

ADVANCE NOTICE
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A crucial time for food and farming as groups representing millions gather online

The Oxford Real Farming Conference (ORFC) 4-6 January 2023 is set to be the largest and most diverse gathering of the agroecological and regenerative farming movement in the event's history.

The discussions come at a critical time, in the wake of the failures of COP27 and COP15 to take decisive radical action in the face of multiple crises across nature, climate, food and farming.

The programme has been brought together with partners across six continents who represent millions of small-scale farmers, food producers and activists around the world, including under-represented voices and those in marginalised communities.

Morgan Ody, General Coordinator of La Via Campesina, the peasant movement representing 200 million small-scale food producers worldwide, said:

"ORFC is an important moment: right at the beginning of the year it brings together farmers and other people involved in rural issues from all over the world to discuss topics which are highly relevant in today's society such as food sovereignty, peasant agroecology and food production in a context of conflict and militarisation."

Naomi Starkman, Editor-in-Chief at Civil Eats in the US, said:

"The Oxford Real Farming Conference digs deep into the issues affecting farming communities and inspires a collaborative vision of diverse, resilient, and equitable food and farming systems, creating a platform for voices that would otherwise go unheard. Civil Eats is glad to participate in the online ORFC programme because we believe it will offer an unparalleled opportunity to connect grassroots communities working towards food, land, and climate justice across the globe."

Sarojeni Rengam, director of Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PANAP), said:

"Youth, indigenous peoples and farmers in Asia, and internationally, are working to practise and promote agroecology to eliminate highly hazardous pesticides. These pesticides cause massive human and environmental adverse impacts, with 385 million workers, farmers, women and vulnerable people suffering the consequences. ORFC is an important venue to share the struggles and the victories of the people's actions for agroecology."

Million Belay, General Coordinator of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, said:

"The Oxford Real Farming Conference is a singularly significant gathering that ushers in the new year with a plethora of opportunities for social movements from around the world to come together

to generate knowledge and expand the frontier of consciousness towards just and resilient food systems, challenge the status quo that is causing the multilayered crises, and, most importantly, herald the much-needed hope, insights, and practical wisdom that will help solve these pressing problems.”

Jyoti Fernandes, Policy and Campaigns Coordinator at Landworkers' Alliance (UK), said:

“ORFC is an opportunity for all those working to transform our food and farming systems here in the UK and across the globe to make meaningful and lasting connections, to share ideas and experiences, to educate, inspire and to mobilise. We live in a time of intersecting crises, and the need to come together in person to build momentum has arguably never been greater. The LWA is excited to be hosting our own room at ORFC once again, and our programme this year includes sessions on topics from local food systems and farmer-led research to international struggles for land justice.”

Jessica Hutchings, a leader in Indigenous food systems and Māori food sovereignty in Aotearoa New Zealand, said:

“ORFC is an important opportunity to come together globally to inspire a revisioning of farming futures that is in line with nature and the planet. I am grateful to have the opportunity to share the Hua Parakore - an Indigenous Māori organic verification system - based on the ancient wisdoms of our ancestors, which is seeing Māori families and communities recover their role as small-scale food farmers feeding their communities.”

Francesca Price, ORFC Director, said:

“We’re excited to bring together so many different voices from around the world to see the inspiring and innovative ways that the regenerative farming movement is moving forward, despite the challenges. The online audience will hear from a diverse range of speakers, from farmers under occupation in Ukraine and Palestine, to indigenous youth in Asia and Africa helping their communities to adopt agroecology to overcome the devastating impact of pesticides and climate change.”

In person tickets to ORFC 2023 are now sold out. [Online tickets](#) give access to more than 70 sessions including live-streamed content direct from Oxford, with recordings available for replay straight away. orfc.org.uk

ENDS

Notes to editors

[ORFC 2023 Online Programme](#)

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Images

[ORFC 2023 comms pack](#)

Free tickets for majority world countries

[Free online tickets](#) are available to all those in majority world countries. This is defined as anywhere outside Western Europe, the US, Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. We work with the interpretation collective, COATI, to make sure sessions are accessible.

Oxford Real Farming Conference (ORFC)

The [Oxford Real Farming Conference](#) brings together farmers, growers, activists, policymakers and researchers who want to transform our food and farming system. In 2021 the conference went global and attracted close to 5,500 delegates. In 2023 ORFC will be hybrid for the first time, with in-person sessions in Oxford and an online programme for thousands to access across the world.

Follow ORFC on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#) for news and speaker announcements.

Real Farming Trust

The ORFC is a programme of the [Real Farming Trust](#). The Trust provides spaces for new ideas and partnerships to flourish, funds small-scale community food and farming, and works to build the evidence base for [agroecology](#).