

Science and Technology Facilities Council Food Network+ (SFN)

# **Proposed STFC Food Network+ Activities**

Alison Fletcher, Project Manager and Network Coordinator

## What have we done so far? (and continuations....)

The SFN grant started in January 2017

I officially started in my role as Project Manager/Network Coordinator at the beginning of March and this now takes up 50% of my working week

Since March we've had a variety of activity across the Network, much of which is ongoing.....

## What have we done so far? (and continuations....)

### Pre-Launch Survey

Summary highlights from over 640 respondents:

- 75% respondents came from STFC/Physics Communities
- 285 people said 'I would like to join the SFN mailing list to receive updates every few weeks'
- 118 people said 'I would consider applying for travel or Scoping Studies grant money from the SFN (<£8k)'
- 82 people said 'I am considering attending the SFN launch meeting on 28/29 June in Manchester'
- We've contacted over 50 people who said they'd like to contribute slides and had a great (& ongoing) response
- We're making lots of interesting contacts based on individual comments and expressions of interest

## What have we done so far? (and continuations....)

### Co-Investigator Meetings

- Four meetings so far - One face to face and the other three as telecons
- A great combination of people working across the STFC and Agri-Food Communities (many from N8)
- Help us to ensure objectives are achieved within time, cost and quality constraints
- Facilitated some fantastic connections and made introductions that have helped us to expand our Network, acting as ambassadors for the SFN
- Manage the review and selection of proposals for funding and reviewing outcomes of activities and awards
- Our meetings will continue on a bi-monthly basis for the duration of the project and are invaluable in ensuring the continued success of bringing together our two communities

## What have we done so far? (and continuations....)

### Steering Committee Meetings

- Appointed Alastair Taylor (CEO IAgre) for first 18 month term of the Network
- One meeting so far over the phone and our first face to face meeting in a few hours!
- Wide range of members - IAgre, STFC, Lancaster University, Jamie Oliver foundation, Agrimetrics, Research Complex at Harwell, Hartree Centre, University of Kassel, Farming Futures, University of Manchester, Universidad de Talca
- Essentially for guidance and independent oversight
- Acting as ambassadors and advocates for the Network
- Sign off our annual report from the Network to the STFC
- Determining medium - long term objectives
- Meetings will be held bi-annually and continue for the duration of the project

## What have we done so far? (and continuations....)

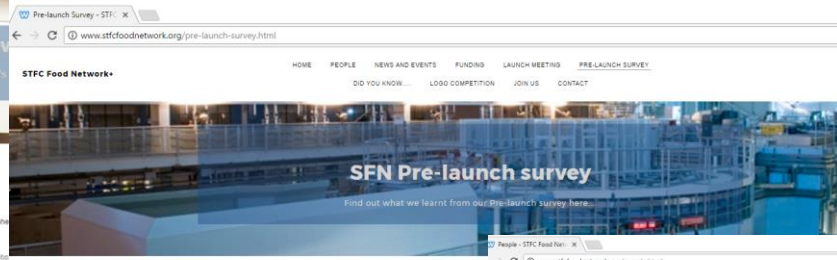
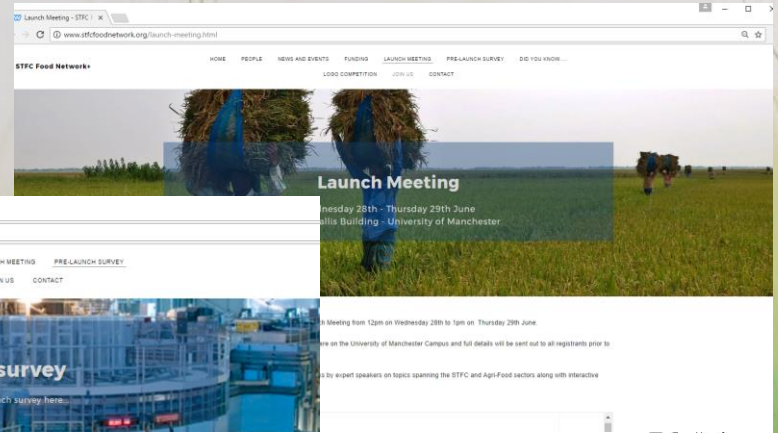
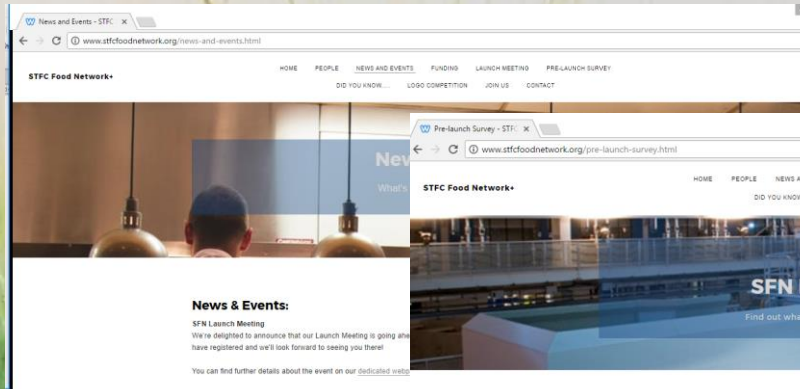
### Website (just launched!)

