

Feeding the Earth, the soil science underlying food production 30th April 2015

The spring 2015 meeting of SEESOIL will be hosted by East Malling Research (EMR), near Maidstone in Kent, from 11:00 until 16:00 on Thursday 30 April 2015. To celebrate 2015 – International Year of Soils, the meeting theme is the relationship of soil science with food production. The meeting will be a mixture of invited and offered short (20 minutes) oral and poster presentations, a facilitated discussion about using food production to introduce children and the general public to soil science; followed by a tour of the fruit farm at EMR and the National Rhizolab Facility. Lunch will be provided.

Programme

- 10:30 Arrival and Registration
- 11:00 Welcome and introduction to the meeting (Peter Gregory, EMR)
- 11:20 Guest speaker: Prof. David Hopkins (Royal Agricultural University)
 What can we learn about soils from long-term experiments?
- 11:40 Dr Jennifer Rhymes (University of Aberystwyth)
 *Evidence of improved wheat nutritive value from alternative
 forage crop rotations*
- 12:00 Henry Weber (University of Bristol, University of Reading, English
 Heritage)
 *Connecting archaeology, precision farming and agronomy to
 fully understand and manage soil variation*
- 12:20 Prof. Karl Ritz (University of Nottingham)
 *Light work at the soil surface: microbial controls upon the
 architecture of the soil-atmosphere interface*
- 12:40 Questions and Discussion
- 13:00 Lunch and posters
- 14:00 Introduction to the RHS Education Programme: soil and plant science
 for primary and secondary schools (RHS representative tbc)
- 14:20 Discussion and exchange of ideas about public engagement
- 14:40 Tour of EMR orchards and plantings and the National Rhizolab
- 15:40 Final discussion
- 16:00 Event concludes

Registration

Registration is £30 for members of the BSSS, and costs £50 for non-members. The registration process can be carried out on-line via the BSSS website and registration will close at 5pm on Friday 24th April. For further details, please contact Joanna Clark (j.m.clark@reading.ac.uk; 0118 378 6581), or Emma Tilston (Emma.Tilston@emr.ac.uk; 01732 523737), or Paul Alexander (01483 212321).