

UK Agriculture Policy: Sustainability in post-Brexit Britain Conference

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Organiser

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Scope and aims

The triggering of Article 50 and the Brexit negotiation process have brought opportunities to redevelop key policy areas. One such area is British agriculture, which since 1962 has been compliant with the EU's Common Agricultural Policy. The Agriculture Bill 2017-19 signifies the beginning of the transition towards a UK Agriculture Policy. The withdrawal from the Common Agricultural Policy will provide an exceptional opportunity for British policy makers, industry experts, stakeholders and academics to rethink environmental policies, food safety regulations and to reconsider the interests of farmers and consumers. It is also an opportunity to create a competitive and sustainable agriculture sector that will address stakeholders', such as the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board and National Farmers' Union and policy makers' concerns, with a view to protecting the environment, ensuring food security and developing rural areas.

Several suggestions have been made by eminent scholars in the field on the future UK Agriculture Policy's potential models. Professor Hill analysed the views of various interest groups on how a UK Agriculture Policy should look and its potential target areas (Hill, 2017). These groups represent government representative, stakeholders, academics and the media, all of which have attempted to predict and influence the creation of this Policy. Environmental, legal and economic perspectives have been analysed separately to a large extent, in reports, scholarly work and public events such as conferences. It is essential that the current discussions concerning the future of Britain's agriculture, are collectively brought together, to capture data, opinions and facts about the needs of all concerned.

This timely one-day conference will bring together prominent academics, policy makers, media representatives and stakeholders to discuss critical issues impacting immigration work force, environmental protection and food production in post-Brexit Britain.

The conference aims to answer the following questions:

1. How will Brexit and withdrawal from the Common Agricultural Policy affect British agriculture, the environment, animal welfare and food security?
2. How can we create a competitive agricultural sector following Brexit?
3. What lessons can we learn from other economies, more reliant on agriculture?
4. How will the UK Agriculture Policy address the economic, environmental and legal effects of Brexit?

5. How will the UK Agriculture Policy apply in the devolved nations?

To answer these questions, the conference has four themes:

1. Brexit, Article 50 and the Common Agriculture Policy
2. Environmental protection and farming in post-Brexit Britain
3. Animal welfare, food security and health
4. UK Agricultural Policy in the devolved nations.

This conference will be the frontrunner for further projects, setting the foundations for future research plans informing policy making in the field. The conference will accelerate the expansion of the established collaborative partnership of academics, stakeholders and policy makers that aim to map out the legislation in relation to agriculture that will be affected by Brexit.

Confirmed Speakers (alphabetical order)

Dr Matthew Bell
Sustainability of Farming Systems
School of Biosciences, University of Nottingham

Dr Aleksandra Cavoski, Senior Lecturer in Law
Environmental Law and Policy
University of Birmingham

Professor Berkeley Hill, Emeritus
Agricultural Policy and Agricultural Economics
Imperial College London

Dr Brian Jack, Lecturer in Law
Environmental Law, EU Law, Rural Development
Queen's University Belfast

Professor Robert Lee
Environmental Law and Policy, Environmental legislation, Regulation of technologies
University of Birmingham

Dr Ludivine Petetin, Lecturer in Law
Food Security, Agri-technology, Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Development
University of Cardiff

Mr Guy Smith
NFU Deputy President