University of Reading

AGRI FOOD FUTURES

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP FOR GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

Our vision is that everyone across the world is able to consume a sufficient, healthy, sustainable diet that leaves the lightest possible footprint on the planet.

AGRIFOOD FUTURES

Agrifood Futures is a new, ambitious research strategy. It will be a major driver of change in the way we produce, consume and think about food as we move towards 2050. It builds on the University of Reading's reputation for research excellence in agriculture and food and our work with global partners.

Current and future national and global challenges include climate-driven disruption of food production, rising levels of malnutrition and hunger, and the degradation of natural resources.

As a global leader in agrifood research and teaching, the University of Reading is taking action.

A food system approach

Our systems-wide perspective will be essential for addressing challenges in the interconnected and ever-evolving global food system. With deep expertise across the food system, we are well-placed to drive change.

Co-created solutions

Agrifood Futures will deliver co-created knowledge and solutions with stakeholders from across our food system. Our research will unlock innovation and drive the transformation needed to create an equitable, resilient and sustainable global food system for 2050.

Inclusive partnerships

Collaboration and co-creation are integral to our approach. Agrifood Futures will build on our track record of impactful inter- and transdisciplinary research and global collaboration to tackle some of the planet's most pressing issues. We will partner with agrifood businesses, academic institutions, third sector and public sector organisations to deliver comprehensive solutions to the planetary challenges we face.

Investment in transformation

We have a proven track record of using our excellent teaching and research facilities to address pressing challenges in the global food system. To realise Agrifood Futures, the University will be investing substantially in leadership, a new integrated research and innovation farm, laboratory facilities and the latest technologies to achieve our vision.

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Innovative farm, food science and nutrition platforms at the University of Reading provide essential national capability for agrifood research.

Three interlinked priority areas to transform the food system

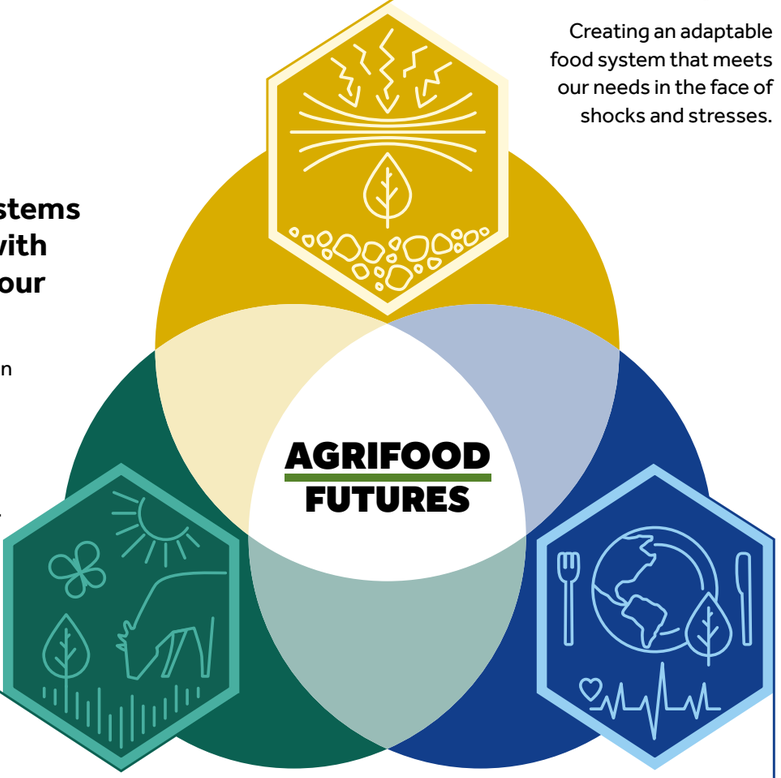
The Agrifood Futures programme blends University of Reading expertise in food systems thinking, stakeholder collaboration and transdisciplinary, high-quality research.

