

Dear SIRN community,

In this issue we highlight recent news, funding calls for SI and future agricultural related events.

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

## Current news:

The **2018 Nuffield Farming Lecture** was delivered by **Prof Michael Winter** on event in London on the 4th July. The talk introduced the report '[Changing Food Cultures: Challenges and Opportunities for UK Agriculture](#)' followed by lively discussions chaired by Prof Sir Charles Godfray. Presentation is [now available on YouTube](#). You can also read a [new blog](#) from SIRN on the event.

**Congratulations to Caroline Drummond (LEAF)** for receiving the [National Agricultural Award](#) from the Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE). Caroline has also been awarded an [Honorary Fellowship by the Royal Agricultural University \(RAU\)](#). You can also watch her speaking at the Groundswell Conference 2018 on the interactions between soil health and human health [here](#).

### **Four new interdisciplinary projects received £1.8 million to improve the sustainability of UK farming**

Funded in the third round of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Innovation Club (SARIC), the grants have been awarded by BBSRC and NERC, alongside 12 other industry partners. SARIC supports interdisciplinary projects which develop solutions to key challenges affecting the efficiency, productivity, and sustainability of the UK crop and livestock sectors. Read more [here](#).

### **UKRI announced new scheme for overseas researchers to come to the UK**

Government announced new scheme, which is being added to the Tier 5 (Temporary Worker - Government Authorised Exchange (GAE)) visa route. The scheme has been introduced to reflect and encourage the ongoing growth of the research sector in the UK. Read more [here](#).

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### **Horizon Europe - the next research and innovation framework programme**

The EU Commission has published its proposal for Horizon Europe, an ambitious €100 billion research and innovation programme that will succeed Horizon 2020. Horizon Europe is due to start in January 2021. Read ore [here](#).

### **UKRI invites Panel College applications for Future Leaders Fellowships**

UKRI is looking for members to form their Panel College for the Future Leaders Fellowships scheme and is also recruiting for individuals to provide peer review expertise. Members will be asked to serve for two years in the first instance. They are aiming to select as broad an expertise as possible, in terms of disciplinary background, career paths, ethnicity, diversity and inclusion, as well as host organisation. Call for applications to Panel College closes at midnight on **Tuesday 31th July**. Read more [here](#).

### **Leading academics on rural policy give evidence to Committee**

Professor Janet Dwyer, Professor of Rural Policy, University of Gloucestershire and Professor Jeremy Phillipson, Professor of Rural Development, University of Newcastle were witnesses on the Lords Selected Committee on the Rural Economy on the 10th July. They were consulted on which Government policies had greatest impact on the rural economy, main barriers for development of rural economy and its place in the Industrial Strategy. Watch the discussions on Parliament TV [here](#).

**Rural Economy and Land Use Series** - new series of research policy and practice notes from the Centre for Rural Economy is now available. See link [here](#).

### **Do we need a new environmental body after Brexit?**

The [consultation](#) on Environmental Principles and Governance is still open and closes on **2nd August 2018**. If you are interested in these discussions, watch [evidence session](#) with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at House of Commons on 11th July.

**Government Brexit white paper** [was published](#) on the 12th July. Read **response from UK farming unions** [here](#). In 18th July, the Prime Minister also announced a [bill to protect the environment](#).

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## Funding calls:

**Towards a Sustainable Earth call** (NERC, ESRC, AHRC, the Japan Science & Technology Agency, the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the Department of Biotechnology in India and the Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development) - The funding partners invite proposals to first call which aims to significantly improve our understanding of the complex interactions between people and the environment required to make progress in achieving the United Nations Global Goals (Sustainable Development Goals). Projects are expected to frame their research around human-environment interactions, taking into consideration the different relationships and interdependencies between the SDGs and how to achieve multiple benefits from integrated strategies that are adapted to meet local contexts and needs. Projects should be no more than £700,000 in total, with specific funding limits for each national component given in the relevant national annex, and a maximum duration of two years. Closing date for expressions of interest is **31 July 2018**. Closing date for full proposals is **14 August 2018**. More information on how to apply, please see the [NERC website](#).

### **Defra: Delivering Clean Growth through Sustainable Intensification**

Defra is calling for projects on mitigation of GHG emissions through agricultural land use and sustainable intensification, but also include the role of forestry on farms. Successful tenders will set out a structured two-year programme of work for multidisciplinary research covering technical requirements. Given the complex, multidisciplinary nature of the project, it is possible that no single research institute will be able to deliver the work in isolation. Defra will therefore welcome consortia-based bids. The tender of this R&D opportunity is likely to open week commencing 16th July 2018 and close at noon on 15th August 2018, the term of the Procurement is 2 years with an option to extend for a further 12 months. The anticipated budget for delivery of this work over the 2 years is between £150,000 and £200,000. Deadline for clarification: **16 August 2018 12:00 UK time** and responses **23rd August 2018 12:00 UK time**. Read more [here](#).

