



FoodSEqual / FoodSEqual-Health

Annual Conference

28-29 October 2025

Venue: Cranfield Management Development Centre (CMD C), Cranfield, MK43 0HG

Conference to be recorded (plenary sessions only)

Objectives of Annual Assembly

- Sharing of project workstream outputs/outcomes
- 'The Bigger Picture': Engagement with invited external stakeholders for Food System topic presentations and panel sessions – how does FoodSEqual research align with the bigger picture?
- The work and impact of FoodSEqual through the eyes of our ECR/PDRA/CRs
- Advisory Board and Connecting Community Researchers closed meetings

Tea & Coffee will be available upon arrival and throughout the day

Invited guests

Prof Leon Terry (Pro-Vice Chancellor, Research & Innovation and Professor of Plant Science, Cranfield University)

Prof Lynette Ryals (Deputy Vice Chancellor of Faculty of Business and Management, Cranfield University)

AGENDA

	Time	Mins	Venue	Plenary or Breakout rooms	Topic	Led By
DAY 1: 28 October 2025: Focus on National Food Strategy / Land Use / Policy						
	From 09:30			CMD C Atrium	Arrival for Registration/Networking Coffee/Tea available	

	Time	Mins	Venue	Plenary or Breakout rooms	Topic	Led By
1	10:00	10	Lecture Theatre 16	Plenary	Welcome and Introduction Welcome to Cranfield University - Prof Lynette Ryals Welcome to Annual Conference: Setting the scene / objectives of the meeting - Prof Carol Wagstaff	CW MB CW
2	10:10	5		Plenary	Meeting Housekeeping	JB/ESR
3	10:15	15		Plenary	Keynote Speaker: UKRI “UKRI’s role in food security” Roya Shahrokni, Senior Programme Manager, Global Food Security team, UKRI	CW
4	10:30	75	Lecture Theatre 16	Plenary	Panel Session: The National Food Strategy - Developing a sustainable and resilient food supply for the UK Chair: Tom Sizmur/Andrew Wade <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Food Strategy: An introduction – Carol Wagstaff 2. Neil Ward, University of East Anglia 3. Dr Tom Sizmur, FoodSEqual 4. Chittur Srinivasan / Chris Hilson: Realigning UK Food Production, TUKFS SPF programme 	TS/AW
5	11:45	60	Lecture Theatre 16	Plenary	Roundtable Session: Regulatory interventions to improve food system outcomes in deprived communities Chair: FixOurFood Team - Peter Ball, Nicola Nixon, Maria Bryant A participatory session to contribute to FixOurFood’s research.	JB

	Time	Mins	Venue	Plenary or Breakout rooms	Topic	Led By
					<i>Coffee/tea available during session</i>	
	12:45	60	CMDC Atrium		LUNCH / NETWORKING	
	13:45	105	Lecture Theatre 16 + Lecture Room 17	Plenary + Breakouts	FoodSEqual Final Stakeholder Policy Event: From Recommendations to Actioning <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policies for Transforming Food Systems: An Overview of the FoodSEqual Policy work 2. Launch of the FoodSEqual Policy Video Game: Reporting from People's Policy Recommendations 3. Focused Breakout Group Discussion: Actioning Community Policy Recommendations: Possibilities and Challenges 4. Roundtable Discussion: Embedding Policy Recommendations in local and national policy agendas and strategies <p><i>Policy, Industry, Academic and Community Stakeholders will come together to discuss about transforming food policies based on policy recommendations that would lead to the food future that local communities want to see.</i></p>	KP
	15:30	30	CMDC Atrium Lecture Room 17		Tea/Coffee Break Setting up poster/displays for project update session	ALL
6	16:00	60	Lecture Theatre 16	Plenary Talks to be recorded	ECR lightning talks by FoodSEqual ECR/PDRA/PhDs/CRs 16:00 Public Engagement Stories from FoodSEqual Community Food Researchers, Plymouth [Lisa Howard and the FoodSEqual Plymouth Community Food Researchers] 16:15 Transforming urban food systems: could food democracy and food citizenship be advanced by the personal and community impacts of co-production processes? [Hannah Gardiner/Laura Dunn] 16:30 “A fistful of rice”: Food health communications and British Bangladeshi Women in Tower Hamlets, London [Shazna Hussain/Sajna Miah] 16:45 How participatory data analysis changed my life! [Louise Hunt]	MC

