Guy Poppy

Professor Guy Poppy is a Professor of Ecology in Biological Sciences and Associate Vice President Interdisciplinary Research (Interim) at the University of Southampton. He has significant experience in food system research. He is also Director of the UKRI Transforming UK Food Systems for Healthy People and a Healthy Environment Programme.

Professor Poppy has significant research experience in food system research and has advised governments around the world. He recently stepped down after 6 years as the Food Standards Agency (FSA) Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA).

He has recently been appointed Companion of the Order of the Bath in the 2021 Queen’s Birthday Honours for services to Food Safety and Security.

A graduate of Imperial College and Oxford University, Professor Poppy previously worked at Rothamsted Research for 10 years where he undertook pioneering work on the environmental risks of GM crops leading to a lifelong interest of working at the Science/Policy interface. He left in 2001 to join the University of Southampton where he has been Head of Biological Sciences, where he managed an annual budget of £14 million, more than 1500 staff and students and led the School into a new £45 million Life Sciences building in 2010, whilst improving REF performance in particular impact. As the FSA’s Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Poppy provided expert scientific advice to the UK government and played a critical role in helping to understand how scientific developments will shape the work of the FSA as well as the strategic implications of any possible changes.

Judy Buttriss

Director General of the British Nutrition Foundation since 2007; previously the Science Director (1998-2007). Professor Buttriss is a public health nutritionist, specialising in nutrition science communication and provision of targeted advice on the application of science to underpin nutrition strategies. She originally trained as a dietitian. She has longstanding links with several universities and, in 2018, was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the Nutrition Society and is a Fellow and past trustee of the Association for Nutrition. She has contributed to the work of a number of government committees, most recently the Family Food Survey user group and committees concerning nutrient profiling, school food standards and the eatwell guide. She has recently been appointed to the UK Nutrition and Health Claims Committee (UKNHCC) chairs BBSRC’s DRINC Steering Group and is a member of MRC’s UK Nutrition Research Partnership committee. She has first-hand experience of a number of food issues and their interaction with public health. She has written numerous reviews, articles and book chapters on a wide range of diet and health topics, as diverse as health claims, plant foods and health, child nutrition, healthy ageing, and environmentally sustainable diets.
Simon Griffiths

Simon Griffiths is a group Leader at the John Innes Centre, an independent, international centre of excellence in plant science, genetics and microbiology. This institute fosters a creative, curiosity-driven approach to fundamental questions in bio-science, with a view to translating that into societal benefits. Over the last 110 years, they have achieved a range of fundamental breakthroughs, resulting in major societal impacts.

Simon is a wheat geneticist leading pre-breeding elements of the BBSRC Institute Strategic Programme (ISP) called Designing Future Wheat (DFW). This work gives plant breeders the tools needed to deploy new and useful genetic variation that has been discovered within DFW. These tangible outputs of the programme are improved wheat cultivars (germplasm), molecular markers needed to select beneficial genes and alleles, and the associated knowledge needed to exploit the new trait. In the context of this meeting the best examples are wheat with increased: dietary fibre content, iron and zinc.

Nafees Meah

Nafees Meah is a regional representative for South Asia for the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). He works with governments of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries, including Nepal, Bangladesh, and India to represent and coordinate IRRI’s programs regionally. He also leads the development of a regional strategy and supports the development of individual country strategies for IRRI’s research, outreach, training, and resource mobilization activities in consultation with key universities, civil society organizations, and international donors and organizations.

Dr Nafees Meah was educated as a chemist at the Universities of Manchester, Toronto, London and Cambridge and joined the Chief Scientist’s Group at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in 1988. There he managed research programmes on food safety, nutrition and environmental contamination of food. Following that, he was a senior policy maker in Defra working on the environmental impact of food production and on climate change and food security. He then served as Head of Science at the Department of Energy and Climate Change, before becoming the director of the UK Research Councils (RCUK) India from 2012 to 2016. During his time there, Nafees developed a program of activities to deliver the organization’s strategy for deeper research and innovation engagement with India. He is also a recognized expert on sustainable agriculture, food security, and climate change.
Barbara Bray

