



Greetings from Cambridge!

We hope you enjoyed a restful Easter break. It has been a busy couple of months at GFS, and we are organising more events and initiatives in the coming few months. Keep your diary to hand!

The '[Sustainable and Healthy Food Production](#)' Research Symposium that we organised with Cambridge Zero took place on March 21st 2024 at the West Hub in Cambridge featured presentations on ground-breaking research with impact on food security and climate change taking place at the University of Cambridge. [Read about the Research Symposium here.](#)

Last month Francesca joined the UKRI Agri-food for Net Zero Network+ (AFN) Big Tent Event in Sheffield. It was great to network with some of the 200 participants, all of whom are working for change in the UK agri-food system. We focussed on translating research and policy priorities into funding themes for the [2024 round of scoping studies](#), building on the Network's [Research and Policy Priorities Report](#) published in March.

The programme was designed around inclusivity and involvement, to maximise opportunities for networking, with a mix of panel sessions, breakout discussions and fantastic keynote speeches including [Sue Pritchard, Chief Executive of The Food, Farming, and Countryside Commission \(FFCC\)](#), [Judith Batchelar, Director of Food Matters International, former director at Sainsbury's and Deputy Chair of the Environment Agency](#) and [Navaratnam Partheeban, co-founder of the British Veterinary Ethnicity and Diversity Society \(BVEDS\)](#).

You can [watch the keynote speeches here](#).

We are looking forward to participating in next months' [Festival of Plants](#) at the University's Botanic Garden on Saturday 8th June. Our stall is organised with Cambridge Zero and will focus on [Dr Nadia Radzman](#)'s research on the fabulous fava bean as a sustainable legume crop in the UK that has multiple health benefits and can improve planetary health too. We look forward to seeing you there.

Other highlights to come this term are the Policy Training Workshop on Thursday 20th June organised with [Global Challenges](#), [Infectious Disease](#) and [Public Health, CSaP](#) and the [Judge Business School](#); a research scoping event on food waste and the circular economy; a webinar on whether legislation can make our food more sustainable and our annual symposium on Monday 15th July. Plus of course our regular Coffee Break Seminars continue, excitingly they'll be in person this term! (Please see below for dates.)

MEMBER NEWS



We interviewed Dr Min-Yao Jhu a postdoctoral research associate at the [Crop Science Centre](#), where she is pioneering efforts to engineer nodule organogenesis in cereals, aiming to enhance crop productivity and sustainability.

[Read the interview on the GFS website.](#)

SAVE THE DATES!

Coffee Break Seminars

Our Coffee Break Seminars feature presentations of the latest research conducted by our food security community, as well as providing opportunities for networking and discussion.

Seminars take place every Friday during term time at 2 pm (UK). This term we hope to run these sessions in person.

The dates and speakers for this term's coffee break seminars are:

- **10th May** Pei Jiang, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, will talk about Biopolitics of Breeding: An Investigation into Herbicide-Resistant Foxtail Millet in China. Venue: Department of Archaeology
- **17th May** Isabel Teixeira, MPhil student in Development Studies Venue: Centre of Development Studies
- **24th May** Robert Powell, Postgraduate Student, Department of Plant Sciences Venue: David Attenborough Building

Please mail coordinator@globalfood.cam.ac.uk or visit [Coffee Break Seminars](#) for details of topics to be presented.

EIT-Food Algal Biotechnology Course



Last week 35 participants representing 19 nationalities took part in the [EIT Food](#) Professional Development Course on Algal Biotechnology here in Cambridge at the [Department of Plant Sciences](#), the [Algal Innovation Centre](#) and the [SLCU](#). We enjoyed meeting them and finding out more about the importance of algal biotech to food security.

Participants had the opportunity to delve into all aspects of algal biotech (from strain identification and engineering to large-scale cultivation and analysis techniques) over 5 days of scientific talks and practical activities.

They also had lots of fun with social activities that were not just about networking and science, but about building connections and sharing laughs.

The course was hosted by the Department of Plant Sciences, Plant Metabolism group, together with the [Scottish Association for Marine Science](#) (SAMS), the [Fraunhofer Institute](#) (Germany) and [Matís](#) (Iceland). The feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. The organisers are looking forward to seeing how the course alumni will apply the knowledge and skills they gained.

