

SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

NETWORK NEWS

We are pleased to announce that the co-chairs of Cambridge Global Food Security IRC are interviewing for a new coordinator next week, and we hope to have an announcement in the next newsletter.

In other news, the University of Cambridge and EIT Food's [partnership](#) has produced an innovative series of food-related events. Please read more about what has been happening in this recently published [article](#). Our next EIT Food event, '[3D Virtual Reality Experience](#)', takes place on Saturday 19th October at the Cambridge Festival of Ideas. The event consists of 2 sessions where members of the public aged 12-37 will be welcome to come and experience food in 3D.

Our [TIGR2ESS](#) programme also hosts its Festival event on the 19th of October. Titled '[Finding India's water: how ancient history and cutting-edge technology could yield a sustainable future](#)', this event looks at how ancient knowledge can be combined with modern technology to promote sustainable water use.

Our GFS Festival event, '[Meat and Potatoes: changing diets for changing times?](#)', takes place on 15th October. Cambridge researchers with different expertise and viewpoints will be discussing the value and importance of specific foods and food technologies, from canning and refrigeration, to meat and potatoes.

Our [MillNET i](#) programme hosts its Festival event on the 26th of October. '[Supergrains, as super as they could be?](#)' discusses food sustainability, and looks at how changes in diet affect our health, global and local economies, and the natural world.

Bookings open on 23 September for all Festival events.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE EVENTS

19 Sept, 12.30-1.30pm: [Pathways to Impact – Science Policy](#). Main Lecture Theatre, Dept. Plant Sciences. Hosted by CambPlants Hub, for staff, researchers and students new to policy-making. Contact [Karen Hlaba](#) to reserve a place.

24 Sept, 9.30-5pm: [UCCRI Conference 2019](#). Conservation, with a focus on the value of interdisciplinarity. Large Seminar Room, **David Attenborough Building**, Pembroke Street, CB2 3QZ.

12-13 Dec: [Algal Biotechnology Techniques and opportunities for the sustainable bioeconomy 2019](#), Algal Innovation Centre, Cambridge. An EIT Food activity.

EXTERNAL EVENTS

19 Sept, 09.30-4.30pm: [Horizon 2020 Food and Natural Resources: Information and Consortia Building Event](#). **York.**

2 Oct, 9-7.30pm: [CCF Autumn Symposium](#). **Cambridge.**

16-18 Oct. [2019 Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium](#). **Iowa, USA.**

4-8 Nov: [Strength in collaboration](#). Includes 7 events aimed at showcasing different ways that agri-tech provides an innovative response to the challenges of food production. **Various UK locations.**

20 Nov, 9-4.15pm: [EIT Food conference - The Future of Food](#). Gathering policy-makers and food innovation experts to brainstorm on the future of food. **Brussels, Belgium.**

PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

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

[Harnessing tomato jumping genes could help speed-breed drought-resistant crops.](#)

Cambridge scientists, including IRC members **Sara Lopez-Gomollon** and **David Baulcombe**, discovered that a family of 'jumping genes', found in tomatoes, has the potential to accelerate crop breeding for characteristics such as improved drought resistance.

Read up on how the University of Cambridge Catering Service's (UCS) Sustainable Food Policy has [significantly reduced food-related carbon emissions at the University, and profitably increased the consumption of plant-based food options](#). **Professor Andrew Balmford**, IRC member, advised on this process.

[How sustainable are our online shopping baskets?](#) **Dr Jag Srai**, IRC co-chair, is interviewed to find out more about the impact of online food shopping.

[Government urged to release known planning assumptions for no-deal Brexit food impact.](#) Dr Tim Lang urges the government to publish its planning assumptions for disruptions to the food supply following a no-deal Brexit on 31st October.

Journal Papers

[Land sparing to make space for species dependent on natural habitats and high nature value farmland.](#) *Royal Society*. August 2019. Involving IRC member **Andrew Balmford**.

[Matches and mismatches between global conservation efforts and global conservation priorities.](#) *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*. August 2019. Involving IRC members **David Willer** and **David Aldridge**.

[Altering the availability or proximity of food, alcohol, and tobacco products to change their selection and consumption.](#) *Cochrane Systematic Review - Intervention*. September 2019. Involving IRC members **Gareth Hollands** and **Theresa Marteau**.

[Environmental and epigenetic regulation of *Rider* retrotransposons in tomato.](#) *PLOS Genetics*. September 2019. Involving IRC members **Sara Lopez-Gomollon** and **David Baulcombe**.

[Potential impact on prevalence of obesity in the UK of a 20% price increase in high sugar snacks: modelling study.](#) *BMJ*. September 2019. Involving IRC member **Theresa Marteau**.

[Water allocation and governance in multi-stakeholder environments: Insight from Axios Delta, Greece.](#) *Science of the Total Environment*. December 2019. Involving IRC member **Leon Kapetas**.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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

[The Global Food Security \(GFS\)](#) programme is inviting expressions of interest from post-doctoral researchers to take part in a Policy Lab on '*emerging food trends and their impact on the food system*.' The call is open to researchers from any relevant food-related discipline. Researchers will scope policy relevant issues, form teams, and compete for a £5000 Policy Lab award to write a policy-facing report. **Application deadline: 4 October. Policy Lab dates: 6-8 November.**

University of Cambridge internal candidates only: applications are invited to the University's [GCRF QR internal funding call for the academic year 2019 - 2020](#), for activities running from 1st January 2020 to 31st July 2020. Initiatives compliant with Official Development Assistance (ODA) guidelines to promote the economic development and welfare of ODA eligible countries will be supported. GCRF QR funds support pump-priming, networking, and emergency response activities. **Deadlines: 15 October or rolling.**

[Frontiers of Engineering for Development.](#) Symposium: From feeding people to nourishing people, 26 - 29 November, Madagascar. The symposium will focus on UN Sustainable Goal 2: Zero Hunger, and will discuss topics that include malnutrition, strengthening the links between agricultural production and nutrition, and food safety and food security. Participants will have the opportunity to apply for seed funding to help build on collaborative partnerships founded at the event. Places are limited and competitive, and **applications will be considered on a rolling basis.**

[BBSRC international schemes.](#) Funding schemes that range from short term travel awards to Partnering Awards that support long term collaborations with overseas scientists. **Deadlines: 14 November or flexible.**

[KTN Spark Awards 2019.](#) Sparks Awards provide funding to establish **new collaborations** between research partners and small to medium sized enterprises based in the UK. Up to 10 Awards of £10000 are available for projects in Livestock and Aquaculture, Food and Drink, Industrial Biotechnology, and Plants and Crops. **Deadline: midnight 1 November.**

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

[National Food Strategy - Call for Evidence](#). Help transform the UK's food system.

Deadline: 25 October.