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## In this Issue

*It's with pleasure that the New Zealand Association of Scientists presents this issue of the New Zealand Science Review in collaboration with the Riddet Institute. The articles arising from the Agri-Food Summit meeting in April this year give insight into the research and educational resources necessary for a successful and sustainable agri-food sector in New Zealand. As mentioned in our guest editorial, the Summit speakers were selected to bring somewhat disparate views together on the topic under discussion. The result graphically illustrates the transformational changes necessary to fully exploit New Zealand's potential in agri-foods and the importance of growing our collaborative research and educational networks internationally.*

**Editor**

## Guest editorial

This issue of *New Zealand Science Review* focuses on the Agri-Food Summit held on 14 April 2010 in Wellington by the Riddet Institute. The Institute is a national Centre of Research Excellence incorporating five partners: University of Otago, The University of Auckland, AgResearch, Plant & Food Research, and Massey University. The Riddet Institute is devoted to research and research-led teaching at the nexus of food and nutritional sciences. The summit was held at the old Museum Building in Wellington, now home of the Massey University Wellington campus. Massey University is the Riddet Institute's host institution.

The summit was the second in the series – the aim of the annual event is to bring together key influencers to discuss topical issues of relevance to New Zealand's agri-food sector. The title of this year's summit was 'Positioning New Zealand's research and education resources in the agri-food sector'.

In considering how to structure the meeting, which attracted more than 130 invited guests, Riddet Institute co-directors Professors Paul Moughan and Harjinder Singh invited seven speakers who would all see the topic from different perspectives. This broad tackling of the subject was designed to resonate with people from a range of industries and institutes and to bring disparate views together.

All invited speakers accepted the challenge to participate, including two government ministers: the Hon David Carter, Minister of Agriculture, and Hon Dr Wayne Mapp, Minister of Research, Science and Technology. The keynote speaker was Dr Aalt Dijkhuizen, Executive Chairman of Wageningen UR in the Netherlands. The Dutch in the 1990s combined two academic institutions and nine research institutes, creating a single integrated model for research and teaching delivery in agri-food. The model has been highly successful. The Netherlands is the world's second largest agri-food exporter.

Other speakers were: Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister; Dr Andrew Cleland, CEO of the Institution of Professional Engineers NZ; Mr Lain Jager, CEO of ZESPRI International Ltd; Dr Mike Boland, Principal Scientist at the Riddet Institute; and Dr Russ Ballard, Chancellor, Massey University. The closing address was given by Dr Jim Watson, Chairman, Riddet Institute.

An outcome of the meeting was the call for the Riddet Institute to carry on the 'dialogue'. New Zealand has no formalised agri-food research strategy and it was clear from the summit that there is a need for leadership in the sector. The refrain of 'where to from here' has been accepted by the Riddet Institute as a charge to be answered.

**Paul Moughan and Harjinder Singh**  
Riddet Institute