Image credit: Dr Payam Mershani

OUR GFS NETWORK

We're always keen to strengthen connections amongst our global food security community, to promote your work and encourage research collaborations. Please mail us at 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!
-

LISTINGS

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE EVENTS

[CCI Conservation Seminar - Digging deeper: critical review of climate solutions using soil carbon sequestration](#)

- **Weds 1 May 2024 12:00 - 13:00**
- **Main Seminar Room, David Attenborough Building**

while nature-based climate solutions are promising, the treatment of soils deserves a critical re-evaluation through a lens that contextualizes ecosystems within the complexities of how humans both disturb and manage systems. Dr Adam Pellegrini, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Sciences, Cambridge University, will address how the occurrence and management of disturbances such as fire, grazing, and agriculture can influence greenhouse gas emissions on land with a focus on CO2 removal in soils.

Sign up to receive the Zoom link here: <https://forms.office.com/e/WM8wd86VSP>

Symposium: [Climate change is a social issue! – Reframing and shaping Climate's narratives, geographies, histories, and politics](#)

- **Tues 7 May 2024 13.00 – 17.00**
- **Alison Richard Building, 7 [West Road](#), Cambridge CB3 9DP**

Symposium organised by Cambridge Zero, the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities (CRASSH), and Climate And Sustainability Education Series (CASES)

Land and Agrarian Questions in Palestine: A Conversation

- **Wed 15 May 4:15 pm - 6:30 pm**
- **Lucia Windsor Room, Newnham College, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DF and online**

Join members of the Margaret Anstee Centre for Global Studies to hear from Dr Mezna Qato and Dr Fadia Panosetti, University of Cambridge. They will present and discuss the topic of Land and Agrarian Questions in Palestine. The seminar will be followed by a reception.

Register here: <https://buytickets.at/margaretansteecentreforglobalstudies/1177907>

Early Career Research Symposium: Transformational Ways of Living and Learning

- **Thursday 16 May 2024 09:00 - 17:00**
- **St Edmund's College, Cambridge**

Postdoctoral or doctoral researchers in the School of Humanities and the Social Sciences at the University of Cambridge whose research engages with the theme of transformational ways of living and learning are invited to join the ECR 'Transformational Ways of Living and Learning' Symposium. **Click [here](#) to register**

Cambridge University Botanic Garden: [Science on Sundays](#) Uncovering the Microscopic World of Mycorrhizal Fungi

- Sunday 19 May 2024 14.30

Dr Jen McGaley, Crop Science Centre, University of Cambridge
Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi are hugely important in both natural and agricultural settings, but remain tricky to study because of their hidden and microscopic lifestyles. This talk will show how time-lapse microscopy is being used to investigate the concealed lives and activities of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi in the roots of crop plants.

Networking Lunch and Flash Talks for Early Career Researchers in Public Health

- **Wednesday, 22 May, 2024 - 12:00 to 14:00**
- **James Dyson Building Seminar Room Department of Engineering,
Trumpington Street**

A lively networking lunch for Early Career Researchers working in any area of public health.

For any questions about the event, please email Cambridge Public Health manager Helen Watts (hw523@cam.ac.uk).

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/881478524997>

'Six Inches of Soil' Screening and panel discussion with Professor Shailaja Fennell

- **Thurs 23 May 2024 19:00 - 21:00**
- **Frankopan Hall, West Court, CB5 8BQ**

Join the Intellectual Forum at Jesus College, Cambridge for a screening of *Six Inches of Soil*, the first full-length campaigning documentary that tells the untold story of the UK's regenerative and agroecology movement and its benefits to soil. After the screening, the film's director, Colin Ramsay, will be joined by a panel of experts for a Q&A.

Register here: [Six Inches of Soil Tickets, Thu 23 May 2024 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

EXTERNAL EVENTS

[Panel Talk Discussing the Day in The Life of a Child Through Food](#)

- Tuesday 30 April 6:30 - 8pm
- Food & Drink Studio, 3rd Floor, Fortnum & Mason, 181 Piccadilly London W1A 1ER

Join Lindsey MacDonald, Chief Executive of [Magic Breakfast](#) and other distinguished panel members to examine a day in the life of a child experiencing food insecurity and discuss the great work being done to turn things around.

