

JULY 2016 NEWSLETTER

Dear Members and Subscribers,

Thanks to all who attended and contributed to our Cambridge Conference on Global Food Security last month. It was a fantastic event with over 200 delegates and speakers from around the world bringing a diverse range of perspectives.

Some photos are available [here](#).

With the new £1.5 billion Global Challenges Research Fund now up and running, the next five years will bring many funding opportunities relevant to Global Food Security. The Fund is a BIS initiative that operates across a number of delivery partners including the Research Councils, National Academies and HEFCE, with the aim ensuring UK science takes the lead in addressing the problems faced by developing countries while also developing our own ability to deliver cutting edge research. New calls will be included in this newsletter as they are announced, and please do take advantage of the opportunity to have your say on which high-level challenges should form the basis of future funding calls from the GCRF Collective Fund, by completing RCUK's online [Call for Evidence](#), open until 4pm on 22 August.

Best wishes, Jacqueline Garget

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EVENTS AND TALKS (*those taking place in Cambridge are in blue*)

21 July 2016, 6-9pm: [People, Politics, Planet: Any Questions? Britain in a Changing Europe](#), Royal Geographical Society, London. Join the first post-referendum public debate on the future of environmental policy in the UK following the vote to leave the European Union, chaired by Jonathan Dimbleby, and put your questions to a panel of leading politicians.

25-27 July 2016: [OpenPlant Annual Forum, John Innes Conference Centre, Norwich](#). The Forum will bring together a multi-sector, multidisciplinary crowd, and will provide a platform for exploring potential applications of reprogrammed biological systems, and the wider implications of the potentially disruptive new technologies (Register by 20 July).

28 July 2016, 9:30am-4:00pm: [The Data Dialogue. Time to Share: Navigating Boundaries & Benefits](#), Murray Edwards College, Cambridge. Aims to provide Early Career Researchers from a range of disciplines with the tools and knowledge to better approach their research data needs, covering the benefits of sharing data, how we share difficult and sensitive data, gaining access to restricted, secure, or open data, and what types of repositories are available.

1-2 Aug 2016: [Oxford Symposium on Population, Migration and the Environment](#), Rothermere American Institute, Oxford, with principal speaker Robert Rowthorne, Emeritus Professor of Economics, University of Cambridge. Will cover a broad agenda involving economics, education, environmental studies, agriculture, law, political science, religion, and social studies.

24-30 Aug 2016: [Indigenous Crop Biodiversity Festival](#), Maui, Hawaii, August 24-30. This is a recognized parallel event to the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Honolulu, Hawaii from September 1-10, 2016. The ICBF represents an opportunity to expand on the dialogue on the role of indigenous crop biodiversity conservation in food security while reducing agricultural impacts to natural ecosystems, in advance of the Congress.

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5-7 Sept 2016: Global Food Security and Sustainability Conference 2016. Beijing, China, theme: 'Generating Sustainable Ideas to Feed the Future.'

6 Sept 2016 (NEW DATE): Political Economy of Public Health: 2016 PublicHealth@Cambridge showcase, Murray Edwards College, Cambridge. The morning will be an interactive session to explore potential barriers to implementation of public health interventions as they are exposed to the political-economic realities of practice and policy and how they may be overcome.

14 Sept 2016 Innovations for Sustainable Intensification, Park Farm, Histon. Norfolk farmer Louis Baugh will give the keynote address, followed by presentations by businesses with innovations that will help deliver on SI.

15-16 Sept 2016 Data for Policy: Frontiers of Data Science for Government, Cambridge. Data Science is emerging as a key interdisciplinary research field to address major contemporary challenges across sectors. To reflect the diversity of skills and knowledge required to tackle challenges in this domain, the conference offers an open discussion forum for all stakeholders.

20 Sept 2016: Consultancy 101 Workshop. A free half day workshop for any University staff currently undertaking consultancy work, or thinking of working as a consultant in the future.

22 Sept 2016: Are Neonicotinoids Killing Bees? SCI, London. Event designed to appeal to academic and industrial scientists involved in all aspects of crop research and production, and ecosystem services including pollination. **Poster, abstract and early bird deadlines 29 July 2016.**

24-27 Oct 2016: Engineering and Technology Innovation for Global Food Security. Cape Town Stellenbosch, South Africa.

9 Nov 2016: REAP Conference 2016, Innovation for an Agricultural Revolution. Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton. **Part of Agri-Tech Week 2016 (7-11 Nov)**. With a start-up showcase sponsored by RoCRE Rothamsted, and speakers including Cambridge's Prof Sir David Baulcombe, and CEO of NIAB Tina Barsby. ***The University of Cambridge's Bioscience Impact Team is funding 5 places to attend this meeting on a first-come, first-served basis. More details on how to apply for the Growing Relationships fund can be found [here](#).***

22-24 Nov 2016: Food Matters Live, ExCeL, London. The UK's first cross-sector event which brings together the food and drink industry, retailers, foodservice providers, government and those working in nutrition, health and sustainability. Food Matters Live provides a platform for thought-provoking, cross-sector debate and encourages cross-sector collaboration.

6-9 June 2017: 3rd European Climate Change Adaptation Conference: Our Climate Ready Future. SECC, Glasgow. Sectoral themes: urban, energy & infrastructure; agriculture & forestry; water security & flooding; biodiversity, ecosystem services & nature-based solutions; health & wellbeing. Call for abstracts deadline 30 Sept 2016.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[Reduce, relegalize and recycle food waste](#) zu Ermgassen EHJ, Balmford A, Salemdeeb R. (24 Jun 2016) *Science (Letters)* 352(6293) pp.1526.

