

SCOTLAND'S GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY CONFERENCE

EDINBURGH | 5-7 NOVEMBER 2025

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY:
CLIMATE CHANGE, COLLABORATION,
AND COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE



Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas
na h-Alba

SEFARI
Gateway



Wednesday 5th November - Parliamentary Reception

Parliamentary Reception, hosted by **Emma Harper**, MSP
Garden Lobby, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

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| 18.45 | Arrival. Please bring photo ID and allow time to go through security. Registration will open at 18.45 and will close at 19.30. |
| 19.15 | Networking, drinks, and canapes |
| 20.00 | Welcome remarks from Emma Harper , MSP, followed by Mairi Gougeon , the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform, and Islands; Charles Bestwick , the Director of SEFARI Gateway, and Iain Baxter , the CEO of Scotland Food & Drink. |
| 20.30 | End of event |

Please note that these timings are subject to Parliamentary business.

Thursday 6th November – Conference

Lecture Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh.
Please enter via 20A Inverleith Row, EH3 5LR.

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| 09.00 | Coffee and registration |
| 09.30 | Keynote speech from Ruth Hill , Director of Markets, Trade, and Institutions at the International Food Policy Research Institute |
| 09.55 | Presentation from Jules Griffin , the Director of the Rowett Institute, and Sylvester Madzvova , Zimbabwean economist, on the Rowett's work in Scotland, Malawi and Zimbabwe including research on underutilised crops such as moringa and hemp, and new research on Scotland's food balance sheets and supply chains. |
| 10.20 | Presentation from Colin Campbell , the CEO of the James Hutton Institute, and Ian Barker , CGIAR UK Board Director, on adapting potato crops for climate change and illustrating how, with international partners, technological and social innovation and inter-disciplinary approaches can have a major impact on productivity and resilience and make a difference to people's lives. |
| 10.45 | Q&A session with Ruth Hill , Jules Griffin , Sylvester Madzvova , Colin Campbell , and Ian Barker . |
| 11.15 | Coffee break |
| 11.45 | Address from Mairi Gougeon , the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform, and Islands |

- 12.00 Panel discussion on 'Collaboration and comparative advantage: the international perspective' chaired by **Professor Liz Baggs**, Chair of Food and Environmental Security at the University of Edinburgh.
- Panellists will include:
- **Edwini Kessie**, Director of the Agriculture and Commodities Division, World Trade Organisation
 - **Jamie Morrison**, Senior Adviser for Policy and External Relations, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
 - **Hubertus Gay**, Senior Agricultural Policy Analyst, OECD
 - **Raschad Al-Khafaji**, Director of the Liaison Office with the European Union and Belgium, FAO
 - **Hillary Curnow**, Agriculture Counsellor, New Zealand High Commission

13.00 Lunch

- 14.00 Presentation from **Wayne Powell**, Principal and CEO of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) and **Matthew Cleveland**, Senior Director for Global Bovine Sustainability at Genus plc on innovations in livestock to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

- 14.25 Presentation from **Tom McNeilly**, Director of the Moredun Research Institute, and **Lena Halos**, Senior Programme Officer for livestock health at the Gates Foundation, on livestock disease innovations that can combat disease in sub-Saharan Africa.

- 14.50 Q&A session with **Wayne Powell**, **Matthew Cleveland**, **Tom McNeilly**, and **Lena Halos**

15.20 Comfort break

- 15.30 Panel discussion on 'Collaboration and comparative advantage: The industry perspective', hosted by **Lucinda Bruce-Gardyne**, the founder of Genius gluten-free food brand, chair of the New Town Cookery School, and former chair of Scotland Food & Drink.

Panellists will include:

- **Robin Manning**, Director of the British Agricultural Bureau
- **Heather Kelman**, Chair of Food Standards Scotland
- **David Thomson**, CEO of the Food & Drink Federation Scotland
- **Andrew Connon**, President of the National Farmers Union Scotland

- 16.20 - 16.30 Closing remarks from **Mairi Gougeon**, the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform, and Islands

- 16.30 - 18.00 Drinks reception

Friday 7th November – Institute visits

Delegates are invited to participate in an optional site visit to one of the SEFAR research facilities and living labs on Friday 7 November. These visits offer a unique opportunity to explore Scotland's applied research in food, agriculture, and environmental sustainability. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, with assignments made at random. However, if you have a preference for a particular facility, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate your request. Transport will be provided to and from a central Edinburgh location, with all visits scheduled to return to the city centre by 1:30pm.

James Hutton Institute Dundee

JHI will welcome delegates on a visit including:

- Phenotyping Facility
- Intelligent Growth Solutions vertical farm
- International Barley Hub

The Rowett Institute Edinburgh New Town Cookery School, Edinburgh

Set in the beautiful Georgian Terraces of Edinburgh's city centre, there will be a chef's cookery demonstration alongside scientists from the University of Aberdeen's Rowett Institute showcasing their cutting-edge food research and tasting samples for delegates.

Moredun Research Institute Pentland Science Park, Edinburgh

The Moredun will welcome delegates on a tour of their on-site research farm to see the cattle, sheep, goats and geese. Visitors will also discover more about the state-of-the-art laboratories, including high containment facilities for dealing with some of the most impactful livestock viral and bacterial pathogens.

Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) Edinburgh

SRUC will welcome delegates on a tour including:

- GreenCow, a key facility in international efforts to reduce the impact on climate change from emissions by ruminants.
- GreenShed, state-of-the-art systems using cattle waste products to power a methane capturing system and grow indoor crops
- The Beef and Sheep research facility
- Allermuir Avian Innovation and Skills Centre