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**EASTBIO Training Strand 1: Research Skills - 2014/15**

**Food Security priority area**

*Organised by the University of Aberdeen*

**2 April 2014, University of Aberdeen**

Introduction to the programme, Blackboard Collaborate refresher and plans for the coming year.

**List of discussion topics**

**July 2014**

Professor Adam Price – “Plant biotechnology for Food Security”. The session scheduled for Tuesday 8 July, 10:00-11:00 with a general introduction on GM crops.

*Please note: A recording of this session is available on the EASTBIO website (http://www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk/student-resources), restricted to accredited users. Contact* *enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk* *for access information.*

**August 2014**

Dr Paul G. Fernandes – “Food security issues for commercial fisheries”. The session will be held online at the following dates/times:

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| Session 1 | 8 August | Introduction and setting of main task: respond to the question: What is the status of European fish stocks? Students to consider the evidence as presented in three types of sources: * evidence from the scientific literature;
* evidence from text books;
* evidence from websites and the popular press
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| Session 2 | 15 August | Students to report back, tutorial and discussion on seafood security |
| Session 3 | 22 August | Final session with reflection on the topic |

**September 2014**

Jon J. Hillier/ Pete Smith – “Intensification or extensification” OR “What is the carbon cost of achieving secure food production in developing countries?”. Discussion-based session held on Monday 29 September, 10:00-12:00.

**October 2014**

Jayne Hope – “Contribution of large animal scientific research to long term food security”

**November 2014**

Prof David E. Salt – ‘Can genomics help farmers secure crop production in the face of a changing global climate?’. The session will be held online at the following dates/times:

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| Session 1 | 3rd November at 2-3pm  | Provide introduction and set out work to be done |
| Session 2 | 14th November at 2-3pm  | Students discuss what they found out and refine new work to be done |
| Session 3 | 24th November at 2-3pm  | Finalise discussion and round off |

**December 2014**

Karen Halliday – “Food security in a changing climate”

**March-April 2015**

Baukje de Roos/ Janet Kyle – “Foods, security and human health”

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| Session 1 | 12th March, 2-3pm  | Provide introduction and set out work to be done |
| Session 2 | 19th March, 2-3pm  | Students discuss fish and meat questions: what they found out & refine new work to be done |
| Session 3 | 2nd April, 2-3pm  | Students discuss impact population growth on provision of a sustainable healthy balanced diet |
| Session 4 | 9th April, 2-3pm | Final discussion and round off |

Three questions to be raised:

1. Current recommendations highlight a healthy diet should include at least two portions of fish a week, one oily and one white fish. Is this recommendation achievable and sustainable? Consider the role of aquiculture.
2. The negative health and environmental impacts of meat production and consumption have been widely debated in recent years, with the common message highlighting a need to reduce meat intake. Is a plant-based diet achievable? Is there sufficient land and water to sustainably produce the qualities of food required?
3. Healthy balanced diets include land and aquatic-based food items. Can we meet a growing global populations’ dietary and nutrient needs?

**April 2015**

Chris Secombes – “What are the issues facing sustainable production of fish by aquaculture”