

A year in discussion: conclusions from the 2014-2015 meetings of the Forum on Sustainability and the Environment

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Cambridge Conference on Global Food Security

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Land use change and resources

- Eight meetings
- >50 witnesses and guests meeting 20 Cambridge researchers
- Topics:
 - Global view of land use change
 - Economic and social drivers
 - What can we tell from the sky?
 - Does the way we think need to change?
 - Case studies of cotton and wood
 - From global to local
 - Through an East African lens

Main messages in relation to food security

The need for:

- Limiting our agricultural footprint
 - Sustainable intensification, and linking high-yield farming to land sparing (Friday 09.30, Sustainability and conservation)
- Understanding interconnectedness across scales
 - Wine culture in Italy and bringing it to Japan (Friday 13.45, Economics, culture and politics of food)
- Coherence in policy and in research
 - Water-energy-land nexus in Brazil (Friday 15.30, Sustainability and conservation)

Main messages in relation to food security

The need for:

- Synthesising information
 - Using remote sensing data for early warning of impending food crises (Friday 15.30, Sustainability and Conservation)
- Building in behaviour
 - Notions of food security, food sovereignty, food justice and the right to food (Friday 11.30 and 15.30, Economics, culture and politics)
- Growing from grassroots
 - Making system of rice intensification work for women in India (Friday 11.30, Sustainability and conservation)

Main messages in relation to food security

- Markets, demand, distribution and waste
 - Revealing the externalities of the agri-food system and bringing them into agricultural policy-making (Friday, 09.30, Economics, culture and politics)
 - Citizens and consumers from individual responsibility to planetary health (Friday, 13.45, Sustainability and conservation)