



Cultivating Wisdom: Agroecology Innovation from Experts in the Field

21st-22nd October 2024

**Birch Community Centre
Manchester and Online**



PROGRAMME

Association of Applied Biologists

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Cultivating wisdom: Agroecology Innovation from Experts in the Field

Birch Community Centre, Brighton Grove, Manchester, M14 5JT

Monday October 21st

0930-1015 Registration opens

1015-1030 TARA WRIGHT, ISOBEL TALKS, JULIA COOPER, GERAINT PARRY
Welcome and Introduction

1030-1200 **Session 1: Diverse Cropping Systems**

Chair: RUTH WADE, University of Leeds

1030-1055 JAKE FREESTONE and JULIA COOPER; Overbury Farms and Organic Research Centre
From Paper To Practice: The Living Mulch Journey

1055-1120 CHARLOTTE BICKLER and DOMINIC AMOS; Organic Research Centre and Cope Seeds
Livecrop: A Networked Approach To Variety Testing On-Farm That Delivers Real-World Results

1120-1135 PAUL ALLISON and HARRY HODGSON; Newcastle University
Effects Of Intermixed Companion Plants On Flea Beetle Density And Herbivory And Crop Yield In A Spring Forage Kale Crop

1135-1200 Panel Discussion

1200-1300 *LUNCH*

1300-1430 **SESSION 2: Soil Health**

Chair: JULIA COOPER, Organic Research Centre

1300-1320 LISA NORTON; Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Pasture-Fed Livestock Systems And Soil Health

1320-1340 LIZZIE SAGOO; ADAS
Mob Grazing: Uk Farm Trails To Assess The Impact And Benefits Of Mob Compared To Conventional Grazing Systems

1340-1355 CHRIS MAUGHAN; Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR), Coventry University
Plant Bioindicators: Towards A Farmer-Centred Agroecological Assessment Of Soil Health

1355-1410 MEGAN HUDSON; Fenland SOIL
Use Of Local Expert Knowledge To Co-Design Catchment Scale Lowland Agricultural Peat Management Opportunities

1410-1430 Panel Discussion

1430-1500 *BREAK*

1500-1600 **WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

Main Hall: Making Research Outputs Useful In The Real World

Community Hall: Soil Testing Workshop led by Jamie Somerville and Mary Silk

External Activity: Visit to Birchfields Park Forest Garden

1600-1730 **SESSION 3: Co-Creation of On-Farm research**

Chair: CHARLOTTE BICKLER, Organic Research Centre

1600-1620 HENNY LOWTH and DAVID MILLER; AHDB and Strategic Cereal Farm South
Conversation about On-Farm Research at an AHDB Strategic Farm

1620-1640 RUTH WADE; University of Leeds
Co-Creating Research To Address Evidence Gaps In Regenerative Agriculture

1640-1655 JANE ACTON and HOLLY EMMENS; Common Flora Ltd
Abundant Life: Collaborative Farmer Led Biodiversity Field Studies

1655-1710 SEBASTIAN PROST and M MARSTON; Northumbria University and Organic Grower
What Is The Role Of (Digital) Technology On Agroecological Farms?

1730-1830 **POSTER SESSION with DRINKS**

1830- **HOT BUFFET with DRINKS**

Tuesday October 22nd

0900-1040 **SESSION 4: Economics of Agroecology**

Chair: Mark Measures (Organic Research Centre)

0900-0920 CHRIS CLARK and BILL GRAYSON; Nethergill Associates and EIYF
Sustainably Farming in a Changing Climate: Commercially & Environmentally

0920-0930 DAVID FINLAY, The Ethical Dairy
Production *and* Profit using a Calf at Foot system

0930-0950 ROWAN DUMPER-POLLARD and REBECCA LAUGHTON; Organic Research Centre
The Missing Numbers: Addressing Financial Data Gaps in Agroecological Farming

0950-1005 KATE DEWALLY; University of East Anglia
Barriers And Opportunities For Farmer Engagement In New Public And Private Nature Finance Streams

1005-1020 ANDY JIN; University of Portsmouth
Farmers' Intentions To Adopt Agroforestry In England: Drivers And Barriers

1020-1040 Panel Discussion

1040-1110 *BREAK*

1110-1230 **SESSION 5: Education and Diversity**

Chair: Tara Wright (Landworkers Alliance)

1110-1125 KATE RUDD

Catalysing local leadership for conscious and regenerative food systems: A participatory action research approach

1125-1140 MARCUS BELLETT TRAVERS; Anglia Ruskin University – Peterborough

The role of the live brief in undergraduate study: Fostering agroecological research through engagement between farmers and young scientists

1140-1155 RACHAEL DURRANT; University of Sussex

Low pay, poor conditions, and a “fear of that being my future”: Women’s journeys into and through agroecology in the UK

1155-1210 MATTHEW WILLIAMS; Jubilee Farm, Antrim and St Marys University

Connecting people to interconnected systems: Farm-based education and agroecology

1210-1230 Panel Discussion

1230-1330 *LUNCH*

1330-1430 **WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

Main Hall: Workshop on the challenges of farmer-participatory research and their solutions

Community Hall: Insect ID Workshop

External Activity: Visit to Platts Field Market Garden

1445-1615 **SESSION 6: Biodiversity**

Chair: Isobel Talks (Landworkers Alliance)

1445-1505 DAISY MARTINEZ and ED KYRKE-SMITH; University of Edinburgh and Rebel Farmer
Bats and beyond; Understanding the benefits of polyculture for biodiversity

1505-1525 LYNN TATNELL; ADAS

Promoting alternative weed control options through the Oper8 network

1525-1545 TOM KEMP; Working Woodlands Cornwall

1545-1600 KELLY JOWETT and ANDY GRAY; Rothamsted Research, McKelly Ltd
True Co-design: Lessons from the SilvoBio project

1600-1620 Panel Discussion

1630-1640 **WRAP UP SESSION and GOODBYE**

POSTER LIST

- P1 **ELIZABETH TREE**, Harper Adams University
The Sustainable Farm Networks Initiative
- P2 **CHARLOTTE ROBB**; Rothamsted Research
Is Regenerative Agriculture The Key To Resilient Mustard Farming?
- P3 **CHRISTIAN GOSSEL**, Organic Research Centre
Integrating Agroforestry Into Regenerative Farming Systems Using Living Labs:
The Reforest Project – 2024 Update
- P4 **RIVER EMILIO ANDERSON**, Pemboa Flower Farm
Pemboa Flower Farm: Growing An Ecological Flower Farm In Harmony With
British Wetland
- P5 **KARINA PONTON**, Cheltenham Borough Council,
Chaga Mushroom (*Inonotus obliquus*)
- P6 **JANE ACTON**, Common Flora
Abundant Life: Collaborative Farmer Led Biodiversity Field Studies
- P7 **JANE MORRIS**, Birchfields Park Forest Garden
Birchfields Park Forest Garden: Local, Natural And Mature Innovation
- P8 **SEBASTIAN PROST**, Northumbria University
What Is The Role Of (Digital) Technology On Agroecological Farms?
- P9 **ZOE GILBERTSON**, Liflad CIC Online
Bioregional Resilience Through Bast Fibres
- P10 **TAO SONG**, China Agricultural University Online
Intercrops Practices Of Smallholder Farmers In Hangjinhou County, China
- P11 **PENELOPE GIOSA**, University of Portsmouth Online
Enhancing Organic Agriculture In England And Scotland: An Empirical Survey
- P12 **PHIL STOCKER**, National Sheep Association Online
Uk Sheep Farming And The Sustainability Agenda