

The Cambridge Conference on Global Food Security 2016

Draft Programme March 2016

Day 1 (23 June 2016 pm): Framing the challenge

OPENING PLENARY SESSION: THE CHALLENGE WE FACE – VIEWPOINTS FROM THE FRONTLINES

The current and future challenges we face in feeding the world in a sustainable and equitable way are well known, and demand a concerted and coordinated response across scales and sectors of society. This session presents different voices from the ground and front-line of food insecurity to give us a health check on our complex food system and set the scene for our outcome-orientated conference. How resilient is the food system locally to globally? What is currently working? What needs to be done, and by whom? We will hear from the viewpoints of a grassroots organisation, international NGO, policy-maker and national government.

- Featuring Dame Barbara Stocking, Farm Africa and Embassy of China

PLENARY SESSION: HITTING THE BUFFERS – OBSTACLES TO RESEARCH IMPACT AND HOW TO SURMOUNT THEM

The agenda for cross-cutting research in the UK is increasingly focussed on impact, and in no area is this more important than research directed at solutions to food insecurity in a changing world. Yet the translation of research into action on the ground requires crossing the boundaries between different natural and social science disciplines, and between the sciences and policy. Academic researchers have to understand the real world questions and knowledge gaps, and policy-makers and practitioners need to understand and be able to use scientific knowledge, tools and products. Different perspectives on what is salient, credible and legitimate can obstruct progress. This session explores the barriers to translating research into impact and what can be done about them.

Day 2 (24 June 2016): Food security, sustainability and conservation

PLENARY SESSION 1: LANDSCAPES FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE: THE SCIENCE AND THE PRACTICE

The world is occupied by 7 billion humans who dominate its biosphere and appropriate over a quarter of its net primary productivity for food consumption, water and energy. The planet is also home to 8 or more million other species. To the challenges of natural capital erosion and species extinction can be added climate change, economic development and further population growth, making sustainable food production and biodiversity conservation ever harder. In this context, what solutions are scientists and practitioners pursuing for building landscapes that are viable for both people and nature?

- Featuring Bhaskar Vira & Rhys Green (University of Cambridge), Charles Godfray (University of Oxford) and Cath Tayleur (Birdlife)

PLENARY SESSION 2: ACTORS IN THE LANDSCAPE – SMALLHOLDERS, SUPPLY CHAINS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Smallholders and pastoralists are at the sharp end of food crises and insecurity. They can make a difference to build more sustainable and resilient futures for their livelihoods and the landscapes they live in, yet they are not the only actors who can and need to make a difference. Agricultural research and extensions services, agri-businesses throughout the food supply chain (producers, processors, input suppliers, service providers and food retailers), and national governments and their agencies, also have important roles in tackling food insecurity. In this session we explore the motivations, opportunities, and inter-dependencies of these different actors, and how they can come together around a more concerted response to the challenges of our current age.

- Featuring Nigel Poole (ICRISAT) and Sue Barnard (Tropical Biology Association)

PLENARY SESSION 3: CITIZENS AND CONSUMERS – FROM INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY TO PLANETARY HEALTH

The food we eat impacts not only our health, but the health of the planet. How can individual dietary choices and consumption behaviours reduce our impact on the environment, and ensure that our growing population will have access to a sustainable, and healthy supply of food into the future? To what extent is individual choice influenced by external factors such as health messages, culture, cost, and local availability, and how can government and supermarket policies influence behaviours for the good of population and planetary health?

- Featuring Pablo Monsivais (Centre for Diet and Activity Research), Tara Garnett (University of Oxford) and Niki Charalampopoulou (Feedback Global)

PLENARY SESSION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL BOUNDARIES – MANAGING WHAT WE CAN MEASURE

In such a crowded, volatile and uncertain world it is increasingly important to undertake surveillance of land and sea resources and monitor progress towards food security and other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is important for adaptively managing our planetary resources and responding to major risks and vulnerabilities. Increasingly powerful predictive models also help us to prepare for new worlds that we will be entering in 20, 50 and 100 years' time. What is the state-of-the-art of these modelling approaches and to what degree are they being effectively translated into policy action?

- Featuring Jean Francois Mercure (University of Radboud), Francois Kayitakare (Joint Research Centre) and Phil Franks (IIED)

Day 2 (24 June 2016): Economics, culture and politics of food

PLENARY SESSION 1: ECONOMIES OF FOOD PRODUCTION: 'OLD' QUESTIONS AND 'NEW' MODELS

In this session we look at agricultural landscapes from an economic perspective. With an additional 3 billion people to feed in 2050, yield increases and enhanced productivity are always seen as the obvious answer to meet future food demand. But can we feed the world, manage finite natural resources sustainably and even contribute to economic growth, or is it the old debate between 'weak' and 'strong' sustainability where we are still choosing between environment and economy?

- Featuring John Ingram (University of Oxford), Shailaja Fennell, Jolly Dusabe and Jane Lichtenstein (Centre of Development Studies)

PLENARY SESSION 2: GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF FOOD

Recent food price crises and frequent hunger outbreaks are symptoms of the ongoing failures of the institutional framework established after the Second World War II. In order to address current crises and prevent future ones, global institutional mechanisms and systems need to change. However, such change is likely to face multipole challenges including incoherence low levels of trust in these institutions. We will discuss how to make change happen and what might a new food security global governance look like.

- Featuring Fiona Smith (Warwick University), Amrita Narlikar (German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Hamburg) and Dr Jeroean Candel (Wageningen University)

PLENARY SESSION 3: FOOD AND CULTURE

The traditional three-pillar model of sustainability has been rightly criticised for leaving out another pillar – culture (Brundtland, 2013). In this session we will discuss how cultural traditions determine food preferences and argue that food is intangible cultural heritage. We will use the concept of culinary capital, originally offered by Foucault in 1980, to explain how people choose their food but also how to influence and create new trends in food production and consumption. We will explore and compare meanings of diet, cuisine and culture in the domain of sustainable development.

- Featuring Jiping Sheng (Renmin University, China) and Taka Shoji (Rikkyo University, Japan)

PLENARY SESSION 4: FOOD JUSTICE AND FOOD EQUALITY

The current system of food production and consumption is far from fair, as current statistics on malnourishment and hunger show. There are certain patterns in age, gender, ethnicity and the level of socio-economic development that determine these inequalities. Making the global agri-food sector sustainable also means making it fair for all. In this session we will first map vulnerable groups prone to food insecurity, explore the existing inequalities they face and identify their causes, and finally try to identify solutions to make food systems fairer and more secure.

- Featuring Maryam Tanwir (World Bank and Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge), André Silveira (CISL, University of Cambridge), Corma O'Grada (University of Dublin) and Laura Pereira (Cape Town University)