Bristol Centre for Agricultural Innovation Past Activity

Kyoto-Bristol-Heidelberg Workshop 2016 – Antony Dodd, Senior Lecturer

BCAI supported the travel of 10 Bristol PhD students and post-docs to participate in the Kyoto-Bristol-Heidelberg Workshop "Novel Frontiers in Botany", held at and hosted by Kyoto University in March 2016.

All of the University of Bristol participants gave oral and poster presentations, showcasing excellent plant and agricultural sciences research in Bristol.

There were also networking and careers events, and the workshop has given rise to a number of new collaborations that are expected to produce exciting new research.

Workshop: Innovations in Plant Science to Feed a Changing World

The University of Bristol hosted the 2nd Kyoto-Bristol-Heidelberg plant sciences workshop (14-16 February). The workshop, 'Innovations in plant science to feed a changing world', was organised by students from Kyoto University, Universität Heidelberg and the University of Bristol. Delegates from each university, and the University of Zurich, were joined at the three-day workshop by senior academics and keynote speaker Professor Keith Lindsey, Durham University. PhD and post-doctoral students presented research, listened to guest lectures, gained career advice, networked and socialised; laying the foundations for new international research collaborations.

They discussed how to solve the future problems of food security and ecosystem health, including new advances in wheat genomics and the ways plants respond to the seasons, environmental change and pathogens. Workshop participants also had the opportunity to visit the University of Bristol Botanic Gardens, which previously formed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding in plant conservation with the Botanic Gardens in Kyoto University and Universität Heidelberg.

The workshop was supported by the Bristol Centre for Agricultural Innovation, the New Phytologist Trust, and Kyoto University's SPIRITS funding programme.

Katherine Baldock and Gregory Sutton: Understanding the effect of power lines on local plants and pollinators

The pilot data collected during this project were incorporated into a grant application for a three-year project to examine these questions in more detail.

Funding was used for: A Faraday pail for measurement of electric charge, A CO₂ hand pump for anaesthetizing insects, CO₂ canisters for the hand pump, Salary for field assistants, and Transport costs (hire car and petrol)

Tom Pitman: Water Purification Units

Thanks to BCAI funding we have been able to purchase 2 x water purification units for the Grodome and Old Park Hill