

# science policy success



## A two-day KnowledgeScotland Workshop Our Dynamic Earth, Holyrood, Edinburgh

Wednesday 7 October & Thursday 8 October 2009

This conference has been organised as part of the KnowledgeScotland initiative, a resource for policymakers and Government stakeholders. It is focused on the food, health, environment and rural sectors. The initiative partners are Scotland's top research providers (MRPs):

- \* Macaulay Land Use Research Institute
- \* Moredun Research Institute
- \* Rowett Institute of Nutrition and Health
- \* SAC (Scottish Agricultural College)
- \* SCRI (Scottish Crop Research Institute)

KnowledgeScotland delivers new, policy information and a schedule of events and activities. The project, supported by Scottish Government, is designed to assist policymakers develop improved knowledge and understanding in the food, health, environment and rural sectors. The Edinburgh workshop will be a forum for discussion on the original Cross Cutting Themes\* of:

### **Responding to Climate Change**

### **Protecting Biodiversity**

### **Environmental, Social and Economic Sustainability of Rural Scotland**

It will also consider the evolution of these themes and the increasing attention being paid to Health and Well-being as it applies across the work of the MRPs. Discussion will also focus on the progress being made across the themes. The forum will discuss how to make these topics more influential within the overall programmes of research, and give them greater focus. The workshops will provide an invaluable interchange of views for MRP research staff, those involved in policy formation and those working in the wider food, health, environmental and rural services. The programme also allows for a wider look at the way science-backed policy is regarded by the general public.

Attendance is free but places will be limited. To book your place, please visit:

[www.scri.ac.uk/events/forthcomingevents/sciencepolicysuccess](http://www.scri.ac.uk/events/forthcomingevents/sciencepolicysuccess)

Email: [info@scri.ac.uk](mailto:info@scri.ac.uk) or call 01382 562 731 and ask for 'Communications'.

# knowledgescotland

Science Policy Connections Online

\* The 'Cross Cutting Themes' are a development of the current Research Strategy. Research is carried out within and across four Programmes, and is being developed and driven within the MRPs. They have selected a number of Cross Cutting Theme Champions to represent, promote and manage the research and to liaise with RERAD.

# Wednesday 7 October

**08:45 Registration and refreshments**

**09:25 Welcome by the Chair**

Session 1:

## Joining Up Science & Policy

**09:30 – 11:00**

The workshop will open with an address from a special guest who will outline the importance of science-policy networks and the influence they can bring to bear on Government actions. From this address, the audience will also get an insight from the Government side in to the likely imperatives for policy over the next five years as we move from the existing research programmes to the next and as the current, Cross Cutting Themes evolve. The session will also include a presentation on the Climate Change, the current state of research and the tasks of identifying and managing associated risks in a changing world.

The format will be an address lasting 10 – 15 minutes followed by a Q & A session facilitated by the Chair. The presentation will be followed by further, facilitated exchanges. We will hear the latest thinking on the evolution of the climate change themes and have the chance to open the dialogue about greater integration between research programmes and over-arching themes.

**11:00 Refreshments, networking, posters & displays**

Session 2:

## Managing the Messages

**11:30 – 1300**

This session will hear the results of a public opinion survey on attitudes in Scotland to science-related issues and public policies. How effective are the messages about food-security, environmental change and global impact, sustainability and protecting diversity? Are new methods of science-communication required and what place does Government-supported research have in popular perceptions?

The briefing on the Opinion Survey commissioned for KnowledgeScotland will be delivered by the pollsters. A summary of the findings will be available in booklet form for the audience. The Chair will lead a discussion about the results, their implications for science and policy and the wider lessons that can be learned from the survey.

**13:00 Lunch, networking, posters & displays**

Session 3:

## Health & Wellbeing

**14:00 – 15:30**

The afternoon of the workshop will open with a presentation on the work being done under the Health & Wellbeing theme in Programme 4 and how the MRPs are each making a contribution. We can place particular emphasis on new technology and innovations and links to the Scottish food and drink industries.

The session will seek to draw together the strands of research taking place across the MRPs that will impact on public health policy. It will aim to have a high-level input from the public health policy side. Once again we will seek to debate the evolution of the Themes, consider the relationship between research programmes and over-arching themes and the interface with Policy.

**15:30 Refreshments, networking, posters & displays**

Session 4:

**Working together more effectively**

**16:00 – 17:00**

The closing session of today's workshop will take the form of a panel/audience discussion about means of enabling greater cross-programme and cross MRP collaboration during the remaining period of the RERAD research programme. The focus will also be on better communication between science and policy. What should be the future of the KnowledgeScotland initiative post March 2010?

This session is the opportunity to look ahead with the benefits of some of the views put forward during the first day of the workshop. What are the lessons that we can take from these sessions to inform the next strategic research programme?

**17:00: Closing statements by the conference chair - Close of workshop Day 1**

## Thursday 8 October

**08:45 Registration and refreshments**

**09:25 Welcome by the Chair**

Session 5:

**Environmental, Social & Economic Sustainability**

**09:30 – 11:00**

The second day of the workshop will open with a keynote address on sustainability from a major stakeholder or opinion former. There will also be a presentation on the current state of research within the Sustainability theme.

We will hear the latest thinking in this area and have the chance to renew the dialogue about greater integration between research programmes and over-arching themes.

**11:00 Refreshments, networking, posters & displays**



Thursday 7 October (continued)

Session 6:

## Don't shoot the messenger!

**11:30 – 1300**

This session will feature an address by a major figure in the Scottish media focusing on environmental change, sustainable supply and consumption, protection and management of natural resources/ biodiversity and the Scotland that lies outwith the cities. It will be illustrated by a short film produced by journalism students giving a 'street view' of the issues we are discussing.

This part of the workshop is aimed at putting our debate in a wider context representative of the views of those who have the power to change governments and whose taxes fund the research programme. It will lead in to a lively facilitated discussion.

**13:00 Lunch, networking, posters & displays**

Session 7:

## Biodiversity and Scotland's landscapes

**14:00 – 15:30**

The afternoon of the workshop will open with a presentation on the work being done within the Biodiversity theme and how the MRPs are each making a contribution.

The session will discuss work across the existing programmes but also debate where biodiversity will fit within the new, proposed objectives.

**15:30 Refreshments, networking, posters & displays**

Session 8:

## Have I Got Science News for You!

**16:00 – 17:00**

The closing session of the workshop will be a bit of 'light relief' in the format of the well known TV show and bringing together a panel from the science and policy sides to challenge their knowledge of Scotland's scientific achievements and natural heritage.

**1700: Closing statements by the conference chair - Close of workshop Day 2**

**Evening reception organised by the British Ecological Society.**

