



VERTICAL FARMING WORLD CONGRESS

25-26 Sep 2024 • Frankfurt

Powering Up

Expert
speakers

Exclusive
insights

Dynamic
discussions

Extensive
networking

Gala
awards
dinner

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2024 VERTICAL FARMING WORLD CONGRESS

THE EVENT

Bringing together vertical farming operators, investors, suppliers and customers, this 5th annual Vertical Farming World Congress is designed to help develop and advance the sector's future.

It is the most substantial dedicated event of the year, featuring conference sessions, networking with key industry figures and presentation of the 2024 Vertical Farming World Awards.

With the theme of 'Powering Up', this year's event will focus on future opportunity, with sessions on energy, sustainability, hybrid systems, protein alternatives and space exploration alongside market insights, innovator case studies and leadership views. There will also be substantial opportunities for networking, including a gala industry dinner with awards.

SPEAKERS



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 **The New City** in 2023, 'grandfather' of the vertical farming industry
- 09.15 **Applying best practice to cities of the future**
Phillip Lee, Chief Executive Officer of **Evolve International**, Dubai
- 09.30 **What it will take for vertical farming to fulfil its potential**
Peter Bachmann, Managing Director – Sustainable Infrastructure at **Gresham House**, United Kingdom
- 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
Dr Eri Hayashi, President of **Japan Plant Factory Association**
- 10.30 Refreshment and networking break
- 11.05 **Sponsor presentation: On-site nutrient laboratory for real-time efficiency**
Simon Meijer, Chief Executive Officer of **CE-Line**, Netherlands

INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP

- 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 **Insights from the industry's most international network**
Rick Vanzura, Chief Executive Officer of **Freight Farms**, United States
- 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 **Ljussgård**, Sweden

POWERING UP

WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

12.30 Buffet lunch and networking

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

13.45 **Sourcing and saving energy**

Nick Green, Head of Commercial for **LettUs Grow**, United Kingdom

14.00 **Energy, water and nutrients from city waste**

Ard van de Kreeke, Founder of **Growy**, Netherlands

14.15 **Sponsor presentation: Realising the power of smart lighting control**

Anne Jancic, Global Segment Manager – Vertical Farming for **Philips Horticulture LED Solutions**, Netherlands

Bart 't Hoen, Area Sales Manager for **Hoogendoorn Growth Management**, Netherlands

14.30 Questions and discussion

14.45 **Sponsor presentation: Harnessing Direct Air Capture for CO2 efficiency**

Camille Hanna, Business Development Director for **Skytree**, Netherlands

PROVING SUSTAINABILITY

14.55 **Speed breeding to promote climate resilience**

Ramin Ebrahimnejad, Business Development Manager – Advanced Plant Growth Centre at **James Hutton Institute**, United Kingdom

15.10 **Going CO2 negative**

Denis Weinberg, Founder and Managing Director of **UMAMI**, Switzerland

15.25 Questions and discussion

15.45 Refreshment and networking break

HYBRID SYSTEMS

16.15 **Creating multifunctional vertical farm and greenhouse spaces**

Laurie Liu, Business Development Manager for **AgriGarden**, China

16.25 **Harnessing hybrid for maximum sustainability**

Jessica Gomez, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of **Origeen**, Mexico

16.35 **Hybrid hope for low income regions**

Kushal Gurung, Founder and Executive Chairman of **Muttha Agro**, Nepal

16.45 Questions and discussion

17.00 Close

VERTICAL FARMING WORLD AWARDS DINNER

18.30 **Networking drinks reception** *sponsored by Welsh Government*

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 López, Systems Engineer at **Agriitecture**, United States

09.15 **Panel discussion** joined by

Paul Millett, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of **InvertiGro**, Australia

POWERING UP IN WALES

09.35 **Selecting seeds for totally controlled environments**

Professor John Doonan, Director of National Plant Phenomics Centre - IBERS at **Aberystwyth University**, United Kingdom

2024 VERTICAL FARMING WORLD CONGRESS

THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

- 09.50 **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**
James Fleet, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of **Bloemteknik**, United Kingdom
Dr William Stiles, Lecturer in Soil Science - Department of Life Sciences at **Aberystwyth University**, United Kingdom
- 10.20 Refreshment and networking break
- PROTEIN ALTERNATIVES**
- 11.00 **Developing plant protein for meat alternatives**
Dr Jennifer Bromley, Chief Scientific Officer of **Vertical Future**, United Kingdom
- 11.10 **Breeding insects as a service for protein**
Dr Yuval Gild, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of **FreezeM**, Israel
- 11.20 Questions and discussion
- INNOVATOR CASE STUDIES**
- 11.35 **Roadmap for applying AI to improved yield and quality**
Professor Paul Gauthier, Professor of Protected Agriculture and Controlled Environment at **University of Queensland**, Australia
- 11.45 **Improving nutritional quality**
Ritu Bhalla, Assistant Director – Agriculture Research and Innovation Centre at **Republic Polytechnic**, Singapore
- 11.55 **Handling the intricacies of research in a commercial setting**
Rixta Sievers, Research Manager for **GrowUp Farms**, United Kingdom
- 12.05 **Microgreens to strengthen immunity and reduce inflammation**
Rick Hein, Managing Director of **MicroThumbs**, South Africa
- 12.15 Questions and discussion
- 12.45 Buffet lunch and networking
- POWERING UP IN SPACE**
- 13.45 **Bioregenerative life support testing – what NASA has learned**
Raymond Wheeler, Plant Physiologist and Emeritus Senior Scientist for **NASA Kennedy Space Center**, 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

Programme correct as at 20 September 2024

WI-FI ACCESS AND POLLING

WI-FI ACCESS

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POLLING

For questions and voting, scan the QR code or visit [slido.com](https://www.slido.com). Enter code **#VFWC2024**



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