



Winners of the Pride of Produce World Awards are Revealed

September 2011

Following the huge success of last year's event, the annual Pride of Produce World Awards have taken place for the second year running.

The internal awards scheme held by Produce World sees groups and members of staff rewarded for their achievements. William Burgess, Produce World CEO said: "The Pride of Produce World Awards were launched last year with much success. Our award-winning CSR programme encourages responsible and sustainable business practice and the awards recognise and celebrate staff who employ this philosophy in all that they do, both inside and outside of the workplace."

Among the winners was the Produce World Solanum senior management team, which walked away with the coveted **Team of the Year** award. This was in recognition of the team's ability to support and encourage each other whilst activity working to resolve difficult business issues. The team collaborated and work closely on the Maris Piper black heart issue, an internal defect that is not visible from the outside of a potato, and they did so with gumption.

A total of five awards were handed out, with Produce World Marshalls and Produce World RBO also enjoying the limelight. Produce World Marshalls' Agronomy Manager, Carolyn Coxe, walked away with the **Colleague of the Year** award for displaying all the qualities of a highly committed employee. Carolyn has been hailed as a team player by those who work with her, a proactive problem solver and consistently displays the values and behaviours that Produce World actively encourages from its staff.

Produce World RBO volunteer gardeners, Geoff Swift, Kevin Lander, David Baxter and Jamie Tointon won the **Community Impact** award for helping to create a garden in memory of a student from William De Yaxley School who sadly lost her life last year.

The **Outstanding Innovation** award was won by the Produce World Marshalls team that worked on Project Chrysalis. The team included Procurement Manager Andrew Horsfield, Senior Planner Dean Bates, Supply Chain Manager Ed Sendall, Logistics Supervisor Lorraine Creasey and Logistics Manager Nigel Ramsden. The project produced outstanding results in increasing directs during the company's last import season.

This year also saw the introduction of another award, the **Special Recognition** award, which was won by Gurmit Singh. Gurmit has worked for the Burgess family for 20 years and come rain or shine he has cycled 16 miles each day to get to work and back. In the seven years that Gurmit has worked at Produce World RBO his cycle ride to and from work equates to riding around the whole world once – no mean feat for 60 year old Gurmit.

William said: “This year’s awards are a celebration of the talented individuals that Produce World employs. Our members of staff are the lifeblood of the company and I would like to extend my congratulations to all of the winners.”

Ends

Hi Res versions of all pictures are available from the Produce World Press Office (See below)

Notes for Editors

Produce World is one of the largest expert growers and suppliers of high quality fresh vegetables in Europe. It is a privately owned business, founded by the Burgess family in 1898, and the family ethos and values remain in place. The Produce World business is customer and category focused and it is an industry leader in sustainable and responsible agronomy, growing and lean supply chain management. Its sourcing is a combination of produce from its own farms, joint-ventures, and collaborative working with dedicated grower groups, supplying a variety of root vegetables, potatoes, brassicas, alliums, and organic produce to leading retailers, food service and manufacturing customers.

Produce World Group companies include Produce World Solanum Ltd, Produce World IFP Ltd, Produce World RBO Ltd, Produce World Rustler Ltd, Produce World Marshalls Ltd and Growing Trust with Las Lomas (joint venture).

The company received the Waitrose Technical Excellence Award in June 2011, as well as the re:fresh Innovation of the Year and Packer of the Year awards in May 2011. Its Growing Trust CSR programme, established in 2007, prioritises Responsible Sourcing, along with Environmental Stewardship, Community Impact and Workplace Culture.

Media Enquiries:

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