Stockbridge Technology Centre

Leaders in Technology Transfer to Agriculture and Horticulture

STC is an industry-owned applied R&D facility comprising 75ha of Grade 1 arable land together with approximately 50 modern glasshouse/polytunnel facilities ranging in size from 25m^2 to 1000m^2, some of which are equipped for hydroponic vegetable production including use of HPS or LED lighting regimes. The site operates to GLP compliance for field phase residue testing and other regulatory studies and is also ORETO registered as a compliant site for efficacy & crop safety testing. There is a staff of around 30 personnel, we qualify as an SME and function as a non-profit organisation and as a registered charity. Any surplus at the end of the financial year is required to be re-invested in the facility for long-term industry benefit.

Centre name : Stockbridge Technology Centre (STC)

Address : Cawood, Selby, York, North Yorkshire, YO8 3TZ

Country: UK

Telephone: +44 (0) 1757 268275

Website: www.stockbridgeonline.co.uk

Name of the contact person: Dr Martin McPherson

Position: Science Director

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The research programmes of your centre

Specie : Plant Pathology

Person of contact for this programme : Mr James Townsend/Ms Kirsty Wright

Email : james.townsend@stc-nyorks.co.uk/kirsty.wright@stc-nyorks.co.uk

Vegetal material	Technical itinerary	Integrated protection	Agrobiology	Other subjects
All outdoor & protected vegetable crops	Epidemiology and control of plant pathogens in vegetable & other crops	Integration of cultural, conventional chemical and biological crop protection measures	Particular interest in hydroponic (including closed) cropping systems, risk of disease spread and control via conventional and biological disinfection systems	Disease diagnosis in a Plant Clinic environment and early pathogen detection (including air- and water-borne propagules using traditional & modern techniques

Specie : Entomology

Person of contact for this programme : Dr David George/Dr Jennifer Banfield-Zanin
Email : david.george@stc-nyorks.co.uk/jen.banfield-zanin@stc-nyorks.co.uk

Vegetal material	Technical itinerary	Integrated protection	Agrobiology	Other subjects
All outdoor & protected vegetable crops	Pest management in all forms, as well as encouraging / using beneficial insects (pollinators and pest natural enemies)	Integration of cultural, conventional chemical and biological crop protection measures	Diversification of on-farm habitats to deliver invertebrate derived ecosystem services (e.g. pest control, pollination and decomposition)	Veterinary entomology, particularly honeybee health

Specie : Agronomy

Person of contact for this programme : Mr Julian Davies
Email : juliandavies@stc-nyorks.co.uk

Vegetal material	Technical itinerary	Integrated protection	Agrobiology	Other subjects
All outdoor & protected vegetable crops	Optimising weed control, fertiliser inputs and substrates /growing media	Integrated weed control, non target plant studies, fertiliser and herbicide efficacy and residue studies	Weed weed control, crop nutrition, substrates and cultivar testing	

Specie : Photobiology

Person of contact for this programme : Dr Phillip Davis
Email :

Vegetal material	Technical itinerary	Integrated protection	Agrobiology	Other subjects
All crops grown under protection	All aspects of crop lighting. Urban farming Manipulation of crop morphology and secondary metabolism.	Integration of lighting with envrionmental control systems for reduced energy consumption and optimised crop produciton.	Reduced use of plant growth regulators and pesticides. Cultivar testing.	Glasshouse Automation and crop sensors Recirculated irrigation systems. Pest and pathogen control with light spectrum.

Specie : Precision farming/sustainable production systems

Person of contact for this programme : Dr David George
Email : david.george@stc-nyorks.co.uk

Vegetal material	Technical itinerary	Integrated protection	Agrobiology	Other subjects
All outdoor & protected vegetable/arable crops	Optimising development and deployment of precision agriculture techniques, and other high-tech solutions, to deliver agronomic and environmental benefits	Integration of crop and soil sensing/sampling techniques to inform crop inputs and management	Cover cropping ; living mulches ; strip-till ; banding ; wide-row cropping ; co-cropping	Making better use of waste materials to deliver crop inputs

Current partnership with other research centres (national or international)

Specie : Numerous academic and non-academic partners, primarily, though not-exclusively in the UK

Nature of the project: Collaborative projects are undertaken across all departments.

Length of the project: Variable from 6 months to 5 years.

Partner names and countries : We work with a range of partners, including universities, other research institutes and private companies.

Are you searching for more European partnerships with other research centres?

Yes

On what species : All horticultural crops including protected crops and outdoors

What kind of projects are you searching for: We are an applied R&D organization specializing on technology innovation for the horticultural sector and operate in agronomy, plant pathology, entomology, precision farming, environmental sustainability and photobiology. We have extensive modern glasshouse & laboratory facilities for diagnostic studies including a commercial 'Plant Clinic' service for the industry, for conducting small-scale lab-based investigations through to commercial-scale replicated trials. We undertake numerous scientific and commercial R&D programmes in partnership with academia & industry. Any projects that encourage innovation to help move the industry forward are of particular interest.

What kind of partners are you searching for? From which countries?

We are particularly interested in building collaborations with academic partners including university groups and research institutes from across the EU and beyond. We are always interested in talking to potential new commercial partners. We are particularly interested in building an EU R&D programme through Horizon 2020 on vertical or city farming using LED technology and have made major progress in this area in the last 3-4 years.