- [www.stfcfoodnetwork.org](http://www.stfcfoodnetwork.org)
- We've now set up a one-stop shop for all things SFN
- This covers profiles on our Co-Is and SC, updates on funding opportunities, details of upcoming meetings, our pre-launch survey results and a variety of news items relating to the wider network
- We will be keeping the website updated on a regular basis so please do keep checking in to see what's happening in the Network

# Science and Technology Facilities Council Food Network+ (SFN)

## What have we done so far? (and continuations....)

### Website



**Pre-Launch Survey Highlights:**

- Over 640 responses
- 75% of respondents were from STFC research or facilities
- 285 people said 'I would like to join the SFN mailing list to receive updates'
- 82 people said 'I am considering attending the SFN launch meeting on 28/29 June'

You can see a slideshow of our survey results here - if you'd like to find out more



The SFN is led by an experienced team of Co-Investigators and an accomplished Steering Committee who bring with them a wealth of expertise across the agri-food and STFC physics communities.

If you'd like to join the SFN membership of over 400 people please sign up [here](#).

#### Who We Are:



**Professor Sarah Brindle**  
Principal Investigator  
Sarah obtained her PhD from the University of Cambridge, UK in 2006 and was made Professor at the University of Manchester, UK in 2011, after research in France, Cambridge (UK) and London. She has won prestigious awards in the UK and Europe including a Royal Society University Research Fellowship, the Royal Astronomical Society's Fowler Award, a 1.4 Million Euro European Research Council Starting Grant, and a 2 Million Euro ERC Consolidator Grant. She is author of over 70 refereed publications which have over 3500 citations.  
Most of her work so far has focussed on trying to uncover the nature of dark energy using gravitational lensing - the bending of light by dark matter. She led the first cosmology experiments from the biggest ongoing cosmological imaging survey, the

## What have we done so far?

### Seminars/Slides

- We now have a slide set of over 200 slides that we are presenting at institutions across the country
- These cover people and projects from across the STFC Physics and Agri-Food Communities
- You will soon be able to access these from the website
- If we haven't yet been to your institution please do get in touch and we can make arrangements for a talk
- If you haven't already contributed we'd love a slide on you.....



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## What have we done so far? (and continuations....)

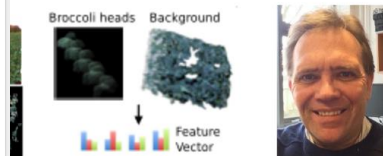
### Seminars/Slides

#### Agri-food technology Simon Pearson



- Founding Director of the Lincoln Institute of Agri Food Technology

is on agri food robotics, engineering, agri water and safety  
 ton China project on the use of fast neutron  
 tor soil moisture and to calibrate the SARS sensor on



#### CIEL Centre for Innovation Excellence in Livestock

- CIEL's vision is to support, promote and deliver innovative, **industry-led research** for **sustainable intensification** of the UK livestock sector through a single centre, with the aim of **generating wealth and business** competitiveness through growth



