

The World University Network Research Development Framework
[Addressing the impact of heatwaves and drought on food security](#)

**Event: Reaching blue skies for a sustainable future.
Searching for solutions to the impact of future climates on
agriculture and food security.**

A hybrid meeting to be celebrated on 29th and 30th June, 2022

Location: [Sir William Henry Bragg Building](#), Room GR25 (Ground Floor), University of Leeds, LS2 9JT, UK

Organizers: Dr. Yoselin Benitez Alfonso (y.benitez-alfonso@leeds.ac.uk)
Bethan Soanes (bsbks@leeds.ac.uk), Helen Rajabi

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reaching-blue-skies-for-a-sustainable-future-tickets-347042041087>.

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PROGRAMME: DAY ONE – Wednesday 29th June 2022

Zoom link Day 1 (29th June):

<https://universityofleeds.zoom.us/j/81447930545?pwd=MSsrbnVZanppakgwTDJ1N3JMS2E4UT09>

Meeting ID: 814 4793 0545 **Passcode:** %B2Dwn

9.00 – 9.15	Arrival and Coffee
9.15 – 9.30	Welcome & Intro to the event Dr. Yoselin Benitez-Alfonso and Professor Alison Baker <i>Academic coordinators for the WUN RDF network and PIs for ICRISAT-CPS BBSRC partnering award.</i>
Panel 1: Fundamental plant responses to future climates	
9.30 - 9.45	Plant cell-specific strategies to overcome climate stress Dr. Ana Cano-Delgado <i>Centre for Research in Agricultural Genomics. Barcelona. Spain.</i>
9.45- 10.00	Exploring promising candidate genes for plants drought tolerance using functional and translational genomics Dr. Agata Daszkowska-Golec <i>University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland.</i>
10.00 – 10.30	Discussion on priorities highlighted in Panel 1
Panel 2: Interaction among stresses and the microbiome	
10.30 - 10.45	The importance of the plant–microbiome interactions to face climatic change Professor Paula Baptista <i>Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (IPB), Portugal</i>

10.45 - 11.00	Interactive responses of crop growth to elevated CO2 and arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi Professor Xinhua He <i>Southwest University, Chongqing, China and University of Western Australia</i>
11.00 – 11.30	Discussion on priorities highlighted in Panel 2
11.30 – 11.45	<i>Coffee/ screen break</i>
Panel 3: Mitigating the risks of resilient food systems	
11.45 - 12.00	Crop biofortification to increase food security and combat malnutrition – a nutrition perspective Dr. Christine Bosch <i>University of Leeds, UK.</i>
12.00 - 12.15	Successful implementation of genome editing into the UK food system Dr. Gulbanu Kaptan <i>Centre for Decision Research. University of Leeds, UK.</i>
12.15 – 12.45	Discussion on priorities highlighted in Panel 3
12.45 – 13.45	<i>Lunch and Poster Session</i>
Panel 4: Industrial challenges	
13.45 - 14.00	Current & future crop supply: science, policy, and beyond Professor Alison Bentley <i>International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT).</i>
14.00 - 14.15	Achieving yield potential on-farm Dr. Pete Berry <i>Head of Crop Physiology. ADAS</i>
14.15 – 14.45	Discussion on priorities highlighted in Panel 4
14.45 – 15.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
Workshop 1: Crossdisciplinary approaches	
15.00 - 15.15	Mechano-physics of plants under climate change Dr. Yoselin Benitez-Alfonso <i>Centre for Plant Sciences. University of Leeds. UK.</i>
15.15 - 15.30	Title: TBC Dr. Alesia Ofori <i>Research Fellow in Water and Sanitation Governance School of Politics and International Studies. University of Leeds.</i>
15:30-16:00	Discussion: Opportunities outside plant biology
16.00 – 17.00	<i>Poster Session</i>

18:30 – 20.30	<i>Dinner and networking event (Tharavadu restaurant)</i>
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PROGRAMME: DAY TWO – Thursday 30th June 2022

Zoom link Day 2 (30th June)

<https://universityofleeds.zoom.us/j/82608085032?pwd=WGc5by95eGxyaDdoTVpPUXRHK3RsQT09>

Meeting ID: 826 0808 5032 **Passcode:** WB\$ra1

9.00 – 9.15	Arrival and Coffee
9.15 – 9.30	Welcome & Intro to Day 2 Dr. Yoselin Benitez-Alfonso <i>Academic coordinator for the WUN RDF network.</i>
Panel 5: Interventions in Wheat and other Cash Crops	
9.30 - 9.45	Adapting cereal development to changing climates Dr. Laura Dixon <i>Centre for Plant Sciences. University of Leeds. UK</i>
9.45 - 10.00	Tools for the transformation of strawberry in a sustainable and resilient crop to future climate changes Dr. Sara Pose <i>Instituto de Hortofruticultura Subtropical y Mediterránea (IHSM-UMA-CSIC), Universidad de Málaga, Spain</i>
10.00 – 10.30	Discussion on priorities highlighted in Panel 5
Panel 6: Climate and crop modelling approaches	
10.30 - 10.45	Mechanistic mathematical models to understand and mitigate the effect of climate change Dr. Rea Antoniou-Kourounioti <i>University of Glasgow, Scotland</i>
10.45 - 11.00	Multiscale modelling for climate adaptation assessment Dr. Anyela Camargo Rodriguez <i>National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB), UK</i>
11.00 – 11.30	Discussion on priorities highlighted in Panel 6
11.30 – 11.45	<i>Coffee/ screen break</i>
Panel 7: Genomics and legume crops	
11.45 - 12.00	Genomics approaches toward breeding climate resilient peanuts Dr. Manish K. Pandey

	<i>International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, India.</i>
12.00 - 12.15	Effects of high CO₂ on pea growth and stress tolerance Professor Christine H. Foyer <i>University of Birmingham, UK.</i>
12.15 – 12.45	Discussion on priorities highlighted in Panel 7
12.45 – 13.45	<i>Lunch and Poster Session</i>
Writing Workshops	
13.45 - 14.00	Introduction to Parallel Workshops Speaker: Sophia Verhaeghe EU team @Leeds
14.00 - 14.45	Parallel workshops: Workshop 1: Cost Action Grant application Chair: Dr. Katarzyna Sokołowska <i>Uniwersytet Wrocławski, Poland</i> Workshop 2: Review writing Chair: Dr. Azahara C. Martin <i>John Innes Centre, UK</i>
14.45 – 15.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
15.00 - 16.00	Parallel workshops: Continuation
16.00 – 17.00	<i>Concluding remarks and next steps</i>