	Time	Mins	Venue	Plenary or Breakout rooms	Topic	Led By
7	17:00	5	Lecture Theatre 16	Plenary	Plenary Session Close	CW/MB
8	17:00-18:00		Lecture Room 17		FoodSEqual Project updates Opportunity to catch up on progress across the FoodSEqual workstreams through posters/table displays and interactive game.	ALL
	19:00-22:00		CDMC		Conference Dinner	ALL
DAY 2: 29 October 2025: Focus on Product Development / Supply Chains / Community						
	09:15				Arrival from 09:15 for Registration/Networking Coffee/tea available	
9	09:30	5		Plenary	Welcome back	CW
10	09:35	5		Plenary	Meeting Housekeeping	JB/ESR
11	09:40	60	Lecture Theatre 16	Plenary	Panel Session: Product Development - From Research to Commercial -> Let's ask Industry Chair: Clare Pettinger/Carol Wagstaff/Jane Bradbeer Product Development: The Fish Finger Story Ask the Industry Expert: Fireside Chat <u>Our industry panel</u> Valia Christidou, Good Guys Bakehouse & FoodSEqual Advisory Board Olivier Sevenou, Chair FoodSEqual Advisory Board Kate Halliwell, Chief Scientific Officer, Food and Drink Federation Caroline Bennett, Sole of Discretion	CP/CW/JB CP CW

	Time	Mins	Venue	Plenary or Breakout rooms	Topic	Led By
	10:40	20	CMDC Atrium		TEA / COFFEE / NETWORKING	
12	11:00	90	Lecture Theatre 16	Plenary	Panel Session: Future Opportunities in the Hybrid Food Supply Chain for Equitable Food Access <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof Michael Bourlakis, FoodSEqual 2. Chris Sturman, CEO, Craymere Consulting Ltd 3. Rusudan Gongladze, Cranfield University 	CW
	12:30	60	CMDC Atrium		LUNCH / NETWORKING	
	13:30	75	Lecture Theatre 16	Plenary	Panel Session: NEIGHBOURHOODS – the optimal unit for food system action? Chair: Carol Wagstaff <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carol Wagstaff, FoodSEqual 2. Matt Leach, Independent Commission on Neighbourhoods 3. Steven Griffin, ChangeBox 4. Fiona Pitt, foodXchange 5. Sarah Malone, ReLondon 	CW
					PARALLEL SESSIONS	
	14:45	60	Lecture Theatre 16	Breakout Talks to be recorded	ECR lightning talks by FoodSEqual ECR/PDRA/PhDs/CRs: 14:45 Food Security and Sustainability Trade-Offs: A Frontier-Based Analysis of Agrifood Systems [Behrouz Arabi – H3] 15:00 Nutrient Modelling of Agricultural Areas [Jojo Kaur] 15:15 “It’s Dear:” The Perceived Fairness of Food Prices among Disadvantaged Communities in the UK [Khaled Ahmed]	MC

	Time	Mins	Venue	Plenary or Breakout rooms	Topic	Led By
					15:30 Critical success factors for improving surplus food redistribution: Insights from the literature [Rusudan Gongladze]	
		60	Breakout Room 16.1	Breakout	Connecting Community Researchers (closed meeting - hybrid)	LH
		60	Breakout Room 16.2	Breakout	Advisory Board (closed meeting - hybrid)	OS
15	15:45	15	Lecture Theatre 16	Plenary	CLOSING REMARKS and NEXT STEPS	CW/OS RS/MB
			CMDC Atrium		TEA/COFFEE / NETWORKING	
16	16:00				Meeting Close	

CW: Carol Wagstaff JB: Jane Bradbeer MC: Martin Chadwick MB: Michael Bourlakis RS: Roya Shahrokni ESR: Emmanuel Sawyerr OS: Olivier Sevenou (Chair, Advisory Board) LH; Lisa Howard TS Tom Sizmur W Andrew Wade CP: Clare Pettinger

Keynote speaker biographies



Carol Wagstaff is presently Professor of Crop Quality for Health and Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research for Agriculture Food and Health at the University of Reading. She is Deputy Chair of the Agriculture Food and Veterinary Science Unit of Assessment panel for REF2029 and is Chair of the BBSRC Sustainable Agriculture and Food Strategy Advisory Panel.

