



Early Career Researcher Workshop

Food Waste in the Supply Chain: What are the problems and how can we fix them?

Background

It is estimated that 30-40% of food is wasted throughout the food system. Therefore, reducing food waste is an important way to increase food supply to meet demand, whilst reducing the environmental impacts of current food production. Food waste occurs at all stages of the food supply chain, from production through to consumer. In lower-income countries most food waste occurs at the post-harvest stage, while in more industrialised countries a large amount of waste occurs at the consumer and retail end of the supply chain. Food waste is a global issue and it is vital to reduce food waste in order to make the food system more sustainable.

Objectives

The key goal of this workshop is to understand where and why waste occurs within the food system and identify ways to provide innovative solutions to reduce food waste. The workshop will bring together early career researchers (ECRs) from institutions across the UK to learn more about the issues surrounding food waste through a series of talks and breakout discussion sessions. Dr. Mukesh Kumar from the University of Cambridge will provide an overview of food waste across the different parts of the supply chain, Dr. Bojana Bajzelj from WRAP will discuss food waste at the consumer and retail end and Karen Luyckx from Feedback will describe some of the campaigns that are trying to tackle the issues surrounding food waste. The rest of the workshop will involve facilitated discussions to enable ECRs to network and understand how their research could be applicable to address the problems of food waste.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible, researchers should be currently employed as a post-doctoral researcher at a UK Higher Education Institute, Research Institute, or Independent Research Organisation that is eligible to receive grant funding from the Research Councils. Post-doctoral researchers based outside of the UK will not be eligible.



Application Process

The workshop will take place on the **13th September 2018** with a welcome dinner the evening before (12th September) at Westminster College Cambridge. Travel costs will be covered and accommodation for night of the 12th September will be provided.

We have limited spaces available for the workshop so please answer the following questions. Your answers will be used to assess your application to participate in the workshop.

1. Please write down your name, institution, and the funder of your post-doctoral position. Please also clearly identify your research area (For example biological sciences, economics, engineering, environmental sciences, physical sciences, or social sciences).
2. Please provide a brief summary of your professional background (no more than half a page). (Please note that if you are selected as a participant, information under this question will be made available to other participants to facilitate networking at the event).
3. In no more than 150 words explain your current research to a non-expert.
4. What expertise do you bring that is relevant to food waste, and how does this fit within the overall food system? (no more than 150 words)

Please send your application to ecrfoodwaste@gmail.com . The deadline for applications is **Monday 13th August 2018**. Those invited to attend the workshop will be notified the week commencing 20th August 2018.

Contact details

For more information please contact the event organiser Dr. Ciara Dangerfield, ced57@cam.ac.uk