

PRESS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**What is land for?**

Maximising the storage of carbon in our soils and the management of water could be as important as food production in the future, according to Professor Michael Winter, editor of “***What is Land for? The Food, Fuel and Climate Change Debate***” which is published tomorrow by Earthscan.

“***What is Land for? The Food, Fuel and Climate Change Debate***” will be launched by Government Chief Advisor Professor John Beddington at 5 pm on Thursday 19 November 2009, in The Atrium, 4 Millbank. **Members of the press are invited to attend.**

Edited by Professor Michael Winter and Dr Matt Lobley of the University of Exeter, it includes contributions from more than 50 leading academics, including key researchers from the UK research councils’ Rural Economy and Land Use Programme.

Professor Michael Winter said: “In an era of climate change, carbon sequestration becomes more and more of an issue, and we are beginning to understand better the role of soils in this process, so the actions of farmers and land managers are key to our survival.

“Flooding events are also becoming more frequent so how we manage the land on floodplains is also vital.

“Of course we need to feed a growing population, and we need to consider energy demands too. Land is now multifunctional providing many different ecosystem services. All these demands must be traded off against one another and that is the theme of this new book.”

Notes for editors:

1. *What is Land For? The Food, Fuel and Climate Change Debate* is published by Earthscan <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?Tabid=74738>
2. The launch will take place at 5 pm on Thursday 19 November 2009 in The Atrium Restaurant, 4 Millbank, Westminster <http://www.atriumrestaurant.com/>
3. The Rural Economy and Land Use Programme is an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), with additional funding provided by the Scottish Government and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. See [www.relu.ac.uk](http://www.relu.ac.uk) for more information about the Relu programme.
4. Dr Matt Lobley’s research fellowship, which has led to publication of this book, is funded by Great Western Research <http://www.greatwesternresearch.ac.uk/>.
5. For any further information contact Anne Liddon, Science Communications Manager, tel 0191 222 6903, email relu@ncl.ac.uk.

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