



XI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON **LOCALISED AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS**

1–4 SEPTEMBER 2026
THE JAMES HUTTON INSTITUTE
ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND, UK



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The James Hutton Institute
in collaboration with the European Research Group SYAL
(Systèmes Alimentaires Localisés / Localised Food Systems),
and the RedSIAL Americana (The Americas Network on
Localised Agri-food Systems)

invites submissions for the

XI International Conference on **Localised Agri-food Systems**

**"Pivoted towards the future:
how can localised food systems be supported and
future-proofed to thrive in the face of current and future
challenges?"**

1st - 4th of September 2026

at the International Land Use Study Centre (ILUSC)
James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen, Scotland.

<https://xi-conferencesyal.com>

SPECIAL FOCUS & THEMES

Societies worldwide face significant social and economic challenges in ensuring the sustainability of its environmental systems, while at the same time making healthy and nutritious food accessible to and consumed by all. Furthermore, the unprecedented threats from climate change, combined with other disruptive events, are making agrifood systems and their related food supply chains increasingly vulnerable to extreme shocks.

While current localised agri-food systems (LFS) can be part of the solution, they themselves are not immune to the many developing issues (e.g. the rise of techno-authoritarianism, state rollback, disinformation, labour shortages worsened by anti-immigration policies, the societal loss of time, poor access to land and the loss of agricultural land to other uses, cost of living crises, etc) arising from very same techno-capitalist regimen to which they are trying to provide an alternative. These crises are interrelated and multidimensional — environmental, economic, social, political and cultural — and they often intersect deeply with issues of gender, generational inequality and territorial marginalisation. As a result, the ability of localised food systems to thrive and become a sustainable part of the solution may be threatened.

The conference is placing special attention on discussing evidence and theory that increases our understanding of where localised food systems are now, their status in different parts of the world, and how to future-proof them. By doing so, the 11th edition of this conference seeks to strengthen dialogues across academia, policy, and civil society, and youth groups with the aim of imagining and working towards plural futures in which localised food systems can thrive and support a sustainable good food system for all.

The key thematic tracks of the XI International Conference on Localised Food Systems would therefore consist of:

- **Mapping Territorial Trajectories of Localised Food System**
- **Territorial Responses to Intersecting Crises**
- **Valuing Localised Food Systems and Local Territories**
- **Facing the Storm Ahead: Future-Proofing Localised Food Systems**

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS & INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

The Call for Abstracts requires the submission of extended abstracts of 3 pages (maximum), according to the procedures and deadlines outlined below. Your abstract should provide a concise overview of your research's purpose, methods, results, and references. In addition, clearly indicate the ways in which your research/contribution addresses issues related to the Conference's themes.

Abstracts should be submitted in English through the Conference website <https://xi-conferencesyal.com>. This website will provide more instructions as well as templates for submitting your abstract.

Your abstracts will be lightly reviewed by two members of the scientific committee. If your abstract is accepted for presentation at the conference, the scientific committee will assign it to one of the 3 presentation formats, below, based on its quality, thematic relevance, the desire of the Scientific Committee to create as much discussion as possible during the conference, and your preference.

- **10' plenary presentation**
- **5' presentation in an interactive session***
- **Poster presentation**

All accepted abstracts will then be included in the Conference program and be sent in advance to all participants in the specific parallel session, once at least one of the abstract authors have registered to participate.

*A session that will be facilitated and crafted to encourage substantive debate around one of the themes.

The long abstracts of all participants presented at the Conference will be published in Conference Proceedings with an ISBN. Selected Papers that, in the opinion of the Scientific Committee, make the greatest contribution to the Conference goal and themes will be published in the same volume. Authors of these papers will be invited to submit a full paper for publication after the Conference, to allow participants to further develop their research.

DEADLINES & KEY DATES

Call launched	20th January 2026
Abstract submission deadline	27th March 2026
Notification of acceptance deadline	30th April 2026
Early bird registration	1st – 31th May 2026
Regular registration	1st June – 20th July 2026
Final date for registration	20th July 2026
Conference dates	1–4 September 2026

REGISTRATION FEES

	Early Bird Rate: 1st – 31th May 2026	Standard rate: 1st June – 20th July 2026
Student (members & non-members)	£120	£150
Academic & practitioners from Latin America, Africa, Asia. (Members)	£220	£240
Academic & practitioners from Latin America, Africa, Asia. (Non-members)	£240	£260
Academic & practitioners (elsewhere) (Members)	£420	£450
Academic & practitioners (elsewhere) (Non-members)	£440	£470

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The James Hutton Institute (TJHI)

Dr. Ana Peña del Valle Isla, TJHI-Invergowrie
 Dr. Alison Karley, TJHI-Invergowrie
 Dr. Elisabeth Dinnie, TJHI-Craigiebuckler
 Dr. Matt Hare, TJHI-Craigiebuckler
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SIAL Latin America

Gonzalo Saavedra Gallo, Universidad Austral de Chile, Chile

Gerardo Torres Salcido UNAM, Mexico

Angelica Espinoza Ortega UAEM, Mexico

CONFERENCE THEMES

Theme 1 – Mapping Territorial Trajectories of Localised Food Systems

Across the world, where are LFS flourishing, where are they under threat, and why? This theme track focuses on understanding the current geography and diversity of localised food systems, and how they are shaped by political, territorial, economic, and cultural conditions.