#### Integrating Knowledge for Food Systems Resilience

- Identifying transformative **social and technological on-farm** innovations
- Developing tools to promote resilient food supply chains
- Influencing food choice** for health and resilience at individual and household level
- Integrating knowledge for a more resilient food system



#### Blackgrass from space

- Wheat is one of the biggest crops in the UK
- Blackgrass is becoming the biggest problem
  - Selective herbicide resistance
  - Spreading from South to North
  - Easily visible to the farmer
- Distinctive spectrum – when its too late to act
- Use Sentinel-2 data to monitor spread

Rob Freckleton (USheffield), Helen Hicks (USheffield) Joe Fennell (UManchester), David Brightman (Brightman Farms), Sarah Bridle (UManchester)

Information and technology provision, to  
 tion of innovations?  
 for **agri- sensors and automation** technology?  
 ception support wider replication of findings?  
 Annemarieke de Bruin

#### Dark Energy and gas pressure management



- We developed advanced statistical methods to analyse data about powerful, distant stellar explosions to understand the nature of the mysterious Dark Energy
- The same tools are being used to reduce methane leakage from the gas distribution network and thus fight climate change
- Learn more: [www.robertotrotta.com](http://www.robertotrotta.com) and [datafusion-consultants.com](http://datafusion-consultants.com) and [utonomy.co.uk](http://utonomy.co.uk)



## What's next on the SFN Agenda?

### Sandpits

- We'll be holding small sandpits to try and develop ideas for potential collaborative scoping projects
- Sandpits are a small intense meeting to brainstorm ideas
- After discussions here at the Launch Meeting we're hoping to set a date for our first (before end of 2017) and then will open for applications to attend this
- Hope to hold a second in 2018 following the same format
- An Impact sandpit in 2019 to identify the ideas most suitable for further development to increase Technology Readiness Levels.

## What's next on the SFN Agenda?

### Asking for funding proposals

- We will soon open a call for scoping studies funding (normally <£8k per study) to close shortly after the first sandpit
- We hope you will have lots of new ideas during and after this meeting
- Initially we anticipate that 8 small scale scoping studies will be funded (<£8k each) and there will be calls for more proposals each year of the Network
- We would like these studies to have a goal for applying for future bigger funding e.g.
  - With industry
  - Global Challenges Research Fund
  - Industry Strategy Challenge Fund
  - Potential funding to develop REF21 cases
  - ... your ideas here...

## What's next on the SFN Agenda?

### Factsheets

- Aiming to produce
  - Factsheets aimed at STFC researchers to summarise key open questions in food research:
    - Sustainable Food Production, Resilient Food Supply Chains, Improved Nutrition and Consumer Behaviours,
  - Factsheets for food researchers about STFC capabilities:
    - STFC Data Science, Technology and Facilities
- These will help us to create impact through public engagement
- We're hoping they may also contribute to Policy and Public Debate
- Ready to distribute in October
- Many of you said in the survey that you'd like to both read and contribute to these - More on this in Sarah's closing session.....

## What's next on the SFN Agenda?

### Champions

- We're hoping to get together a group of people to champion the Network and stimulate new activities and conversations and we're hoping that some of you could be these people
- Looking for people who can really help the network progress and be our ambassadors and advocates
- Looking for people who together span the breadth of the STFC Physics and Agri-Food communities
- Monthly meetings starting in September

## What's next on the SFN Agenda?

- A new Logo!



- Thanks and congratulations to Anna-Louise Sutherland

## What's next on the SFN Agenda?

- **Annual Meetings** - Different Locations
- **Visits to facilities** - one to Harwell (ISIS, Diamond, CLF) on 28th September - please get in touch if you are interested
- **What do you want?**
  - Twitter - Is this a good way for us to keep in touch?
  - How often do you want us to update you?
  - Other things you want to see on the website?

What's next on the SFN Agenda?

**You Tell Us!**

**[queries@stfcfoodnetwork.org](mailto:queries@stfcfoodnetwork.org)**



Thankyou!

**Thanks for:**

- Your engagement in so many ways
- Your attendance (here and at future events)
- Your survey responses
- Your slides
- Your suggestions
- And mostly just taking an interest in the SFN