

# Scotland's Land Reform Futures – International Symposium Programme

## Day 1: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025

10:00-10:30	Arrivals, refreshments
10:30-11:00	<p><b>Welcome</b> – Prof. Deb Roberts, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Science, James Hutton Institute</p> <p><b>Overview of Scotland's Land Reform Futures project and International Symposium</b> – Dr Ian Merrell and Dr Annie McKee</p>
11:00-12:30	<p><b>Scottish Land Reform in a Global Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>“Are we there yet?” The long journey to a Land Reformed Scotland</i> – Michael Russell, Chair of Scottish Land Commission</li><li>• <i>Scotland in global land reform context: an overview of key themes</i> – Dr Fraser Sugden (online) and Megan MacInnes (Community Land Scotland)</li><li>• <i>Decolonising territory through land reform? Lessons from Bolivia's Native Community Lands</i> – Dr Penelope Anthias (online) and Dr Annabel Pinker (introduction)</li></ul> <p><b>Plenary discussion</b> – Chair: Patrick Kirkham, Head of Land Reform, Scottish Government</p>
12:30-2:00pm	<p><b>Lunch break</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scotland's Land Reform Futures research showcase</li><li>• Marketplace of other related research/initiatives</li><li>• Poster session open to all research participants to support ongoing collaboration</li></ul> <p>Optional tour of new Hutton facilities with Dr Lee-Ann Sutherland and /or free time for walk in grounds, etc.</p>
2:00-3:45pm	<p><b>Monitoring change and evaluating impacts of land reform: Scottish and international experiences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Land data transparency and analysis: Scottish and international experiences</i> – Dave Miller/Dr Keith Matthews (Scotland) and Jan Spijkerboer (Netherlands)</li><li>• <i>Rural Land Markets insights and international examples of land financialisation</i> – Dr Ian Merrell (Scotland), Prof. Annette Desmarais and Dr André Magnan (Canada), and Prof. Sarah Ruth Sippel (Germany/Australia), online</li></ul> <p><b>Plenary discussion</b> – Chair: Duncan MacPherson. <i>How can research and policy work together to better understand impacts of change and progress positive evidence-based land reform policy goals?</i></p>
3:45-4:00pm	<b>Break and refreshments</b>
4:00-4:45pm	<p><b>ICARRD+20 and FAO Technical Support</b> – Dr Francesco Pierri</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Scotland's contribution to ICARRD+20</i> – Olivia Oldham-Dorrington</li></ul> <p><b>Plenary discussion</b> – Chair: Olivia Oldham-Dorrington. <i>What can Scotland offer in terms of knowledge/leadership in global discussions around land and rural development?</i></p>
4:45-5:00pm	<b>Final plenary discussion, looking forward to Day 2, close</b>
5:00-8:30pm	<p><b>Drinks reception</b> in Hutton café and music by Hazlehead Academy ukelele group, followed by informal <b>conference dinner</b> and films by Dr Penelope Anthias</p>

8:00-8:45	<b>Breakfast conversation</b> (optional): <i>Land Matching Services in Japan and Scotland: Comparative Experiences of Land Reform</i> – Dr Yumi Isaka Kato, Nagoya University, Japan (online)
9:00-9:10	<b>Welcome</b> – Prof. Lee-Ann Sutherland, Director of the International Land Use Study Centre, James Hutton Institute  Introductions, Recap of Day 1
9:10-10:00	<b>How do alternative land governance models work in other countries? What are underlying legal, financial, social, cultural factors?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Alternative Land Governance: Lessons from the Netherlands and Flanders</i> – Scotland’s Land Reform Futures Stakeholder Advisory Group members</li><li>• <i>The SAFER system in France</i> – Dr Kirsteen Shields and Dr Adrien Baysse-Lainé</li></ul> <b>Plenary discussion</b> – Chair: James MacKessack-Leitch. <i>What are we aiming for via land reform in Scotland? What can we learn from other places to support land access for new entrants to agriculture, climate-friendly food production, and the Just Transition?</i>
10:00-10:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The California Land Equity Task Force: Can a legislative reform slow the trends of farmland consolidation in the heart of America’s breadbasket?</i> – Dr Adam Calo (Netherlands, online)</li></ul>
10:20-10:50	<b>How do alternative land governance models work in other countries? What are underlying legal, financial, social, cultural factors? (continued)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Alternative Agricultural Land Tenure Systems (ALTS) in Canada</i> - Dr Jamie Baxter and Dr Naomi Beingessner</li></ul>
11:00-11:30	<b>Keynote presentation:</b> <i>Land and land-based investment governance: international dimensions</i> - Dr Lorenzo Cotula (online)
11:30-12:30pm	<b>Breakout sessions</b> (TBD)
12:30-1:30pm	<b>Lunch</b> Poster display in Immersive Suite Symposium participants invited to give ‘vox pops’ to video outlining their key learning points.
1:30-1:50pm	<b>Address</b> from Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon
1:50-2:45pm	<b>Achieving the public interest beyond landownership diversification</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Just transformations to sustainability in Europe: Lessons from the Just Scapes project</i> – Dr David Brown (England)</li><li>• <i>Revamping the council farm estate for the 21st century: lessons from Bremenda Isaf</i> - Alex Heffron (Wales)</li><li>• <i>Towards a democratic appropriation of public farmland: emerging debates and policy initiatives in Flanders on land-driven farm transitions</i> - Hans Vandermaelen (Belgium; online)</li></ul> <b>Plenary discussion</b> – Chair: Dr Jessica Lynch Boucher. <i>Why is this not happening already? Opportunities and challenges, fundamental property system dynamics, cultural/political barriers</i>
2:45 – 2.50pm	<b>Comfort break with refreshments</b>
2:45-3:30pm	<b>Final plenary discussion:</b> Reflect on overall discussions during Symposium and highlighting key messages <b>Next steps:</b> outputs from Symposium, ongoing collaborations, etc. <b>Thanks and Symposium close</b>

# Research Marketplace



***The Research Marketplace consists of posters (in the Immersive Suite) and visual presentations (in Conference Suite 1a and 1b). This will include:***

A showcase of Scotland's Land Reform Futures and associated Strategic Research Programme (2022-2027) land reform research, featuring:

- Land Ownership Data in Scotland – Dave Miller
- Citizen Land Science to Support Land Reform – Sam Poskitt
- Exploring the effects of community landownership in Scotland – Annabel Pinker
- Land Reform: Mapping Land Ownership, Financial Flows into Land and Land Use Change – Ian Merrell
- Assessment of Landownership Change using Registers of Scotland Data – Simon Gibson-Poole

Other presenters will include:

- The Community Land Academic Network – Catriona Mallows
- 'Reversing the Gaze': Knowledge Stories and the Struggles for Community Land Rights in Scotland – Atenchong Talleh Nkobou
- The Property of Farming: An investigation of how property relations affect the possibility of agroecological transformation in Aotearoa New Zealand – Olivia Oldham-Dorrington
- Crofting Knots: Tenure, Parcelisation, Succession – Soheila Shourbaji
- The RESPECT project – Miranda Geelhoed
- The Just Walk from Skye to Glasgow – David Lees
- 22 Years of Community Right to Buy in Scotland: Considering Success and Justice – Carey Doyle
- The 'Who Owns Scotland' project – Andy Wightman
- A fairer, greener Scotland? Rural perspectives on Scotland's "just transition": an ethnographic study of upper Tweeddale in the Scottish Borders – Pete Ballantine (online)
- Do Community Landowners Farm? Exploring a Land Reform paradox in Scotland – Roz Corbett (TBC).