Key sub-themes may include:

- Comparative territorial analyses of LFS across regions (Global North, Global South, rural, peri-urban, urban)
- Political economies of localisation: state support, state rollback, and technocratic governance
- Land access, land concentration, land grabbing, and loss of agricultural land
- Cultural meanings of “local food” and how they differ across contexts
- The role of history, colonial legacies, and path dependencies in shaping LFS trajectories
- Mapping threats: financialisation, corporate capture, digital platforms, disinformation, and supply-chain consolidation

Guiding questions:

- Under what political and institutional conditions do LFS thrive?
- Where and why are LFS being marginalised or co-opted?
- How do territorial inequalities shape the possibilities of relocalisation?

Theme 2 – Territorial Responses to Intersecting Crises

How are LFS responding to climate, economic, social, and governance crises—and with what outcomes? This theme track seeks to examine real-world responses, innovations, and struggles of LFS in the face of multiple, overlapping crises.

Key sub-themes may include:

- Climate adaptation and mitigation strategies in localised food systems
- Responses to labour shortages, migration restrictions, and demographic change
- Community-based responses to cost-of-living crises and food insecurity

- Governance experiments: food policy councils, municipal food strategies, commons-based governance
- Digitalisation and automation: risks and opportunities
- Crisis responses during shocks (pandemics, wars, climate extremes)

Guiding questions:

- Which responses strengthen resilience, and which reproduce inequalities?
- Who benefits and who is excluded from current LFS responses?
- What lessons can be drawn from failures as well as successes?

Theme 3 – Valuing Localised Food Systems and Local Territories

What is the evidence of LFS contributions to sustainability, justice, and food security? This theme track centres on valuation, recognition, and evidence-building, moving beyond narrow economic metrics.

Key sub-themes may include:

- LFS contributions to resilience, agroecology, biodiversity, and ecosystem services
- LFS and the Right to Food, food sovereignty, and food democracy
- Social and cultural values: care, trust, identity, and knowledge transmission
- Gendered, generational, and Indigenous perspectives on value and contribution
- Measuring and communicating impacts: methodologies, indicators, and narratives
- Tensions between scaling up, scaling out, and staying local

Guiding questions:

- How can the multiple values of LFS be made visible and politically legible?
- What kinds of evidence matter to policymakers, communities, and social movements?
- How do valuation frameworks risk excluding informal or marginalised food practices?

Theme 4 – Facing the Storm Ahead: Future-Proofing Localised Food Systems

How can LFS anticipate and withstand future technological, socio-political, and ecological shocks while remaining just and inclusive? This forward-looking theme track addresses anticipation, preparedness, and transformation.

Key sub-themes may include:

- Anticipating climate extremes, geopolitical instability, and supply-chain disruptions
- Technological futures: AI, automation, digital surveillance, and data governance
- Preventing corporate capture and techno-authoritarian co-optation of LFS
- Intergenerational renewal: youth participation, training, and succession
- Social justice and inclusion in future LFS transitions
- Building solidarity networks across territories and movements

Guiding questions:

- What does “future-proofing” mean without sacrificing justice and sovereignty?
- How can LFS remain adaptive without becoming exclusionary or elitist?

- What institutional and cultural infrastructures are needed for long-term resilience?
- How can technology be harnessed in ways that are supportive of sustainable, community-driven food systems rather than reinforcing centralised power structures?
- What are the opportunities and challenges for integrating local knowledge with new technologies in food production, distribution, and consumption?

VENUE

The **James Hutton Institute** is an interdisciplinary scientific research organisation based in Scotland but working in collaboration across the globe. The institute, named after Scottish geologist James Hutton, one of the leading figures of the Scottish Enlightenment, combines existing Scottish expertise in agricultural research, soils and land use, and works in fields including food and energy security, biodiversity, and climate change. With more than 600 employees, the James Hutton Institute is among the largest research centres in the UK.

For more information about:

The James Hutton Institute: <https://www.hutton.ac.uk/>

The City of Aberdeen: <https://visitabdn.com/>

The Royal Deeside: <https://www.scotlandinfo.eu/royal-deeside/>

CONTACT

Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to email us at:

info@xi-conferencesyal.com