

AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER

NETWORK NEWS

Welcome to the month of August, usually that time of the year when a lot of us are having, or have just had, our mid-year breaks from school, university and work. This year however, with more of us holidaying in or close to our homes, we can focus more on participating in our local communities, which is our focus at GFS as well. We want to strengthen our community of researchers, practitioners and members of the public in our quest for a more food secure world, and to further this, we ask that you participate in a (very short, we promise!) survey that we'll soon be sending. This survey will inform how we update the website over the next few months.

We introduced the 'Food for Thought Coffee Break' series in June, as a relaxed online learning and discussion platform for our community, and would like to thank our speakers thus far: PhD student [Dorien Braam](#), [Dr Jean Adams](#), PhD student [David Willer](#), MPhil student [Daniella Salazar-Herrera](#), [Dr Helen Curry](#), [Professor Cristiane Derani](#), PhD student [Bright Jaato](#), [Dr Milorad Radakovic](#), and PhD student [Chioma Achi](#). We have found these discussions such a good knowledge exchange platform that we have decided to gradually expand the platform's reach. Thus, we will soon be creating a dedicated page on our website with the slides from these talks, and will also provide presenter guidelines. We expect the next talk to take place on 11 September, and would particularly like to encourage our University of Cambridge early career researchers (ECRs) to contact [Francesca](#) about future presenting opportunities. This is a useful platform that supports both discussion and promotion of ECR work, and places ECRs in contact with the more experienced members of our community for advice or potential collaborations.

In general, we are focusing on improving our services to those in the early stages of their careers, and as much as possible will promote funding, publicity of research projects and publications, events and other opportunities. If you are in the early stages of your career, you are welcome to write concise emails to [Karen](#) or Francesca with suggestions on how we can tailor the aforementioned services to you.

We ask that GFS members profiled on the website under the 'Member Directory' tab check whether their details are still current, and update us on any changes. Also, please let us know if you are about to leave the University of Cambridge, and would like to continue receiving the newsletter at your new email address.

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29 June: How can we build resilient food systems for the future? Dr Jag Srai, Co-Chair of GFS, hosted this webinar discussing food system resilience.

‘From the ground up: soil management in a changing climate’

June 22nd, 2020

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 7th Annual TAA East Anglia seminar was held as a Webinar, on 29th June 2020.

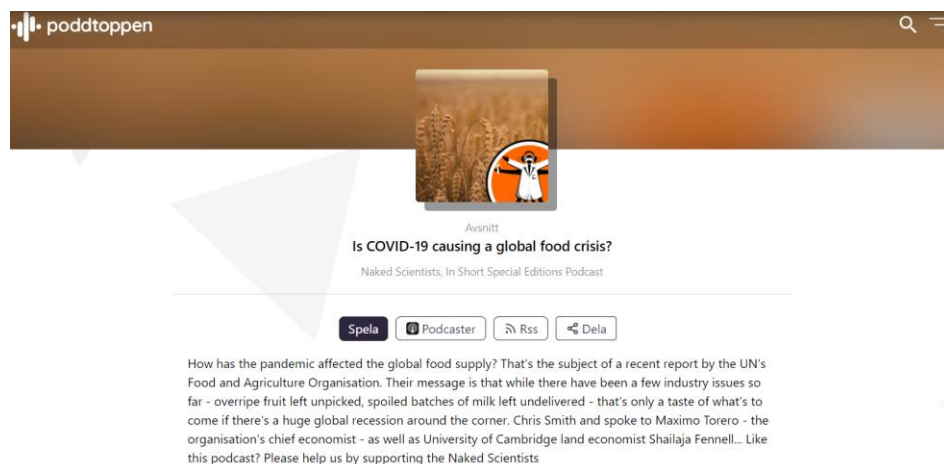
The event was hosted with **Fauna & Flora International (FFI)**, in collaboration with the **Cambridge Global Food Security (GFS)** initiative and **CambPlantsHub**. Presentations were made by three speakers, who talked on ways in which soil management and cropping practices can influence climate change. They then joined a panel discussion.