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**UKRI and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) call for a joint report: How science, research and innovation can best contribute to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals for developing countries**

UKRI will provide up to £500,000 for this initiative to fund the one successful team to produce the report. UKRI will provide the funding for the research team and UNDP will provide funding for the UNDP employees. See key dates and read more [here](#).

**GCRF call on 'Food & nutrition research for health in the developing world: bioavailability & nutrient content'**

BBSRC is making available a total of £6.9 million to support a number of interdisciplinary, collaborative research proposals to address the challenges spanning the agriculture-nutrition-health interfaces relating to food and nutrition research for health in the developing world. Funds can be requested for up to two years and projects must start on 1 April 2019. Application deadline: **11 September 2018, 16:00 UK time**. Read more [here](#).

**Royal Society led GCRF call on Resilient Future Challenge-led Grants** including 'secure and resilient food systems supported by sustainable marine resources and agriculture'. Application deadline: **11 September 2018 15:00 UK time**. Read more [here](#).

**GCRF call on 'Agri-systems research to enhance livelihoods in developing countries'**

The aim of this call is to enhance livelihoods through interdisciplinary research to improve agricultural systems by understanding, at multiple scales, interactions between the biology of crops and farmed animals (including aquaculture), their environments and management. BBSRC is making up to £8 million available, subject to the quality of proposals received. Application deadline: **19 September 2018, 16:00 UK time**. Read more [here](#).

**UK-Peru: Relationship between food, nutrition and health**

The MRC, BBSRC, AHRC, ESRC and Peru's Consejo Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Tecnológica (CONCYTEC) are pleased to invite research proposals to the UK-Peru: Relationship between food, nutrition and health call through the Newton Fund. In total, up to approximately £5 million will be made available for this initiative: up to £3 million of UKRI funding; and up to 9,000,000 Sol (approximately £2 million) from CONCYTEC. Closing date for expressions of interest - **16 August 2018** Deadline for proposals - **20 September 2018**. Read more [here](#).

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### **GCRF Innovation Projects open call**

NERC is inviting proposals. Call reflects NERC's vision and emphasis on delivering impact. This call picks up where research grants leave off, supporting translational and knowledge exchange activity and enabling research outputs from research council funded research to be taken further and developed into practical (non-commercial) application, so their potential outcomes can be realised. Proposals may apply for up to a maximum of £155,000 at 100% full economic cost (FEC) and duration of up to 18 months per project. NERC would pay 80% FEC for UK research organisation costs and 100% of any agreed direct costs to international partners. Deadline: **26 September 2018 16:00 UK time**. Check eligibility and more information on partners [here](#).

**The British Ecological Society (BES) 2nd grant round of 2018** is now open. Check out the opportunities [here](#). In addition, **BES Opportunities for Ecologists in Africa** that provides support to ecologists in Africa to carry out innovative ecological research, develop skills and knowledge base. The proposed work must be completed within 18 months. Deadline: **10 September, 14:00 UK time**. Read more [here](#).

**Rothamsted International 25th Anniversary Fellowship** - The scheme supports scientists from developing countries to train at Rothamsted for 6-12 months on a research project they develop jointly with a Project Leader at Rothamsted. Deadline: **22 October 2018**. Read more [here](#).

UK's Department for International Development (DFID) is seeking a supplier(s) to provide a research programme consortium to deliver a new programme titled **"Researching children's harmful work in African agri-food systems"**. The new contract will run for 5 years (2019-2024), subject to satisfactory supplier performance. It is anticipated that the contract will be worth £10 million over its lifespan. DFID will be hosting an Early Market Engagement Event to provide potential suppliers with an opportunity to learn about the proposed programme, provide feedback, and network with the aim of forming consortiums. This event will be held on Wednesday 22 August at DFID's headquarters in London. Interested companies should register by **13 August 12:00 UK time**. Please note that only Companies that pre-register will have security clearance to attend the event.

Estimated date of publication of contract notice: **02 December 2018**. More information [here](#).

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## Events:

### **The British Society of Soil Science - 'Soils and Sustainable Development Goals - 2018 Society Conference'**

*4 -5 September 2018 - Lancaster University*

The conference will provide a platform to deliberate and discuss of critical topics such as Soils and Food Security, Climate Change and Health and Water Quality.

Read more [here](#).

### **XX Annual BIOECON Conference - Land-use, Agriculture and Biodiversity: Spatial and Temporal Issues**

*12 - 14 September 2018 - King's College, Cambridge*

BIOECON XX will be of interest to both researchers and policy makers working on issues associated with land-use decisions and its impact on biodiversity. In particular, BIOECON XX aims to focus on agriculture, the conservation of biodiversity and crop genetic diversity, and the use of spatial data to study these issues. There is also a pre-conference workshop on "The Role of Social Preferences in Promoting Conservation Behaviour" that will be hosted on the 12 September 2018. Registrations for conference presenters are now closed. **Registration for all other participants closes on the 20 August 2018.**

More information and how to register [here](#).

