

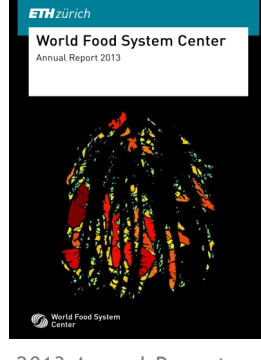
This newsletter is sent to ETH Zurich researchers and students and individuals external to ETH with an interest in food system research and the activities of the World Food System Center. If you would prefer to not receive future mailings, please [unsubscribe](#).

World Food System Center News & Updates

NEWS

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Annual Report 2013 The Center's first Annual report, covering the first year of the WFSC's activities, is now available. Since our inauguration in September 2012, we have worked at building up a community of researchers, academics, students, external stakeholders and partners. Today the Center brings together 34 professorial members, their research groups, and a number of partners to collaborate on key research, education, and outreach initiatives. The Annual Report is available [here](#).



2013 Annual Report

WFS Grants Awarded This spring, six new research projects were funded through the Center's two competitive research programs, "Sustainability in food value chains" (Coop Research Program) and "Organic and agroecological systems for food security" (Mercator Research Program). Each of these interdisciplinary projects supports PhD or Postdoctoral researchers who will work together with WFSC members and collaborators. The projects explore a broad range of topics, including: a new approach to biologically control spoilage of fresh vegetables; nitrogen cycling in organic farming systems; and dual purpose chicken production systems. Fact sheets about the projects are available [here](#) (Coop projects) and [here](#) (Mercator projects).

Opportunities

MSc position with Seed Sustainability project on sustainable catering at ETH Zurich on the topic of food waste and consumer behavior. Position description [here](#). More about the [project](#).

PhD position with Chair of Sustainable Agroecosystems (Prof. J. Six) for the project "Nitrogen Cycling and Soil Microbial Communities in Integrated Organic Farming Systems". Find the position description [here](#).

"From Farm to Fork" Food Innovation Challenge This spring, Bühler (a member of the WFSC Partnership Council) and EPFL teamed up to organize a competition that challenged students to find solutions to reduce food losses between farm and fork and find solutions to help feed the world's growing population. WFSC Executive Director Michelle Grant was a member of the jury charged with selecting from the 90+ ideas that were submitted from students. ETH students actively participated in the challenge and represented 10 out of the 16 finalists. Learn more about the five projects that won [awards](#). Watch a [video](#) about the challenge.

WFS Summer School The WFSC hosted its second summer school in India in February this year. The program involved 20 students from 11 different countries and disciplines and explored the food system challenges facing India, with a special focus on organic and agroecological production systems. The students worked on a case study to critically analyze the impacts of the recently passed Indian Food Security Act. The summer school is a part of the WFSC Mercator Program. Read more [here](#).



India Summer School participants



Students at FAO

Study Trip to FAO This April the WFSC supported a study trip to the FAO headquarters in Rome for 20 ETH Zurich students organized by Dr. Martijn Sonneveld (Agricultural Economics). The short course, "Food Security - from the Global to the Local Dimension" was designed to introduce students to the work of the FAO and discuss the linkages between food security and ecosystem services. Students also heard lectures from Prof. Bernard Lehman (Director of the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture) and Ms. Christine Grieder (Swiss Permanent Representative to FAO). Read Dr. Sonneveld's blog post about the trip in the [ETH Zukunftsblog](#).

ETH Sustainability Blog Several WFSC members are regular contributors to the ETH's new sustainability blog, Zukunftsblog, which highlights topics related to the world food system as one of its main featured themes. Read the [posts](#).

WFSC Public Lecture Series Continues The WFSC welcomed Dr. Pedro Sanchez and Dr. Cheryl Palm to ETH Zurich in March for a public lecture entitled, "[Agricultural Intensification: Balancing production, environment and livelihoods](#)." Dr. Sanchez is Director of the Agriculture and Food Security Center at Columbia University's Earth Institute and has worked on tropical soils and towards solutions to hunger in more than 25 countries around the world. Dr. Palm is Director of Research of the Agriculture and Food Security Center and Deputy Director of Vital Signs Africa, a new project developing and implementing integrated monitoring systems in agricultural landscapes. Their visit to ETH led to the development of a collaborative partnership agreement between the WFSC and the Agriculture and Food Security Center.



Workshop participants

ETH Zurich–Stellenbosch Collaboration Researchers representing five Chairs from the World Food System Center travelled to South Africa in March to launch a new collaboration with the Food Security Initiative of Stellenbosch University. The WFSC researchers worked with 15 colleagues from Stellenbosch University to define joint projects of interest and explore research synergies around the themes "Sustainable Production Systems" and "Human Nutrition". The results of the workshop will form the basis of a joint research program of the two institutes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

10-24 August 2014 WFS Summer School in Rheinau, Switzerland. The WFSC will welcome a class of 25 students from 18 countries to the Center's third summer school course held at Switzerland's largest organic farm. The participants will bring a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds and experiences to this two-week intensive, hands-on course. More information about the summer school is available [here](#).



Summer School, Rheinau 2013

15-17 October 2014 Academia Engelberg. The Academia Engelberg Foundation's 13th Dialogue on Science will be dedicated to the topic of food security. Alumni from the WFSC summer school program will participate by organizing a full morning of the program. More information about the [conference](#).

21-26 June 2015 (Save the Date) The WFSC is organizing an international scientific conference, "Tackling World Food System Challenges: Across disciplines, sectors, and scales," at the Monte Verità conference center in Ascona, Switzerland. The conference will bring together researchers and stakeholders who understand the complexity of the world food system, the challenges confronting the food system, and what is at stake.

WFSC MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Member appointments to scientific committees Prof. Emmanuel Frossard was appointed President of the Steering Committee of the National Research Programme "Sustainable Use of Soil as a Resource" (NRP 68) by the Swiss National Science Foundation. Prof. Jaboury Ghazoul was appointed President of the Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation and to the UK Expert Committee on Forest Science.

Members recognized for scientific achievements Prof. Shana Sturla received the Chemical Research in Toxicology Young Investigator Award, which honors the contributions of a young individual who has had a major impact on research in chemical toxicology or a related field, from the American Chemical Society. Prof. Johan Six was awarded the 2014 Philippe Duhaufour Medal by European Geosciences Union for fundamental contributions to soil science. Prof. Wilhelm Grissem received the Academia Sinica Shang Fa Yang award for his cassava and rice biotechnology research. He also received a 2.8 Mio. USD grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for cassava improvement.

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