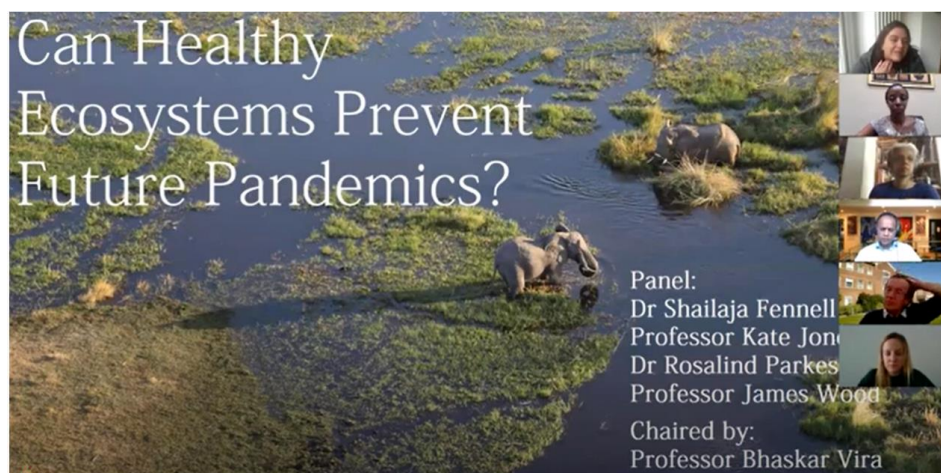
- **David Dent**, TAA member and Independent consultant, formerly Director of ISRIC – World Soil Information, now specialising in soil management of the Eurasian steppes. He will give a provocative talk about soil carbon loss/ capture. **"An investable proposal: a plan for regenerative agriculture and carbon capture across the Eurasian steppes"**. Soil is the biggest brake on global heating; it holds more carbon than the atmosphere and all standing vegetation put together. But farmers have been burning off soil organic matter for 12,000 years, running up a carbon debt of 133 billion tonnes. The best thing they could do for the planet is to put it back again – and they can feed us all at the same time! The best places to start are in the black earths of the Steppes and Prairies, bread-baskets of the world. Click here to read the **[draft his paper](#)**

29 June: 7th Annual TAA East Anglia seminar: 'From the ground up: soil management in a changing climate.' Please find the report [here](#).

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July 10: Is COVID-19 causing a global food crisis? IRC member **Dr Shailaja Fennell's** contribution can be heard from about 4:50 minutes in.



July 14: Can healthy eco-systems prevent future pandemics? Chaired by **Professor Bhaskar Vira**, this webinar brought experts together to share their perspectives on how the risk of future pandemics can be reduced through a better understanding of the complex interactions between health and natural systems.

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July 15: Shellfish can feed one billion people in the developing world. **Dr David Aldridge** and PhD student **David Willer** have been carrying out research on the potential of bivalve shellfish as a nutritious and low-impact food source.



July 20. Scientists supercharge shellfish to tackle vitamin deficiency in humans. **Dr David Aldridge** and PhD student **David Willer** have produced the world's first microcapsule specially designed to deliver nutrients to bivalves which are beneficial to human health.

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Credit: Unsplash, CCO

Researchers in Cambridge have developed what they're calling 'vitamin bullets' - but they're not for shooting, and nor will you find them at the pharmacists! These capsules are designed to be fed to shellfish to make them more nutritious. Joining us is the vitamin bullet farmer himself, David Aldridge...

July 21. Shellfish supercharged with vitamins. **Dr David Aldridge** discusses vitamin bullets, capsules designed to make shellfish more nutritious.



The banner features a background image of a hand holding a stalk of wheat against a field of golden wheat. On the left, the Crop Science Centre logo is displayed, consisting of a stylized green leaf icon and the text 'CROP SCIENCE CENTRE' in bold green capital letters, with the tagline 'Driven by impact, fuelled by excellence' below it. The bottom section of the banner has a dark brown background. On the left, it reads 'SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION FOR EVERYONE' in white capital letters, followed by the University of Cambridge logo and the NIAB logo. On the right, a white-bordered box contains the text: 'The Crop Science Centre website is under construction but you may contact us on info@cropsciencecentre.org'.

Upcoming: The Crop Science Centre will be launching officially on **1 October**. There are a number of exciting launch activities on the agenda, including a series of food security webinars co-created with CambPlants Hub. We will send out more information in due course.

