Climate Change and the Food System

The aim of this short course will be to explore and discuss science and policy issues at the interface of climate change and the food system.

Monday, April 13 at 4:30 - 7:30 pm
The Challenges of Feeding 9-10 Billion people in 2050 Sustainably and Equitably.
In this session I will first set the scene for discussions of food security over the next three-four decades and then invite discussion on what will be the major drivers affecting the food system over this period and the importance of a changing climate. Background reading: (1).

Tuesday April 14 at 4:30 -7:30 pm
Predictions and Projections. In this session we shall explore together different strategies for assessing the effects of climate change on the food system including models that take a statistical approach and those that explicitly model the dynamics of food prices. Background reading: (2, 3).

Wednesday, April 15 at 4:30 - 7:30 pm
Adaptation and Mitigation. The food system can adapt to climate change and can also change to help mitigate its effects. We shall discuss strategies for both in the food system and how they might be incentivized. Background reading: (4, 5).

Thursday, April 16 at 4:30 - 7:30 pm
Food, Climate Change, Land, Biodiversity Nexus. Will the drive to produce more food lead as well as other pressure on land use such as biofuels lead to further loss of biodiversity? We shall explore this question, and what might done to reconcile the competing demands for land in a warming world. Background reading: (6, 7).

Friday, April 17 at 1 - 4 pm
I am not planning ahead the last session but will discuss with the class what they are most interested in exploring.

Charles Godfray
Oxford University. March 2015

Background reading: