

Professor John Hillman's retirement

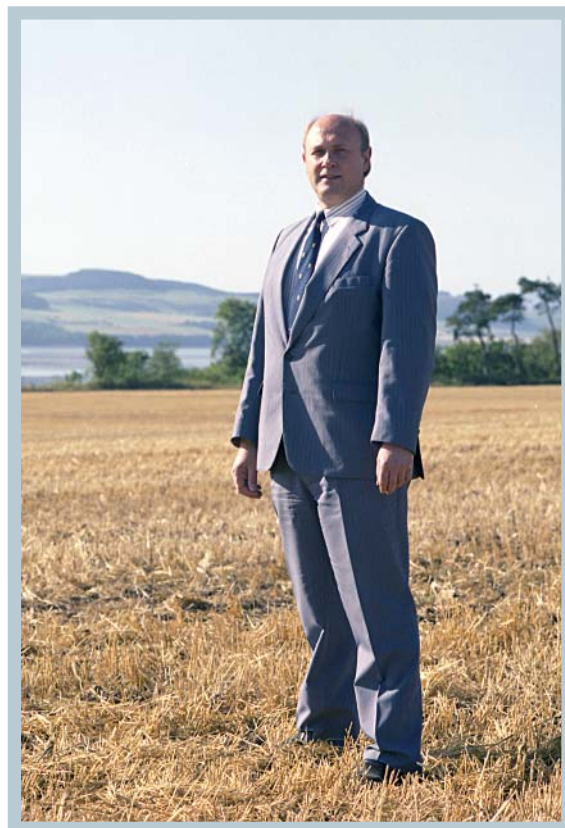
Professor John Hillman retired on 31st March 2005 after 19 years as Director of SCRI. John was appointed as Director at SCRI in March 1986, bringing with him a wealth of experience and achievement in the world of biological research. Many present and retired staff attended the party organised to mark his retirement at which a portrait, commissioned to hang in the Boardroom, was unveiled. Howard Davies presented him with gifts and messages of appreciation for his outstanding service to the Institute.



Born in Kent, John was educated at University College, Aberystwyth, obtaining a First Class Honours degree in Botany in 1965 and a PhD in Plant Physiology and Biochemistry three years later. His first appointment was in the University of Nottingham, School of Agriculture, then from 1971 to 1986 he was first a Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer, Reader, and finally Professor and Head of the Department of Botany in the University of Glasgow.

During his time at SCRI, John won many awards for his achievements including an Honorary DSc University of Strathclyde 1994; Honorary DSc University of Abertay Dundee 1996; British Potato Industry Award 1999; International Potato Industry Award 2000; Dr Hardie Memorial Award 2001; and Scottish Horticultural Medal 2003.

John lectured widely, both in the UK and abroad, and, despite the many demands on his time, has managed



to maintain his research interests and involvement, covering a wide range of topics from plant growth regulators, through carbon metabolism to gene banks and genetically modified crops. To all of these activities, he brought an unrivalled breadth of knowledge and wisdom. John was a staunch defender and campaigner on behalf of SCRI. He has also fought vigorously on behalf of the agriculture, horticulture and biotechnology industries.

As Professor Howard Davies made the presentation he said "Successful Institute Directors are visionaries and tenacious supporters of the highest quality of research possible. Prof. Hillman has undoubtedly proven himself at the highest possible level, transforming SCRI into a truly international research centre which can be proud of its achievements".