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Have you visited our [Facebook](#) page recently? Find out the latest interesting and informative interviews from our community, including PhD students **Ellen Harrison, Hamish Symington, David Willer, Charlotte Milbank** and **Jake Moscrop**. These interviews are in partnership with EIT Food's [#AnnualFoodAgenda](#) series.

A warm welcome to our new external adviser, [Peter Ninnes](#).

LISTINGS

INTERNAL EVENTS

22 - 25 September. [Sainsbury Laboratory Symposium '20](#). Pluripotency in Plant Development.

EXTERNAL EVENTS

10 September. The 3rd World [BioEconomy Forum](#).

15 - 16 September. [World Agri-Tech Innovation Summit - Virtual](#). Join the Summit for 1-1 meetings, interactive group discussions, and critical intelligence from industry leaders on how the industry will emerge from the current crisis.

22 September. [Agri-TechE Agriculture 101](#). An introduction into the agriculture sector, and the opportunities and challenges that are part of it.

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28 September – 10 October. [Northern Real Farming Conference](#). Bringing together farmers, fishers, land managers and more from the North to share practical experiences to meet global food system challenges.

8 October. [Agri-TechE Pollinator: Seeing the Wood for the Trees – Innovation for Agroforestry and Soil Carbon Capture](#). Silvo-arable and silvo-pasture systems, as well as farming forests could help UK agriculture reach next zero carbon emissions by 2040. But tree planting requires long-term planning and a clear understanding of the natural capital potential as well as anticipated economic benefits, as well as tech for tree management, including mapping and visualisation above and below ground, carbon capture and incentives.

10 November. [REAP Conference 2020. From micro-scape to landscape - innovating at the frontier](#). Agri-TechE's REAP conference is taking a farmer-centric view of the emerging approaches and technologies that promise improved decision-making at every level.

28 - 29 April 2021. [New Food Conference](#). Europe's first and biggest conference on new-protein solutions.

PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

[Contact us](#) if you are an IRC member and would like support in promoting your new publication.

Journal articles

[Is risk compensation threatening threatening public health in the Covid-19 pandemic?](#) *BMJ*. July 2020. Involving IRC member **Professor Theresa Marteau**.

[Climate Change Strengthens Selection for Mast Seeding in European Beech](#). *Current Biology*. July 2020. Involving IRC member **Dr Andrew Tanentzap**.

[Vitamin Bullets. Microencapsulated Feeds to Fortify Shellfish and Tackle Human Nutrient Deficiencies](#). *Front. Nutr.* July 2020. Involving IRC members **David Willer** and **Dr David Aldridge**.

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[Sustainable bivalve farming can deliver food security in the tropics.](#) *Nature Food*. July 2020. Involving IRC members **David Willer** and **Dr David Aldridge**.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

If you are a University of Cambridge researcher interested in putting together an interdisciplinary application and would like assistance in finding suitable collaborators/coordinating a group meeting, please [contact us](#)

[IFST Travel Bursary.](#) Supports attendance at conferences or meetings related to food science and technology. No application deadline.

[Levenhulme Trust Research Project Grants.](#) For researchers undertaking innovative and original projects. Open all year for application.

[Levenhulme Trust Research Fellowships.](#) For experienced researchers in any discipline to complete a piece of research. Application deadline: 12 November 2020.

[Levenhulme Trust Study Abroad Studentships.](#) Valid for centres of learning outside the UK and the USA. Application deadline: 11 January 2021.

[Levenhulme Trust Visiting Professorships.](#) Application deadline: 8 October 2020.

[Levenhulme Trust Emeritus Fellowships.](#) Application deadline: 4 February 2021.

[Levenhulme Trust International Fellowships.](#) To be used in research centres outside the UK. Application deadline: 12 November 2020.

[Agriculture 2021 Young Investigator Award.](#) Nomination deadline: 30 November 2020.

[Agriculture 2021 Travel Awards.](#) Application deadline: 15 December 2020.

[UKRI Policy Internships Scheme.](#) Application deadline: 10 September 2020.

[UKRI TRDF: Transformative Research Technologies for the Detection and Diagnosis of Plant and Animal Diseases.](#) Application deadline: 8 October 2020.

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OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

We urge you all to keep updated on the Cambridge Judge Business School's calendar of events as useful career development resources, as well as their many informative pre-recorded [webinars](#).

How to use research to engage with the UK Parliament: [Free online training](#) for researchers and knowledge mobilisers.