

OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

## NETWORK NEWS

The co-chairs of Cambridge Global Food Security IRC, Howard Griffiths and Jagjit Srail, are pleased to announce that Mrs Francesca Re Manning will be joining us on 6th November as Programme Manager. She has a very strong background in law and international relations, and will be joining us from her role as legal counsel for Save the Children International. She was previously a food security specialist and intellectual property manager for the CGIAR network, where she developed and maintained a Community of Practice ('National Programme Initiative') in all the countries where the CGIAR operates. She developed best practices and tools to enable scientists in the various research institutions to deliver products to the benefit of poor farmers and their families. We hope that her expertise in the international arena will help to raise IRC aspirations to develop collaborations and representation at national and global scales, and we are excited by the prospect of working with her.

We are looking for students to join the Cambridge Food Security Forum (CFSF) Committee. The positions available are: Chair (1 or 2 people), Junior Treasurer, Secretary, and open portfolio committee members. Please contact IRC member Anthony Bridgen at [ajb312@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ajb312@cam.ac.uk).



We are happy to announce that our events at the recently concluded Cambridge Festival of Ideas were a resounding success. Our first event, '[Meat and Potatoes: changing diets for changing times?](#)', attracted an audience of about one hundred, with a panel that included Lesley Steinitz (History), Dr. Pablo Salas (Land Economy), Prof. James Wood (Veterinary Science), Dr. Helen Anne Curry (History and Philosophy of Science), and Prof. Martin Jones (Archaeology). This event was filmed as part of our '[Objects](#)' series of events, and will

be linked to the webpage in due course.

Our [EIT Food](#) event, '[The \(Virtual\) Reality of our Food](#)', was fully subscribed, and even had last-minute hopefuls waiting for a place on the day! The event stood out amongst other Festival events as it was the only one using futuristic virtual reality techniques to teach new ideas and initiatives, with attendees indicating that they had found the event both informative and entertaining.

At the [TIGR2ESS](#) event, '[Finding India's water: how ancient history and cutting-edge technology could yield a sustainable future](#)', archaeologist Dr. Adam Green, economist Dr. Ettore Settani and engineer Dr. Naoum Tsolakis described sustainable water use in Bronze age civilisations, how water 'flows' between different countries, and cutting-edge precision irrigation to a packed room. There was some very thoughtful discussion with the speakers, including wonderful insights from several audience members



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of Indian heritage, followed by a demo of a high-tech robot.



At the [MillNETi](#) lecture, '[Supergrains: As super as they could be?](#)', Prof. K Narayanan, EIT Bombay, spoke of the challenges of growing grains in a changing climate, and Dr. Shailaja Fennel discussed the links between Western consumers and developing world growers. Dr. Richard Sidebottom looked at developing world consumers, highlighting that whilst the Green Revolution was effective in increasing the number of calories grown, not everybody benefited and global diets narrowed. Dr. Sarah

Dalzell looked at shifting diets in the Gambia, highlighting that nutrition should be holistic.

## LISTINGS

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE EVENTS

**14 Nov:** Researchers involved in any area of sustainability research at University of Cambridge: learn how to successfully pitch and write about your research for [The Conversation](#) at a [workshop](#) run by The Conversation's Energy and Environment Editor, Will de Freitas. **David Attenborough Building, Cambridge.**

**15 Nov:** [Annual PublicHealth@Cambridge Network showcase 2019: Planetary Health](#). **David Attenborough Building, Cambridge.**

**13 Dec:** [Travel showcase and Networking Event](#). **Department of Plant Sciences, Cambridge.** Exclusive to PhD students and postdocs from the University of Cambridge.

**13 Jan 2020, 12-2pm:** [How can your research influence policy?](#) **School of Clinical Medicine.**

### EXTERNAL EVENTS

**19-20 Nov:** [Food Matters Summit 2019](#). **London.**

**7-9 Jan 2020:** [The Oxford Farming Conference](#). **Oxford.**

**4-6 May 2020:** [STS Conference Graz 2020](#). **Austria.**

**22-25 Sept 2020:** [LCA Food 2020 - Towards sustainable agri-food systems](#). **Germany.** Abstract deadline: 31 December.

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## PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

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

[Harnessing the power of food citizenship.](#) A report by the Food Ethics Council highlighting the window of opportunity that is currently opening across the sector for food citizenship to take root.

[What we eat matters: to change climate crisis, we need to reshape the food system.](#) A Guardian opinion piece on reshaping the food system, and in particular livestock production and animal products consumption, in order to have an impact on the climate crisis.

