



HEALTHY SOIL  
HEALTHY FOOD  
HEALTHY PEOPLE

## H3 News April 2023

Welcome to the April 2023 edition of the H3 Programme newsletter! As we enter the third year of our five-year project, all 6 Work Packages and 3 Cross-Cutting Themes are now fully active. Our academic team continues to meet monthly, often in a hybrid format. We recently held our annual Stakeholder and Academic Advisory Board meetings and are planning a full in-person meeting in Sheffield this September. We also welcome new team members Martin Selby, Nick Wilkinson, Katie Berthon, and Steffen Hirth, who bring diverse expertise to our project.

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### UPDATE

**It is year three of the five-year H3 project.**



After a staggered start, all 6 Work Packages and 3 Cross Cutting themes are now active. The H3 academic team continue to meet monthly, usually in a hybrid format. Here we are in Leeds (earlier this week).

The annual meetings of our Stakeholder Advisory Board and Academic Advisory Boards were held in December and January respectively.

We are planning a full in person meeting of H3 and stakeholders on 14th and 15th September in Sheffield. We plan to catch up, make links and connections, and refine our future engagement strategy. If you would like to join us, please email: [a.blenkinsopp@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:a.blenkinsopp@sheffield.ac.uk)

## NEW STARTERS

**Martin Selby** who joined the WP2 team in November 2022 from Imperial College, Martin brings wide ranging horticultural experience to the hydroponic horticulture team.



**Nick Wilkinson** joined H3 in the School of Food Science and Nutrition at the University of Leeds at around the same time. Nick has worked in Leeds since 2018 and was previously a Marie S. Curie fellow, conducting a randomised controlled trial of a sensory food education intervention in primary school children. Nick is also a co-founder and trustee of Flavour School, a charity promoting sensory food education in the UK. Nick's academic background is in robotics and embodied cognition, which is coupled with a practical background in gastronomy and a desire for a healthy next generation. These interests converge in his current work aiming to boost fibre consumption in primary school children via breakfast clubs.

**Katie Berthon** arrived in January from Australia to start work in the WP3 (Landscape scale Regenerative Agriculture) team based at the University of Cambridge. Katie will present H3 work 'Seeing the bigger picture: Measuring the ecological, social and environmental benefits of regenerative farming' at the Association of [Applied Biologist conference 25th and 26th April 2023 in York](#).



**Steffen Hirth** joined the University of Leeds WP6 Research Team in February 2023. Steffen is a human geographer who subsequently completed his Doctorate in Sociology at the University of Manchester. His skills, experience and interests are a great fit to his role within WP6 which seeks to improve resilience in food supply chains to economic, health and environmental shocks. Steffen will make two presentations at the [Sustainable Consumption and Production Conference in July](#) in the Netherlands:

'Foraged and "semi-wild" food from urban green infrastructure as a means to develop sustainable and resilient food systems'; and

'Barriers and Enablers of 1.5° Lifestyles: Shallow and Deep Structural Factors Shaping Lifestyles and Climate Governance'

## PROGRESS



On the 30th March 2023, WP1 (Novel Growing Technologies) started a semi-commercial tomato growth trial at [Stockbridge Technology Centre](#) near Selby, North Yorkshire. The aim of the trial is to test whether synthetic communities of plant-beneficial microbes (SynComs) developed in WP1 can improve the sustainability and resilience of hydroponic tomato production. The pictures show Sam Wilkinson inoculating tomato seeds sown in rockwool with one of the WP1 SynComs.



On 27th March Jonathan Leake **WP2 (Hybrid Hydroponic Horticulture)** reported 'Amazing Growth in the lettuces'. During a particularly cold snap the lettuce not only survived, indeed they thrived in the unheated polytunnel at the Arthur Willis Environment Centre.

This success is the result of fantastic team work by Jake Nickles, Martin Selby and Toby Evans, with additional design assistance from student Matthew Clements, who is an engineer by training, and who worked for a short time last summer designing the supporting frames.

## H3 HAS MOVED!



Over Easter, the H3 team in Sheffield have moved into new office accommodation, on a hot desking basis within the Social Sciences WAVE building. Team members are welcome to join us or visit, please contact Anne if you would like to.

## PUBLICATIONS

Production and consumption in agri-food transformations: Rethinking integrative perspectives - Beacham - 2023 - Sociologia Ruralis - Wiley Online Library <https://doi.org/10.1111/soru.12423>

## CONGRATULATIONS

Lynn Dicks appointed to the Natural England Board, see: **Dr Lynn Dicks - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**

**ShefFood**, our local Food Partnership on receiving a bronze award at the Sustainable Food Places Conference. Selina Treuherz (pictured here) the ShefFood coordinator received the award at the event in Oxford 23rd and 24th March, which was also attended by H3 PI Peter Jackson.



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