



Rural Economy and Land Use Programme

Harnessing the social and natural sciences for sustainable rural development

RELU NEWS

April-June 2005

RELU collaborates with Land Use Policy Group

Our [May Workshop](#), hosted in collaboration with the [Land Use Policy Group](#), offered an overview of key analytical themes from the scoping and development activities funded under RELU's first call.

OECD welcomes RELU

Director Philip Lowe presented the [RELU perspective](#) at the May OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) conference "**Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems**" in Rome. Great interest was shown in the RELU Programme: it was evident that its ambitious reach is unparalleled.

The OECD's agri-food research programme runs a [fellowship scheme](#) for researchers to be attached to research teams in other OECD countries. RELU projects are encouraged to apply.

Read all about RELU

The first programme level [briefing papers](#) were published in May.

No 1 Setting the Research Agenda. Introducing the research commissioned under the first round of funding.

No 2 Rural Economy and Land Use Futures. Reviewing the significance of futures work and its use in public and commercial organisations in relation to RELU.

To obtain printed copies, please email your request to relu@ncl.ac.uk

Top US scientist crossing the pond to RELU

Professor Clare Hinrichs from Pennsylvania State University has been awarded an ESRC-SSRC fellowship to study the "**Relocalization of agri-food systems in USA and UK**". Prof Hinrichs will be working with the [RELU food chain research teams](#) of Henry Buller, Gareth Edwards-Jones and Wyn Grant during 2006.

Calling an end to third call consultation

The consultation on [animal and plant disease management](#) as a potential priority area for RELU has now ended. We are currently collating the contributions in order to shape our third call, which is due out in October.





Looking at Landscape: Advising new government agency

Policy makers are becoming increasingly engaged with the importance of landscape, reports **Professor Paul Selman**, Principal Investigator and organiser of the recent RELU workshop "[Landscape as an Integrating framework for Rural Policy and Planning](#)"

As a result of work carried out for RELU, Paul was invited to give a presentation at the Countryside Council for Wales workshop "Integrated Rural Development in Europe" and will be briefing the Countryside Agency, English Nature and the Rural Development Service on this issue in the run-up to their merger to form one integrated organization, Natural England.

RELU People and Projects

We would like to congratulate **Professor Michael Winter**, co-investigator on the project "[Sustainable and Holistic Food Chains for Recycling Livestock Waste to Land](#)", who was awarded OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Prof Winter has also been made a Board Member of the Countryside Agency and will be helping to oversee the establishment of the new Commission for Rural Communities, which is to investigate rural disadvantage.

RELU-RISK project "[Assessing and Managing Food Chain Risks Affecting the Rural Economy](#)" is at the leading edge of evaluating participatory processes by involving stakeholders, particularly those in rural communities, throughout the management and mitigation of a food safety issue or risk event. Their cutting edge work was highlighted at recent workshops: [the first](#) on a ferry between Helsinki and Stockholm May 19-22; [the second](#) in Graz June 5-7. The [RELU-RISK](#) website will be online in August.