Carol leads a research group that takes a food-system wide approach to improving the quality of fresh produce and ensuring that everyone has access to it. She has provided expert advice to Defra during the 2024 UK Food Security Review and during the development of the National Food Strategy. She is co-author of the 4th Climate Change Risk Assessment chapter on Land, Nature and Food.

When not supporting academic research Carol can most likely be found training and competing her dressage horses, or nurturing her garden and discovering just how difficult it is to try to grow your own food.



Professor Michael Bourlakis is the Director of Research for the Faculty of Business and Management and he is also the Director of the Centre for Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain Management at Cranfield University. He has been involved with more than 45 research projects funded by various bodies and he has published extensively in logistics, supply chain and business and management journals. He specialises in food, retail and last mile logistics, sustainable supply chain management and digital logistics. He is currently a Vice President and a Trustee for the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport International which is a leading body in logistics worldwide. He has been a REF2021 Panel Member for “Business and Management Studies” and he will be a Panel Member for REF2029 too.

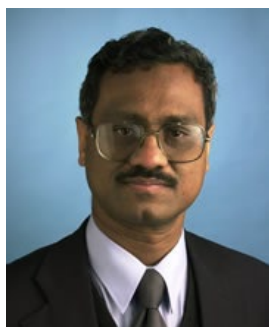


Roya Shahrokni is a Senior Programme Manager within the Global Food Security Programme and is the SPF Programme Manager. Previous to this position, Roya spent time at the Office for National Statistics and completed her PhD focussing on the effects of portion size reduction on consumer choice behaviour at the University of Bristol. It is her hope that this research could support evidence-based policy decisions related to population health.

With a background in mental health support, Roya has a personal interest in encouraging positive and practical techniques for managing personal and work-related well-being as well as supporting sustainable and healthy eating practices.



Neil Ward is based at the University of East Anglia in Norwich. He co-leads the AFN Network. He was formerly Director of Newcastle University's Centre for Rural Economy. He is author of *Net Zero, Food and Farming: Climate Change and the UK Agri-Food System* (Routledge, 2023).



C.S. Srinivasan is a Professor of Agricultural and Development Economics in the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development at the University of Reading. His research focuses on the drivers of dietary and nutrition transitions in developed and developing countries. His other areas of research interest include intellectual property rights in agriculture and their impact on agricultural innovations. He is currently leading a UKRI-Transforming UK Food Systems Strategic Priority Fund project entitled "Realigning UK Food Production and Trade for Transition to Healthy and Sustainable Diets".



Chris Hilson is Professor of Law and Director of the Centre for Climate and Justice at the University of Reading. He has published widely in the area of environmental and climate law and policy. He was the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Environmental Law (OUP) from 2008-2012 and has acted as an adviser on environmental law to NGOs including ClientEarth and Friends of the Earth. In the past few years he has worked on agrifood law and policy, including as part of the law work package for the TUKFS project “Realigning UK Food Production and Trade for Transition to Healthy and Sustainable Diets”.



Dr Tom Sizmur is an Associate Professor in Environmental Chemistry at the University of Reading. He is the Programme Director for the BSc Environmental Science degree and a member of the Environmental Science Research Division. Tom’s research interests span the biogeochemistry of soils in agricultural, natural, and polluted environments. His research interests particularly relate to the benefits that can be obtained from the incorporation of crop residues and other organic amendments into soils to recycle nutrients and feed soil organisms. Tom leads a research team consisting of PhD and postdoctoral researchers and technicians across a range of projects that work to develop and implement advances in soil biogeochemistry to improve sustainable soil management. Tom is the Vice Chair of the Environmental Chemistry Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry, an Editor for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, a member of the British Ecological Society and Commonwealth Scholarship Commission Peer Review Colleges.



Valia Christidou is passionate about innovation and product development and has over 30 years experience in the food industry. Valia has held senior R&D roles in large multinational companies, was a senior lecturer at London SouthBank University specialising in New Product Development, is a trustee and Fellow of the Institute of Food Science and Technology and a co-founder of a biscuits and snacks business. Having lead many multidisciplinary teams and launched in excess of 300 products, Valia is keen to drive excellence in product development and support and inspire the next generation of food professionals.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/valia-christidou-fifst/>



Dr Olivier Sevenou is a Global R&D Leader with more than 15 years experience in the snack food industry. He has strong expertise in product development, technology, innovation, business development, and external collaboration through open innovation. He has a passion for connecting most relevant technology and science to consumer insights to design scalable healthier products. Olivier has been involved in numerous successful industry–academic projects as well as being active in the food start-up space.



