



Cross-Institute Programme for Sustainable Soil Function SoilCIP

Christmas and New Year Newsletter



Soils Research Advisory Committee workshop

Phil Haygarth, Karl Ritz, Richard Bardgett and David Hopkins have completed the final documentation from the *Horizons in Soils Research* workshop. The documents have been posted on the workshop website, along with contributions from the speakers and break out groups:

<http://www.iger.bbsrc.ac.uk/SRACWorkshop/welcome.htm>

Phil reports that the material has already helped the Soils Research Advisory Committee (SRAC) engage with UK research funders, and that the SRAC is now acting to capitalise on these opportunities for the soils community. The SRAC will endeavour to keep the community informed of pertinent developments in soils, and key material will be posted on the website.

Cross-Institute visits and links

Phil Haygarth visited Charlie Shand and colleagues at the Macaulay Institute to discuss a new SoilCIP collaboration on organic phosphorus in soils and waters.

Marcel van Oijen, CEH Edinburgh, presented a seminar at Rothamsted on "Bayesian calibration and comparison of process-based vegetation models".

Dr Liu Xuejun, Visiting Scientist at Rothamsted from China Agricultural University, has just returned to Rothamsted after spending 3 months at CEH Edinburgh, working with Neil Cape, Tony Dore and Sim Tang on measuring and modelling N deposition. Keith visited the group in December and discussed further collaborations.

Doctoral Training Grant (DTG)

We have received two applications for our DTG studentships so far; candidates are being followed up. There is still plenty of time to look for good candidates for either this year's or next year's studentship – closing date for applications is 31st January 2007.

The projects can be viewed via:

<http://www.sustainablesoilcip.org.uk/studship.htm>



Early spring flowers, Westonbirt Arboretum, Glos.

With Season's Greetings – have a good holiday!

Keith Goulding, 21st December 2006