



University of
Nottingham
Future Food

October news

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Future Food Beacon.

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Climate change and food security



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

With under two weeks until the COP26 meeting kicks off in Glasgow, we have [gathered all our climate-related projects together](#) to make them easier to find.

To begin, Levi Yant and Guillermina Menciondo explain how we can go about [understanding plant responses to stress by examining their genes](#).

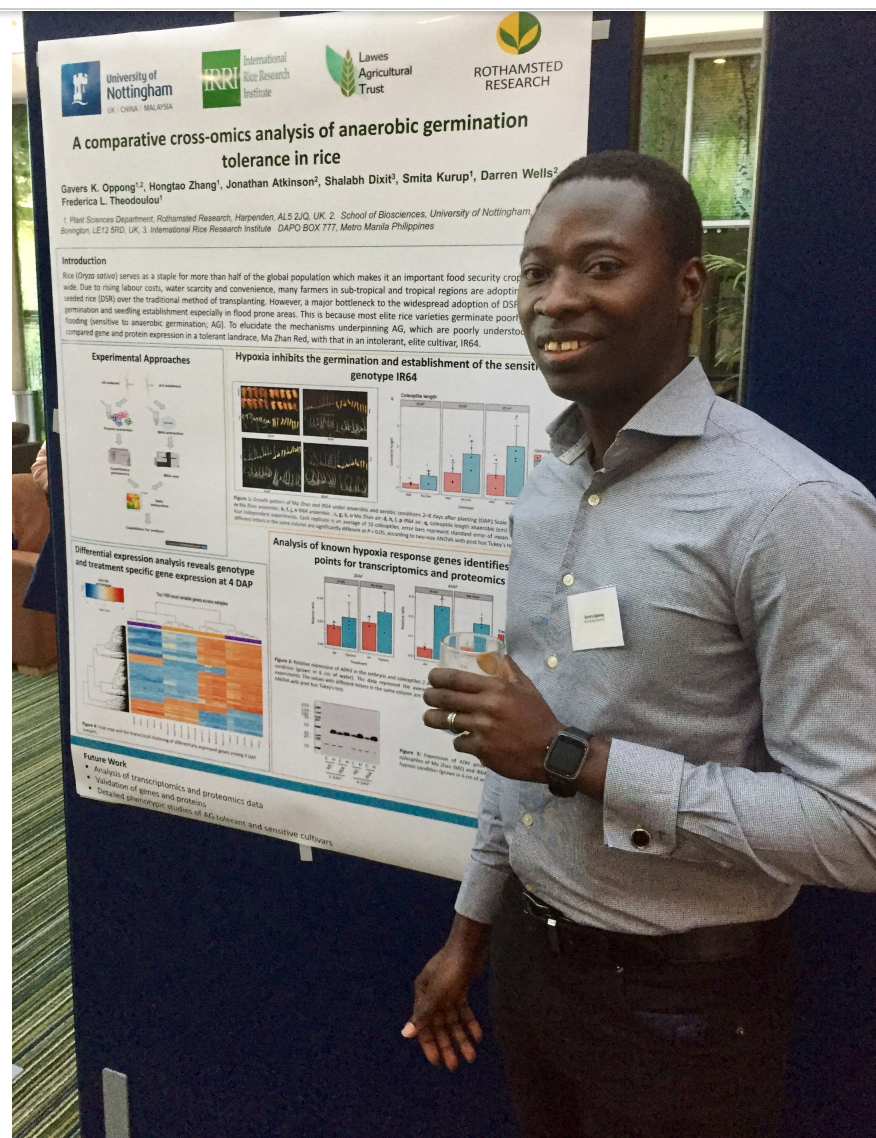
Future Food news



Associate Professor in the Business School and Future Food Beacon leadership team member, Anne Touboulic, has a [new paper](#) in Work, Employment and Society. The paper explores narratives of labour at different stages in the supply chain, focusing on the dairy industry.

PhD candidate Eliot Jones presented his work, [We're out so wtf do we do now: Brexit and rural identity in the era of online agricultural communities](#), at the 2021 Royal Geographical Society Annual International Conference.

Gavers Oppong, joint RRes-UoN PhD candidate, won best poster at the ECR workshop of the UK Rice Research Consortium for his work entitled: [A comparative cross-omics analysis of anaerobic germination tolerance in rice](#).



Future Protein Platform PhD Hina Kamal presented a poster, [Alternative waste protein valorisation potential of pumpkin peel and seed flour upon simulated digestion](#), at the 4th Food Structure and Functionality symposium.

