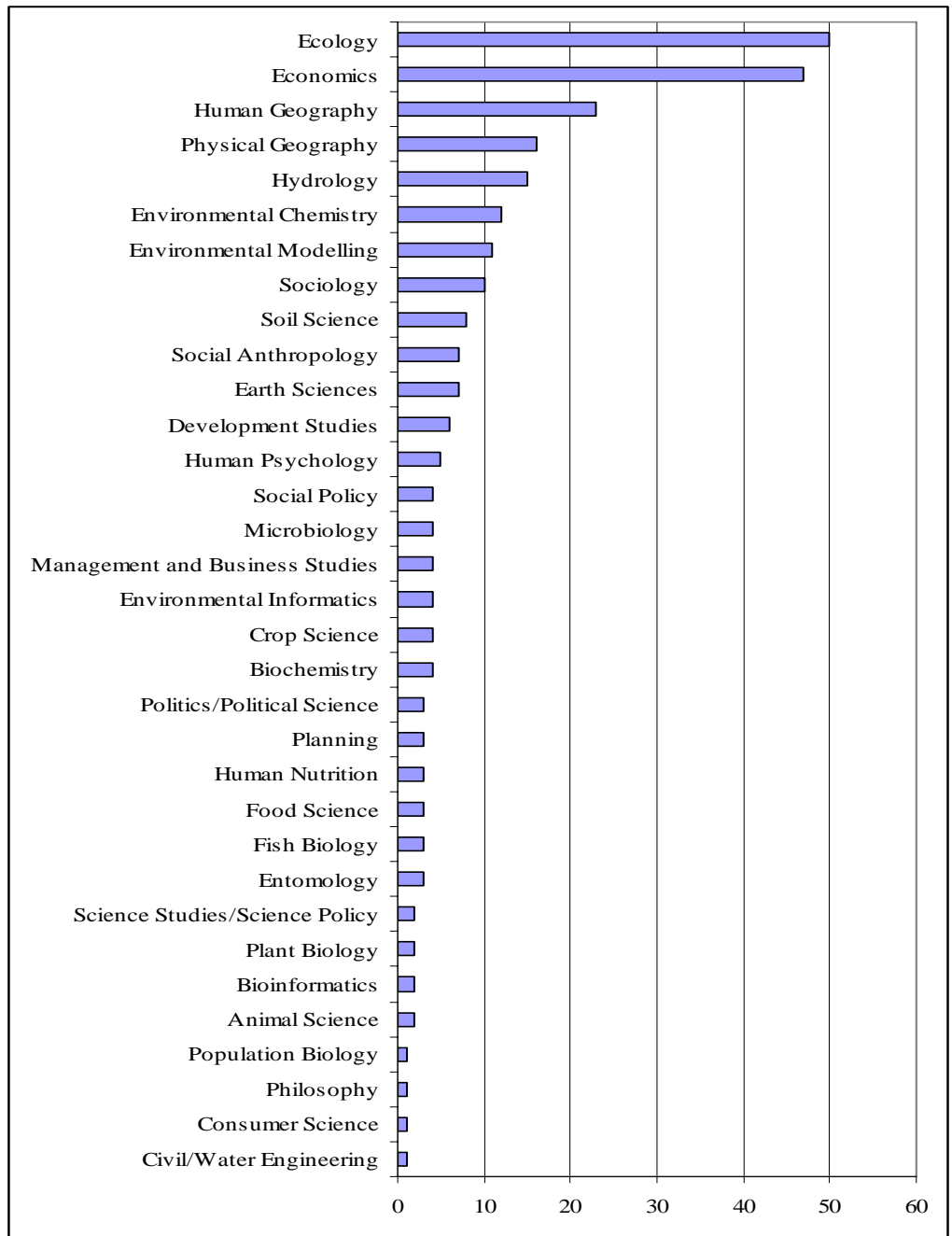
“Conduct integrative, interdisciplinary research to advance understanding of the social, economic, environmental and technological challenges faced by rural areas.”

And to:

“Expand capabilities for interdisciplinary research on rural issues.”



# Joined-up Science in RELU





# **Socially Accountable Science in RELU**

The RELU programme is committed to:

“enhancing the impact of research on rural policy and practice by engaging stakeholders in all stages of RELU.”

