



MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER

Dear Members and Subscribers,

It has been great to meet so many Initiative members over the past month and hear about your food security-related research. Our membership is growing, and with so much going on across the University please keep an eye on the website for regular updates on the latest news and events.

Planning for the Cambridge Conference in Global Food Security (23rd - 25th June 2016) continues, and we'll be opening for bookings in the coming weeks. The Cambridge Science Festival 2016 is now in full swing, and with a packed two-week programme featuring hundreds of speakers from across Cambridge and beyond, I've selected a few events in this month's newsletter that may particularly appeal to your food security interests!

Please feel free to contact me at any time with relevant news, information about new grants or forthcoming publications, or other activities you'd like to share across the Initiative or more widely.

Best wishes, Jacqueline Garget

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EVENTS AND TALKS

(those taking place in Cambridge are in blue)

Food: Field to Table is a fortnightly, graduate-run interdisciplinary discussion group at CRASSH covering a wide range of issues that affect the food system. The seminar on **9 March, 5-7pm**, is on "**Market Interference – Helping and Hindering Sustainable Food Systems**", with Fiona Smith (Law, Warwick), Christian Theil (Development Studies, Cambridge) and Tina Schivatcheva (Development Studies, Cambridge).

9 March 2016: DEFRA Data – Opening up the Treasure Trove

The first Agri-Tech East Special Interest Group of 2016 will explore the possibilities raised by the release of data by DEFRA later this year. Rothamsted Research, Harpenden.

7-20 March 2016: Cambridge Science Festival

Events that may be of interest to the Global Food Security community include:

9 March, 8-9pm: 'Eating less meat for planetary and population health: government policy or your choice?' Mill Lane Lecture Rooms. LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE DAY.

12 March, 10am-4pm & 13 March 11am-3pm: Department of Plant Sciences Marquee on the lawn, Downing Site.



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15 March, 7:30pm – 9pm: 'From Bean to Bar: the Future of Chocolate', Mill Lane Lecture Rooms. Angus Thirlwell, CEO and co-founder of Hotel Chocolat, will join an expert panel to explore how the supply and demand for chocolate may change in the future. LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE DAY.

19 March, 10am-3pm: Veterinary Medicine Open Day

Emerging infectious diseases pose many risks to both animals and humans. Find out how, by considering animal and human health side-by-side, we can use the latest technology and methods to treat patients, quantify the risk of infection and predict epidemics. With plenty of hands-on activities for all ages explaining what pathogens are, why do they make animals ill, where do they live, and what we can do to help reduce disease spread.

19 March, 2pm – 6pm: 'What's for supper?'

Activities on the stall will include games where the participants make choices for a shopping trolley, or for food for supper, and then find out what impact their choices have on carbon emissions, land use or employment. Anglia Ruskin University, East Road, Cambridge.

20 March CEDAR and MRC Epidemiology Unit members will join colleagues from across the biomedical campus at the Clinical School event for families. Their stand **'All Data Great & Small'** will examine how different kinds of data can be used to improve our health and wellbeing.

20 March, 11am – 3pm: 'Can we Design Healthier Supermarkets?'

Join the Behaviour and Health Research Unit team to explore how seemingly small features of shop design may help people make healthier food choices. Deakin Centre, Cambridge Biomedical Campus.

22 March 2016: Priorities for the UK food and drink industry - implementing the 25-year food and farming plan

Central London. A Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum Keynote Seminar.

23-25 March 2016: 3rd International Conference on Food Security and Nutrition.

Amsterdam.

24 March 2016: Food futures: what does "sustainable" look like?

Professor Tim Benton, Global Food Security Champion and Professor at the University of Leeds, will give a lunchtime seminar at the University of Cambridge's Engineering Department, Trumpington Street, **from 12:30 to 14:00, LR6.**

12 April 2016: Pollinator: Rusts and Other Cereal Killers

Dr Sarah Holdgate, Project Leader at the UKCPVS, will be joining speakers from John Innes Centre, NIAB, the Genome Analysis Centre, and the AHDB to discuss Field Pathogenics – a new way to identify rusts to improve their control. NIAB, Villa Road, Histon, Cambs, CB24 9NZ.

27 April 2016: Priorities for the UK food supply chain and for the Groceries Code

Adjudicator

Central London. A Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum Keynote Seminar.

5 May 2016: Innovations in Agri-Tech

Seminar organised by the Tropical Agriculture Association (TAA) East Anglia Branch, the Centre for Global Equality (CGE), CambPlants Hub and Cambridge Global Food Security. Speakers: Dr Stephanie Race (CropPerformance Ltd) and Professor Sir David Baulcombe (Dept of Plant Sciences). **2pm – 6pm at the Sainsbury Laboratory, Cambridge.** Tickets can be booked [online](#).

7 May 2016: Technological Frontiers in Food Security and Sustainability

University of Oxford. Jointly organised by the Oxford Food Forum and Cambridge Food Security Forum

23-25 June 2016: Cambridge Conference on Global Food Security.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Lin H, Karki S, Coe RA, Bagha S, Khoshravesh R, Balahadia CP, Ver Sagun J, Tapia R, Israel WK, Montecillo F, de Luna A, Danila FR, Lazaro A, Realubit CM, Acoba MG, Sage TL, von Caemmerer S, Furbank RT, Cousins AB, Hibberd JM, Quick WP, Covshoff S. **Targeted Knockdown of GDCH in Rice Leads to a Photorespiratory Deficient Phenotype Useful as a Building Block for C4 Rice.** Plant Cell Physiol.2016 Feb 21.

