

Fera Science Symposium 2024 Programme




Innovation Through Partnership

This year, Fera will be joined by a select group of thought leaders, innovators, and industry experts who will drive key conversations on topics including regenerative agriculture, biopesticides, soil health, food systems, and natural capital.

Register your place here: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1023519703987







Tuesday 5th November: Day One

Symposium Opening

9:30 - 10:00	Registrations and Coffee	
10:00 - 10:10	Fera welcome	 Andrew Swift (CEO, Fera Science)
10:10 - 10:30	The environmental cost of food production - The mess we're in	 Andrew Swift (CEO, Fera Science)








Session 1: Regenerative Agriculture & Biopesticides

Session Chair: Ben Jones

10:30 - 10:50	Nestlé and regenerative agriculture	 Cécile Doinel (Regenerative Agriculture Program Manager, Nestlé Purina Europe)
10:50 - 11:00	Sprayed dsRNA technology: A new frontier in biopesticides for virus control	 Omnia Elshorbagy (Newcastle University)
11:00 - 11:10	Developing biopesticides for the control of lepidopteran pests	 Daniil Baranov (IAFRI)
11:10 - 11:20	The effects of microbial biopesticides on honey bees	 Izzy Hall (IAFRI)
11:20 - 11:30	Q&A panel session	 Chairing: Ben Jones (Fera)
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee and networking	 Coffee and networking

Session 2: Innovation in Soil

Session Chair: Valeria Orlando

12:00 - 12:15	Swings and roundabouts: Interactions between cover crops and plant parasitic nematodes	 Matthew Back (Harper Adams University)
12:15 - 12:25	Using nematodes as bioindicators of soil health	 Bex Lawson (Fera)
12:25 - 12:35	Agri diagnostics: Sensing for early detection and quantification for crop and soil health	 Sophia Long (IAFRI)
12:35 - 12:45	Microbiome analysis of soils from a long-term experiment	 Michael Parr (Fera)
12:45 - 12:55	Enhanced rock weathering as carbon dioxide removal: the challenge of monitoring the inorganic carbon cycle in soils	 Dr. Tom Reershemius (Newcastle University)
12:55 - 13:00	Q&A session	 Chairing: Valeria Orlando (Fera)
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch, posters & tours	

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Session 3a: Industry Session - Enigma

Session Chair: Adam Bedford

● 14:00 - 14:05	Enigma and Fera innovation for industry	👤 Adam Bedford (Fera)
● 14:05 - 14:20	Wireworms I & II	👤 Larissa Collins (Fera)
● 14:20 - 14:30	Industry perspective	👤 Adam North (Pearce Seeds)
● 14:30 - 14:45	Cabbage stem flea beetle & new approaches	👤 Hannah Fenton (Fera)
● 14:45 - 15:00	Oilseed rape reboot campaign	👤 James Warner (Managing Director, United Oilseeds)
● 15:00 - 15:30	Q&A panel session	👤 Chair: Adam Bedford (Fera)
● 15:30 - 16:00	Coffee	☕

Session 3b: Industry Session – Supply and Demand of Natural Capital

Session Chair: Curtis McKnight

● 16:00 - 16:05	Setting the scene	👤 Curtis McKnight (Fera)
● 16:05 - 16:20	Landowners	👤 Mark Cunliffe-Lister (Swinton Estate)
● 16:20 - 16:30	Outcomes of research projects into farmer and landowners' attitude to green finance	👤 Dalton Baltazar (Fera)
● 16:30 - 17:00	Open discussion	👤 Industry partners
● 17:00 - 18:00	Networking at Fera with nibbles and drinks	🍷
● 20:00 - 00:00	Evening get together at Brew York for those who want to meet up in York (https://brewyork.co.uk/venues/venue-york/)	







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Wednesday 6th November: Day Two






Session 4: Innovation in Food

Session Chair: Rosario Romero

8:30 - 9:00	Arrival and coffee	
9:00 - 9:30	Regenerative agriculture, carbon claims and hitting net zero - the art of the possible	 Dr. Chetan Parmar (Senior Vice President Europe & Asia, FoodChain ID)
9:30 - 9:50	The opportunities in alternative proteins	 Professor Clare Mills (The University of Surrey)
10:00 - 10:10	Green waste to food grade protein: case study for the use of Rubisco in food production	 Jack Pattinson (IAFRI)
10:10- 10:20	Honey Authenticity - Validation of Fera Nuclear Magnetic Resonance honey database	 Lucy Brown (Fera)
10:20- 10:30	Things that go bump in the night; anomalous results in interlaboratory study data	 Mark Sykes (Fera)
10:30 - 10:40	PATH-SAFE: On-site diagnostics for foodborne pathogen detection	 Manisha Gupta (Fera)
10:40 - 10:50	Q&A panel session	 Chairing: Rosario Romero (Fera)
10:50 - 11:20	Coffee and networking	 Coffee and networking

Session 5: Student Session

Session Chair: Neil Boonham

11:20- 11:55	Early researcher flash talks	 Celestine Oudori, Will Dawson, Tom Gill, Maria Lazari, Yue Lin Loh, Daisy Ivel, Sarah Wiggins
11:55 - 12:05	Using mesocosm experiments to investigate the impact of herbicide exposure on macrophyte community composition and long term recovery	 Isabel Navarro (Fera)
12:05- 12:45	Science Slam!	 Mog Wodring, Samuel Hutchins Daff Matthew Fieldwick, Kinda Alraiss
12:45 - 12:50	Science Slam voting	 Beth Adams (Fera)
12:50 - 13:50	Lunch & posters	

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Session 6a: Innovation in Detection & Diagnostics

Session Chair: Phil Northing

● 13:50 - 14:05	Plant and Bee health: R&D Strategy	● Richard McIntosh (Assistant Chief Plant Health Officer, Defra)
● 14:05 - 14:20	Can environmental sampling at inspection points pick up hidden risks?	● Ed Haynes (Fera)
● 14:20 - 14:30	Innovations in microfluidic LAMP testing for regulated pests and pathogens	● Sarah Sommer (Newcastle University) & Ashleigh Elliot (Fera)
● 14:30 - 14:45	Assessing the deployment readiness of diagnostic tests	● Jenny Tomlinson (Fera)
● 14:45 - 15:00	Asian Hornets: VespAI	● Dr. Thomas O'Shea Wheller (Exeter University)
● 15:00 - 15:20	Innovation in Defra	● Justine Bejta (Deputy CSA, Science and Analysis Group)
● 15:20 - 15:45	Panel discussion with key stakeholders & scientists	● Phil Northing (Fera)
● 15:45 - 16:10	Coffee	☕

Session 6b: Innovation in Outbreak Response

Session Chair: Izzy Hall & Yue Lin Loh

● 16:10 - 16:20	Debating insect welfare	● Dr. Vivek Nityananda (Newcastle University)
● 16:20 - 16:30	Population genetics of Yellow Legged Hornets	● Sarah Griffin (IAFRI)
● 16:30 - 16:40	Investigating sources of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus in the environment.	● Aimee Fowkes (Fera)
● 16:40 - 16:50	Mating disruption for the control of oak processionary moth	● Neil Audsley (Fera)
● 16:50 - 17:10	Q&A discussion panel	● Phil Northing (Fera)
● 17:10 - 17:30	Closing remarks and prizes	● David Phillips Chief Scientific Officer (Fera)

End of Symposium