

# Rothamsted PhD Symposium

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

Event Programme

[Click here to join the PhD Symposium](#) - Meeting ID: 444 064 6523 - [More ways to join your meeting](#)  
[Please feel free to ask questions to our Final Year Students and Guest Speakers here](#)



<b>Day 1 – Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022</b>	
09:30am	<b>Registration/Coffee</b> – Conference Centre Plaza
10:00am	<b>Welcome from Andrew Mead Chair of PGC</b> – Fowden Hall
<b>SESSION 1 – Chaired by Mollie Langdon</b> – Fowden Hall	
10:10am	<b>2-minute Poster Introductions</b> <b>7. Victoria Armer</b> (BCP) - Unlocking the door: how <i>Fusarium graminearum</i> exploits plasmodesmata during host-tissue colonisation <b>9. Erika Kroll</b> (BCP) - Using network analysis to investigate host-pathogen interactions between wheat and <i>Fusarium graminearum</i>
10:15am	<b>5-minute Poster Introductions</b> <b>11. Mahassine Arhazzal</b> (SAS-H) - Does wheat select for beneficial soil microbiome when grown under abiotic stresses? <b>13. Tadesse Gashaw Asrat</b> (SAS-H) - Comparison of portable and bench-top soil scanning instruments and calibrations: for fertilizer decision making perspective <b>15. Frank Gyan Okyere</b> (PS) – A neural network based segmentation method for high throughput plant phenotyping <b>17. Bader Oulaid</b> (SAS-H) – Global sensitivity analysis for the calibration of AquaCrop for wheat crops in semi-arid regions
10:35am	<b>Photo Call for all PhD students outside the Centenary Building</b>
10:45am	<b>Poster session and coffee</b> – Fowden Hall and Plaza <b>1. Izayana Sandoval-Carvajal</b> (BCP) - Assessing the genetic diversity of UK strains of barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV) <b>3. Lisa Humbert</b> (BCP) - Fungal sex factors as novel antifungal compounds for control of plant disease <b>5. Sandra Lucia Cortes Patiño</b> (BCP) - Herbivore-plant-soil microbe interactions: who is helping whom <b>7. Victoria Armer</b> (BCP) - Unlocking the door: how <i>Fusarium graminearum</i> exploits plasmodesmata during host-tissue colonisation <b>9. Erika Kroll</b> (BCP) - Using network analysis to investigate host-pathogen interactions between wheat and <i>Fusarium graminearum</i> <b>11. Mahassine Arhazzal</b> (SAS-H) - Does wheat select for beneficial soil microbiome when grown under abiotic stresses? <b>13. Tadesse Gashaw Asrat</b> (SAS-H) - Comparison of portable and bench-top soil scanning instruments and calibrations: for fertilizer decision making perspective <b>15. Frank Gyan Okyere</b> (PS) – A neural network based segmentation method for high throughput plant phenotyping <b>17. Bader Oulaid</b> (SAS-H) – Global sensitivity analysis for the calibration of AquaCrop for wheat crops in semi-arid regions
<b>SESSION 2 – Chaired by Dr Sarah Raffan</b> – Fowden Hall	
	<b>Final Year Talks</b> – <a href="#">Ask questions here</a>
<b>11:15am</b>	<b>27. Anastasia Sokolidi</b> (BCP) - SMART Detection of airborne pathogens for improved disease management in the UK tomato industry
<b>11:35am</b>	<b>29. Henry Tidd</b> (BCP) - Characterisation of major genes mediating resistance to <i>Septoria Tritici</i> blotch disease in wheat
<b>11:55am</b>	<b>31. Manpartik S. Gill</b> (PS) - Regulation of canopy architecture in wheat by modulating brassinosteroid pathway genes

