

### **Introduction:**

Welcome to the first issue of the ORC's new e-bulletin. The e-bulletin is circulated monthly free of charge to ORC's Friends, regular supporters and Bulletin subscribers, as well as to individuals who register for additional information via the ORC's homepage at [www.organicresearchcentre.com](http://www.organicresearchcentre.com). The aim is to provide regular updates on ORC's activities and related work, with links to more detailed information on the ORC website. Comments on any items are very welcome by e-mail to [comment@organicresearchcentre.com](mailto:comment@organicresearchcentre.com) and may be published in future e-bulletins and on our website (unless marked not for publication). This first bulletin is longer than normal as we catch up with items you may have missed.

### **Bulletin 105 (Summer 2011) published:**

The new issue of ORC's printed Bulletin has been published. If you are not already receiving the ORC Bulletin, you can subscribe by using the [2011 Appeal form](#). Previous issues can be found in the [ORC Bulletin archive](#). Bulletin 104 (Spring 2011) will be uploaded shortly or can be e-mailed/posted on request.

### **ORC Website upgraded:**

Over the summer we have been making further progress on upgrading our website, with several new staff and project pages added and many others updated. If you haven't been to our website for a while, it is worth a look – go to [www.organicresearchcentre.com](http://www.organicresearchcentre.com). While you are there you might want to look at our completely new [Eco-agroforestry Network](#) section.

### **Participatory Research and Demonstration Network Launched:**

The Organic Research Centre's Participatory Research & Demonstration Network was launched at Abbey Home Farm on the 21st July. [More...](#)

### **Ecologists Review Evidence on Environmental Benefits of Organic:**

The increasing evidence that organic farming has benefits for biodiversity and the delivery of ecosystem services was under the spotlight at a recent joint meeting of the Organic Research Centre (ORC) and the British Ecological Society (BES). [More...](#)

### **Organic Research Centre seeks new Chair of Council of Management:**

The present Chair, who has been in place since the foundation of the Centre, now wishes to stand down. Applications are therefore invited for his successor. [More...](#)

### **E-Learning Course on Sustainable Food Systems:**

Are you interested in an international, interactive and online discussion on what sustainable agriculture, food production, distribution and consumption should look like and how we can deal with the upcoming issues of water scarcity, climate change and population growth? [More...](#)

### **How to successfully communicate the values of organic food:**

A handbook about how to successfully communicate the values of organic food has been published by the Farmer Consumer Partnership project. [More...](#)

### **IFOAM has published new report on systems approach:**

The IFOAM EU group has published a new dossier "ORGANIC FOOD AND FARMING: A system approach to meet the sustainability challenge". ORC's Susanne Padel and Nic Lampkin contributed the introduction chapter [More...](#)

### **Scientific evidence supports the use of crop diversity:**

A review paper published this month (Mar 2011) found "overwhelming" evidence that diverse plant communities are more productive than simple monocultures. [More...](#)

### **Extraordinary sprouting broccoli:**

In a year which has seen many overwintering sprouting broccoli crops fall victim to harsh winter conditions, the sprouting broccoli field at Wakelyns Agroforestry in Suffolk offers a visual feast: an array of multicoloured plants with an intriguing history. This is a trial which could open new doors for growers. [More...](#)

### **Organic farming and carbon:**

OCW has published a report of current evidence concerning the effects of organic farming on soil carbon sequestration. [More...](#)

### **UN report says agroecology is the answer:**

A UN report by its Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter, backs agroecology as the approach to food production for vulnerable groups in various countries and environments. [More...](#)

### **Biodiversity studies confirm organic benefits:**

OCW has published a review, written by ORC staff, of the scientific literature on the biodiversity impacts of organic farming. The published studies confirm a wide range and number of positive effects. [More...](#)

### **RELU Scale Summary Report:**

SCALE does matter. The recently completed RELU Scale Project (An integrated Analysis of Scale Effects in Alternative Agricultural Systems) shows that Organic Farming can deliver the goods. [More...](#)