

Dear SIRN community member,

Welcome to our first issue of the Sustainable Intensification Research Network (SIRN) newsletter. We are delighted that you have joined us and we are looking forward to further interactions in 2017. This newsletter brings you updates on SIRN activities and we would like it to be a tool for communication with all of the SI community. We therefore encourage members to contribute by submitting material to be included. Please contact us at info@sirn.org.uk.

To receive future newsletters, we ask you to subscribe [here](#).

Adélia de Paula (on behalf of [SIRN Leadership Team](#))

SIRN website and social media

The [SIRN website](#) presents information on SIRN and it was designed to be a portal with resources and opportunities available to the SI community. We invite you to take a moment to visit it and, in particular, our [opportunities](#), [blogs](#) and [news](#) sessions. This is a work in progress, and we always look forward to contributions and feedback from colleagues. At present we are developing a discussion forum and more information will be available to members soon.

We have more than 180 followers on twitter. We want to reach more so do join us on [@SIRN tweets](#) so we can help you disseminating your news.

SIRN Annual Conference - 3rd November 2016

Our first Annual Conference was held last November. Around 56 participants attended the conference and the programme involved a series of activities aiming to gather participants' views on the future direction focus and activities for SIRN. The event also included presentations from Professor Jules Pretty on the concept of Efficiency-Substitution-Redesign and Dr Ruth Welters, from the ESRC-funded Nexus Network on challenges and opportunities for interdisciplinarity and working with business, policy and civil society.

You can read a summary of the discussions, see the presentation and look at photos of the event [here](#).

Planned activities for 2017... so far

We have already received several suggestions for workshops in 2017 and we will be working on planning them in the coming months, sharing information with all through the network. If you wish to lead an event on a particular topic or want information on these events, do get in touch (info@sirn.org.uk).

March 2017 - Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) scoping workshop in Sustainable Intensification

In order to inform potential future funding opportunities from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) in relation to Sustainable Intensification Agriculture, SIRN is working in partnership with BBSRC in the planning and delivery of a scoping workshop to be held in Nairobi, Kenya in March. We are also working in association with African colleagues, the John Innes Centre (JIC) and Biodiversity International.

May/June 2017 (TBC) – workshop to explore the contribution of social sciences in future SI projects/programme and how the area can contribute to new research questions

The workshop aims to provide reflection and evidence to inform funders/government on how contributions from different areas can be better utilized to maximise the UK's capacity to meet current and future SI challenges.

November 2017 – Sustainable Intensification Conference

SIRN is supporting conference organized by the Association of Applied Biologists and colleagues at the Defra funded Sustainable Intensification Platform SIP Project. This will also be our Annual Meeting where we will review the 2017 activities and will seek participants' views on future direction.

News from the wider community:

02nd Feb 2017 - A consortium brought together by the [Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Food](#) has received a major award from the Wellcome Trust as part of their '[Our Planet, Our Health](#)' programme. The project will look at the consequences of the global increase in the consumption of meat, dairy and other animal-sourced foods and how it affects the environment and human health. It will focus on how to achieve changes towards more sustainable and healthy diets. Read more [here](#)

15th Feb 2017 - Professor Eleanor Riley has been appointed to head of The Roslin Institute at The University of Edinburgh. She will take up the post later this year in succession to Professor David Hume. With a background in veterinary medicine, human infectious diseases and global health, she has more than 30 years' experience of research in the UK and Africa. Read more [here](#).

17th Feb 2017 – Morrisons new report calls for the UK to be more self-sufficient in food production and new consumer research shows a growing appetite from British shoppers for more local food. The '[British Food: What role should UK producers have in feeding the UK?](#)' report was led by Professor Tim Benton (University of Leeds, and Fellow at Chatham House)

in collaboration with Professor John Crawford (Rothamsted Research), Dr. John Ingram (University of Oxford), Professor Tim Lang (City University, London), Professor Pete Smith (University of Aberdeen), Professor Richard Tiffin (University of Reading and Agrimetrics) and colleagues from the University of York: Professor Bob Doherty, Dr. Fernando Fastoso and Dr. Hector Gonzalez Jimenez.

Highlight paper:

Sustainable intensification of agriculture for human prosperity and global sustainability

Rockström, J., Williams, J., Daily, G. et al. *Ambio* (2017) 46: 4.
[doi:10.1007/s13280-016-0793-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-016-0793-6)

Paper argues for a shift from ‘agriculture focusing on productivity first, and sustainability as a question of reducing environmental impacts to a paradigm where sustainability constitutes the core strategy for agricultural development’. Authors introduced the planetary boundaries concept as an operational framework for sustainable agriculture.

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