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Iacr Report for 1998

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Director's Foreword

Rothamsted Research

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Director's Foreword

Professor B.J. Miflin



During this year we have continued the review of our research programmes to prioritise and re-direct them in the context of reduced funding from BBSRC and changing scientific opportunities. This has led to a revision of our theme structure. Although it will take further efforts to complete the details of this restructuring, the new outlines of the themes are presented in this Report.

The year has been marked by a heated debate over the use of genetically modified crops in UK agriculture, and we took the opportunity to show transgenic crops to the farming and the general public at Cereals '98 and the Royal Show. The debate will continue but I am sure that the benefits of the technology, responsibly used, are far greater than any risks. In addition to its commercial use, recombinant DNA technology is one of the most powerful research tools ever developed, and you will see from this Report that it is being used in all departments.

This Report marks my final year as Director since I retire early in 1999. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to lead the Institute and Rothamsted despite the very difficult financial and political climate of the last five years. This pleasure has derived in part from the support I have had from the staff and the various Boards of the Institute, from fellow Institute Directors, and from the agriculture industry, especially ARIA, and in part from the exciting advances in research that have been made here during that time. I would like to thank all involved and hope that the same support and excitement will be available to my successor Ian Crute.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Miflin". Below the signature is a long, thin horizontal line.



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