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12:15pm	<b>Guest Speaker – Chaired by Claire Kanja – Fowden Hall - <a href="#">Ask questions here</a></b> <b>Julian Smith – Science Director, Rothamsted Research - Science, partnerships and careers – my time in international development</b>
13:00pm	Lunch Break
<b>SESSION 3 – Chaired by Dr Maria Oszvald – Fowden Hall</b>	
14:00pm	<b>5-minute Poster Introductions</b> <b>19. James Brett (PS)</b> - A major QTL for high fibre in wheat <b>21. Gavers Oppong (PS)</b> - A comparative cross-omics analysis of anaerobic germination tolerance in rice <b>23. William Rickard (SAS-H)</b> - Structural and hydraulic properties of the extended soil phenotypes on highfield <b>25. Munisath Khandoker (SAS-H)</b> – Can smartphone applications revolutionise how we measure soil health?
	<b>Final Year Talks - <a href="#">Ask questions here</a></b>
14:20pm	<b>33. Mesfin Kebede Desta (PS)</b> - Linking adsorption – desorption characteristics with grain Zn concentrations and uptake by teff, wheat and maize in different landscape positions in Ethiopia
14:40pm	<b>35. Petros Sigalas (PS)</b> - Wheat tillering control in response to n supply: the case of strigolactones
15:00pm	<b>37. Rohan Richard (PS)</b> - Exploiting variation in grain protein content and quality to determine effects of environment on processing quality
15:20pm	<b>Poster session and coffee – Fowden Hall and Plaza</b> <b>1. Izayana Sandoval-Carvajal (BCP)</b> - Assessing the genetic diversity of UK strains of barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV) <b>3. Lisa Humbert (BCP)</b> - Fungal sex factors as novel antifungal compounds for control of plant disease <b>5. Sandra Lucia Cortes Patiño (BCP)</b> - Herbivore-plant-soil microbe interactions: who is helping whom <b>19. James Brett (PS)</b> - A major QTL for high fibre in wheat <b>21. Gavers Oppong (PS)</b> - A comparative cross-omics analysis of anaerobic germination tolerance in rice <b>23. William Rickard (SAS-H)</b> - Structural and hydraulic properties of the extended soil phenotypes on highfield <b>25. Munisath Khandoker (SAS-H)</b> – Can smartphone applications revolutionise how we measure soil health?
15:50pm	<b>Session 4 – Training Session for students with Leanne Gunn - Fowden Hall</b>
17:20pm	Close of day 1
18:00	<b>'Pizza at the Pav' - Students only</b>

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<b>Day 2 – Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022</b>	
09:30am	<b>Registration/Coffee</b> – Conference Centre Plaza
<b>SESSION 5 – Chaired by Victoria Armer</b> – Fowden Hall	
10:00am	<b>2-minute Poster Introductions</b> <b>8. Heike Rolker</b> (SAS-NW) - A systems perspective on food waste: identifying determinants, impacts and trade-offs in low- and middle-income countries <b>10. Ed Pyne</b> (BCP) - Leveraging antagonistic interactions of wood decay fungi as biocontrol of the destructive forest pathogen <i>Armillaria</i>
10:05am	<b>5-minute Poster Introductions</b> <b>12. Sophia Bahddou</b> (SAS-H) - Runoff and soil erosion under different soil surface roughness <b>14. Beth Roberts</b> (SAS-H) - Quantifying the true costs of farming systems <b>16. Daniel Kingsley Cudjoe</b> (PS) - Using proximal sensing parameters linked to the photosynthetic capacity to assess the nutritional status and yield potential in quinoa <b>18. Owen Thornton</b> (SAS-H) - Bioprospecting for plant growth promoting microbes: Rich seams in long-term agricultural field experiments?
	<b>Final Year Talks</b> - <a href="#">Ask questions here</a>
<b>10:25am</b>	<b>28. Claire Kanja</b> (BCP) - An 'effective' way to infect your host
<b>10:45am</b>	<b>30. Jesus Castillo</b> (SAS-H) - Intensification of rice-livestock systems, how sustainable is it in terms of nitrogen
<b>11:05am</b>	<b>32. Mandy Kao</b> (SAS-NW) - is the form (organic/inorganic) of mineral supplement to sheep a significant factor to the availability of micronutrients to grass from soil applied with the sheep excreta?
11:25am	<b>Poster session and coffee</b> – Fowden Hall and Plaza <b>2. Hannah Romanowski</b> (BCP) - Is being smooth the new trend? <b>4. Aishwarya Shankhapal</b> (PS) - Mesocotyl elongation for direct seeding of rice varieties <b>6. Leena Sarah Farhat</b> (Bangor University) - Bringing big-data to social science <b>8. Heike Rolker</b> (SAS-NW) - A systems perspective on food waste: identifying determinants, impacts and trade-offs in low- and middle-income countries <b>10. Ed Pyne</b> (BCP) - Leveraging antagonistic interactions of wood decay fungi as biocontrol of the destructive forest pathogen <i>Armillaria</i> <b>12. Sophia Bahddou</b> (SAS-H) - Runoff and soil erosion under different soil surface roughness <b>14. Beth Roberts</b> (SAS-H) - Quantifying the true costs of farming systems <b>16. Daniel Kingsley Cudjoe</b> (PS) - Using proximal sensing parameters linked to the photosynthetic capacity to assess the nutritional status and yield potential in quinoa <b>18. Owen Thornton</b> (SAS-H) - Bioprospecting for plant growth promoting microbes: Rich seams in long-term agricultural field experiments?
<b>11:55am</b>	<b>Guest Speaker – Chaired by Mollie Langdon</b> - Fowden Hall - <a href="#">Ask questions here</a> <b>Dr Joanna Scales</b> - Project Lead, AgriFood Africa Connect - <b>What's next?</b>
12:35pm	Lunch Break

