

Dear SIRN community,

In this issue, we are highlighting discussions on BREXIT and the impact on food production, environment and trade when UK leaves the European Union. As negotiations intensify, we are looking at ways to represent the community and influence future direction in the design of a more sustainable, forward-looking agricultural systems for the UK.

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

BREXIT - What has been discussed so far?

The impact of leaving the European Union on food production, environment and trade is not yet known. BREXIT has been discussed by several parts of the food sector, and some policy briefs and reports were produced addressing aspects of food production, environmental protection, access to healthy and nutritious food, trade, labour and skills.

We are compiling a [list of resources](#) to help the community understand different aspects of these debates, offering views and raising awareness of major issues. We acknowledge that the list is not complete and we ask your help to inform us about other relevant discussions, documents or events that you were involved in, or are aware of. Please get in touch info@sirn.org.uk

Have your say on the future for sustainable intensification in the UK:

SIRN will be contributing to a cross-sectorial conversation on **BREXIT: the future for agriculture, ecology and food** led by the [British Ecological Society Agriculture Ecology Group](#) in early December. The aim of this activity is to identify common priorities within different groups involved in the food production sector. A final policy note will be drawn up by BES and will be used for engagement with relevant policymakers. In addition, the outputs will be presented at the [Association for Applied Biologists](#) meeting on 30th January 2018: [Rethinking British Agricultural Systems - linking agri-science to post Brexit UK agricultural policy](#).

We would like to represent your views on these discussions, therefore we are asking the community to help us by answering a short [survey](#) by the **15th November 2017**. Results of the survey will be shared with the community through our [website](#). If you require any additional information, please contact us on info@sirn.org.uk

Funding opportunities:

Pre-announcement: BBSRC/NERC Joint Call in Aquaculture: Collaborative Research and Innovation

In order to share information on the call and enable networking and consortia building BBSRC/NERC will hold a call launch workshop on 6 December 2017 at Fishmongers Hall in London. Registration for the workshop will be available on BBSRC website from 3 November 2017 and will close on 29 November 2017. All attendees will be expected to submit a short summary of their research interests and expertise in order to facilitate networking at, and after, the event. Places will be allocated on a

first come first serve basis, however BBSRC/NERC reserve the right to manage the balance of attendees.

Read more [here](#).

ESRC Centres Competition 2018 - Pre-call announcement

In November 2017 ESRC will be announcing an open competition for research centres. There will be no priority areas for this call. They would welcome applications of excellent quality in any area of social science within ESRC's remit. They will be inviting up to £30 million over five years. Read more [here](#).

Horizon 2020 Calls for Proposals on Sustainable Food Security

The Sustainable Food Security call is Horizon 2020's main contribution to research and innovation in relation to Food and Nutrition Security in Europe and beyond. Its commitment to sustainability implies that particular attention is given to the interfaces between the economic, environmental and social. Read more [here](#).

Innovate UK has up to £15 million to support innovative business projects in the field of health and life sciences.

- Competition opens on 2 October 2017, and the deadline for applications is at midday on 6 December 2017
- Projects should usually be led by a business and include at least one SME. Research and technology organisations may lead projects in certain circumstances
- Expect project costs to vary between £50,000 and £2 million
- Projects of up to £100,000 are expected to last 6 to 12 months, and those of up to £2 million to last 1 to 3 years

Read more [here](#).

Future opportunity to engage with STFC research community:

The [STFC Food Network+](#) (SFN) will be funding scoping studies and they are planning a sandpit event in early 2018 which will lead to the award of ~3 SFN funding awards of <8k each. We will disseminate information by social media but if you are interested, please check their [website](#) or direct any queries to queries@stfcfoodnetwork.org. This is a unique chance for colleagues to explore innovative ways to use the skills and facilities funded by STFC.

Future events on Sustainable Intensification:

Free webinar today - Sustainable Intensification at the Landscape Scale: An Introduction to the Landscape Typology Tool - Thursday 2nd November, 2017 1:00pm (GMT)

Managing farmland to increase farm output and competitiveness, whilst protecting the countryside and enhancing environment and social benefits defines the work of the Sustainable Intensification Research Platform. Funded by Defra and the Welsh Government, the Platform has produced a tool to assist in planning and decision making for Sustainable Intensification at the landscape-scale. In this webinar, which is launching the Tool nationally, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology provide an introduction to the tool and its varied capabilities and applications.

The webinar will be presented by Professor Jack Cosby (CEH) and Chaired by Siobhan Sherry (Defra). This event is co-hosted by the [Ecosystems Knowledge Network](#) with the Sustainable Intensification Research Network.

Registration is required to join this event. If you have not registered, please do so now [here](#)

AAB and SIP Sustainable Intensification Conference - 28-29 November 2017, Rothamsted Research, Harpenden

Some places are still available for the AAB and SIP conference, but hurry if you want to ensure attendance. Join us to learn more about the [outcomes of Defra-funded SIP project](#) and listen to key players in SI research.

AAB have negotiated a special rate at Luton Hoo Hotel at £120 per person/night. However, these places are limited, so it is advisable to book early if you want to take advantage of this offer. **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.**

For more information on booking a place and programme, see [here](#).

New partner identification tool now available on SIRN website:

This facility allows people to share ideas for engagement and collaboration. If you would like to make contact with others interested in the sustainable intensification of agriculture, please visit our [website](#).

Are you looking for a career change? Or have you got a vacancy in your group?

We created a job page on our website and we can help you advertising your posts. See current opportunities for working with the BREXIT transition, GCRF projects, agricultural modelling, animal health and soil science [here](#).

Would you like to join our network today?

We encourage you to join the network by completing the [online form](#). If you haven't registered yet, please do as this will help us build an expertise database that will be used for future reference. Registration with SIRN is free and will only take few minutes.

To receive future news follow us on [@SIRN Tweets](#) or subscribe to our newsletter [here](#).



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