### **The York Environmental Sustainability Institute (YESI) five year anniversary: Challenges and opportunities in the Anthropocene**

*8 October 2018 - National STEM Learning Centre, York*

The event will explore how we can address sustainability challenges and harness the opportunities of this human-dominated era which many are calling the Anthropocene. Free-open to all. Read more [here](#).

### **Using citizen science approaches for development of undergraduate skills**

*12 October 2018 – University of Reading*

Event organized by BES Teaching and Learning & Citizen Science SIGs They are currently accepting submissions for short presentations. Abstract submission deadline is **31 July 2018** and forms can be obtained by emailing Alice at [a.l.mauchline@reading.ac.uk](mailto:a.l.mauchline@reading.ac.uk).

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### **Valuing Nature Annual Conference 2018**

*13 - 14 November 2018 - National Museum Cardiff*

This 2-day conference aims to bring together people from diverse research areas and from business, policy and practice with the common goal of tackling Valuing Nature challenges.

Read more [here](#).

### **World Agri-Tech Innovation Summit**

*16-17 October 2018 – London*

The event is held annually in London and San Francisco and is acclaimed as the most international gathering of agribusiness leaders, VC investors and agri-tech innovators.

Read more [here](#).

### **Plant Genomics in a Changing Environment**

*24-26 October 2018, Wellcome Genomic Campus, Cambridge*

The conference will showcase the application of genomic techniques to understand genomes and how they vary across changing environments. It will provide a platform for the transfer of knowledge of diverse plant systems that differ in their ecology, physiology, genomic complexity and the tools that are available for research and aims to connect researchers from academia and industry.

Bursary deadline: **14 August 2018**

Abstract deadline: **4 September 2018**

Read more [here](#).

### **Ecosystems Knowledge Network Webinar - Natural Environment Valuation Online (NEVO): a web-based tool for natural capital management**

*31st October 2018 - 1 to 2 pm*

The upcoming NEVO tool will be a map-based decision support website for natural capital in England and Wales. Users of NEVO will be able to interact with state-of-the-art environmental and economic models developed by the University of Exeter in a user-friendly interface. A range of outputs for ecosystem services including agriculture, recreation, forestry, carbon emissions, biodiversity and water quantity/quality will be able to be explored, and users will be able to change model parameters to enable decision making in real time.

Read more [here](#).

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## **IAGe – Engineering Collaboration for Success: Best Practice for Knowledge Exchange in Agricultural Engineering**

*6 November 2018 – London*

This conference will explore successful collaborations in engineering between commercial, industrial, research and academic partners. Senior engineers with experience of successful knowledge exchange will share their expertise. Those businesses implementing new technologies will identify the barriers which need to be overcome if industry and research knowledge transfer can be translated into new practices and truly impact on the end user.

Read more [here](#).

## **Livestock, Environment and People (LEAP) Conference**

*7 November 2018 - St Anne's College, Oxford* A multidisciplinary research conference on the effects of meat and dairy on population health, the economy, society and the environment. Call for abstracts: Organisers will only consider abstracts for inclusion if they directly relate to the theme of the meeting. They are also keen for researchers at all levels to participate, especially PhD students and Post-Docs. Deadline: **30th July 2018**

Read more [here](#).

## **REAP Conference - What is the future we want for agriculture and how can innovation help deliver it?**

*7 November 2018 - Wellcome Genome Campus Cambridge*

Agri-Tech East's fifth REAP conference comes at a time of unprecedented change, uncertainty and challenge for the industry. They will be asking a number of technical experts with different perspectives what they think the future agri-food industry could look like and we will explore the exciting ideas and innovations that will take us there.

Read more [here](#).

## **The Chatham House - A Sustainable Food Future 2018 Whose responsibility?**

*26 - 27 November 2018, London*

The annual Chatham House Food conference will explore practical solutions to build a more resilient food system and feed the global population sustainably, focusing on the responsibility of key actors in achieving these goals.

Read more [here](#).

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**The British Society for Plant Pathology – ‘Warwick 2018: Imaging plant-microbe interactions’**  
*10- 11 December 2018 – University of Warwick*

This meeting will showcase current and emerging imaging techniques that are being applied to reveal new insights into how plant pathogen infections establish or are prevented. This is a timely opportunity to learn about state-of-the art approaches to imaging infection processes, addressing both establishment of infection apparatus and inter-organellar communication.

Deadline: **14 September 2018.**

Read more [here](#).

**BES Annual Meeting 2018**

*16 - 19 December 2018 - ICC Birmingham*

There are several thematic sessions including Microbial influence on climate change, Upscaling biodiversity-ecosystem functioning research and Long-term ecological experiments.

Abstract submission deadline: **10 September, 17:00 UK time** You may edit your abstract online until **14 September, 17:00 UK time**

Earlybird registration is now open and deadline is **19 October, 17:00 UK time**

Read more [here](#).



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