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<b>SESSION 6 – Chaired by Dr Guillaume Menard – Fowden Hall</b>	
14:00am	<b>5-minute Poster Introductions</b> <b>20. Marieme Drame</b> (SAS-NW) - Inclusion of urease inhibitors with urea to effectively reduce ammonia emissions from soil at high temperatures <b>22. Joseph Oddy</b> (PS) - Genetic and environmental regulation of free asparagine in wheat grain <b>24. Imane El Fartassi</b> (SAS-H) - Agent-based modelling of crop management <b>26. Musa Kisiriko</b> (CAS) - Agricultural bioproducts from medicinal and aromatic plants
	<b>Final Year Talks - <a href="#">Ask questions here</a></b>
<b>14:20pm</b>	<b>34. Mollie Langdon</b> (PS) - Unlocking the potential of the pod: increasing seed yields by modulating seed number and seed size
<b>14:40pm</b>	<b>36. Rahul Nitnavare</b> (PS) - Identifying novel variation in nitrogen use efficiency and its physiological and genetic basis in wheat
<b>15:00pm</b>	<b>38. Tom Oliver</b> (CAS) - The impact of novel insecticides on bumblebee flight capabilities
<b>15:20pm</b>	<b>Poster session and coffee – Fowden Hall and Plaza</b> <b>2. Hannah Romanowski</b> (BCP) - Is being smooth the new trend? <b>4. Aishwarya Shankhapal</b> (PS) - Mesocotyl elongation for direct seeding of rice varieties <b>6. Leena Sarah Farhat</b> (Bangor University) - Bringing big-data to social science <b>20. Marieme Drame</b> (SAS-NW) - Inclusion of urease inhibitors with urea to effectively reduce ammonia emissions from soil at high temperatures <b>22. Joseph Oddy</b> (PS) - Genetic and environmental regulation of free asparagine in wheat grain <b>24. Imane El Fartassi</b> (SAS-H) - Agent-based modelling of crop management <b>26. Musa Kisiriko</b> (CAS) - Agricultural bioproducts from medicinal and aromatic plants <b>40. Alexander Borg</b> (BCP) - Elucidating the mechanisms of aphid resistance in <i>Triticum monococcum</i> L. (poaceae)
<b>16:00pm</b>	<b>VOTING OPENS – <a href="#">Students only, please vote for best in category here!</a></b>
<b>16:00pm</b>	<b>Feedback and close of symposium – Andrew Mead – Fowden Hall</b>