Kate Halliwell is the Food and Drink Federation’s Chief Scientific Officer. She leads the FDF’s food safety, food law and labelling, and diet and health policy briefs.

Previously Kate worked for the Department of Health and the Food Standards Agency on a range of nutrition and legislation policies. Kate is a Board member of SALSA, Chairs the IFST’s Special Interest Group for Food Science and Nutrition and is a registered nutritionist.



Caroline Bennett founded Moshi Moshi in 1994 and started the kaiten-sushi revolution, simply because she loved sushi and was convinced other Londoners would as well. Caroline is at the forefront of campaigns to protect fish stocks, and has won a number of awards, including the prestigious Green Apple Award for the Environment, the RSPCA Award for Animal Welfare, and she was lauded a 2009 international Seafood Champion by SeaWeb's Seafood Choices, named Slow Food UK’s Restaurant of the Year in 2024, and most recently was recognised in The Indie 100 Climate List 2025 [The Indie Climate 100 List](#). Caroline was the author of Sushi 500 published in 2013.

She sat on the Board of Slow Food and remains involved through Slow Fish, is a Trustee of Open Seas Trust, a Scottish charity seeking to limit bottom trawling, and founded Sole of Discretion CIC, an ethical fishmonger in Plymouth, to safeguard the livelihoods of small-scale fishers and their marine friendly fishing methods. Sole of Discretion CIC is the only fishmonger permitted to use the Soil Association’s accreditation, and winner of the Fishing News ‘Fish Processor of the Year’ award in 2021. She is also pioneering a PGS Participatory Guarantee Scheme to identify fish caught with low impact on the environment and high social benefits with LIFE (Low Impact Fishers of Europe) in Brussels.



Christopher Sturman FCILT FRSA retired in 2018 after ten years as Chief Executive of the Food Storage and Distribution Federation, and previously in food logistics with wide experience of operational, tactical and strategic food supply chain and logistics management and consultancy assignments in UK, Europe, Central Asia and USA. Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport UK, he co-chair CILT UK Retail Forum, and member of Freight and Logistics Policy Group. NATO Civil Expert on food supply contingency planning, and DEFRA nominee on the New Covent Garden Market Authority Traffic Advisory committee. He is also a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Carmen and Freeman of the City of London, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.



Rusudan Gongladze, PhD student at Cranfield University

Rusudan is studying the Surplus Food Redistribution Supply Chain Network in the UK, looking at network-wide relationships, physical and organisational resources, and activities involved in the recovery and redistribution of surplus food from donors to end users. Rusudan holds an MSc in Procurement and Supply Chain Management from Cranfield University and brings extensive operational experience across government, commercial, and non-profit sectors in Georgia.



Matt Leach is a member of the Independent Commission on Neighbourhoods (ICON), which has been advising government on approaches to addressing neighbourhood decline, and is widely recognised for its influence on the Prime Minister's recent announcement of £3.5bn new funding for neighbourhood investment. Currently Chief Executive of the Built Environment Trust, until earlier this year Matt led major place-based funder Local Trust, where he pioneered work on social infrastructure, social capital and neighbourhood investment, helping initiate new interest in an area of policy neglected for almost two decades. A visiting fellow of Ruskin College, Oxford, prior to joining Local Trust, Matt held a range of senior roles spanning central government, national delivery agencies, social housing and think tanks.



Steven Griffin is a Co-founder of Change Box, an AI health-tech startup behind the Essentials for Everyone (E4E) platform. E4E helps families in poverty access affordable, nutritious food with dignity, working with retailers, brands and local authorities. A former Amazon/AWS leader, Steve focuses on modernising community support with evidence-driven policy innovation.



Fiona Pitt is a social entrepreneur and changemaker passionate about bridging the gap between food systems and community wellbeing. She is co-founder of The Food Investors Society and leads the development of foodXchange, a digital tool that helps individuals eat healthier through education, behavioural nudges, and affordability support. Fiona specialises in business development, having taught Business and Management Studies as a visiting lecturer and founded and led a successful manufacturing and retail business for over 17 years. She is committed to harnessing her entrepreneurial experience to deliver evidence-driven, scalable, and sustainable interventions that transform health outcomes and reduce inequalities. At this conference, she will explore how digital tools like foodXchange can create a network effect between online nudges and offline community action, strengthening connections while supporting healthier, more equitable food choices.