Howard Wilsher S, Harrison F, Yamoah F, Fearn A, Jones A. **The relationship between unhealthy food sales, socio-economic deprivation and childhood weight status: results of a cross-sectional study in England.** Int J Behav Nutr Phys Act. 2016 Feb 21
doi: 10.1186/s12966-016-0345-2.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

BBSRC: Standard follow-on funding designed to support the translation of fundamental research funded by BBSRC into practical application, including commercialisation. The aim of the programme is to help researchers maximise the societal and economic benefits of their research. **Deadline 15 March 2016.**

The ERA-NET Sustainable Animal Production (SusAn) has launched a call for transnational research proposals on sustainable animal production. Up to €300,000 can be requested per project from any one funding party. **Deadline for pre-proposals 29 March 2016.**

DEFRA European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability grant (EIP-Agri)

Supports projects which link research, farming and forestry practice to encourage innovation and improve productivity and sustainability in the agricultural sector. Grants are worth between £5,000 and £150,000 for up to three years. The total budget is worth £5 million. **Deadline 31 March 2016.**

EC Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020) Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellowships 2016

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellowships include the Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE). RISE aims to develop partnerships at the international level in Europe and outside Europe in academic and non-academic sectors. The organisations constituting the partnerships contribute to joint research and innovation by seconding and/or hosting eligible staff members. **Deadline 28 April 2016.**

The ERA-NET for monitoring and mitigation of Greenhouse gases from agri- and silviculture is planning to launch a call for transnational research proposals under the ERA-NET Cofund scheme of Horizon 2020 of the European Commission on March 1, 2016. **Deadline for pre-proposals 29 April 2015.**

THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE is awarded for a specific, exceptionally significant, individual achievement at any point along the full range of the food production and distribution chain. It has come to be known as the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture" and aims to recognize and inspire breakthrough achievements in feeding the world. This \$250,000 prize is awarded to individuals who have improved the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world. **Nominations due by 1 May 2016.**

NERC: International Opportunities Fund. NERC is inviting proposals for Pump Priming and Pump Priming Plus grants to its International Opportunities Fund (IOF). The IOF scheme provides resources to NERC-supported researchers to allow them to forge long-term



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partnerships with overseas scientists that add value to current NERC-funded science.

Deadline 19 May 2016.

Community Resource for Wheat Transformation This funding from NIAB provides capacity for **50 genes** to be transformed into wheat free of charge. Half of this resource is reserved for researchers working on model crops, to encourage early testing of novel genes in wheat. The remaining half of the resource is reserved for researchers working on UK cereal crops, wheat and barley. This project has been funded for 5 years by the BBSRC Bioinformatics & Biological Resources fund. **Deadline 31 May 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. **Deadlines 07 June 2016 and 18 October 2016.**

The Norman Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application

This award intends to recognize exceptional, science-based achievement in international agriculture and food production by an individual under 40 who has clearly demonstrated intellectual courage, stamina, and determination in the fight to eliminate global hunger and poverty. The award will honor an individual who is working closely and directly "in the field" or at the production or processing level with farmers, animal herders, fishers or others in rural communities, in any discipline or enterprise across the entire food production, processing, and distribution chain. **Nominations due by 30 June 2016.**

Conservation, Food, and Health Foundation (CHF) Grants for Grassroots Development

The CHF Foundation makes grants to non-profit organisations worldwide for projects in conservation, sustainable agriculture, and health in developing countries. The average grant is approximately US\$20,000. **Deadline 1 July 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.**

COMPETITIONS AND WORKSHOPS

Agri-tech EAST has extended the deadline for its Business Plan competition: GROW, aiming to encourage an entrepreneurial culture in agri-tech. Every entrant gets the support and guidance of a mentor, and the winner will receive £1,000 to help them progress their business plan into practice. Register interest **by 14 March 2016**, deadline for entries 29 April.



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21 March 2016: Are you interested in exploring the [alternatives to a career in academia](#)? If you're a postdoc and you'd like to learn more about commercialising your research, Cambridge Enterprise, the commercialisation arm of the University, is holding a free event to explain how it's done.

23 March 2016: How to write about science policy... and do it well!

The aim of this workshop is to train early career researchers how to write a successful article, blog post or opinion piece on a science policy topic that is accessible to a lay audience. Participants will have the opportunity to try some writing for themselves and get feedback from their peers and the speakers. Limited to 25 attendees - **to apply for a place, email workshops@cuspe.org by 4pm on Monday 14th of March** outlining:

1. Your name and position at the University (e.g. PhD student, department of Physics);
2. Why you think this workshop can benefit you, and;
3. What you want or hope to achieve from it.

5-7 pm, Venue: TBC

The University's Office of External Affairs and Communications has just launched '[Public Engagement with Research Awards](#)' to recognise and reward those who undertake quality engagement with research. Winners will each receive a certificate, trophy and a personal cash prize of £1000 to be presented by the Vice-Chancellor at an Awards Ceremony in June 2016. **Applications close Monday 18 April 2016.**