[Panel Talk Discussing the Day in The Life of a Child Through Food Tickets, Tue, Apr 30, 2024 at 6:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

[Resilient Food Systems Delivering Nutrition for a Healthy Life and Planet](#)

- **Weds 22 May 2024 14.30**
- **Online**

Event hosted by EIT Food on how resilient food systems can provide nutrition for a healthy life and planet!

[\(Global\) value chains in a changing world: challenges and opportunities](#)

- Wednesday 22nd May, 5pm – 6.15pm, BST
- Oxford Martin School 34 Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BD & Online

Professor Glenn Magerman, Oxford Martin Visiting Fellow, INET Oxford, will discuss the role of (global) value chains in driving growth, welfare and inequality, the impact of supply chain policies on socio-economic outcomes, and how we can make our societies more resilient to future natural and geopolitical shocks. <https://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/events/global-value-chains/>

[Conference: Just Transition in Food Systems](#)

- Thursday 30 May 2024 9.00 - 17.00
- University of Antwerp City Campus

The aim of the conference is to provide a platform to think collectively about a just food transformation from multiple angles and perspectives, including that of decommodification and adoption of alternative principles and premises. Diverse representatives from social movements, policy making, and research are invited on the basis of their engagement with the subject matter of food system transition to find common ground within a European context. [Just Transition in Food Systems - UCSIA](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Bartlett, H., '[Trade-offs in the externalities of pig production are not inevitable.](#)' *Nature Food*, April 2024. DOI: 10.1038/s43016-024-00921-2

Crawshaw, Sam, Alex M. Murphy, Pamela J. E. Rowling, Daniel Nietlispach, Laura S. Itzhaki, and John P. Carr. 2024. "**Investigating the Interactions of the Cucumber Mosaic Virus 2b Protein with the Viral 1a Replicase Component and the Cellular RNA Silencing Factor Argonaute 1**" *Viruses* 16, no. 5: 676. <https://doi.org/10.3390/v16050676>

Meelan Thondoo, Ebele R. I. Mogo, Lambed Tatah, Monica Muti, Kim R. van Daalen, Trish Muzenda, Rachel Boscott, Omar Uwais, George Farmer, Adelaide Yue, Sarah Dalzell, Gudani Mukoma, Divya Bhagtani, Sostina Matina, Philip M. Dambisya, Kufre Okop, Charles Ebikeme, Lisa Micklesfield & Tolu Oni. [Multisectoral interventions for urban health in Africa: a mixed-methods systematic review.](#) *Global Health Action*, April 2024. DOI: 10.1080/16549716.2024.2325726

Scaini, A., Mulligan, J., Berg, H. *et al.* **Pathways from research to sustainable development: Insights from ten research projects in sustainability and resilience.** *Ambio* 53, 517–533 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-023-01968-4>

In the media...

[Unhealthiest UK restaurants and takeaways 'more likely to be found in deprived areas' | Health | The Guardian](#)

[Goodbye cod, hello herring: why putting a different fish on your dish will help the planet | Fish | The Guardian](#)

[UN livestock emissions report seriously distorted our work, say experts | Climate crisis | The Guardian](#)

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](#).

Useful information for ECRs: [Fellowships for Early Career Researchers](#)

[Calls for proposals | EU Funding & Tenders Portal \(europa.eu\)](#)

Calls for proposals are funding opportunities issued by the European Union institutions, agencies and bodies. These are direct financial contributions, known as grants, that are awarded to third-party beneficiaries (e.g., research organisations, public entities, non-governmental organisations, and private companies) to engage in activities that serve EU policies.

[Funding Deadline Calendar | Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

[Please click here to see Table's listings for food-security related job vacancies.](#)

Useful links:

[Internal funding opportunities | Research Strategy Office \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

[Research Operations Office | \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

[Opportunities – UKRI](#)

[Funding Latest - Agri-TechE \(agri-tech-e.co.uk\)](#)

Join our mailing list!

