

Welcome to the first in the new monthly series of IUFOST News Briefs, featuring news about the Union's ongoing actions and plans on behalf of international Food Science and Technology. As your global representative of the discipline, we work together to Strengthen Food Science and Technology for the benefit of humanity.

**In this issue:**

- IUFOST talks interdisciplinary collaboration at International Science Council General Assembly.
- Ensuring 'more', safe, economical and sustainable food packaging was the focus of the IUFOST Scientific Roundtable Discussion.
- Food Culture and Traditional Foods provide insights for resilient Future Food Systems in the next Scientific Roundtable Discussion to be held April 29th.
- Early Career Scientists (ECS) of IUFOST and IAFoST plan their first global symposium
- The World congress in Singapore 2022 – Mark your calendar.
- Partners Upcoming events and activities that IUFOST supports.

**International Science Council (ISC) invited IUFOST to deliver two presentations during its annual meeting in February.** The discussions centred on *Interdisciplinary Collaboration to Sustainable, Adaptable and Healthy Future Food Systems*.

Speakers, including members of other ISC Unions, ICSU Past President Gordon McBean, Academy Presiding Officer-elect Charles Aworh, Alejandra Medrano, ALACCTA President, agreed that Food science and Technology is central for nutrition and food security across both rich and poor countries, at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, for sustainable livelihoods. Using local solutions for global replications have provided a focussed approach for IUFOST.

Sustainable actions, strategies and pathways for adaptable, accessible and affordable food and nutrition security have to be clearly firmed up with capacity building, infrastructure as well as human resource. All these facets of science and technology underpinning IUFOST's

work bring together Food Science, Nutrition, Biology, Soil Science, Forestry, Fisheries, Information Technology and the Science of Climate Change at large.

The interdisciplinary collaboration as a focus area, for sustainable, adaptable and healthy future of food systems, is in fact, one of the prime agenda for the UN System Summit. Evidence-based solutions for resilient future food systems require coordination and interdisciplinary work from the farm to table.

Sustainable Development Goals in relation to Food Science and Technology represent 13 of the 17 listed goals. Prevention of food losses, food waste, use and development of traditional foods, new and emerging processing, scale up of R& D, immune boosting foods, training the trainer and capacity building all form the cornerstones of IU FoST work. Interdisciplinary partnerships are one of IU FoST's goals to strengthen the future food system. IU FoST President Dr. V. Prakash has been invited to prepare a regular column for ISC highlighting the work in the discipline of Food Science and Technology. More to follow on IU FoST collaborations in the international sector.

**IU FoST Scientific Roundtable Discussion on Sustainable Food Packaging**, the 7<sup>th</sup> in the series held on 25 February, was honoured to have as panelists Dr. Claire Sand, Professor Nathalie Gontard, Professor Alejandro Ariosti and Dr. Srinivasa Gopal.

“Sustainable packaging (also referred to as eco-friendly, environmentally-friendly and green packaging) is frequently discussed in the popular and trade media and is something that almost all major food companies have publicly committed to. However, defining what sustainable packaging actually is presents a challenge and there is no single universally-accepted definition.” (*ref. Gordon Robertson, IU FoST Scientific Information Bulletin on Sustainable Packaging*).

The discussion with these international experts included ‘Over and Under Packaging’, Bio-based Plastics, Environmental impacts of Packaging, value-added food processing by utilization of emerging food packaging techniques, latest innovations in bulk and retail packaging from the food safety angle, packaging recycling, the impact of regulations in new packaging materials and the balancing act between cost of food and cost of packaging and implications for small and medium-sized enterprises.

You will hear from us further as the findings and summary will be published soon.

**Food Culture and Traditional Foods is the subject of IU FoST Scientific Roundtable Discussion (SRD8) to be held on April 29, 2021 from 7 a.m. Eastern Summer Time (GMT-5).**

The wisdom, traditional practices and the preservation of Foods through the knowledge of Food Culture and civilisation stems from beyond 5000 years in many regions of the World. These are well established cultural practices handed down from generation to generation originating in different agricultural practices and including understanding of edible plant parts and the role of functional ingredients with culinary habits. Today's Food Science expertise provides a unique opportunity to understand the benefits of these foods better than ever before. The advances of Food Engineering have helped in scale up and preservation techniques retaining the texture, flavour and the overall sensory qualities of processed traditional Foods available in the market. There is a merging of benefits to Health in such foods and scientists are focussing on this aspect in the midst of the repercussions of the Pandemic and Post Recovery Pandemic to understand the role of such Traditional Foods and Food Culture for Health and immune functions. The modern tools of science and our nutritional understanding of these foods open new vistas for better and convenient processing of this class of foods with value addition to the raw material with the mix of Food Culture and Traditional food habits will form the core focus of this Round Table.

We are proud to announce the **First International Symposium of the IU FoST/IA FoST Early Career Scientist Section to be held on 15 and 16 September 2021 on the subject of Food Innovations for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

The aim of the symposium is to share the exciting research accomplishments of early career and young scientists as well as foster important discussions on the contributions of food science innovations in meeting the Zero Hunger and other relevant SDGs. In addition to the invited Early Career scientist plenary speakers, young scientists (PhD candidates) will be invited also to submit their innovative research findings to win a chance to present their findings to an international audience and win prizes. More to follow with the launch in April. Save the date to hear from Early Career Scientists and Young Scientists in a unique symposium organised by the global members of the IU FoST/IA FoST ECS Section.

**Get Ready for IUFOST Congress 2022 in Singapore** - Mark your calendars: **23 – 28 October 2022** for this World Congress that will be held at the spectacular Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre in the heart of eclectic, sophisticated and diverse Singapore, with science, food and cultural experiences to be laid out for you. Full support and involvement by all levels of Singapore government, Singapore tourism, the ASEAN region, our regional group FIFSTA and all our friends and colleagues await you. This is a congress with a twist:

- Singapore has given New Zealand a Half A Day Centre Stage on Day 1 of World Congress 2022 – to fulfil New Zealand’s dream of organising a World Congress after 50 years!
- New Zealand will then hand over the Congress Flag to Singapore in the afternoon of Day 1 and the Grand Opening of Singapore World Congress 2022 will begin with a BANG!

**And our congratulations to Associazione Italiana di Tecnologia Alimentare (AITA) as Italy has been awarded the 2024 IUFOST World congress to be held in the first week of September 2024, in beautiful Rimini, Italy.**

**EVENTS and Activities to note:**

Malaysian Institute of Food Technology (MIFT) is hosting a webinar April 8<sup>th</sup> from 13.30 – 16.30 on the subject of Rethinking Food Packaging: from Food Contact to Innovate Solutions. For more information, please contact Ms. Norsalehah Nasir, at [norsalehah.mift@gmail.com](mailto:norsalehah.mift@gmail.com).

**INNOVA 10**, 10 International Symposium of Food Innovation and Development, 27 September - 1 October 2021., Uruguay. See <https://innova-uy.com/site/reglamento?refresh=gKeGoa> for information regarding abstracts acceptance.