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### **Visit to East Malling Research 23 April 2015**

It is with great pleasure that I write to invite you to visit Kent's world-renowned plant research organisation, East Malling Research (EMR), on Thursday 23 April 2015.

EMR is a major organisation in the UK for research on horticultural crops for an industry that has a farm gate value of some £3.0bn, a retail value of £11.7bn for fresh fruit and vegetables alone, and which employs 37,000 permanent employees and a further 56,000 seasonal workers. EMR focusses particularly on perennial and clonally propagated crops like fruits (much of which is grown in Kent) and mushrooms, and their interactions with the environment.

EMR offers a strong contribution to meet the future challenges facing the UK including supply chain resilience, demand for British products, climate change, water and energy efficiency, emerging pests and diseases, healthy eating, healthy ageing and food security.

On this visit, you will have an opportunity to meet some of our talented scientists who will explain some of work that they do to drive the innovation that will keep the UK at the forefront of meeting global demands for food produced in a sustainable way and in a changing climate.

You will also have an opportunity to visit some of our unique facilities including the EMR Rhizolab, a fascinating underground laboratory and national capability that allows *in situ* observation and sampling of perennial crops, both above and below ground.

I hope you are able to accept this invitation and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Prof. Peter Gregory  
Chief Executive  
East Malling Research



**Visit of  
Kent Ambassadors  
Thursday 23 April 2015**

**P R O G R A M M E**

10.00am	Arrive and Coffee	
10.30	Introduction to EMR	Ross Newham
	Carbon cycling and rootstock research including a visit to the National Rhizolab	Dr Nicola Harrison
	Insect sex pheromones and their application	Dr Michelle Fountain
	Strawberry breeding	Adam Whitehouse/ Abi Johnson
	Water and nutrient use efficiency	Dr Eleftheria Stavridou
	Mycorrhizal research	Dr Louisa Robinson-Boyer
12:50	Depart	

Assemble and depart from the Orchards Conference Centre ([www.theorchardseastmalling.co.uk](http://www.theorchardseastmalling.co.uk)) which is located on the East Malling Research site.

Please wear clothing appropriate for the weather on the day, as presentations will be delivered at different locations around the site.