



Despite a rainy start to the season, Easter term has been a busy one, with a full programme of events and activities. If you weren't able to attend you can read more about them below:

Research Workshop on “Pulses for People & the Planet”

On 24 June a very engaged interdisciplinary group ranging from plant scientists to nutritionists and supply chain experts met for the afternoon at the beautiful Sainsbury Lab.

The event was a mix of presentations that provided “food for thought” and discussion groups. Attendees had productive discussions on ideas for future research projects. Potential topics for research include increasing the role of pulses in the food system, their role in improving diets, and policy changes to facilitate their adoption at all levels. The ideas generated covered all three of our current thematic areas: “Sustainable Food Production” “Health & Nutrition” and “Resilient Food Systems”.

Centre for Science and Policy Forum

Professor Tim Benton, Director of the Environment and Society Centre at Chatham House, was this term's guest at the Policy Forum lunchtime seminar that Global Food Security and Cambridge Zero organized together.

Focusing on the challenges and opportunities of the global food system within the climate and biodiversity crises, the seminar provided an important platform for understanding global food security and exploring transformative action and how researchers at the University can play a role. You can read the full article [HERE](#).

Coffee Break Seminars

Our Friday on-line seminars this term included presentations on topics ranging from fox-tail millet in China with Pei Jian (Geography Department) to soybean production in Brazil with Isabel Teixeira-Pearce (Development Studies) to the limitations of improved grazing for climate mitigation with Robert Powell (Plant Sciences). [You can find the Coffee Break programme here.](#)

Food for Thought Webinars

This term our two Food for Thought webinars focused on supply chains. Our first event '[Going Hungry in the UK: our food desert problem](#)' focused on what food deserts are, the issues within the supply chain that cause them and what the solutions might be. Our second event, '[Breaking the \(supply\) Chain: Can the law make our food more sustainable?](#)' addressed the issue of accountability in supply chains and whether the law (national or international) can make our food more sustainable.

Picture credit: Cambridge University Library

MEMBER NEWS



Tejas Rao (Department of Land Economy) told us about his research career, inspirations and aspirations. He also shared some very wise, and counter-intuitive advice about why you should always embrace every opportunity that comes along!

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

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER NEWS



1:30-6:00pm, 20 June 2024
West Room, West Hub CB3 0US

ONE HEALTH

Policy engagement workshop for
Early Career Researchers

- Guest speakers from UKHSA and POST (UK Parliament)
- Training in communicating to policymakers
- Brainstorming and mapping activities

    

This interactive policy engagement workshop on Thursday 20th June for Early Career Researchers was facilitated by the Centre for Science and Policy, in collaboration with Cambridge Infectious Diseases, Cambridge Public Health, and Cambridge Global Challenges.

The workshop centred on the theme of ‘One Health’ – a unifying approach to balancing and optimising the health of people, animals and the environment. Sessions included guest speakers, brainstorming and skills building, as well as ample networking opportunities.

There were over 30 attendees and feedback was very positive. We are planning to organise another one in the new term so please keep an eye on our future list of events.

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

EngBio ECRs Meet, Greet & Talks

- **Mon 15 July 12.00 - 13.00**
- **Basement, Postdoc Centres, 16 Mill Lane, Cambridge, CB2 1SB**

EngBio ECRs is a initiative to help connect postdocs and postgrads across the university. We will be hosting regular events where you can meet and network with other postdocs from across university departments, as well as supporting early career researchers to pursue their own projects and initiatives. Postdocs, research and support staff and graduate students are welcome from across the University and University-affiliated institutes

Sainsbury Laboratory Symposium 2024: Development Reprogrammed

Tuesday 17 to Thursday 19 September 2024

Sainsbury Lab Cambridge, UK, In-person and online live stream

The 5th biennial Sainsbury Laboratory Symposium (#SLS24) will take place in-person at the Sainsbury Laboratory, Cambridge, UK over three days (17-19 September 2024). The theme is 'Development – Reprogrammed'. Talks will be live streamed online for those who would like to attend remotely.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

EXTERNAL EVENTS

[Food Thinkers: The incoming UK Government's first 100 days - food policy implications](#)

- **Weds 17th July 2024, 15:45 – 17:00 (BST)**
- **Online**

Henry Dimbleby, co-founder of Leon, food campaigner, speaker and non-executive director, will reflect on the critical food policy actions the incoming UK government should take in their first 100-days of office.

Webinar: Chris Stark - what I've learnt about climate change policy and agri-food

- **Tues 23 July 2024, 11am**
- **Online**

Chris Stark will share his insights, frustrations and reflections as the country's leading climate change policy expert. Chris is one of the most well-known figures in climate policy, and was until recently one of the most senior independent officials working on the issue, as chief executive of the UK's **Climate Change Committee**.

