

## Review of events – highlights

A key role for the Communications Office is organising a range of events to publicise new developments at SCRI, as well as producing publications to disseminate information about our research more widely. Visitors come from other research institutions to understand more about the role that SCRI plays in plant and environmental research, and special events are held regularly to inform food producers, processors and retailers, and the general public about our work and its outcomes.



School children in the Living Field Community Garden.



SCRI Open Day June 5<sup>th</sup> 2004.



Deputy Minister Allan Wilson opens the Glasshouse Complex at the SCRI Open Day June 4<sup>th</sup> 2004.

One of the most successful events of 2004 was the Open Day held on June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, when the general public were able to visit SCRI to see exhibits and demonstrations on many aspects of our research; the event was designed to be attractive to families, and the Deputy Minister for Rural Affairs took this opportunity to open the new glasshouse complex.



Fruit for the Future gives farmers, supermarket buyers and fruit processors the chance to taste raspberry selections that are in the fruit breeding process.

Other events are designed specifically for visitors from industry; these are organised collaboratively with the Scottish Society for Crop Research, Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) and the various levy boards. An example is 'Fruit for the Future', which showcases fruit research at SCRI, and previews the selections that will form the basis of new varieties. 'Cereal Solutions' focusses on our ongoing research on wheat and barley, including the Home Grown Cereals Authority (HGCA) funded research into wheat varieties suitable for animal and poultry feed, and distilling.



Cereal Solutions participants hear about the LINK project, GREEN grain.

'Potatoes in Practice' is now the premier field event of its kind in Scotland; sponsored by the British Potato Council (BPC) and organised by SCRI, SAC and CSC PotatoCare, the exhibition features a combination of field plots and marquee stands. This year's



Potatoes in Practice.

event attracted about 500 visitors, representing many sections of industry, government, and research organisations, as well as international delegations.



Opening the Living Field Community Garden, Jim McColl and Peter Gregory.

We also seek to focus on the new generation of potential scientists currently in education; this has encouraged us to find fresh perspectives for the presentation of our activities, and SCRI has had a visible presence during the year at science centres and school science fairs. A big ongoing success is 'The Living Field', which combines an interactive CD with onsite visits



School children enjoy the Living Field CD, an interactive tool designed to complement the school curriculum.

to SCRI's 'Community Garden'. A highlight of the year was the opening of the Garden by Jim McColl, presenter of 'Beechgrove Garden'; this took place on 17 August 2005, and was attended by 110 school children. Other visitors on the day included education advisers, science centre staff, local politicians, and many others who had provided input to the project. The event was extensively covered by the press who highlighted SCRI's unique role in educating Scottish children about their environment.



The Living Field CD.

The influence of SCRI's scientific research extends far beyond Scotland. Visiting scientists, politicians and farmers all add to the exchange of information and participate in the process of knowledge transfer. Recent visits have included a delegation from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), which was headed by the European Director for the Bureau of International Cooperation; the purpose of their visit was to discuss ways of improving food quality by biochemical methods. Senior members from the provincial government of Sichuan also visited, forging encouraging links for future cooperative work.



Nigel Kerby and Finlay Dale host a delegation from the Chinese province of Sichuan.