Careers in Plant Science

By graduation you will have a broad scientific background in many aspects of plant science and be well placed to find rewarding jobs in crop production, plant biotechnology and food industries, environmental management, publishing, commerce, teaching or research.

Graduate Profiles

Some of our recent graduates:

Richard Barker
“Laboratory practicals at University prepared me for my first job as a Laboratory Assistant for the Cell and Developmental Biology Department at the John Innes Institute. I am especially interested in the molecular factors involved in the growth and development of the model plant species Arabidopsis thaliana and I was awarded the Laws Trust PhD scholarship to study the role of the plant hormone known as ‘gibberellic acid’.

I really did have a wonderful time at Sutton Bonington and made loads of friends I know I will have for life. When I went there after finishing my A levels I didn’t know what I wanted to do. I became progressively more fascinated by the molecular mechanisms that control cell and whole plant growth and development.

This growing interest caused me to change from the Environmental Biology course I was studying to Plant Science in order to specialise and to subsequently pursue a career in plant research.

I am currently doing a PhD jointly with the Division of Plant and Crop Sciences in the School of Biosciences and Rothamsted Research, the largest agricultural research centre in the United Kingdom.”
**Helen Sykes**

"After graduating in 2005, I worked as a Rural Development Adviser for Natural England as part of the East Riding of Yorkshire team dealing with environmental and other project based schemes.

I progressed to work for Syngenta Crop Protection as the Area Manager for North Lincolnshire. For this role I passed my BASIS qualification so I was able to give out technical information to sell Syngenta products to farmers. I decided however to leave Syngenta to move back to Yorkshire, where I grew up. I joined Natural England as a Senior Land Management Adviser for an area in Yorkshire. This involved working closely with farmers, setting up environmental schemes. My degree helped me with this role as it allowed me to have the knowledge to place environmental options where they would provide the maximum benefit to the target species and habitats.

I have since moved to ADAS as an agricultural consultant, this uses all the skills and knowledge I learnt at my time at Sutton Bonington with the on farm experiences of my previous roles. Although I have changed jobs frequently it has allowed me to move up the career ladder quicker than if I had stayed in one company. I have now reached where I want to be so I will now stay at ADAS for the foreseeable future.

My degree and Sutton Bonington have been integral to my career path and I would not have the role I have now without it. My degree gave me broad agricultural knowledge, financial and environmental technical detail and transferable skills like making presentations and team working. The academic staff are inspiring and love their subject; this makes it easier to learn and be interested in the modules."

**Anna Khot**

Anna studied plant science and graduated with a first class honours degree. In her final year she carried out a project in the School’s Plant Sciences Division entitled ‘Development of techniques for isolating and identifying phytoplasm DNA’. On graduating Anna went on to study for a PhD at Rothamsted Research, a government supported research institute.