Through continuous engagement with a wide range of public, private and voluntary organisations and representative figures





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# Socially Accountable Science in RELU

## Programme setting

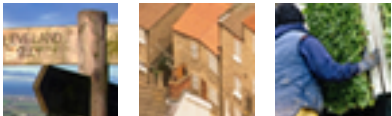
- Consultations and discussions with stakeholders

## Programme Management

- Strategic Advisory Committee and Stakeholder Forums
- Stakeholder Engagement Plans
- Conferences, workshops, briefing papers, website
- Science communication manager
- Work shadowing scheme
- Project assessment

## Project level

- Range of groups / styles of engagement





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# Socially Accountable Science in RELU

## Food Chain Forum

Richard Hutchins	Advantage West Midlands
Bill Goldsworthy	Agri-food partnership
Sarah Mukherjee	BBC
Judy Buttriss	British Nutrition Foundation Ltd
Terry Marsden	Cardiff University
Pippa Langford	Countryside Agency
John Lloyd Jones	Countryside Council for Wales
Mark Kibblewhite	Cranfield University
Sue Popple	Defra
Helen Browning	Eastbrook Farm Organic Meats
Tom MacMillan	Food Ethics Council
Charlotte Lawson	Food from Britain
Michelle Harrison	Henley Centre
David Gregory	Marks and Spencer
Margot Bateman	Pembrokeshire Fish farms
Bill Vorley	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods
Steve Parry	Unilever







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# Socially Accountable Science in RELU

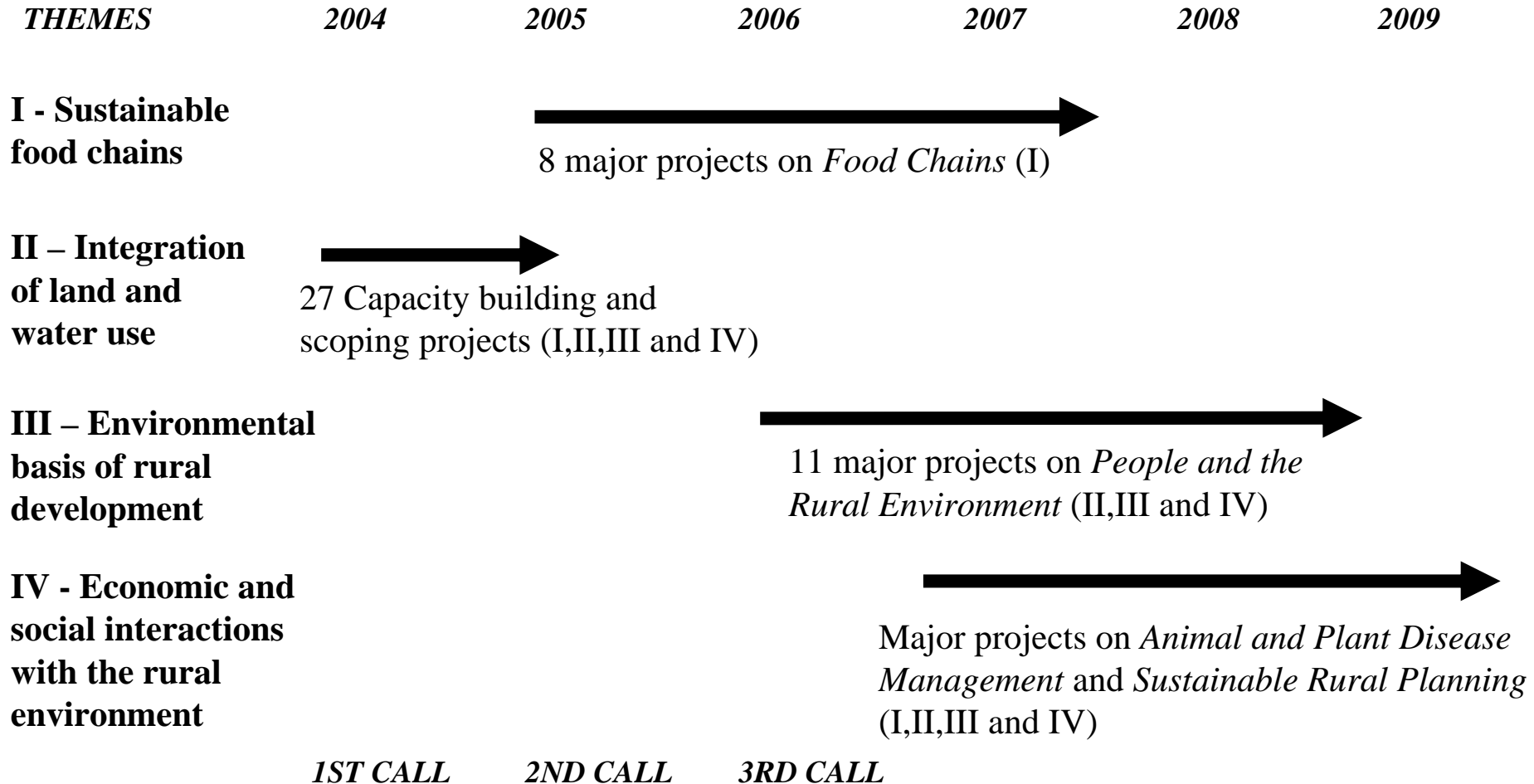
## People and the Rural Environment Forum

