



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Department of Primary Industries

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DPI scientist takes out top industry award

The Australian vegetable industry's peak body (AUSVEG) has recognised the achievements of a Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI) scientist.

Plant pathologist Dr Elizabeth Minchinton was recently presented with the inaugural Australian Vegetable Industry Researcher Award, one of the AUSVEG Vegetable Industry Awards for Excellence 2006.

The Award is presented to a leading researcher who has contributed to the advancement of research and development in the field of horticulture – specifically the vegetable industry.

AUSVEG Chairman Michael Badcock said that the industry relies significantly on the valuable knowledge and research that comes out of its partnership with research institutions.

“With close to 300 researchers currently undertaking projects as part of the vegetable industry R&D program facilitated through Horticulture Australia Limited, it was no mean feat to isolate a single individual,” he said.

“Dr Minchinton has shown a tireless commitment to her research. She has worked closely with growers around the country to find ways to control a range of plant diseases which could otherwise potentially decimate entire crops.”

“Her work is regarded highly by the vegetable industry and it brings me great pleasure to acknowledge her as the inaugural winner of the Researcher Award.”

Diseases and crops addressed by Dr Minchinton's research include white blister in brassicas, downy mildew in spring onions, canker of parsnips, root rot in parsley and late blight in celery. Her work focuses on applied research on a national scale, and entails collaboration with interstate and overseas scientists.

Dr Clive Noble, Executive Director of DPI's science division, extended his congratulations to Dr Minchinton and added that her award illustrated the scientific capability which DPI had to offer Australia's food and fibre industries.

“DPI scientists have helped Victoria to become Australia's leading agricultural production state and Dr Minchinton's work shows how this expertise can benefit the whole country,” he said.

Dr Minchinton said that the award recognised a team effort and that scientific colleagues, extension staff and administrators had all made important contributions to the impacts of her work.

Photo caption:

Elizabeth Minchinton is presented with her award by Horticulture Australia Limited Managing Director John Webster.

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