

IGD Technical Leaders Conference 2026

Shaping a safe and resilient food future.

Conference overview:

The UK food system is entering a decade defined by rapid technological change, shifting consumer expectations, and intensifying food safety and security challenges.

IGD Technical Leaders Conference: Shaping a Safe and Resilient Food Future brings together technical leaders, academics and leading industry voices to explore the opportunities and challenges facing the sector.

Across a programme of keynote talks, real-world case studies, and dynamic discussion, delegates will explore how emerging technologies, academic research, and cross-industry collaboration can strengthen UK food resilience and create a safer environment for consumers.

Hear from leading industry and academic voices and dive into the successes of the IGD Technical Leaders Network, tackling projects that truly make a difference to industry and the consumer.

With dedicated networking sessions throughout, this event is designed to create new connections, accelerate innovation, and equip technical leaders with the insight needed to build a safer, more resilient food future.

When: 12th November, 10:00-16:00 (in person only)

Where: Dock Gallery, Tobacco Dock, Wapping Ln, London, E1W 2SF

Who: Technical Leaders from the UK food and drink sector

Cost: Free!





Conference programme

Shaping a safe and resilient food future.

10:00-10:25

Welcome & networking

10:25-10:30

Co-chair welcome: Emmanuelle Lerges & Ross Dennison

10:30-11:15

A safe and resilient food future: Katie Pettifer, Chief Executive, FSA

11:15-12:00

The role of technology in the future of food: Professor Simon Pearson

12:00-12:45

Celebrating network success: Allergens, Fresh Produce, Mentoring

12:45-13:45

Networking lunch

13:45-14:30

Agrifood futures: Professor Carol Wagstaff

14:30-15:30

Exploring a collaborative approach to a safe & resilient food future: Panel discussion

15:30-16:00

Networking & event close

Guest speakers



Katie Pettifer, Chief Executive, FSA



Professor Simon Pearson, University of Lincoln



Professor Carol Wagstaff, University of Reading



Emmanuelle Lerges, Technical & Quality Director, Tesco



Ross Dennison, Industry Technical Expert