James Curran	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Paul Woodcock	Environment Agency
Susan Steer	Organic farmer and Chair of RICS Countryside Panel
Tamsin Cooper	Institute for European Environmental Policy
Richard Ferris	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Tony HamsPeak	District National Park
John Varley	Clinton Devon Estates
Alastair Maltby	Association of River Trusts
Julian Dennis	Wessex Water
Tony Burton	National Trust
Mark Avery	RSPB
Roger Clarke	YHA and English Nature
Mark Tinsley	P.C. Tinsley Ltd
Ian Brown	Tenant farmer
Mike Farrimond	UK Water Industry Research
Tom Warburton	ONE Regional Development Agency





# The Shape of RELU



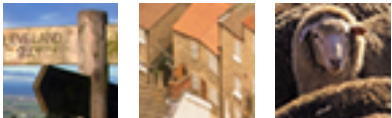


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# The Shape of RELU

First Call Projects' (2005-8) themes:

- Food Chain Risks
- Diet and Health
- Sustainable Production Systems

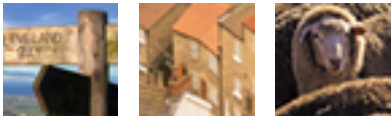




# The Shape of RELU

Second Call Projects' (2006-9) themes:

- Integration of Land and Water Use
- Environmental Basis for Rural Development
- Economic and Social Interactions with the Rural Environment

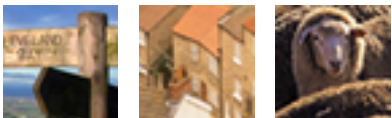




# The Shape of RELU

Third Call (2007-9) themes:

- Management of Animal and Plant Disease
- Sustainable Rural Planning





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# Enabling Knowledge Exchange Conference Aims and Objectives

## Aims

- To explore processes of knowledge transfer in RELU
- To report on progress and findings of food chain projects
- To welcome the new wave of research to RELU
- To exchange best practice on interdisciplinary working

## Objectives

- To facilitate inter-project communication
- To produce a report on knowledge brokering





# DAY 1      Learning from Each Other

**a.m.**

## **Workshops**

Methodologies; Data Integration

Interdisciplinary Training; Public Accountability of Science

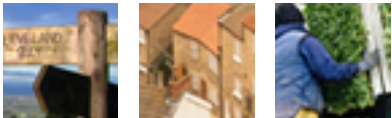
**Lunch**

## **Poster Session – Introducing RELU Projects**

**p.m.**

## **Thematic Concepts for Sustainability Science**

**The RELU Debate – Reaching Across the  
Natural/Social Science Divide: Challenges for  
Critical Research**





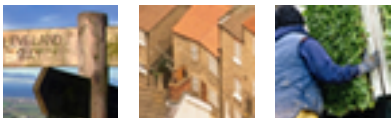
# **DAY 2      A Day of Knowledge Brokering**

**a.m.                      Perspectives on Knowledge Exchange**

**p.m.                      Knowledge Brokering workshops**

**Keynote Address – The Cultivation of Knowledge**

**Dinner                      Conference Speech – Reflections on Knowledge Brokering for RELU**







# DAY 3 RELU goes International

a.m. Food Chain Localisation

or

Can EU Directives be Implemented?  
Will CAP Reform Help?

