

**FIFTH VERTICAL FARMING WORLD CONGRESS  
25-26 SEPTEMBER 2024, FRANKFURT AIRPORT**

**THEME: POWERING UP**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME – V7**

**Wednesday 25 September**

**MARKET OVERVIEW**

- 09.00 **Opening address: Learning the lessons, realising the dream**  
Professor Dickson Despommier, author of **The Vertical Farm** in 2010 and 'grandfather' of the vertical farming industry
- 09.15 **What it will take for vertical farming to fulfil its potential**  
Peter Bachmann, Managing Director – Sustainable Infrastructure at **Gresham House**
- 09.30 **Applying best practice to cities of the future**  
Phillip Lee, Chief Executive Officer of **Evolve Growing Solutions**
- 09.45 **Smart vertical farming harnessing Artificial Intelligence**  
Dr Chungui Lu, Professor of Sustainable Agriculture at **Nottingham Trent University**, United Kingdom
- 10.00 Panel discussion joined by  
Eri Hayashi, President of **Japan Plant Factory Association**
- 10.30 Refreshment and networking break

**INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP**

- 11.00 **Insights from the industry's most international network**  
Rick Vanzura, Chief Executive Officer of **Freight Farms**, United States
- 11.15 **Keys to international expansion – from Lithuania to Saudi Arabia**  
Jesper Hansen, Chief Commercial Officer of **YesHealth Group**, Taiwan
- 11.30 **From disaster to accelerated growth**  
Roel Janssen, Chief Business Officer of **Planet Farms**, Italy
- 11.45 **Changing perceptions: becoming recognised as a food business**  
Andy O'Brien, President and Chief Executive Officer of **GoodLeaf Farms**, Canada
- 12.00 **Panel discussion** joined by  
Tristan Fischer, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of **Fischer Farms**, United Kingdom  
Andreas Wilhelmsson, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of **Ljusgård**, Sweden
- 12.30 Buffet lunch and networking

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

- 13.45 **Sourcing and saving energy**  
Jack Farmer, Chief Scientific Officer of **LettUs Grow**, United Kingdom
- 14.00 **Energy, water and nutrients from city waste**  
Ard van de Kreeke, Founder of **Growy**, Netherlands
- 14.15 Questions and discussion

**PROVING SUSTAINABILITY**

- 14.35 **Sponsor presentation: Direct Air Capture for CO2 efficiency**  
Camille Hanna, Business Development Director for **Skytree**

- 14.45 **Speed breeding to promote climate resilience**  
Ramin Ebrahimnejad, Business Development Manager – Advanced Plant Growth Centre at **James Hutton Institute**, United Kingdom
- 15.00 **Going CO2 negative**  
Denis Weinberg, Founder and Managing Director of **Umami**, Switzerland
- 15.15 Questions and discussion
- 15.30 Refreshment and networking break
- HYBRID SYSTEMS**
- 16.00 **Creating multifunctional vertical farm and greenhouse spaces**  
Laurie Liu, Business Development Manager for **Beijing AgriGarden**, China
- 16.10 **Harnessing hybrid for maximum sustainability**  
Jessica Gomez, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of **Origeen**, Mexico
- 16.20 **Hybrid hope for low income regions**  
Kushal Gurung, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of **Mutha Agro**, Nepal
- 16.30 Questions and discussion
- 17.00 Close
- VERTICAL FARMING WORLD AWARDS DINNER**
- 18.30 **Cocktail drinks reception**
- 19.30 **Gala industry dinner**
- 21.30 **2024 Vertical Farming World Awards presentation**
- 22.00 Close

#### **Thursday 26 September**

##### **INDUSTRY CHALLENGE**

- 09.00 **From bust to boom: the future of profitable vertical farming**  
Alberto Lopez, Systems Engineer at **Agriitecture**, United States
- 09.15 Questions and discussion

##### **POWERING UP IN WALES**

- 09.30 **Selecting seeds for totally controlled environments**  
Professor John Doonan, Chair of Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences at **Aberystwyth University**
- 09.45 **Panel discussion** on vertical farming potential for investment in Wales with  
Fuling Li, Head of Inward Investment and International Campaign – Food Division of **Welsh Government**  
Edward Burt, Senior Manager – Inward Investment, Food and Drink for **Welsh Government**
- 10.15 Refreshment and networking break

##### **INNOVATOR CASE STUDIES**

- 11.00 **Roadmap for applying AI to improved yield and quality**  
Professor Paul Gauthier, Professor in Protected Cropping at **University of Queensland**, Australia

- 11.10 **Improving nutritional quality**  
Ritu Bhalla, Assistant Director – Agriculture Research and Innovation Centre at **Republic Polytechnic**, Singapore
- 11.20 **Handling the intricacies of research in a commercial setting**  
Rixta Sievers, Research Manager for **Grow Up Farms**, United Kingdom
- 11.30 **Microgreens to strengthen immunity and reduce inflammation**  
Rick Hein, Managing Director of **MicroThumbs**, South Africa
- 11.40 Questions and discussion
- PROTEIN ALTERNATIVES**
- 12.10 **Developing plant protein for meat alternatives**  
Dr Jennifer Bromley, Chief Scientific Officer of **Vertical Future**, United Kingdom
- 12.20 **Breeding insects as a service for protein**  
Dr Yuval Gild, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of **FreezeM**, Israel
- 12.30 Questions and discussion
- 12.45 Buffet lunch and networking
- POWERING UP IN SPACE**
- 13.45 **Creating a closed ecological life support system**  
Raymond Wheeler, Plant Physiologist and Senior Scientist for **NASA Exploration Research**, United States
- 14.00 **Achieving space-based self sufficiency**  
Dr Robert Morrow, Lead Plant Scientist at **Sierra Space**, United States
- 14.15 Questions and discussion
- 14.30 Close

**RCSH 28.8.2024**