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Rothamsted Research Annual Report 2002-2003

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The Lawes Agricultural Trust

Rothamsted Research

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The Lawes Agricultural Trust

Sir John Bennet Lawes, with Sir Joseph Henry Gilbert, established Rothamsted Experimental Station (now known as Rothamsted Research) in 1843. In 1889, with one third of the proceeds of the sale of his fertiliser business, Sir John Bennet Lawes established and endowed The Lawes Agricultural Trust (with £5 million in today's money). The Trust operated the Station, now Rothamsted Research, from 1889 to 1990.

Board of Directors, Lawes Agricultural Trust Company Limited

Professor Sir Richard Southwood DL,
FRS (Chairman)
Earl of Selborne KBE, DL, FRS
Lord Plumb DL
Lord De Ramsey DL
Lord Haskins
Professor Sir Tom Blundell FRS
Professor E. C. Cocking DSc, FRS

Secretary: P. S. Thomas FCA
Ex-officio: Professor I. R. Crute

In 1934, the Trust purchased the freehold interest in the Rothamsted Estate. Following later additions, the property interests of the Trust grew to comprise 330 hectares at Harpenden – the Rothamsted Estate – which includes an experimental farm and Rothamsted Manor (Grade 1 listed), residential houses and flats and commercial properties. At Higham in Suffolk, the Trust owns the freehold interest in the 77-hectare Broom's Barn Experimental Station.

In 1990, the business and undertaking of the Station was transferred from the Trust to a separate charitable company of the same name. In 1991, the employees of the Station became employees of the Agriculture and Food Research Council, now the BBSRC. In December 2002 the Station changed its name to Rothamsted Research Limited.

The main present day role of the Trust is to provide support for Rothamsted Research in a number of ways. It provides an annual research grant to the Director under a research policy agreed with the Trustee in 1997 and it

provides 170 beds, in differing housing combinations, for the use of staff, students and visiting workers. The Trust also operates Rothamsted International, a subsidiary charity which exists to provide the opportunity for scientists from anywhere in the world, but particularly from developing countries, to share their expertise within the advanced, multi-disciplinary research environment at Rothamsted. The Trust also makes capital grants to complete and to modernise ancillary facilities at Rothamsted – for example, the Trust has in the past year provided funds to assist the refurbishment of the Rothamsted library (including the provision of an environmentally controlled rare books store) and it has committed to spending more than £1 million on the refurbishment and provision of additional residential accommodation. The Trust has its own non-charitable interests that are dedicated, mainly, to sustainable agriculture in developing countries through a joint venture active investment company, Biii Limited, formed jointly with Hertfordshire Business Link in December 2002.