[Does environmental certification in coffee promote 'business as usual'? A case study from the Western Ghats, India.](#) Bose A, Vira B, Garcia C.

The Cambridge Institute of Public Health and the PublicHealth@Cambridge Network have launched the [Public Health: Research into Policy](#) pilot to explore ways to strengthen links between public health researchers at the University and policymakers. The first case studies demonstrating how Cambridge research is impacting policy include [Professor Theresa Marteau's work](#) *producing the most conclusive evidence to date that people consistently consume more food and drink when offered larger-sized portions, packages or tableware than when offered smaller-sized versions. This has informed Public Health England's report on sugar reduction and continues to influence the debate on tackling obesity.*

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

GCRF Strategic Networks call 2016: ESRC is investing £3 million in a cohort of Strategic Networks (£75k-£150k each), that will bring together novel perspectives to identify key future research areas, inform thinking on how these might be addressed, and build the capacity to support this. They must include researchers from more than one discipline, researchers based in developing countries, and non-academic stakeholders, and explore any area where social science research – in conjunction with other disciplines – has potential to make a substantial contribution to achieving the aims of the GCRF. **Deadline 2 Aug 2016.**

BBSRC Flexible Interchange Programme (FLIP) awards. This grant supports the movement of people and exchange of knowledge / technology / skills, and developing bioscience research / researchers. **Deadline 17 August 2016.**

African Union, ET invites proposals for projects up to \$1,000,000, which aim to eradicate hunger and ensure food and nutrition security, by using science and technology research to contribute to Africa's poverty reduction strategies, economic growth and social development efforts. Applications must involve a partnership of at least three organisations, including two African countries. **Deadline 17 Aug 2016.**

Wellcome Trust/ Riksbankens Jubileumsfond/ Volkswagen Foundation: Europe and Global Challenges. €500,000 - €900,000 to support collaboration between researchers in Europe and at least one other region (eg. Africa) taking an innovative approach to global challenges related to climate change, global health, social inequality, migration, or terrorism. Must have social science focus. **Deadline 1 Sept 2016.**

STFC's Challenge Led Applied Systems Programme (CLASP) Energy and Environment. STFC has launched a new call offering £1.5M to fund a range of projects from short feasibility studies to large developmental projects that will use STFC funded research to solve key challenges in the Energy and Environment sectors. Challenge areas are outlined in the [CLASP Guidance notes](#), and include 'Animal & Plant health: rapid and low cost methods for disease detection and monitoring (e.g. endemic diseases of livestock, priority plant and tree pests and diseases as identified through the UK Plant Health Risk Register)'. **Deadline 1 Sept 2016.**

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NERC/ AHRC/ ESRC Global Challenges Research Fund: Building Resilience. Awards up to £200,000, open to proposals addressing resilience to natural and man-made environmental hazards in a range of developing world contexts. The focus is on how to build resilience in relation to both sudden and slow-onset environmental hazards (eg land-degradation, deforestation, drought, hurricanes, climate change) taking into account the intersections and relationships with other contexts such as conflict and fragility, poverty and famine, urbanisation, economics and health / disease risks. **Deadline 6 Sept 2016** (workshop on 19 July for more information and to facilitate collaborations).

Crops for Human and Farmed Animal Nutrition BBSRC welcomes proposals addressing a range of UK and globally relevant research questions. In particular applications are encouraged that address this challenge in crops relevant to developing countries, and those working in collaboration and/or consultation with the food industry. **Deadline 21 Sept 2016.**

NERC Innovation Projects Open call. Up to £125k available to support projects which focus upon generating user applicable outputs from past and/or current NERC supported research and translates them into outcomes that achieve impact, including '*Water risks to global food supply chains, ecosystems and communities*'. **Deadline 27 Sept 2016.**

UK Royal Society International Exchanges 2016

The Royal Society's International Exchanges Scheme makes grants to UK scientists who seek new international collaborations. The scheme covers all areas of the life and physical sciences, except clinical medicine. **Deadline 18 Oct 16.**

Innovate UK Funding Competition: Agri-Tech Catalyst. UK businesses and universities can apply for a share of £4 million to work with developing country partners on agri-tech innovations. **Deadline for expressions of interest 26 Oct 2016 (briefing webinar 1 Aug 2016).**

AHRC Networking Grants available to support forums for the discussion and exchange of ideas on a specified thematic area, issue or problem through, for example, a short-term series of workshops, seminars, networking activities or other events. The aim is to stimulate new debate across boundaries. Proposals should explore new areas, be multi-institutional and can include creative or innovative approaches or entrepreneurship. No deadline.

COMPETITIONS/ WORKSHOPS/ OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Royal Society of Biology's annual photography competition is also now open for entries on the theme of *Biology: from Big to Small*. Top prize £1,000, **closing date 31 August 2016.**

Thought For Food Challenge calls on the world's best and brightest university students to form teams and develop breakthrough projects that address the global challenge of feeding 9 billion people by 2050. In return, you receive cutting-edge learning tools and resources, world-class mentorship from experts, innovators and entrepreneurs, the chance to win a trip to the inspirational TFF Global Summit as well as significant funding (up to \$10,000) for your project. **Sign up by 1 Dec 2016.**

The Crunch – sign up to become an ambassador for the **Wellcome Trust's new initiative**, which aims to inspire everyone to consider the connections between our food, our health and our planet. It also wants to encourage conversations to help researchers and policymakers listen to what the UK thinks about these issues. The Crunch is linked to wider work by the Wellcome Trust, supporting collaboration and research to help us all understand more about these connections. Find out more about [Our Planet, Our Health](#).