[Food: an opportunity to tackle multiple policy challenges.](#) A report by the Centre for Food Policy setting out how a 'Food in All Policies' approach to food systems challenges can meet both food and socio-economic goals.

### *Journal Papers*

[Understorey Vegetation in Oil Palm Plantations Promotes Leopard Cat Activity, but Does Not Affect Rats or Rat Damage.](#) *Front. For. Glob. Change.* September 2019. Involving IRC members **Amelia Hood and Sarah Luke.**

[Public acceptability of nudging and taxing to reduce consumption of alcohol, tobacco, and food: A population-based survey experiment.](#) *Social Science & Medicine.* September 2019. Involving IRC members **Gareth Hollands and Theresa Marteau.**

[Impact of increasing vegetarian availability on meal selection and sales in cafeterias.](#) *PNAS.* October 2019. Involving IRC members **Emma Garnett, Andrew Balmford, and Theresa Marteau.**

[Resilience of ecological functions to drought in an oil palm agroecosystem.](#) *Environ. Res. Commun.* October 2019. Involving IRC members **Amelia Hood and Sarah Luke.**

[One thousand plant transcriptomes and the phylogenomics of green plants.](#) *Nature.* October 2019. Involving IRC member **Julian Hibberd.**

[The impact of an income-generating activities programme on children and mothers' undernutrition in extreme poor rural Bangladeshi households.](#) *Public Health Nutrition.* November 2019. Involving IRC members **Rie Goto and Nicholas Mascie-Taylor.**

[Microencapsulated diets to improve bivalve fish aquaculture for global food security.](#) *Global Food Security.* December 2019. Involving IRC members **David Willer and David Aldridge.**

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### 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 Government has release updated [guidance on H2020 funding post Brexit](#).

Call for proposals for [Internet of Food Things Network Plus pilot studies](#). Short-term (no longer than 6 months) pilot research study funding from the Internet of Food Things Network Plus, set up as a priority challenge area by the Digital Economy Theme (DE) led by EPSRC. **Deadline: 4 November.**

UK Research and Innovation invites outline proposals for [Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Centres](#), with up to £22.5 million at 80% FEC available to support up to five Centres for up to four years from 1 October 2020. Each Centre should conduct interdisciplinary research that accelerates understanding and solutions to enable circularity of a resource flow, including consideration of multi-sector contexts. Applications encouraged from any discipline. **Deadline: 19 November.**

[Transforming the UK food system for healthy people and a healthy environment call](#). UK Research and Innovation in partnership with government announce a £25 million call for research to fundamentally transform the UK food system, by placing healthy people and a healthy natural environment at its centre. **Deadline: 26 November.**

[Envisioning Regenerative and Nourishing Food Futures for 2050](#). The Food System Vision Prize is an invitation for organizations across the globe to develop a vision of the regenerative and nourishing food system that they aspire to create by the year 2050. **Deadline: 5 December.**

[Agri-Tech Catalyst funding to support agricultural and food systems innovation in Africa - Round 9](#). The Agri-Tech Catalyst offers funding for private sector/academic collaborative research and development projects to deliver innovation in agriculture and food systems in Africa. The Knowledge Transfer Network is providing dedicated support to organisations developing projects for the Agri-Tech Catalyst through three webinars on **6 November**, with each webinar focussing on one of the following areas: [crop production](#), [livestock and aquaculture](#), and [food systems and nutrition](#). **Deadline: 8 January 2020.**

ERC: [Public Engagement with Research Award 2020](#). For ERC grantees. **Deadline: 10 January 2020.**

[Work with China to transform food production](#). The UK Government's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund [Transforming Food Production Challenge](#) has up to £90 million to help businesses invest in new data-driven precision-agriculture technologies that could transform food production. [Innovate UK](#) has up to £5 million from the fund to invest in UK businesses undertaking joint projects with Chinese partners to develop new integrated precision farming technology that helps towards achieving a sustainable position of net-zero emissions. KTN is hosting a [briefing event](#) for this competition on **5 November** in London, or by [webcast](#). **Deadline: 15 January 2020.**

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[ISCF Future food production systems](#). Apply for a share of up to £20 million from the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund to transform food production systems, improve productivity and sustainability, and help the industry move towards net zero emissions by 2040. **Deadline: 22 January 2020.**

Horizon 2020, the EU's multibillion research and innovation funding scheme running until 2020, has [various calls](#) which may be relevant for food production and food security.