

CAS-JIC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR PLANT AND MICROBIAL SCIENCE (CEPAMS)

RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH CONDUCT POLICY

Introduction

Responsible research conduct is the practice of performing scientific investigations with integrity. It involves the awareness and application of established professional norms and ethical principles in the performance of all activities related to scientific research.

As an international centre of excellence, it is expected that CEPAMS will conduct its research according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards.

This document sets out the overarching policy for responsible research conduct in CEPAMS, recognising that implementation of such a policy will be the responsibility of the participating institutes.

Guiding principles

Those involved in CEPAMS research are expected to adhere to the following seven guiding principles for responsible research conduct:

- (i) **honesty** – in reporting research outputs (including methodology, interpretation and implications of results);
- (ii) **fairness** – in acknowledging the work and contribution of others;
- (iii) **rigour** – in conducting, reporting and publishing research data and in drawing conclusions from that data (including record keeping of the primary data);
- (iv) **transparency** – in accounting for research outputs and in disclosing potentially conflicting activities and interests;
- (v) **independence** – in keeping with norms of academic freedom and the impartial conduct of research irrespective of funding body;
- (vi) **respect** – for colleagues and for the ethical policies/regulations applicable to research;
- (vii) **accountability** – to funders and to society.

Application

This policy applies to all those working in CEPAMS laboratories and those involved in CEPAMS collaborative projects. The policy is implemented through and underpinned by the processes in place at each of the institutes. Individual scientists will be covered by the processes and expectations of their home institute. CEPAMS Group Leaders, being faculty members of more than one institute, will be covered by the processes and expectations of their home institute and those of the John Innes Centre.

Communications

This policy will be communicated to all those working in CEPAMS laboratories and those involved in CEPAMS collaborative projects. It will be placed in the public domain via the CEPAMS website.