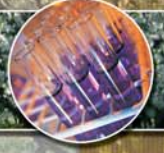




Science and Innovation



Southern Crop Protection and Food Research Centre

London, Ontario

The Southern Crop Protection and Food Research Centre (SCPFRC) is one of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) national network of 19 research centres. The Centre is located in London, Ontario, in the heart of one of the most intensive, diverse and productive agri-food regions in Canada. The Centre conducts research on air, water and nutrients, field crops, bio-based products and processes, genomics and biotechnology, and integrated pest management.

Two satellite research sites are located at Vineland and at Delhi, Ontario. Delhi currently supports research in the area of air, water and soil nutrients, and integrated pest management. It is also one of nine national field sites within AAFC that supports the Minor Use Pesticide Program. Research activity at Vineland in the Niagara Peninsula region of Ontario supports development of improved methods of integrated pest management. It is the main site of fruit tree research with a research orchard located at nearby Jordan, Ontario.

Areas of Research

The SCPFRC and its research sites bring a long-term commitment in crop protection research to the agri-food industry in southern Ontario. Centre scientists develop alternative and environmentally acceptable technologies to protect crops from disease, determine the impacts of agricultural practices on soil and water quality, and develop alternative crops for coarse-textured soils.

Making Nature Work

- Improving management of forage and field crops, and enhancing soil quality - its structure and fertility - while maintaining the integrity of the agricultural environment
- Developing strategies and procedures for managing insect pests with minimal or no reliance on chemical pesticides
- Studying crop pest populations and their movements; investigating chemical controls for short-term use in crops of small production volume
- Breeding tree fruits to produce selections and varieties that can better resist diseases, pests and environmental stresses such as temperature and weather
- Using innovative methods of producing, handling and processing crops to achieve quality products
- Using new methods to grow organic crops and other novel technologies such as automated crop monitoring to improve the nutritional quality of berries and greenhouse vegetables

Biotechnology at its Best

- Using automated DNA sequencing and biological information systems, data bases, indexes, bioinformatics, etc. to solve problems in crop production
- Understanding growth and crop production processes at the molecular level, such as the interaction between a crop and a pest, how a particular high-value compound is produced or how protein is accumulated in seeds, to allow the enhancement of those processes
- Acquiring knowledge of the genetic composition of plants so traits can be manipulated to produce novel value-added components, to become resistant to diseases or to provide improved nutrition as foods

Facts, Figures and Facilities

- 33 research scientists and a total staff of 142
- Headquarters site at London is on 25 hectares; Delhi has 60 hectares, 30 hectares are at Vineland (located at the Provincial Research Station in the Niagara Peninsula)
- Research orchard of 32 hectares (at Jordan, Ontario)
- Three research greenhouses totaling 1,658 square meters
- Lab and office space at all three sites comprises 8,200 square meters
- Insect rearing rooms
- Over 70 collaborative projects with industry, universities and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Linked to the Biotron facility at the University of Western Ontario, an experimental facility for research on the impact of climate change and extreme environments on plants, insects and micro-organisms

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Aussi offert en français sous le titre : *Centre de recherches du Sud sur la phytoprotection et les aliments*
© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, 2007
Cat. No. A00-00/0-2007E
ISBN 000-0-000-00000-0
AAFC No. 10323E

