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Reducing the impact of pesticides on beneficial insects



Rothamsted Research scientists are partners in an EU-funded network aiming to reduce the impact of pesticides on pollinators such as bees

The European Commission has awarded a consortium of research organisations, including Rothamsted Research and companies, some €1 million (\$1.4 million) to develop insecticide synergists for agricultural, household and public health use. The EcoSyn project is aimed at cutting the amount of insecticides used to reduce their impact on beneficial insects such as bees. Rothamsted Research, which receives strategic funding from the BBSRC, is one of the 9 international partners in this project.

Professor Linda Field, of Rothamsted Research said: "We are delighted to participate in the EcoSyn project and contribute our knowledge and expertise on insecticide metabolism and resistance. Together with Graham Moores of ApresLabs, who pioneered the use of synergists to overcome resistance, we will work on enzyme/synergist interactions for this project".

In the EcoSyn project as a whole synergists with new molecular structures will be designed, synthesised and evaluated on pests and beneficial insects using laboratory assays and field trials. The synthesis of these synergists will be evaluated with the aim of achieving an economically feasible industrial process.

The project involves the development of strategies to use the synergists to control insect pests while preserving beneficial insects. It has "significant scientific, economic and social impact as part of sustainable food production and disease control", the consortium points out.

The research will be covered by global patent and licensing agreements. The project is being co-ordinated by Dr Valerio Borzatta from the Italian agrochemical company, Endura. Other members of the consortium include AgChem Access (UK), Ankara Advanced Technologies Investment (Turkey), Babolna Bio (Hungary), Dewar Crop Protection (UK), Rothamsted Research (UK), Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy) and Vyzkumny Ustav Vcelarsky (Czech Republic).

Contacts

- [Linda Field](#)
- Dr Graham Moores, ApresLabs, http://www.apreslabs.co.uk/html/about_apreslabs.html

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News

Crop plants - "green factories" for fish oils

Rothamsted Research scientists develop *Camelina sativa* plants that accumulate high levels of Omega-3 oils EPA and DHA in their seeds.

14-11-2013

The emergence of new crop pests: genetics in action

11-11-2013

ENVISION: Training the next generation leaders in environmental science

Rothamsted Research is partner in one of 15 Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs) funded by a major NERC scheme.

05-11-2013

Continental-scale remote sensing of animal migration

Rothamsted Research scientists co-ordinate an EU multi-disciplinary project aiming to monitor patterns of bird, bat and insect migration throughout Europe.

04-11-2013

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About Rothamsted Research

We are the longest running agricultural research station in the world, providing cutting-edge science and innovation for nearly 170 years. Our mission is to deliver the knowledge and new practices to increase crop productivity and quality and to develop environmentally sustainable solutions for food and energy production.

Our strength lies in the integrated, multidisciplinary approach to research in plant, insect and soil science.

Rothamsted Research receives strategic funding from the [Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council \(BBSRC\)](#) of £27.2M per annum.

About BBSRC

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) invests in world-class bioscience research and training on behalf of the UK public. Our aim is to further scientific knowledge, to promote economic growth, wealth and job creation and to improve quality of life in the UK and beyond.

Funded by Government, and with an annual budget of around £467M (2012-2013), we support research and training in universities and strategically funded institutes. BBSRC research and the people we fund are helping society to meet major challenges, including food security, green energy and healthier, longer lives. Our investments underpin important UK economic sectors, such as farming, food, industrial biotechnology and pharmaceuticals.

For more information about BBSRC, our science and our impact see: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/>

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