Barbara Bray is currently a director for the Oxford Farming Conference, the leading international conference held in the UK for farming and agribusiness. She also works as a consultant focusing on food safety, which involves supporting small and medium food producers to implement food safety standards and training staff in disciplines such as auditing and risk assessments. Barbara runs strategy workshops to help companies find ways to introduce sustainable nutrition practices into their business and speaks at events covering topics on nutrition and the food industry. She has 20 years’ experience working in the agri-food sector in the UK and Europe, Middle East and African countries. Her career has covered fresh produce procurement and the provision of food safety advice and nutritional compliance information as Technical Manager with Bakkavor, an international food manufacturer. She regularly chairs meetings on nutrition and speaks at events on the subject of food production and nutrition.

In 2017, Barbara was awarded a Nuffield Farming Scholarship and her project on ‘Vegetable Production for Specific Nutritional Need’ reviewed biofortification initiatives and food policies in countries including China, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. Barbara was awarded an MBE in the 2019 Birthday Honours list for ‘Services to Food Nutrition’.

Maggie Gill

Professor Maggie Gill, OBE, FRSE is an emeritus Professor in the School of Biology, University of Aberdeen. From 2014 to 2019 Maggie was Chair of the Independent Science and Partnership Council of the CGIAR (a consortium of international agricultural research centres). She currently chairs an EU Think Tank for the project Fit4Food 2030 and the Science Advisory Panel of the New Zealand Government’s Our Land and Water National Challenge. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Royal Society of Biology and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society.

Maggie was Chief Scientific Advisor for the Environment and Rural Affairs in the Scottish Government from 2006 to 2011, after serving as CEO and Research Director of the Macaulay Institute (one of the predecessors of the James Hutton Institute). She went to the Macaulay after four years as CEO of Natural Resources International Ltd, a company owned by four universities which was spun out of the privatisation of the Natural Resources Institute (originally part of the UK Government Overseas Development Administration). Maggie is passionate about bringing the policy and science communities closer together to help accelerate the use of knowledge in helping to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals.
Laura Pereira

Laura is currently a senior researcher working on the Programme on Climate Smart Livestock in East Africa (PCSL) at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development at Utrecht University where she is also the co-PI of the CCAFS scenarios project. She is also affiliated to the Stockholm Resilience Centre where she is involved in work on sustainability transformations and futures, starting a Formas project in 2021 on 'Seeding transformative futures for people and nature in Africa.'

Having completed her DPhil in Geography at Oxford University in 2012, she undertook post-docs in sustainability science at Harvard’s Kennedy School and under the Bioeconomy chair at the University of Cape Town before moving to Stellenbosch University to research development in the Anthropocene. She is interested in the interface between traditional knowledge and innovation, the role of futures techniques in transformative change and developing innovative methods for knowledge co-production in developing country contexts. Her work uses the food system to unpack broader challenges and solutions to the complexity of governance for sustainability transformations.

Laura sits on the IPBES Task Force on scenarios and models and is a member of the FACCE-JPI Scientific Advisory Board. She maintains an extraordinary appointment at the Centre for Complex Systems in Transition at Stellenbosch University.

Paul Haggarty

Professor Haggarty is Deputy Director of the University of Aberdeen Rowett Institute of Nutrition and Health. He has over 30 years’ research experience in the field of nutrition and human health and has collaborated with many groups in the UK and internationally. He has worked in low and middle income countries such as India and Mexico on nutritional metabolism, dietary requirements, and the impact of disease on these. He was a Fulbright Senior Research Scholar (Cornell University, USA).

He is a member of the UK Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) which advises Public Health England and other UK government organisations on nutrition and related health matters affecting the UK population. He Chairs the SACN Working Group on Saturated Fats and is a member of the SACN Working Groups on Folic Acid and Nutrition and Cognitive Impairment. He is a member of the UK BBSRC Bioscience for Health Strategy Panel and contributes to an ESRC/BBSRC cross council initiative designed to bring together the social and biological sciences in the area of epigenetics. He was a member of the EU Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life Nutrition and Cognitive Function and Biomarker Assessment Panels.