

Dear SIRN community member,

The SIRN project started a year ago and we now have all the systems in place to facilitate communication (website, social media, newsletter and a discussion forum). Now, we want members of the community to be actively involved by helping us on several ways:

- Joining the network will provide you with [several benefits](#) and will help us to build a database of expertise. This is a simple process and will be of great value to all. Please [apply for membership](#) today.
- We are looking for suggestions on topics and colleagues to lead small workshops to explore issues in depth. We will provide financial and logistic support, and we will help with the dissemination of your discussions.
- We also would like to help promote your research findings, ideas and events. We can do this on several ways, including [blog pieces](#), adding your [events to our calendar](#) and your [news](#) on our website and [social media](#).
- A new online discussion forum is now in place in our website. We would like to make this tool available to all members that wish to run a closed group discussion.

Please contact us on info@sirn.org.uk to discuss more and to receive future newsletters, we ask you to subscribe [here](#) or follow us on @SIRN_Tweets.

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

SIRN and the [Global Challenges Research Fund](#) (GCRF) scoping workshop in Sustainable Intensification

In order to help BBSRC decide on potential future funding opportunities from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) in relation to Sustainable Intensification Agriculture, a workshop was held in Nairobi involving around 40 participants from 13 Universities, 17 research institutes and 1 farming organization from the UK and 9 African countries. We are supporting BBSRC in the writing of final report but you can have a glimpse of the discussions on our recent [blog](#).

SIRN invites applications for short exchange visits

SIRN aims to increase collaboration between multidisciplinary research groups by offering the opportunity for short exchanges between academic groups. These visits between researchers aim to foster collaboration or share new techniques and infrastructure that may not be available in other participants' institutions or laboratories. Researchers are invited to apply for 1 to 2-week exchange placements to bring novel ideas to their research. SIRN particularly welcomes applications from young and middle-career researchers. To find out more on how to apply [here](#).

Future events:

22th May 2017 - International Scientific Workshop on Sustainable Intensification Metrics in Berlin - Workshop organized by Utrecht University and agrathaer within the frameworks of the SUSTAg project funded by the ERA-NET FACCE SURPLUS. Event open to everyone but space is limited. Please contact Dr Ioanna Mouratiadou (i.mouratiadou@uu.nl) before 8th May 2017 for registration.

24th and 25th May 2017– [Early Soil 2017 online conference](#) organized by the Soil Security Programme - There has been considerable investment by RCUK in soils research in recent years. The aim of the conference is to showcase the work the PhD students and early career researchers, especially those from the Soil Security, SARISA and STARS programmes. But conference is open to all in the soils community with an interest. The conference will have introductory talks about the related programmes keynote presentations, opportunities to present your own research and open discussion time. For all enquiries and to register please contact [Jeremy LeLean](#).

31st May 2017 - SIRN workshop to explore the contribution of social sciences in future SI projects/programmes and how the area can contribute to new research questions - The workshop aims to provide reflection and evidence to inform the community and funders on how contributions from different areas can be better utilized to maximise the UK's capacity to meet current and future SI challenges. There are still few places available and we would like to engage both social and natural sciences researchers, so get in touch (info@sirn.org.uk) if you like to join us on these discussions.

28th to 30th November 2017 – AAB and SIP Sustainable Intensification Conference The [updated programme](#) and the conference booking form are now available. SIRN will host an informal discussion at the end of the 29th November and we will have our Annual Meeting on the 30th November from 2 to 4pm. We ask colleagues to save these days and join our discussions. Please note, AAB have negotiated a very good price for accommodation at the [Luton Hoo Hotel](#). However, places are limited so an early booking is important for anyone wishing to take advantage of the special conference rate (£ 120 per person/night at approx. 57% of list price).

The Food Network+ wants your opinion

The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) has identified potential for its science and technology to make key contributions to the Global Food Security Programme. Therefore, a new network has been established to take interdisciplinary and whole system approaches, considering both supply and demand. The Food Network+ (SFN) is running a [pre-launch survey until today \(2nd May\)](#) and they would like to find out how much you already know about STFC and food, and to gauge your interest in participating in the SFN. This survey should take less than 5 minutes of your time. You will have the opportunity to be entered into a prize draw to win £100 of Amazon vouchers.

News from the wider community:

- [BBSRC strategic funding announcements](#)
 - [BBSRC £10 million deal to boost impact of animal science innovations](#)
 - [NERC news: £8.6m UK research programme on greenhouse gas removal funding awarded](#)
 - [Dr Bryan Charleston appointed as Director of the Pirbright Institute](#)
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Highlight paper and book:

- Pollock, Chris. "[Sustainable farming: chasing a mirage?](#)" Food and Energy Security 5.4 (2016): 205-209.
- Oborn, Ingrid, et al., eds. Sustainable Intensification in Smallholder Agriculture: An integrated systems research approach. Routledge, 2017.



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