

The 12th IFSA Symposium 2016

Social and technological transformation of farming systems: diverging and converging pathways

We kindly invite you to the symposium at Harper Adams University, UK on **12-15 July 2016**

Understanding farming as systems acknowledges interconnections and dependencies among its many human and non-human dimensions. As changes in farming systems take place all the time, at levels ranging from individual to farm level, to the environments of farming and from local to global, understanding the nature of these interconnections and dependencies can be challenging. IFSA's 2016 symposium will focus on particular kinds of change – social and technological transformation - and consider not only what is changing in terms of these dimensions and their contexts, but how they relate to each other and how purposeful social and technological transformation of farming systems in different parts of the world are realized and how they could be brought about in the future.

For this Symposium, we welcome a diversity of perspectives on farming systems and different narratives of pathways. We would particularly like to attract researchers and practitioners from both natural and social science backgrounds who are new to systems thinking and who may be able to contribute constructively to lively debates on how we can design and deliver more sustainable farming and livelihood systems for the future.

The sub themes for the symposium are:

1. Innovation, knowledge and learning processes
2. Methodology and frameworks of farming systems transformation
3. Pathways towards sustainable agri-food systems – tensions or synergies?
4. Emergence and application of new technologies
5. Enabling governance, policy and institutions

We are offering an exciting range of workshops within these areas with a range of experts acting as workshop convenors



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Theme 1 Innovation, knowledge and learning processes	Theme 2 Methodology and frameworks of farming systems transformation	Theme 3 Pathways towards sustainable agri-food systems – tensions or synergies?	Theme 4 Emergence and application of new technologies	Theme 5 Enabling governance, policy and institutions
1.1 Generating spaces for innovation in agricultural and rural development	2.1 Agroecology: a way to engage in multi-disciplinary system designs	3.1 Sustainability of food chains: contested assessments	4.1 Boosting research outputs: novel approaches for integrating research translation with interactive co-innovation	5.1 Developing agricultural advisory systems for innovation: Governance and innovative practices
1.2 Monitoring and Evaluation for Learning and Innovation	2.2 Sustainability Assessments at farm level for catalysing practical change	3.2 Integrating commodity and systems research for sustainable agri-food systems: emerging learning and future opportunities	4.2 On-farm energy generation	5.2 Farm succession, inheritance and retirement: Challenges for agricultural futures
1.3 Using a co-innovation approach to improve innovation and learning	2.3 Well-being in rural areas: How is it affected by different farming systems?	3.3 Pathways for land-use: the sustainable avenue of agroforestry	4.3 ICT to help on participatory approaches for the agroecological transition of agriculture	5.3 Rural development policies in the peripheral Southern and Eastern European regions
1.4 From farmer to "eco-prenur" in multifunctional agriculture and sustainable regional development": Participatory curricula development and implementation of educational measures	2.4 Temperate agriculture sustainability assessment beyond the individual farm level	3.4 Boundary spanning between agroecological and conventional production systems: implications for pathways towards more sustainable production	4.4 Social and environmental impact of robotics and autonomous systems in farming	5.4 Exploring farmers' conditions, strategies and performances in a context of multi-dimensional policy requirements, market imperfections and globalisation: Towards a conceptual model
1.5 Pathways towards sustainability in the agricultural knowledge and innovation system: The role of farmers' experiments and innovations	2.5 Beyond participatory methods – approaches for facilitating transformation of agriculture and agri-food systems			5.5 Value chain research and development – approaches for diverse farming systems
1.6 Merits and limits of innovation platforms to promote sustainable intensification in farming systems	2.6 Management of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research processes			5.6 Food governance for metropolitan and local food systems - Connecting urban and rural
1.7 Scaling up and scaling out transformative farming practices: Critical assessment of tools methods, and skills				5.7 There are other options: boundary issues in innovation system governance
1.8 Cooperation as a key issue for innovation and learning processes in sustainable land management				5.8 Enabling Innovation – the transformative (innovative) capacity of farmers and rural Institutions.
1.9 Inclusive innovation				
1.10 Practical experiences and methodological concepts from the first years of EIP-Agri implementation				

Call for abstracts

We would like to invite you to submit an abstract for one of the workshop sessions at the symposium. Your abstract will be subject to peer review and on acceptance, you will be asked to submit a full paper and participate in the workshops. Full submission details and information on the content and format of individual workshops can be found on the symposium site: harper.ac.uk/ifsa

The submission deadline for abstracts is 21 December 2015. Authors of abstracts which are accepted by workshop convenors will be required to **submit full papers by 29 February 2016.**

The venue

Harper Adams University was founded in 1901 following a bequeathment by Thomas Harper Adams. The University is situated within an attractive 200 hectare estate within the beautiful Shropshire Countryside. Harper Adams University is the premier higher education institution for the land based industries within the UK and offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses including agriculture, agricultural engineering, rural land management, countryside management, food studies and agri-business. The majority of conference activities (work sessions, meals and accommodation) will be available on campus. Scheduled field trips will take place to a range of venues in the local surrounding areas and will include visits focusing on agroforestry, intensive and extensive animal producing, organic and integrated farming, upland farming and precision agriculture. For more information on Harper Adams University, please visit www.harper-adams.ac.uk/about/

Contact

Please contact IFSA2016@harper-adams.ac.uk for any further information

Registration

You can register your interest in attending the event on the Harper Adams University website: harper.ac.uk/ifsa. Full registration will be available shortly. Accommodation will be available on site.