Sarah Malone is a Senior Advisor at ReLondon, currently leading the organisation's food programme to enable a transition to a more low-carbon circular economy for food in the capital, where food loss and waste is reduced and where diets are healthier and more sustainable. This has included managing the delivery of London's food footprint research project which mapped the material flows and consumption-based emissions of London's food system as well as London's Food Purchasing Commitment which was developed for London's local authorities to reduce the climate impact of London's food system. Prior to ReLondon, Sarah has held various research, communications, and policy roles in both the public and private sectors, including at the Food and Drink Federation where she provided policy advice to central government on behalf of the food and drink supply chain.

Delegate List

Name	Organisation
Carol Wagstaff *	University of Reading
Jane Bradbeer	University of Reading
Martin Chadwick	University of Reading
Michael Bourlakis	Cranfield University
Emmanuel Sawyerr	Cranfield University
Mel King	Cranfield University
Roya Shahrokni	UKRI
Hannah Mitchell	UKRI
Tracey Duncombe	TUKFS
Manik Puranik	University of Reading
Davd Fisher	University of Reading
Rosie Tsikritzi	University of Reading
Colette Fagan	University of Reading
Sally Lloyd-Evans	University of Reading
Tom Sizmur	University of Reading
Andrew Wade	University of Reading
Jojo Kaur	University of Reading
Rachel McCloy	University of Reading
Jessica Bosseaux	University of Reading
Wanyin Li	University of Reading
Lorna Zischka	University of Reading
Jo Anderson	University of Reading
Trisha Bennett	University of Reading
Clare Pettinger	University of Plymouth
Louise Hunt	University of Plymouth
Hannah Gardiner	University of Plymouth/Reading
Ian Smith	Food Plymouth CIC
Rusudan Gongladze	Cranfield University
Katerina Psarikidou	University of Sussex
Jessica Horne	University of Sussex
Pablo Ayala Villalobos	University of Sussex

Name	Organisation
Julia Kidd	University of Sussex
Sajna Miah	Women's Environmental Network
Shazna Hussain	Women's Environmental Network
Zoe Miles	Women's Environmental Network
Angela Blair *	Brighton and Hove City Council
Ali Ghanimi	Brighton and Hove Food Partnership
Shelley Taylor	Brighton and Hove Food Partnership
Cailan Magee	Brighton and Hove Food Partnership
Emma Moore	Brighton and Hove Food Partnership
Ben Lowe	University of Kent
Khaled El-Shamandi Ahmed	University of Kent
Eleanor O'Kane	Freelance (communication support)
Valia Christidou *	Good Guys Bakehouse
Sophie Watson *	Food Standards Agency
Olivier Sevenou *	Independent
Dan Stevenson *	Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)
Ocean Ellis *	DEFRA
Clare Vallely	DEFRA
Joanne Hart	Food Plymouth CIC
Star Rosemary Drew	Food Plymouth CIC
Laura Dunn	Food Plymouth CIC
Lisa Howard	Food Plymouth CIC
Dave Styles	Food Plymouth CIC
Chittur Srinivasan	University of Reading
Chris Hilson	University of Reading
Neil Ward	University of East Anglia
Caroline Bennett	Sole of Discretion
Kate Halliwell	Food & Drink Federation
Laura Campbell	Planetable
Christopher Sturman	Craymere Consulting Limited
Matt Leach	ICON
Steven Griffin	ChangeBox
Fiona Pitt	The Food Investors Society Ltd

Name	Organisation
Lorraine Hirst	Community Health-Works UK CIC
Sarah Malone	ReLondon
Behrouz Arabi	University of York
Peter Ball	University of York
Nicola Nixon	University of York
Maria Bryant	University of York
Fiona Croden	University of Leeds
Naimh Kelly	Centre for Food Policy, City St George's University of London
Caroline Chandler	National Resources Institute, University of Greenwich
Paul Fieldhouse	WLP – helping business grow
Hafize Sahin Ersoz	Cranfield University
Emel Aktas	Cranfield University
Andrea Patriarca	Cranfield University
Mariam Kourani	Cranfield University
Ying Guo	Cranfield University
Lisa Arguile	Cranfield University
Gareth Griffiths	Untether
Sarah West	Westcreative
Jared Wentrick	Westcreative

*Member of FoodSEqual Advisory Board