From the blog

[RADIANT: Realising dynamic value chains for underutilised crops](#) Sean Mayes and colleagues have a new grant, funded by Horizon2020, examining ways to integrate underutilised crops into European farming systems.

Levi Yant and Peter Emmrich explore the [potential of grass pea](#) as a plant-based protein.

Opportunities

Public Engagement Masterclasses

The Institute for Policy and Engagement is hosting virtual public engagement masterclasses for staff with an interest in public engagement activity. You are invited to attend any of the standalone sessions. The 4th session will be confirmed following the REF outcome.

The sessions will offer an opportunity to hear about specific topics relating to public engagement from colleagues across the University, including presentations on public engagement projects from research staff in all faculties.

- **Wednesday 17 November, 1.30-3pm. International engagement and patient and public involvement. Book your free place [here](#).**
- **Wednesday 15 December, 1.30-3pm. Outreach and Co-creation. Book your free place [here](#).**

Food Innovation Centre news

Food Innovation Centre supports small breweries to identify spoiling issues

Brewing experts at the Food Innovation Centre have been helping small breweries across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire to prevent a beer spoiling issue. Infection can occur at any point in the production process of beer and large breweries have formal laboratories to test for infections. But that is a cost prohibitive for many very small breweries, so brewing experts at the Food Innovation Centre at the University of Nottingham have been helping local small breweries introduce a relatively new, simple technique – developed in Germany and known as Fast Orange – which flags up an infection issue using a simple colour change system.

The technique can be used at any time during the production process – helping to identify infection problems at the earliest possible stage and avoiding costly recalls. Brewing expert Rod White, from the International Centre for Brewing Science at the University (pictured below), said: “Beer is inherently microbiologically stable due to the presence of hops and alcohol but occasionally an infection can take hold and spoil a batch of beer ruining thousands of pints at a time. The technique developed by the Technical University Munich at Weihenstephan is very simple to use and helps pin point infection issues as early as possible. We were familiar with the new technique from PhD work undertaken at the University and it turns out that it is particularly useful for the very small brewer. We’ve now helped to introduce this system to a number of local breweries, and we hope it will help them to avoid unnecessary costs.”

Read more in the Food Innovation Centre’s latest press release [here](#).



Upcoming talks, seminars and conferences

27 October 2021 - both online

[Corporate concentration and power in the agricultural inputs sector](#) 5.15pm,

Professor Jennifer Clapp (University of Waterloo, Canada)

1 November 2021 - online

[Data, science and policy for a healthy food system](#) 9.15am - 12.45pm

17 November 2021 - in person

[In search of the roots of roots: 400 million years of plant root evolution](#) 1pm, A17 Plant

Sciences Sutton Bonington, Dr Sandy Hetherington (University of Edinburgh)

24 November 2021 - in person

[Fungi and food insecurity: perils and predictions](#), 3pm Coates Road Auditorium University

Park, Professor Sarah Gurr (University of Exeter)

14 December 2021 - hybrid event

Future Food annual briefing 9am-3pm, A17 Plant Sciences Sutton Bonington

2 February 2022 - in person

[New horizons: making a positive impact through policy and public engagement in the future](#) Nottingham Engaged conference

Publications from Future Food

Anne Touboullic and colleagues have published an article on representations of food labour through the supply chain in [Work, Employment and Society](#).

Veronica Guwela and colleagues have published a review paper in CAB Reviews titled [Wheat value chains in Malawi: trends, gaps, challenges and opportunities](#).

Levi Yant, David Salt and colleagues published a new paper on parallel adaptation in autopolyploid *Arabidopsis arenosa* in [Nature Communications](#). Their article was chosen as [an editor's highlight](#) in plant science.

Levi Yant and colleagues paper on convergent evolution of meiosis in response to genome duplication was the choice for the September 2021 cover of [Molecular Biology and Evolution](#).

New postdoctoral fellow in Levi Yant's lab, Tuomas Hämälä, has published [the cover story in PNAS](#) on the genome assemblies for 31 wild-collected *Theobroma cacao* accessions to understand how structural variants affect natural populations.

David Salt, Malcolm Bennett and colleagues have a new paper in Nature Communications: [Non-invasive hydrodynamic imaging in plant roots at cellular resolution](#).

Future Food researchers are involved in an ERA-CAPS project to shed light on [how](#)

Find out more

Find out more about the Future Food Beacon and how you can work with us on [our website](#). Stories about our researchers and our research can be found [on our blog](#).

To tell us your news, share conference registrations or abstract opportunities, as well as any food-related reading please email:

[Lexi Earl](#), Outreach and Engagement Manager, Future Food Beacon



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