

## Phil Rolston - FAR's Researcher of the Year Award 2008

The "Researcher of the Year" was presented to Phil Rolston of AgResearch at the Combinable Crops 2008 earlier this month. This award is in recognition of outstanding contribution to research and extension for the arable industry.



Phil, a herbage seed scientist with AgResearch, is well deserving of this award. Phil is an extremely well regarded researcher by arable farmers in New Zealand and elsewhere in the world. He is also extremely well respected by herbage seed researchers throughout the world and the seed industry in New Zealand. In conjunction with other researchers across a wide range of organisations he has conducted much of the research for the New Zealand herbage seed industry in the last two decades and has played an extremely active role in extension to farmers, particularly through the Ryegrass 2000 and 3000 projects. In the last ten years there have been dramatic increases in seed yield of ryegrass and much of this is based on research Phil has been involved in. Phil has also been instrumental in getting some key new areas of research on ryegrass and white

clover underway and this has culminated in the Advanced Seed Production programme funded by FRST commencing this year. Phil has mentored many of the younger staff in both AgResearch and FAR in recent years. The NZ arable industry greatly benefits from his enthusiasm and pragmatic approach to herbage seed issues and this award demonstrates that appreciation.