



Greetings from Cambridge!

Michaelmas term is ending today and another year is about to close. We have certainly been busy and would like to thank to all of those of you who have worked with us and participated in our events.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.

*Picture credit:* [Agropyron](#) from [Pixabay](#)

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## GFS COMMUNITY NEWS

In September we said farewell to Professor Howard Griffiths (Plant Sciences) who dedicated time and efforts to make the GFS a truly globally recognized

network and able to facilitate impactful and meaningful research particularly thanks to its past programmes, TIGR2ESS and MillNet\_i. Thank you Howard!

As Howard stepped down, we welcomed Professor Lynn Dicks (Zoology) as our new co-chair, she has embraced the role very enthusiastically.

### GFS name change

Next year our name will change to the “Centre for Food Systems Resilience” better to reflect of the focus and interests of our network.

To borrow from the BBSRC, our “*aims are to encourage a **whole food-systems** approach for sustainable agriculture and food (SAF) research, to deliver productive, **resilient** and sustainable farming. Our remit covers arable, horticultural, forage and non-food crops, farmed animals, agricultural systems and related food chains*”.

### Network Mapping

We are in the process of mapping our network to assess strengths and expertise around some key research themes. We look forward to involving you in this mapping process soon.

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## EVENTS



## 2024: Food for Thought

Our recent Food for Thought webinar **Ultra Processed Food: making us sick or keeping us fed?** (21 November) was chaired by **Professor Martin White**, MRC Epidemiology Unit, University of Cambridge and focused on Ultra Processed Foods (UPFs) and their impact on our health and economy.

Our excellent panel was **Dr Chris van Tulleken**, University College London; **Baroness Joan Walmsley**, Chair of the House of Lords Food, Diet and Obesity Committee; GFS co-chair **Dr Jag Singh Srail** and **Dr Yanaina Chavez-Ugalde**, MRC Epidemiology Unit, University of Cambridge.

The panel discussed the recommendations of the recent House of Lords Report [Recipe for Health: A plan to fix our broken food system](#); whether healthier, less processed food could be an economically and environmentally viable option for the world's population and the cost of the health problems that UPFs are increasingly proven to cause.

If you were not able to attend please click [HERE](#) to view the event recording.

Earlier in the year our Food For Thought webinars focused on specific issues of supply chains in the food system, particularly the impact that the law has or should have in regulating the supply of our food [Breaking the \(supply\) Chain: Can the law make our food more sustainable?](#) and how supply chains are contributing to create food deserts [Going hungry in the UK: Our food desert problem](#).

In May we joined forces with Cambridge Zero for a Research Symposium which highlighted ground-breaking research within the food security sphere happening across the University. It share research on how to grow and manage existing and alternative food sources, from industrialised to orphan crops, as well as alternative protein sources. If you could not join us in March, you can read the event report [HERE](#).

In 2025 our events will showcase the University's expertise on food system resilience through a new series of webinars and at our annual Symposium (scheduled for July, so watch this space!).

## Coffee Break Seminars

Our Coffee Break Series continues to be an amazing asset for us. It provides academics and students with a platform to gather and discuss ideas, it encourages interdisciplinary thinking and collaborations, and it exposes us to international research and practice. You can find the presentations and the recordings on our [website](#).

Next term's seminars will take place on Thursdays starting at 2pm, kicking off on 30 January when Dr Alexander Weide (Department of Archaeology, University of

Cambridge) will discuss “A deep time perspective on food diversity: edible weeds and forgotten crops in Europe and southwest Asia”

The full programme will be uploaded soon to the [Coffee Breaks page of our website](#) for the full list, and links to abstracts.

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## PUBLICATIONS

Helen Anne Curry and Timothy W. Lorek, eds., [Agricultural Science as International Development: Historical Perspectives on the CGIAR Era](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2024).

Paul Lohmann Open access paper: <https://doi.org/10.1093/pnasnexus/pgae422>

Summary news feature by JBS: <https://www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/2024/eco-friendly-dining-food-app-layout-cuts-meal-carbon-footprint/>

“Breaking the cycle of inertia in food supply chains: a systems thinking approach for innovation and

sustainability”: <https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/scm-01-2023-0019/full/html>

Willer, D.F., Short, S., Khripko, D. *et al.* Mapping hazards to the global food system. *Environ Monit Assess* **197**, 18 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10661-024-13475-4>

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## Our GFS Network

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We're always keen to grow connections amongst our global food security community, to promote your work and encourage research collaborations. Please mail us at [coordinator@globalfood.cam.ac.uk](mailto:coordinator@globalfood.cam.ac.uk):

- with your news, publications and research outcomes so we can publicise and share them amongst our members,
- ideas for activities or events that would benefit from GFS involvement,
- to join the mailing list and send us your profile for inclusion on our website!

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**[Join our mailing list!](#)**

