



LUNZ Hub Northern Ireland Big Tent Event

Livestock, Land Use & Achieving Climate Targets

Connecting science, policy and practice
to shape the future of sustainable agriculture



18th-19th November 2026



18th - Riddel Hall, Queen's University Belfast

19th - Commercial farm (am) & AFBI Hillsborough (pm)



SCIENCE



POLICY



FARMING



COLLABORATION

From science to real-world implementation

WHY ATTEND?

Northern Ireland faces significant challenges in balancing climate ambitions with productive and resilient agriculture.

This two-day event will bring together researchers, policymakers, industry, farmers and environmental organisations to explore how scientific evidence, innovation and collaboration can support the transition to a sustainable future.

The programme will showcase emerging findings from the **LUNZ Hub** and **MACSUR** projects, while creating opportunities for dialogue across research, policy and practice.

Science communication and creative engagement will be woven throughout the programme, bringing research to life, stimulating discussion and encouraging new perspectives.



DAY ONE

Queen's University Belfast

SCIENCE • MODELLING • POLICY

- Keynote presentations
- Emerging LUNZ & MACSUR research
- Net Zero pathways
- Carbon sequestration
- Parallel interactive workshops
- Fireside Chat & Networking dinner



DAY TWO

AFBI Hillsborough & commercial farm

FROM MODELLING TO IMPLEMENTATION

- Commercial beef farm visit
- Demonstration projects
- Practical mitigation measures
- Carbon sequestration in action
- Knowledge exchange
- Future policy discussion

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| • Researchers & Academics | • Industry & Agri-Food Sector | • Farmers & Land Managers |
| • Policymakers & Government | • Environmental Organisations | • UK & European Partners |
| • Farming & Rural Organisations | • PhD Students & Early Career Researchers | • Data, Modelling & Technology Specialists |



REGISTER TO ATTEND

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FOR EVENT-RELATED
QUERIES CONTACT
IGFS-EVENTS@QUB.AC.UK

ORGANISED BY



SCIENCE • POLICY • PRACTICE • IMPACT

DAY ONE – SCIENCE MODELLING POLICY	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome and Introductions
09:30 – 09:40	Opening remarks - The Lord Curry of Kirkharle Kt CBE
09:40 – 10:00	Science into Policy and Practice Professor Julie Fitzpatrick CBE, Honorary Chair in Food Security (University of Glasgow)
10:00 – 10:45	MACSUR: The science policy interface Chair: Professor Christine Foyer (University of Birmingham) Exploring how scientific modelling can better inform policy development and decision-making. The session will include a presentation from ZALF on approaches to modelling in the EU, including the Science–Policy Interface (SPI) assessment matrix, followed by discussion on strengthening the relationship between modelling, evidence and policy.
10:45 – 10:50	Session feedback
10:50 – 11:05	Tea/Coffee Break
11:05 – 11:55	Net Zero Future Pathways for Northern Ireland - Professor Paula Harrison (UKCEH) - Dr Taro Takahashi (AFBI) Using the latest findings emerging from LUNZ Hub’s scenario modelling, this session explores the various implications of Northern Ireland adopting a net zero pathway on its primary land users. Early results indicate that a net zero future is possible – without dramatically reducing food exports – if we proactively alter the way we farm. Here, we provide an honest, informed and transparent discussion about what exact changes are required, how feasible they are, and what policy mechanisms should be provided to ensure that no one will unfairly be left behind.
11:55 – 12:00	Session feedback
12:00 – 12:50	Land Use and Carbon Sequestration - Professor Bridget Emmett (CEH) - Dr Paul Williams (QUB) Exploring the potential contribution of carbon sequestration to climate and land-use objectives, including opportunities and implications for land use, current evidence gaps and research needs, and the role of sequestration alongside wider emissions mitigation measures.

12:50 – 12:58	Session feedback
12:58 – 13:00	Poem from Kate Arthur
13:00 – 13:50	Lunch and Engagement opportunity with LUNZ Hub Research Projects Showcase
Parallel Workshops	
13:50 – 15:25	Workshop A – Strengthening the Science–Policy Interface - An interactive workshop exploring how science–policy interfaces can be assessed and strengthened, with participants contributing to the validation of criteria and indicators for evaluating their effectiveness. - Leads: Sundus Saleemi, Shaswati Chowdhury and M Anderson Lanham (ZALF)
13:50 – 15:25	Workshop B – Innovation, Supply Chains and Policy - Technology, Innovation & AI - Lead: Professor Jim Harkin (UU) - Aligning Supply Chain & Policy Goals - Leads: Dr Ryan McGuire (QUB) and Professor Elizabeth Magowan (AFBI)
15:25 – 15:35	Tea/coffee Break
15:35 – 16:20	LUNZopoly A game created by members of the LUNZ Hub that encourages participants to respond to the views and perspectives of a diverse range of actors involved in the land use sector and Net Zero transitions within Northern Ireland and other parts of the UK.
16:20 – 16:40	Science, Creativity & Public Engagement / Key Takeaways / Close
18:00 – 18:30	Networking Reception
18:30 – 19:20	Fireside Chat – Meeting the challenges of food security and environmental health - Ian Marshall OBE - Professor Bridget Emmett - Justin McCarthy - Chair: Louise Cullen
19:30 – 22:00	Networking Dinner

DAY TWO – FROM MODELLING TO IMPLEMENTATION	
08:45	Coach pickup – location to be confirmed
09:00 – 10:00	Travel from Belfast
10:00 – 11:30	Tour of commercial beef farm outside Downpatrick
11:30 – 12:15	Travel to AFBI Hillsborough
12:15 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 14:45	Tour of AFBI Hillsborough research farm
14:45 – 15:30	Travel from Hillsborough to Belfast
15:30	Coach dropoff – location to be confirmed

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