


# The Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department's (SEERAD) Major Research Providers (MRPs)


  
**Scottish Crop Research Institute (SCRI)**

**Mission**  
To conduct excellent research in plant and environment sciences

**Description**  
The 400 staff and students of SCRI and the University of Dundee have well equipped laboratory, glasshouse and field facilities in which to conduct excellent research. Research focuses on processes that regulate the growth of plants and their responses to pests, pathogens and the environment. It includes genetics to breed crops with improved quality and nutritional value as fast as possible. By understanding the plant's responses to pests and diseases and how they react to the soil, air and water around them, environmentally friendly and sustainable methods of protecting crops from the ravages of pests, diseases and weeds are developed.

**Sites**  
SCRI is situated in Invergowrie on the north bank of the River Tay; it is a first class agricultural area to the west of Dundee. <http://www.scri.ac.uk/>




  
**Biomathematics & Statistics Scotland (BioSS)**


**Mission**  
To support the research programme of the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department and its sponsored institutes, through specialist advice and training, and to provide research in statistics and biomathematics

**Description**  
BioSS has an international reputation for its research in biomathematics and statistics. Our research is partitioned into three themes, each of which draws on the expertise and experience of staff. BioSS consultants add quantitative expertise to research throughout Scotland. Our staff have technical skills that are applicable to a wide range of scientific problems and the communication skills that allow them to interact effectively with scientists from other disciplines. BioSS bridges the gap between the development and application of biomathematics and statistics, and we are strongly committed to the dissemination of modern quantitative methods to the scientific community, government and the bio-industries.

**Sites**  
BioSS consists of approximately 30 staff with headquarters based at Edinburgh University, and groups at the SCRI, Rowett, Macaulay, Hannah, Moredun and SAC.

<http://www.bioss.ac.uk/>




  
**Rowett Research Institute (RRI)**

**Mission**  
To conduct research at the forefront of nutrition: to define how nutrition can prevent disease, improve health and enhance the quality of food production in agriculture

**Description**  
Our research is focused on:  
- developing an understanding of the biological activity of specific nutrients at a cellular level  
- the identification and development of biomarkers to aid in the detection and prevention of diet-related diseases  
- understanding the basis of individual differences in responses to diet.  
This work is underpinned by state of the art platform technologies such as transcriptomics, proteomics and metabolomics.

**Sites**  
The institute is located on a single site in Buckburn on the outskirts of Aberdeen.

<http://www.rowett.ac.uk/>




  
**Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (MLURI)**

**Mission**  
To be an international leader in research on the management of rural land resources for the benefit of people and the environment

**Description**  
Our Science Areas are:  
- understanding how natural processes and human activities affect water resources  
- understanding the impact that the activities of large herbivores have on the landscape and on biodiversity  
- understanding what causes land use change, measuring and forecasting it, and quantifying its economic, environmental and social impacts  
- understanding and managing environmental and rural policy issues  
- understanding the processes governing the acquisition of carbon and nutrient resources, and the growth of both herbaceous and woody perennials

**Sites**  
The institute is based on a single site in Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen.

<http://www.macaulay.ac.uk/>



  
**Moredun Research Institute (MRI)**

**Mission**  
To conduct distinguished scientific research on infectious diseases in livestock and of comparative relevance to man

**Description**  
The aims of the Institute are:  
- To carry out innovative basic and strategic multidisciplinary research on diseases which undermine biological efficiency, impair animal welfare or threaten public health.  
- To develop strategies for improved control and prevention of disease, thereby furthering animal and human wellbeing and encouraging sustainable agriculture.  
- To contribute new knowledge to biological science, comparative medicine, environmental protection and public health.  
- To maintain specialist diagnostic and disease surveillance services to facilitate epidemiological investigations, and early awareness of emerging problems.

**Sites**  
The institute is located on a single site at the Pentlands Science Park outside Edinburgh.

<http://www.mri.sari.ac.uk/mri.asp>



  
**Scottish Agricultural College (SAC)**

**Mission**  
To enhance the sustainability of our land-based industries

**Description**  
Our vision is "to be a focus in Scotland for innovation and the transfer of knowledge to the land-based industries". SAC (The Scottish Agricultural College) is an innovative, knowledge-based organisation, supporting the development of land-based industries and communities through our specialist research and development resources education and training provision expert advisory and consultancy services.

**SAC Sites**  
Our three main campuses are at Aberdeen, Ayr and Edinburgh, and there are 23 local advisory offices, eight veterinary centres and five research farms.

<http://www.sac.ac.uk/>



  
**Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE)**

**Mission**  
To explore and explain the world of plants

**Description**  
The Garden is first and foremost a scientific institution, dedicated to discovering and describing plants and their relationships, evolution, conservation and biology. This research is underpinned by the Garden's internationally important collections of living and preserved plants (the second richest collection of plant species in the world), a large specialist library, and by modern well-equipped laboratories.

**RBGE Sites**  
RBGE extends to four sites - Edinburgh, Benmore (near Dunoon in Argyll), Logan (near Stranraer in Galloway), and Dawyck (near Peebles in the Borders).

<http://www.rbge.org.uk/>