A resilient food system for everyone

Creating an adaptable food system that meets our needs in the face of shocks and stresses.

Farming systems that work with nature and our climate

Leading innovation in responsible food production while protecting and enriching our natural resources.



Food that nourishes people and the planet

Transforming our global food system to deliver desirable, healthy and sustainable food for everyone.

The University of Reading is a trusted expert in food system approaches, working globally with businesses and governments.

A resilient food system for everyone

In the face of an uncertain future, we will empower stakeholders to become more resilient and adaptive to risks and shocks in the global food system.

We will forge partnerships across the food system, with farmers and producers, agrifood organisations, policymakers and consumers and others. Our strengths in international development, climate, environmental and agrifood sciences provide the strong foundation for these partnerships.

By equipping stakeholders with enhanced knowledge of the complex dynamics of our food system, we will facilitate better decision-making. Our work with stakeholders will help them to integrate robust evidence, foresight and systems thinking more effectively into their strategic planning. This will lead to enhanced resilience in the global food system.

Disaster events cause the loss of **more than 5% of annual global agricultural GDP.**

Farming systems that work with nature and our climate

We face two interlinked food production challenges: how to feed a growing global population and how to nurture the resources that enable food production at scale. Our understanding of biodiversity, ecosystems and climate-resilient farming practices enables us to provide leadership in tackling these problems.

Our research will identify opportunities in current farming practices and innovate new practices and technologies.
This evidence will set the agenda for innovative farming systems that promote below- and above-ground biodiversity and the services it underpins, build resilience, protect the soil and balance animal welfare with the demands of food production.

Productive research partnerships with farmers, agrifood organisations and policymakers – from local to global – will enable us to develop new tools and practices. These will lead to increased sustainability, quality and productivity in the agrifood system as well as fewer harmful impacts for the planet.

The global food system is thought to be responsible for **approximately 60% of global terrestrial biodiversity loss.**

Food that nourishes people and the planet

A shift in diets provides an opportunity to achieve better human health and increased environmental sustainability.

Unhealthy diets now pose a greater risk to human health than drugs, tobacco and alcohol combined. One challenge of moving to healthier, planet-friendly diets is to broaden the range of foods and products that consumers will embrace and consume in the long term.

Working across the value chain, we will surpass our current strengths in areas such as food science and behavioural science. Our expertise will drive innovation in the development and manufacturing of foods that are desirable, affordable and accessible as well as beneficial to the sustainability of the food system.

More than 25% of global deaths are attributed to imbalanced diets.

University of Reading

Agrifood Futures blends expertise with a vision for change

We know that change is possible within the complex food system; Agrifood Futures is the University of Reading's commitment to transform the way we produce, consume and think about the food we eat around the world. We will build on our research excellence in agriculture and food sciences while drawing on other disciplines required for a systemic approach.

This ambitious programme will harness our strengths to make a significant contribution to the redesign of the global food system.

Partner with us to transform the food system

Through Agrifood Futures, the University is embarking on an ambitious journey. Our successes – past, present and future – are built on strong and enduring partnerships.

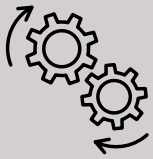
Collaborate with us to be part of the transformation needed in the food system.

Contact us

Email: agrifood-futures@reading.ac.uk

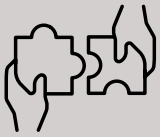
Find out more

Visit: research.reading.ac.uk/agrifood-futures



A food system approach

Our expertise in food system disciplines is the foundation of our joined-up approach to problem solving.



Co-created solutions

Our research is part of a worldwide network: we partner at local, national and global levels with academia, business, research organisations and government.

Inclusive partnerships

Stakeholders have confidence in our expertise and rely on our collaborative methods to find innovative and impactful solutions.

Investment for transformation

Through Agrifood Futures we will build innovative models that unlock change in the food system, in areas such as leadership, production and technology.

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2025 SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR

Find out about the climate stripes at **showyourstripes.info**

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