



# Is the future of agriculture perennial?

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WELCOME TO A HALF-DAY SYMPOSIUM ABOUT THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE BY THE PUFENDORF IAS AT LUND UNIVERSITY, 8TH OF MAY, 13.00-17.30

There is an urgent need for agriculture to drastically reduce its negative environmental impacts, while at the same time responding to increasing demand and adapting to a changing climate. For this to be possible, radical change in how we grow our major staple crops is essential.

From the 6th through the 10th of May, over 80 specially invited researchers from around the world will meet in Lund to present and discuss progress, challenges and future avenues regarding the development and upscaling of perennial agriculture. As part of this, the Pufendorf Theme 'Domestication' welcomes the public to a half-day symposium to take part in a discussion about the future of agriculture together with prominent scholars from the humanities, natural, and social & economic sciences. Can perennial grains help solve the many environmental and social problems faced in modern agriculture?

**8th of May, 13.00-17.30**  
**LUX Aula, Helgonavägen 3, Lund**

Limited seats, registration required.  
Register at [pi.lu.se/en/domestication/Opensymposium](https://pi.lu.se/en/domestication/Opensymposium)



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## Programme

- 13.00 – 13.15 Introduction by Lennart Olsson, Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies
- 13:15 – 14.00 “Why we need to reinvent agriculture: How ten thousand years of agrarian civilisations gave way to unsustainable foodgetting in the past century and a half.”  
Harriet Friedmann, University of Toronto, Canada
- 14:00 – 14:45 “Is the future of agriculture perennial – ecological principles, potentials and pitfalls.”  
Tim Crews, The Land Institute, Salina, KS, USA
- 14:45 – 15:15 Coffee & tea
- 15:15 – 16.00 “A tale of two grains—Kernza and perennial rice. The different paths to creating a perennial grain, and the social experiments of early commercialization in the West and East.”  
Lee DeHaan, The Land Institute and Fengyi Hu, Yunnan University, China
- 16:00 – 16:50 Open forum with a panel of scientists
- 16:50 – 17:20 “A Social-perennial vision.”  
Aubrey Streit Krug, The Land Institute, Salina, KS, USA and Omar Tesdell, Birzeit University, Palestine

## Speakers

**Harriet Friedmann** is Professor Emerita of Sociology at the University of Toronto. A food system analyst, writer, lecturer and “Pollinator of an Emerging Mode of Human Foodgetting”, she entered this arena in the 1970s by studying the world wheat market. Together with Philip McMichael she developed the food regimes approach to theorizing global food systems.

**Tim Crews** is Director of Research and Lead Scientist of the Ecology Program at the Land Institute in Salina, Kansas, which for the past 40 years has been the pioneer in breeding new perennial grain and seed crops and researching ecologically intensified polycultures that mimic natural systems. His own research has focused on carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus economies of perennial grain intercrops.

**Lee DeHaan** is Lead Scientist of the Kernza Domestication Program at the Land Institute. He provides leadership for the effort to develop intermediate wheatgrass into a perennial grain crop (‘Kernza’), with collaborators at institutions around the United States, as well as in Canada and Europe.

**Fengyi Hu** is Professor of Agronomy, and Dean of the School of Agriculture at Yunnan University in Kunming, China. He has led the research to develop the new perennial rice strain “PR23” which has recently been commercialized in the Yunnan Province. His goal is to create perennial rice plants adapted to different paddy conditions as well as upland varieties, suitable for production that is environmentally-sound and labor-saving throughout East and Southeast Asia and beyond.

**Aubrey Streit Krug** is a writer, teacher and Director of Ecosphere Studies at the Land Institute, which extends the institute’s innovative work to educational and cultural transformation by bringing together researchers and teachers to collaborate on ecospheristic theory, pedagogy and curriculum.

**Omar Imseeh Tessedell** is Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at Birzeit University in Palestine. He studies landscape and agroecological transformation in the Middle East and the Americas, and conducts field research on locally adapted traditional crops, and the potential to further perennialize Palestinian agroecosystems to achieve greater food system resiliency.

## Hosts

**The Pufendorf IAS** is an interdisciplinary institute at Lund University. The institute is a place where researchers from all faculties at Lund University – from science and medicine to the humanities and arts – are invited to work together. The aim is to be a creative forum, an incubator for new ideas and a springboard for new research initiatives.

[pi.lu.se/en](http://pi.lu.se/en)

**Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS)** is a leading interdisciplinary research centre at Lund University. LUCSUS has a unique way of addressing complex sustainability issues from a critical and an integrated natural and social science perspective, and with a solutions-based approach.

[lucsus.lu.se](http://lucsus.lu.se)

**The Land Institute**, founded by Wes Jackson (Right Livelihood Laureate 2010), as a nonprofit organization in 1976, is committed to researching and developing food production methods that sustain the soil, the land, and rural societies.

[landinstitute.org](http://landinstitute.org)

## Funders

**Axfoundation** is an independent non-profit organisation working on concrete and practical solutions for a more environmentally and socially sustainable society. Axfoundation's four programme areas are Sustainable Production and Consumption, Circular Economy, Inclusive Society and Food of the Future.

**The LMK foundation** was initiated by Mikael Karlsson, entrepreneur and co-founder of IT company Axis AB. The foundation supports innovative multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research, primarily at Lund University.

**The Land Institute Ecosphere Studies Program**, Salina, USA

**The Heart Spring Foundation**, Seattle, USA

**The Malone Family Land Preservation Foundation**, Denver, USA

**Ken & Jeanne Levy-Church**, New York, USA

