

CCRI Annual Policy Conference

Adapting Rural Policy for a Sustainable Future

7 February 2012

To be held at
Kingsholm Rugby Stadium, Gloucester



OVERVIEW OF THE CONFERENCE:

The 2012 CCRI Policy Conference builds on the innovative conference format developed in previous years to focus attention on understanding the tools and the evidence required to develop more adaptable forms of rural policy. The aim is to encourage participation and integration between academics, practitioners and policy makers in a conference setting. The emphasis is on discussion, both in formal settings of presentations and expert panels, and through informal interaction during coffee and lunch breaks. Academics will put forward ideas based on recent research on rural issues, policy makers will explore the impact of current policy processes, and practitioners will help identify opportunities and barriers to change; all in the context of current legislative change.

Recent policy developments such as the White Paper on the natural environment, The Lawton Report on wildlife and biodiversity, and the Foresight report on the Future of Food and Farming all emphasise the need for integration of policy action across different sectors, and the need to incorporate government, the private sector and civil society in solving current problems. The EU 'Europe 2020' growth strategy sets targets for both 'smart' and 'sustainable' growth, and for tackling social exclusion, climate change, energy, poverty and education through more integrated approaches. In the rural arena the call is essentially for an adaptive policy approach that seeks innovative ways to tackle the conflicts inherent between intensive food production and the quality of the natural environment, and between economic development and societal well-being over the long-term.

The Conference will consist of five sessions.

Professor Nigel Curry will start by exploring the past 25 years of rural policy to create the context in which to understand current policy developments.

This is followed by two, more focused, presentations: one will address the management of rural space and rural resources, and the second will explore resilience in food systems.

In the fourth session Professor Janet Dwyer, Co-Director of the CCRI, takes a leap into the unknown, looking forward to where the next 25 years of rural policy might take us, highlighting the pressures, the uncertainties, and the drivers of change at the European level.

The final session will consist of a panel discussion on influencing rural policy change, and will address issues raised in earlier Web-based discussion forums. The aim is to enhance understanding of the current situation and the rationale behind policy change through blending evidence from research with European and UK policy development. The conference will present recent research in a manner that demonstrates its contribution to the rural evidence base and policy relevance, while at the same time relating it to broader societal questions and theoretical issues.

CONFERENCE OUTLINE

The 'far horizons' policy view Where have we come from?

A scenic tour of the last 25 years of rural policy and how we have arrived at where we are today

Professor Nigel Curry

Where are we going?

Gazing into the crystal ball at the next 25 years of rural policy development

Professor Janet Dwyer

Managing rural spaces

Adapting policy to enable effective sustainable rural development

Dr Peter Gaskell, Dr Jane Mills

Developing secure food systems

Adapting policy to facilitate innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture

Dr Damian Maye, Dr James Kirwan

Expert Panel

Influencing policy change: the tools and the evidence needed

A panel of practitioners, academics and policy makers

HOW TO BOOK

The conference fee is **£100** including lunch and refreshments.

You can book your place on line at online booking
If you require an invoice, or have any queries, please email
ccri@glos.ac.uk

or telephone Jill Harper on **01242 714122**

Please visit **<http://www.ccri.ac.uk/Events/2012CCRIPolicyConference.htm>** to find out the latest news of speakers and other information



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