

THE NATURAL RESOURCES CHALLENGE Theme 1

The sustainable use and protection of natural resources is essential to support continued food production and quality of life for humans, domestic animals and wildlife. Accountability for judicious use of natural resources includes a holistic approach to cause-and-effect relationships throughout the agri-food chain.

Efficient use of natural resources includes: activities in the production of livestock, forestry products, food crops and fisheries to provide new, specialty and value added products; and innovative approaches to assessing the vulnerability of the environment to management practices that involve renewable resources considerations.

Examples of topic areas might include:

- Addressing environmental issues related to natural resource stewardship.
- Monitoring and evaluating natural resource stewardship efforts.
- Holistic economic and societal evaluations of systems where natural resources are used in the agri-food chain.
- Planning and management of availability and efficient utilisation of water, soil, air, biomass and energy.
- Societal options and responses to ensure environmental protection, the availability and quality of natural resources, energy options, and the countryside, including forests.
- Cross-discipline and technology evaluations to assess sustainability, including models and databases.

Theme 1 Co-ordinator

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SUSTAINABILITY IN PRACTICE Theme 2

Sustainable agricultural systems are an attractive area of research as they target maintenance of resources and biodiversity within a productive agricultural system. An ideal agricultural system would maintain or even increase productivity into the future, with minimal inputs, while conserving natural resources and protecting the environment.

This theme aims to fund activities that link research to adopting sustainable practices, tackle issues that have historically limited such adoption, and bridge research disciplines. Activities in this theme include: social and bio-economic considerations, and scientific research aimed at providing the information and justification land managers need to assess the risk of adopting new practices that predominately offer long-term benefits in return for a more stable natural resource base.

Examples of topic areas might include:

- Risk assessment and management related to agricultural practices.
- New tools for predicting, detecting and fighting pests from a sustainable perspective.
- Strategies that evaluate compromises when human and natural resources, innovative technologies, the environment and social issues are involved.
- Development and implementation of innovative concepts, including bio-energy, that focus on the efficient use of natural resources while enhancing sustainability.
- Strategies, techniques and incentives to encourage adoption of production systems that emphasize long-term sustainable goals.

Theme 2 Co-ordinator

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THE FOOD CHAIN Theme 3

This theme includes new approaches for the production of valuable and safe materials and substances within agricultural and agri-food systems which have long-term impacts on the food chain. It will promote research on the scientific links between food production systems, food safety and environmental outcomes. It will include analysis of public perceptions of both traditional and new products. Research will encompass primary production to end consumption and deal equally with plant and animal organisms. Special attention will be given to results from the post-genomic (proteomics) area and to the impact of new technologies.

This theme promotes research on animal and plant pathogenesis, and animal and plant pests, which have an impact on preservation of agricultural products and on the sustainability of farming.

Examples of topic areas might include:

- Impact of transgenic plants and animal cloning.
- Molecular farming for food production and safety of the resulting animal and plant products.
- New plant protection strategies for sustainable agriculture.
- Monitoring xenobiotics, genetic modifications, pathogens, allergens in the food chain.
- Genomic research relevant to agriculture and aquaculture.
- Micro-array technology relevant to agriculture.
- Emerging diseases and resistance to conventional treatment (new pathogens and strains).
- New technologies for detection, diagnosis and treatment of old pathogens.
- New tools for preventing outbreaks of old and new pathogens.
- Impact of current trade patterns and flows on dissemination of pathogens/pests.

Theme 3 (Plant) Co-ordinator

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CO - OPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMME 2005 - 2009

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Scientists, who are nationals or permanent residents of an OECD member country participating in this Programme, can apply for a Research Fellowship under one of the 3 Research Themes of the Programme.

The deadline for applications is 15 September for research applications for the following year (for example: applicants applying for a research fellowship taking place in 2009 need to apply by 15 September 2008).

All applications must be submitted to the Secretariat via the online procedure. Full details and application forms can be found on our website

<http://www.oecd.org/agr/prog> or contact the Secretariat at TAD.Prog@oecd.org

SPONSORSHIP OF CONFERENCES *

Conference Organisers wishing to apply for sponsorship of a conference which is relevant to one of the 3 Research Themes of our Programme should complete the application form and read the guidelines which are available on our website.