CONFERENCE: Climate Change 2024

- **Weds 2 - Thurs 3 October 2024 9:00am To 12:30pm**
- **Chatham House, London and Online**

Join governments and businesses at Chatham House for two days of interactive discussion exploring strategies for a climate resilient future, including an exclusive in-person workshop.

[Sign in to register for this event](#)

Food Matters Live

- **Tues 26th - Weds 27th November 2024**
- **Manchester UK**

Join food industry leaders to explore the latest guidance in sustainable sourcing and positive nutrition.

PUBLICATIONS

Two new publications from members of the **Epidemiology and Modelling Group in the Department of Plant Sciences**, provide a global overview of the research behind the development of **wheat disease early warning systems** and explore how advancements in these technologies can help to increase resilience in production regions in sub-Saharan Africa and S.E. Asia.

[Click here to read more on our website.](#)

More publication news:

Brian Dowd-Uribe, Genowefa Blundo-Canto, Dominic Glover, Sélim Louafi, Helena Shilomboleni, Joeva Sean Rock, Enoch M. Kikulwe, Klara Fischer, Pierre-Benoît Joly (2024) Socio-economic assessment and genetically engineered crops in Africa: Building knowledge for development? *Global Food Security*.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gfs.2024.100782>.

Gilligan C. (2024) Developing predictive models and early warning systems for invading pathogens: Wheat rusts. *Annual Review of Phytopathology*, 62:8.1-

8.25 doi.org/10.1146/annurev-phyto-121423-041956

Smith, J. W., Al Faisal, A., Hodson, D., Baidya, S., Bhatta, M., Thapa, D., Basnet, R., Thurston, W., Krupnik, T.J., Gilligan, C. A. (2024) Advancing crop disease early warning in South Asia by complementing expert surveys with internet media scraping. *Climate Resilience and Sustainability*; 3:e78. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cli2.78>

Suali AS, Srail JS, Tsolakis N. 2024. The role of digital platforms in e-commerce food supply chain resilience under exogenous disruptions. *Supply Chain Management*. 10.1108/SCM-02-2023-0064

In the media...

[‘I have seen the decline’: pesticides linked to falling UK insect numbers | Pesticides | The Guardian](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

Current funding opportunities:

BBSRC Responsive Mode

From October 2022, BBSRC are piloting a new Responsive Mode Spotlight mechanism that signals areas of particular strategic interest in a more agile format.

Each spotlight runs across multiple rounds, typically three, and replaces the previous standing responsive mode priorities and single-round highlight notices. Find out more in [BBSRC research portfolio and priorities](#).

BBSRC Health inequalities in the Food System

Apply for funding to research dietary health inequalities in the UK food system, taking a food systems approach to design and deliver place-based, solution focused interventions.

The [Institute for Food Science and Technology](#) and **Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology (POST)** are offering a three-month fellowship to PhD students completing a PhD on a food science and technology topic based in a UK University. Successful applicants will be based in UK Parliament, supporting its use of research evidence. Most fellows assist POST in providing briefing material for parliamentarians on emerging food science and technology topics. Deadline: 17 July 2024
[More details here](#)

BBSRC Impact Acceleration Account: Impact Project Call 2024

Open to researchers, including post-docs, employed by the collegiate University and working within a department with project proposals within the [BBSRC remit](#).

- Call opens: 16 July 2024
- Call closes: 11 October 2024 at 16.00
- Awards: Up to £40,000 per application
- Project start date: 2 December 2024 – 31 January 2025
- Project duration: up to 9 months

Please get in touch (iaa@admin.cam.ac.uk) if you have any queries or a potential impact project in mind which does not fit the timescale or budget for these calls, as there may be future funding opportunities.

NERC: £2m Maximising UK adaptation to climate change research projects (deadline 16th July)

Bezos Earth Fund: \$50k AI for Climate and Nature Grand Challenge (deadline 30th July)

UKRI: £1.2m Pre-announcement: cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme, round 2 (deadline 19th November)

<https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-food-you-2-knowledge-exchange-fellowship-five-months> Deadline 11th August)

Useful links and information:

European Research Council

On 14 June 2024, the ROO EU Team organised the European Research Council (ERC) Information Event - [recordings and presentations are on the event page](#) (CRSid access required).

If you have any questions, please email ercgrants@admin.cam.ac.uk

[Fellowships for Early Career Researchers](#)

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

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

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

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

[Opportunities – UKRI](#)

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