



ADVANCE NOTICE PRESS RELEASE
26/10/2020

Biggest ever global online agroecology event to tackle broken food system

THE Oxford Real Farming Conference (ORFC) will host its biggest ever global online event for agroecological farmers, growers and food producers between 7-13 January 2021, in an urgent bid to fix our broken food system.

ORFC Global 2021 will bring together thousands of delegates, including leading voices in agroecological, organic and regenerative agriculture. The aim is to catalyse radical action in the face of multiple global threats including climate change, biodiversity loss, soil degradation, poverty and Covid-19.

Colin Tudge, co-founder of the ORFC, argues that present-day, hyper-industrialised agriculture is a prime cause of all the world's ills, from climate change and mass extinction to poverty and ill-health – and that to put it right we have to re-think everything else as well, including the economy and our moral attitudes.

Colin says: "It should be eminently possible to provide good food for everyone without wrecking the natural world, and without cruelty or injustice.

"We just need to apply the principles of agroecology and food sovereignty - which in general means low-input, mixed farms with plenty of farmers and growers on small to medium-sized farms, geared primarily to local markets.

"Instead the world's most powerful governments, corporates, and financiers are promoting the complete opposite - high-input monocultures with minimum to zero labour on the largest possible scale, geared to profit in the global market.

"We need to turn things around fast and since our leaders have taken the wrong tack, people who give a damn - and especially farmers - must do what's needed for ourselves."

Early bird tickets to ORFC Global 2021 are on sale now until 18 November, and places are limited: orfc.org.uk/book-tickets

ORFC Global 2021 will showcase more than 150 hours of talks and workshops for farmers, growers, activists, policy-makers, researchers and anyone else who supports a better food and farming system: orfc.org.uk [#ORFCGlobal](https://twitter.com/ORFCGlobal)

ENDS

Notes to editors

Contact:

Sarah Buckingham, Communications Coordinator
Real Farming Trust sarah@realfarming.org 07543 090731

Photos: <https://cloud.realfarming.org/index.php/s/LbTfLNza5dHWk5R>

Oxford Real Farming Conference orfc.org.uk

The Oxford Real Farming Conference (ORFC) has grown swiftly from its beginnings in January 2010, when 80 people gathered in Oxford for a half-day event. Over the course of 11 years it has developed into the unofficial conference of the *real* food and farming movement in the UK. In 2021 the conference will be worldwide, with 5,000 delegates from six continents expected to attend the seven-day online gathering.

Colin Tudge

A biologist by education and a writer by trade, Colin worked for Farmers Weekly, New Scientist, and BBC Radio 3 before going freelance in 1990. He's the author of 15 books on natural history, evolution, genetics, ecology – and, in particular, on nutrition, cooking, and agriculture. Together with his wife Ruth West he began the Campaign for Real Farming in 2008, which gave rise to the Oxford Real Farming Conference.

Real Farming Trust

Probably best known for running the Oxford Real Farming Conference, the Real Farming Trust supports a new generation of farmers who care about providing good food for everyone, forever, without cruelty or injustice and without adversely affecting other people or the biosphere. This means supporting projects that adopt agroecological methods of farming, seek to localise supply chains, revive local economies, protect and enhance the environment and through all of these elements bring about positive social impact in the local communities they serve.

The charity runs funding and mentoring programmes for agroecological food and farming businesses including the [Loans for Enlightened Agriculture Programme](#). It also provides the secretariat for the [All-Party Parliamentary Group \(APPG\) on Agroecology](#).

Agroecology

Read more about [agroecology](#) on the APPG website.