



## Rural Economy and Land Use Programme

*Harnessing the social and natural sciences for sustainable rural development*

# RELU NEWS

July-September 2005

### Funding available for research on animal and plant disease management and sustainability of rural development

RELU is pleased to announce its [Third Call for funding](#). Concept notes for research proposals involving integrated contributions from natural and social scientists are invited on:

- i) Research into the management of animal and plant diseases.
- ii) Research under the theme of economic and social interactions with the rural environment. Under this theme, the programme would also welcome proposals that combine physical or engineering sciences as well as the natural and social sciences.
- iii) An opportunity for holders of scoping studies (SS) or capacity building awards (CBA) under RELU's first call to apply for an interdisciplinary research project that builds directly on their SS or CBA, where they have not already done so under the second call.

Concept notes must be sent to [reluconcepts@esrc.ac.uk](mailto:reluconcepts@esrc.ac.uk) by **21 November 2005**.

### Blind dating service for scientists

Looking for a Third Call Partner? The [RELU Dating Service](#) is intended to help you find potential collaborators for the third call. Please email [relu@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:relu@ncl.ac.uk) the following information for our [message board](#).

- name
- email / web address
- specialism offered
- specialism sought
- areas of interest within the RELU third call

### New directions needed for European research on the agri-food system

Professor Philip Lowe, RELU director, addressed the European agricultural science directors at the EURAGRI Conference [Anticipating the future: Knowledge based policy for European Agriculture](#), 21-23 September, York, on the changing agenda for public R&D in the agri-food system. In his [address](#), Professor Lowe called for a renewal in the justifications and roles of public research in agriculture if they are to command public legitimacy. This demands not only changes in the agenda for public science but also the way that science is done. A major contribution to this new direction for science must come from interdisciplinary research.

### Food Chain Forum links RELU to key stakeholders

The [Food Chain Forum](#) met in London in September with the Principal Investigators [Alastair Bailey](#), [Wyn Grant](#) and [Richard Shepherd](#) from the Food Chain Research Projects. The stakeholder forum brings together individuals from public, commercial and voluntary organisations to help disseminate and evaluate the implications of RELU research.

## Work shadowing opportunities

All research staff employed on RELU projects are invited to apply for the [RELU work shadowing scheme](#). The aim of the scheme is to introduce research staff to the action-contexts in which their research may be used. These contexts could be commercial organisations, voluntary bodies or public agencies.

## Enabling consideration of both the social and environmental perspectives of rural problems

A new dataset on Social and Environmental Conditions in Rural Areas of England (SECRA) is now available. It will allow researchers and policy makers to include both social and environmental perspectives when considering rural problems.

The SECRA dataset and report, produced by the RELU project [Developing spatial data for the classification of rural areas according to socio-economic and environmental sustainability factors](#) describes a new definition of rural areas and provides a conceptual framework within which to consider rural conditions. The dataset can also be used for direct analysis of rural areas and in typology development. For more information please contact [Meg Huby](#).

## London Zoo hosts food chain symposium

The Mammal Society, in association with the British Society of Animal Science and RELU, will be holding a symposium on "**Wild Mammals and the Human Food Chain**", 25-26 November at The Meeting Rooms, London Zoo. Speakers include Professors Philip Lowe, RELU Director, and [Henry Buller](#). For further details see the [website](#), or contact the [Mammal Society](#).

## RELU People and Projects

Outputs are available from the workshop, [Integrating environmental and socio-economic spatial data](#), held at King's Manor, York, 19 May 2005. The workshop was run by the [Data Resources Scoping Study](#) and the RELU [Data Support Service](#).

Dave Chandler and Wyn Grant, from the project [Biological Alternatives to Chemical Pesticide Inputs in the Food Chain](#), gave a [presentation](#) on biopesticide regulation to the meeting of the International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association at Whittlesford, 15 September.

Francis Murray, from the project [Warmwater Fish Production as a Niche Production and Market Diversification Strategy](#), attended the [Bangladesh Expo](#), 14-17 September, London, networking with the Bangladeshi community directly to assess attitudes towards tilapia consumption and organic certification for the species.

Congratulations to Aideen McGloin, RA on the project [Co-operative Management of the Agricultural Environment \(Co-ManAgE\)](#), who has won a scholarship to study for a PhD at University College Dublin, starting this Autumn.

