

Rethinking Agricultural Systems in the UK

A two day conference at
St Catherine's College, Oxford

for the
**BES Agricultural Ecology, Forest Ecology
& Computational Ecology Groups**

on

18-19 December 2013

There is a need for innovative development in the field of agroecology if we are to meet the demands of the growing human population in a sustainable way. However, there is a natural tendency for thinking to fall into 'silos' and this can hinder novel thinking.

This meeting will explore agricultural systems in the context of providing ecosystem services: it will ask what we would do in an ideal world and how we can envisage positive changes to the current system given socioeconomic constraints. An important feature of the meeting will be to encourage discussion of techniques across disciplines and discourage the use of labels so that we are unhindered by possibly negative preconceptions. The meeting will explore theory and practice from a wide range of farming systems.

It will be the first in a series of three strategic events. This first meeting aims to generate ideas for practical approaches, however radical, for the generation of more resilient agro-ecological systems. These proposals will be tabled in preparation for a second meeting (2014), where these concepts will be discussed with a view to assessing their feasibility with practitioners (e.g. farmers and NGOs). A third meeting is planned, to take place in regional government centres with policy-makers to facilitate implementation.

Invited speakers include:

Prof. Jonathan Foley

(Director of the Institute on the Environment University of Minnesota, USA)

Prof. Tim Benton

(UK Champion for Global Food Security & Professor of Population Ecology,
University of Leeds)

Prof. William Sutherland

(Miriam Rothschild Chair in Conservation Biology, University of Cambridge)



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at St Catherine's College, Oxford, UK
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**ANNOUNCEMENT
& CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Rethinking Agricultural
Systems in the UK**

Association of Applied Biologists
Warwick Enterprise Park
Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9EF, UK

Registered Charity No. 275655

Telephone: +44(0)2476 575195

Facsimile: +44(0)1789 470234

E-mail: russell@aab.org.uk

<http://www.aab.org.uk>

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Prof. Philip Grime FRS
(University of Sheffield)

Prof. Steven Newman
(BioDiversity International Ltd)

Dr Joern Fischer
(Leuphana University, Germany)

Dr Christine Watson
(SRUC, Aberdeen)

Papers (and posters) are invited for four sessions, please indicate your preferred session.
Space for oral presentations is limited.

Fundamental Ecological Principles in Agricultural Systems

Session organiser: Pietro Iannetta (The James Hutton Institute)

Systems Thinking in Agroecology

Session organisers: Andy Goldring (Permaculture Association) & Christine Watson (SRUC)

Resource Efficiency in Agro-ecosystems

Session organiser: Jo Smith (Organic Research Centre)

Beyond the land sparing/land sharing debate

Session organiser: Lisa Norton (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology)

Workshops: There will be three targeted, structured workshops with pre-determined outputs. A facilitated workshop on “*Computational and Technological Solutions to Rethinking* ” will be organised by the British Ecological Society’s Computational Ecology group: we invite papers and posters for this session. For queries, please contact Matthew Smith at: computational@britishecologicalsociety.org.uk

Accepted papers will be published in our *Aspects of Applied Biology* series and available as part of the conference pack. You can submit your offer using the attached form or online at our web site:

<http://www.aab.org.uk>

Click on CONFERENCES in the menu bar at the top of the AAB home page, **then click on ABSTRACTS**, then the conference title. You can register your email and, after being sent a password, can upload your offer. Please indicate whether your offer is for a platform presentation or a poster.

Organiser - Barbara Smith - agricultural@britishecologicalsociety.org

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(Please tick appropriate boxes)

Please send me further details and booking forms when they become available

I am interested in having a commercial exhibit at the conference

I wish to offer an oral presentation paper as detailed below

I wish to offer a poster presentation paper as detailed below

SURNAME:.....INITIALS:

TITLE (Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms or other):

MAILING ADDRESS:

POST CODE:.....Tel No:

Fax No:E-mail:

TITLE OF PAPER:

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS (Please attach a copy of the Abstract as a WORD file):

Please return to:

Rethinking Agricultural Systems in the UK

AAB Office, Warwick Enterprise Park

Wellesbourne Warwick CV35 9EF, UK

Tel: + 44 (0)2476 575195 Fax: +44 (0)1789 470234; E-mail: russell@aab.org.uk

DEADLINE FOR CALL FOR PAPERS IS 7 JULY 2013