

STFC Food Network+

Updates & Opportunities

September 2020



Dear STFC Food Network+ Members

Please see below for a summary of events and opportunities we think will be of interest to many STFC Food Network+ (SFN) Members.

Our aim is to help support new collaborations between STFC capabilities and agrifood research and industry, so please do get in touch if you would like any help in making new connections.

We also keep the [opportunities](#) section of our website updated with this information.

Best wishes,

Gareth Crockett, Sonal Choudhary, Christian Reynolds, and the STFC Food Network+ CoIs, Liaisons, and Champions

STFC Food Network +

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SFN News

This edition of the SFN Newsletter contains updates about the network, information on forthcoming events, and links to funding opportunities.

Congratulations!

We begin with the news that Sonal Choudhary (SFN 2.0 PI) welcomed her new baby to the world earlier this month. The SFN team would like to send our congratulations and best wishes to Sonal, who will be on maternity leave until 29th March 2021.

Anyone needing to discuss network matters should contact stfcoodnetwork@sheffield.ac.uk in the first instance.

SFN Scoping Projects 2020

Thank you to everyone who submitted a proposal to our call for scoping projects. We were delighted to receive 27 high quality proposals from a wide variety of members. The review process is almost complete and we will be informing project PIs about the outcome in the next week. The list of funded projects will then be announced via our website and social media shortly afterwards.

Virtual Sandpit Winners

Our Sandpit event moved online this year. As with previous Sandpits, the winning projects for each theme are decided by democratic vote and receive funding to deliver their projects. We can now announce that the winners of the SFN Virtual Sandpit 2020 were:

- IoT Enabled Smart Apiary for Remote Auditing and Healthy Production, led by Paulette Elliott, Huduma Limited
- Fraud Indicators: Winning the War on Food Fraud with STFC Data, led by Dr Edward Smart, University of Portsmouth
- Intelligent Data Analytics to Understand Food Consumer Practice during a Food System Shock – The case of Covid-19, led by Dr Laura Wilkinson, University of Swansea

Keep up to date with all of the upcoming opportunities we share on our website [here](#)

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Virtual Sandpit Winners - Continued

You can find out more about our Sandpit winning projects [here](#).

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took part in the Virtual Sandpit. We were very happy with how the Sandpit transitioned to the virtual setting, although we look forward to reconvening in the same physical space as soon as possible.

SFN Blog

Our blog writer, Caroline Wood, has been working very hard over the last month. Thank you Caroline for your hard work!

Our most recent post features the winning projects from the SFN Virtual Sandpit 2020, which received up to £10k each in funding following a democratic vote. See [2020 Sandpit Winners: Adapting food systems to work with uncertainty](#)

Another earlier post tells the story of how the SFN didn't let a global pandemic stop the most recent Sandpit from going ahead by transitioning the whole event online for the first time. See ['Innovation under lockdown: the SFN Sandpit goes virtual!'](#).

The Sandpit is also the subject of a [LinkedIn article](#) that provides some 'Top Tips' for running interactive, people-centred virtual events.

Please feel free to share these articles amongst your networks.

Developing collaborative projects from SFN 1.0

One of the aims of the SFN 2.0 is to develop collaborative grant proposals from scoping projects that took place during SFN 1.0. This process will be led by Shamal Mohammad, SFN Champion for Collaborative Projects, who will be coordinating the formation of working groups and helping connect project teams to new partners. We will shortly be contacting the PIs of scoping projects with more information.

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Events and Webinars

STFC Knowledge Exchange Showcase 2020

13th October, 09:30-12:30

STFC offers a diverse portfolio of knowledge exchange schemes, designed to facilitate the transfer of STFC funded science and technology into commercial applications. This event will highlight the opportunities available to potential applicants in 2021.

Details and registration via: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stfc-knowledge-exchange-2021-webinar-tickets-116383262471>

European Research and Innovation Days

22-24th September

European Research and Innovation Days is the European Commission's annual flagship Research and Innovation event, bringing together policymakers, researchers, entrepreneurs and the public to debate and shape the future of research and innovation in Europe and beyond.

Details and registration via: <https://research-innovation-days.ec.europa.eu/>

IFST Sensory Science Group Webinar: 'Who needs AI when we have HI?'

24th September, 11:00-12:00

A quick introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI), including Machine Learning (ML), and will then share several examples of AI and ML in food and non-food applications within sensory and consumer science.

Details and registration via: <https://www.ifst.org/events/943/sensory-science-group-webinar-who-needs-ai-when-we-have-hi>

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Innovation in Arable Farming: Technologies for Sustainable Farming Systems

19th October, 3 week online programme

Explore how innovative, digital technologies can help achieve sustainable intensification of arable farming systems.

Details and registration via: <https://www.ifst.org/events/950/innovation-in-arable-farming-technologies-for-sustainable-farming-systems>

Future Learn – Free Online Courses

Future Learn run a variety of free, online courses intended for different audiences. Some Examples include:

'Soils: Introducing the World Beneath Our Feet'

A four week course about soils, the variety of life they contain and how humans impact this fragile system. Aimed at undergraduates. More details [here](#).

'Improving Food Production with Agricultural Technology and Plant Biotechnology'

A free course, developed by the University of Cambridge, for 16-19 year olds. Aimed at those interested in food production challenges and technology. Details and registration [here](#).

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Funding Opportunities

Please see below for a list of active and forthcoming funding calls.

Innovate UK

[Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund – Transforming Food Production](#)

The Investor Partnership Programme (part of the TFP) will shortly be launching a competition to encourage investment in innovative companies with technologies that are working towards net-zero. There will be a briefing next month for investors and another later in the year for businesses to apply for the funding.

[Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund – Manufacturing Made Smarter](#)

Deadline: 7th October 2020

This fund aims to encourage the use of digital technologies to enable more efficient, resilient and sustainable UK manufacturing supply chains. Industry-led but academics can act as partners. Feasibility projects from £250-500k. Industrial research projects from £1-3m.

GCRF

[AgriTech Catalyst – Round 10: agriculture and food systems, early stage](#)

Deadline: 21st October 2020

Catalyst funds agritech and food supply chain innovations with partners in eligible African countries. Projects must be between £100-500k.

BBSRC

[Responsive Mode Scheme](#)

Deadline: 30th September 2020, 4pm

Funds innovative bioscience research. Remit and eligibility criteria are available [here](#).

[Transformative Research Technologies \(with EPSRC\)](#)

Deadline: 8th October 2020, 4pm

The theme is the detection and diagnosis of plant and animal diseases, and in particular infectious agents with zoonotic potential. Applications must be for 6-18 months and should not exceed £150k (£187K 100% fEC)

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BBSRC - continued

[Bioinformatics and Biological Resources \(BBR\) Fund](#)

Deadline: 17th November 2020

BBR aims to facilitate the enhancement of bioinformatics and biological resources to support the UK bioscience community. Projects can last up to 5 years with grants awarded at 80% fEC up to £2m.

[Strategic Longer and Larger \(sLoLa\) Grants](#)

Deadline: 17th November 2020, but you must have registered by 30th July 2020

sLoLa grants fund ambitious discovery research that addresses significant fundamental questions in bioscience. Minimum £2m (100% FEC) over 5 years (max. duration).

Other funding opportunities

[European Space Agency – Aspire Programme](#)

Deadline: 18th September 2020

Funds up to €200k for SMEs willing to bring products that use space technologies to the market.

[H2020 Green Deal](#)

Call now open and closes in January 2021. €1bn funds will be made available. All H2020 projects will still be funded even after UK leaves the EU.

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