Please note that all conference sponsorship applications must be received by the Secretariat by email by 15 September for conferences taking place in the following year (for example: applicants for sponsorship for a conference taking place in 2009 need to apply by 15 September 2008).

* "Conferences" is used generically and includes workshops, symposiums, congresses etc.

If you need further information or clarification on this, or on the Research Themes of our Programme, please contact the Secretariat at :

TAD.Prog@oecd.org who will liaise with the relevant Scientific Co-ordinator of the Research Theme.



What is the OECD ?

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, part of the system of Western International institutions developed after World War II, is the main forum for monitoring economic trends in its 30 Member countries, the free-market democracies of North America, Europe and the Pacific.

The OECD provides a setting where governments can compare experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and co-ordinate domestic and international policies. It is a forum where peer pressure can act as a powerful incentive to improve policy and implement 'soft law' – non-binding instruments such as the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises – and can on occasion lead to formal agreements and treaties.

The OECD is the largest source of comparative data on the industrial economies in the world. It produces a wide range of publications: economic surveys of each of the Member Countries: statistics, analyses, and policy recommendations in a vast variety of subjects – trade, banking and financial markets, employment, social policies, the environment, agriculture, energy, industry, development co-operation, science and technology, R & D, taxation, education, transport, and much more.

Current Member countries of OECD are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland*, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg*, Mexico*, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey*, the United Kingdom and the United States.

* OECD member countries not participating in the Co-operative Research Programme.



Programme Organisation

- **The Governing Body** is composed of a representative from each participating country. It defines the general orientation of the Programme.
- **The Management Committee** is composed of 8 scientists and research administrators, 4 of whom act as Theme Co-ordinators. It ensures the Programme's scientific quality, selects fellowship recipients, and conferences, advises the Governing Body and the Secretariat.
- **The Secretariat** is responsible for the daily operation of the Programme and provides a central contact point.
- **The Network of National Correspondents** (one for each participating country) has the responsibility for distributing information and promoting the Programme to interested scientists and institutions in their country.

Australia	Greece	Poland
Austria	Hungary	Portugal
Belgium	Ireland	Slovak Republic
Canada	Italy	Spain
Czech Republic	Japan	Sweden
Denmark	Korea	Switzerland
Finland	Netherlands	United Kingdom
France	New Zealand	United States
Germany	Norway	

For further information please contact:

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Programme Objectives and Activities

Through the promotion of international co-operation and networking in priority areas of basic and applied agro-food research, the objectives of the Co-operative Research Programme (CRP) are:

- To provide a sound scientific knowledge base to agricultural policy-making;
- To contribute to an informed public debate on current and emerging agro-food issues and to help resolve conflicting views in Member countries (through sponsorship of conferences);
- To contribute to scientific advances in this field (through sponsorship of fellowships), and
- To promote scientific understanding and standards between major regions of OECD.

Two types of activities open to scientists are promoted by the CRP:

- **FELLOWSHIPS to conduct research projects in a foreign country with a view to strengthening the potential of the scientific community by increasing mobility and exchange of ideas**
The Programme pays transportation costs and subsistence to post-doctoral level research scientists from a participating country wishing to work in a laboratory in another participating country. These fellowships may be from 2 to 26 weeks.
- **The Programme sponsors CONFERENCES**
Conferences focusing on specific research priority areas of the Programme (as determined by the Management Committee) are sponsored or co-sponsored by the Programme by funding invited speakers. The purpose of funding these conferences is to inform policy-makers, industry and academia of current and future research, scientific developments and opportunities in specific areas.

Each year, five to seven conferences are sponsored or co-sponsored by the Programme and take place in OECD member countries participating in our Programme.

Only scientists who are nationals or residents of participating OECD Member countries are eligible for support.



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Sponsorship Programme

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Co-operative Research Programme :
Biological Resource Management
for Sustainable Agricultural Systems

2005 - 2009

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