



THE RASC IS THE VOICE OF AGRICULTURE
IN THE COMMONWEALTH WORKING
CLOSELY WITH THE COMMONWEALTH
SECRETARIAT AND ITS ASSOCIATED BODIES.
A CLASSIC CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTING
AGRICULTURE, THE RASC SHOWS WHAT
GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS CAN DO
TOGETHER, VOLUNTARILY, FOR
THE GOOD OF EVERYONE.



A Proud Heritage

Founded in 1957, the purpose of the RASC was to encourage and arrange an interchange of knowledge and experience in agriculture throughout the Commonwealth, working with and through the leading national Agricultural Show Societies.

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT was invited to become the first President of the RASC. He retired from this role at his 90th birthday and has been succeeded by HRH The Princess Anne KG KT.

The RASC operates as a “not for profit” company, limited by guarantee and has charitable

status. Managed by a Board of Trustees comprising of nine elected and two appointed member representatives, together with three honorary officers. The Chairman of the Board is The Rt Hon Lord Vestey GCVO.

The work of the RASC is self-financing and it depends heavily on membership subscriptions and the generosity of others to provide the income necessary to enable it to carry out its activities. The role played by sponsors is essential to the well being of the Society.



A Body of Influence

The RASC has almost 60 Member Societies, a confederation of Commonwealth Agricultural Show Societies embracing some 25 countries across the world.

Membership of the RASC is open to leading/principal Agricultural Show Societies or Associations of Farmers within the Commonwealth as well as established show societies, agricultural colleges, research establishments or other agricultural organisations in Commonwealth countries.

Royal Show societies in non-Commonwealth countries, which would otherwise qualify for full membership, may also be considered as Associate Members.

There is no category of membership for individuals but such people can become “Friends of the RASC” and by so doing be seen to be supportive of its work.



An Inspiring Force

RASC's mission is to enable the interchange of ideas, information and views on the secure sustainable use of natural resources in the production of food, forest and fisheries as well as promoting the development of agriculture, forestry, aquaculture and the rural environment.

Throughout its long history, RASC has been committed to encouraging high standards in sustainable agriculture, forestry and fishing and to support increased production leading to a stronger rural economy. The Society encourages agricultural societies to carry out development and extension work to raise the profile of their sector

The Society also plays an important role in connecting urban and rural audiences with a focus on education in food, farming and the countryside.

An active supporter of new talent, The RASC has encouraged the involvement of youth in its activities for many years. At the 2004 Commonwealth Agricultural Conference in Albury, the concept of the 'RASC Next Generation' was formed.



An Invigorating Organisation

RASC's driving force is to encourage its member societies to exchange information that will be of benefit to rural economies of the Commonwealth. It is committed to encouraging high standards within Agricultural Shows and to strengthen and improve relationships between the member show societies.

Furthermore, it is committed to developing the Next Generation forum to enable young agricultural leaders to play their part in the development of the RASC and their own societies.

RASC provides important support to member societies in developed countries where agricultural education and expertise is required to increase food production.

Bi-annual Conference

Attended by up to 300 delegates, the conference is based on a theme that embraces current challenges in agriculture and of mutual interest to those attending.

Pre and Post Conference Tours are designed to give conference delegates a flavour of agriculture in the region of the host country. Visits to farms, processors and research organisations allow delegates to see at first hand not only the strengths of agriculture in the area but also problems it has to face. This broadens the knowledge of the delegates and takes the opportunity to review local agricultural practices.

Agricultural Show Societies across the Commonwealth are facing major challenges and the RASC has seen many changes following discussions that have taken place at these Seminars. The CEO Seminars provide the opportunity for benchmarking the discussion of mutual challenges and networking and this is as pertinent to all societies in developed and developing countries.

The first biennial Conference was held in Sydney, Australia, in 1963 and continues to be well attended.



Next Generation

The RASC has encouraged the involvement of youth in its activities for many years. At the 2004 Commonwealth Agricultural Conference held in Albury, the concept of the 'RASC Next Generation' was formed. It has since flourished.

The young leaders selected to be a part of the NG Forum are chosen by RASC Member Societies as those showing the greatest potential to contribute to the long-term face of agriculture in their regions, countries and around the Commonwealth.

From sponsorship, a number of bursaries will be made to assist a number of Next Generation members to attend the conference

The Next Generation Strategic Intentions are to:

- Develop an international network and support system that will foster the collaboration and exchange of ideas between the NG delegates
- Advocate NG leadership within the RASC and its member societies
- Support the RASC in achieving its own aims and objectives
- Achieve tangible and measurable results within the commonwealth countries



A Well-connected Organisation

Become a member

The RASC is dedicated to promoting open communication between member organisations resulting in a supportive body for agricultural societies across the world.

Joining RASC provides an ideal platform to share ideals across a global spectrum, with advice and information. It will also secure a place at The RASC conference.

Support our work

A number of sponsorship opportunities are available for organisations looking to support valuable work of the Society. The Bi-annual Conference provides a major marketing platform for leading brands and has a proven track record of delivery return on investment.

Contact us

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