

Food Systems Science: Establishing a Common Framework and Network

First European Food Systems Science Conference

Meet the Speakers



SESSION 1 Defining Food Systems and Food Systems Science

Welcome and opening



Dr. Stine Rosenlund Hansen is a researcher in sustainable agrifood systems, with expertise spanning food anthropology, food education, and systemic approaches to green transitions at Roskilde University. Her work explores knowledge flows and innovation across traditional sectoral boundaries, bridging dichotomies such as production-consumption and alternative-conventional systems. She coordinates the FoSSNet project.



Dr. Monika Zurek is Associate Professor and leads the Food System Transformation Group at the Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford. She has over 25 years of experience working on food systems change, environment, and development using foresight methods across academia, international organizations, consulting, and philanthropy. Her background includes roles at FAO, CIMMYT, and the Gates Foundation.

The need for a European Food Systems Science Network



Dr. Niels Halberg is Director of the Danish Centre for Food and Agriculture (DCA) at Aarhus University. With over 30 years of experience in agroecology, organic agriculture, and food system sustainability, he has led international research on smallholder farming systems and coordinated science-policy collaborations, including EU projects supporting the Soil Mission. He co-leads the CSA FoodPathS and represents Denmark in several European food system initiatives.

The evolution of food system thinking as a foundation for Food Systems Science



Dr. Erik Mathijs is Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at KU Leuven. His research focuses on enabling food system change through regenerative agriculture, true cost accounting, and protein transition. He explores the metrics and governance frameworks needed to support more sustainable and just food systems.

FoSSNet Food Systems conceptual framework and FS Science definition



Dr. John Ingram is Associate Professor at the University of Oxford and Senior Research Fellow at Somerville College. His work focuses on conceptualizing food systems, understanding actor interactions and system outcomes, and scenario planning for sustainable and resilient food systems.

SESSION 2 Assessing the State of Food Systems Science

Mapping research for SCAR Food Systems Strategic Working Group



Dr. Silvia Scaramuzzi is Associate Professor of Agrifood Economics and Marketing at the University of Florence. Her research centers on rural development, food quality, supply chains, and agricultural policies. She co-leads the EU FutureFoods Partnership and is active in SCAR Food Systems. She has led numerous European and regional projects, with over 130 publications.

FoSSNet's stocktake on Food Systems Science and Education in Europe



Dr. Thom Achterbosch is Senior Researcher at Wageningen Economic Research, where he leads interdisciplinary projects fostering innovation in sustainable food systems and healthy diets. He heads the EU Food System Observatory and works on investment strategies for food system transformation, with a focus on participatory research and foresight.

Breakout group activities - Project's pitches



Dr. Anne Loeber is Associate Professor at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, researching participatory governance and system change in sustainable food, climate, and science policy.



Dr. Christian Bugge Henriksen leads the Climate and Food Security group at the University of Copenhagen and coordinates the EU CLEVERFOOD project, advancing sustainable food systems through transformative research.



Dr. Paul Milbourne is Professor at Cardiff University and Director of the Sustainable and Just Food Systems Centre, researching food poverty, justice, and community-based food models.



Dr. Anant Jani is Senior Researcher at Heidelberg University, working on food system transformation and public health through Horizon Europe projects. He holds a PhD in Immunology from Yale.



Dr. Roseline Remans is founder of glolearning and expert in food biodiversity and systems metrics. She co-founded the Agrobiodiversity Index and contributes to global food system initiatives.



Dr. Niels Halberg

SESSION 3 Food Systems Science in Food Systems Transformation

Embracing Complexity: Systems Thinking, Systems Knowing, Systems Doing



Dr. Corinna Hawkes is Director of Agrifood Systems and Food Safety at FAO, leading global efforts for food systems transformation. Her work spans food policy, nutrition, and food environments. Formerly Director of the Centre for Food Policy at City, University of London, she has served in advisory roles at WHO, IFPRI, and the UN Food Systems Summit.

Expectations towards Food Systems Science: What do we need for Food Systems Transformation?



Visi Garcia Ciudad is an agricultural engineer at the Department of Agriculture of the Generalitat de Catalunya. She specializes in knowledge transfer and innovation in food systems, supporting policy coordination through the RIS3CAT strategy and EU rural development programs focused on sustainable transformation.



Laura Michéle coordinates FIAN International's work on food systems and nutrition, advocating for human rights-based approaches to people-centered food systems. Her work addresses governance, participation, and gender equity in sustainable food policy. She holds degrees in Human Rights and Development Studies and is based in Heidelberg.

Breakout group activities - Fresh perspectives needed: Early-careers' contributions to Food Systems Transformation



Bobby Tsvetkov
WUR



Claudia Lazarte
Lund University



Efrat Gommeh
VU Amsterdam



Ilze Mileiko
Baltic Studies Centre



Jesica López
Lund University



Nanna Eriksen
Roskilde University



Sofia Mendes
EUFIC



Patricia De La Piscina
University of Barcelona



Trang Nguyen
WUR



Reinhard Rebernik
VU Amsterdam



Scarlett Wang
WUR

SESSION 4 Strategising the actions to establish the Food Systems Science Network and mobilise its members

Best practice on establishing a research and innovation network bridging scientists and innovators



Dr. George Beers is a specialist in strategic information management and innovation in agribusiness at Wageningen University & Research. He coordinates large-scale EU projects on digital transformation in AgriFood, with a focus on bridging research, policy, and business.

Opportunities for creating an academic network for Food Systems Science, closing the gaps



Dr. Trang Nguyen is a food systems researcher at Wageningen University & Research, focusing on resilience to climate and economic shocks. Her development economics background informs her work across Asia, Africa, and Europe on food security and sustainability. She leads social network analysis for the FoSSNet initiative.