

F5 Conference on Future Food, Fisheries, Farming and Forestry - Alexandra

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I was very pleased to attend the F5 Conference: Future Food, Fisheries, Farming & Forestry – on the 16th of March 2023 as a current post-Graduate student at the University of Edinburgh.

The event brought speakers from the most diverse sectors concerning agriculture, livestock, and food security, from local Scottish farmers to government's official representatives. Panels were held covering very interesting issues on the future of farming and food production, including new technologies being pursued for enhancing the productivity of the industry, challenges that have been overcome, and difficulties that will be – and are – of most concern in the next years.

On that matter, it was overly agreed by all participants that climate change presents itself as one of the biggest issues that the food sector will face in the upcoming decades. Being a problem that will actually surpass all industries, significant and robust actions are required in order to guarantee food security and a healthy environment for this and upcoming generations. As a major strategy for achieving that, a triple helix was mentioned, which translates into a combined action of academics, State, and industry members.

Being a representative of the young people's delegation, I was delighted for having the opportunity to speak at the end of the event, directing my generations' requests on food and farming to Scotland's government. Following the greatest challenge identified by all presenters, I decided to approach climate change mitigation and adaptation actions as a priority to be pursued by the Scottish authorities, especially considering the recent droughts that have deeply affected food production in the country. And more are expected to occur. A triple helix strategy, on that matter, will be tremendously necessary for the industry to overcome this urgent challenge, not only concerning food production, but also the right to a healthy and sustainable environment to all.

When industry and academics are brought into the decision-making sphere, being guaranteed participatory rights, the Government will then be able to develop robust, clear, and overarching food and farming policies that incorporate the interests and needs of all segments of society. Therefore, no one will be left behind in the battle against climate change.

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