

ANNUAL START RETREAT FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS

28-29 October 2025

Sandbjerg Gods,
Sandbjergvej 102,
6400 Sønderborg



START
CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE
AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS

What will the retreat explore?

Join us for a retreat created for early-career researchers (PhD students and postdocs), with a focus on your career and future opportunities. Over 1.5 days we combine talks, workshops, and informal networking in the inspiring setting of Sandbjerg.

This year's retreat explores themes such as:

- Collaborating across disciplines and understanding cultural differences in research
- Exploring career paths inside and outside academia
- Developing transferable skills for diverse career paths
- Expanding your professional network across fields and sectors
- Using social media for outreach and career development

The program offers a mix of expert insights, practical sessions, and time to connect and exchange experiences with fellow young researchers.

The retreat is both professional and informal — a space to reflect, share ideas, and build networks that can support your next steps.

Practical information

There is no participation fee for the retreat. Accommodation and catering are included at no cost.

Application deadline: September 15, 2025

Retreat date: October 28 – 29, 2025

Venue: Sandbjerg Gods. Sandbjergvej 102, 6400 Sønderborg Denmark

Due to a limited number of spots, we reserve the right to select participants based on the submitted applications to ensure a diverse and well-balanced group. We will get back to you shortly after the application deadline to inform you whether you have been offered a spot.

How do I apply?

You can register via [this link](#). As part of your application, please submit a short motivation letter (maximum half a page), answering:

- What are your expectations for the retreat?
- How does interdisciplinary work relate to your research?
- Briefly share your current research interests.

Preliminary Programme

Interdisciplinary work

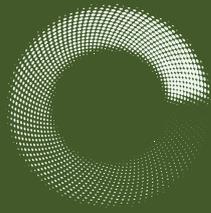
Tuesday, 28 October

12.00-13.00	Arrival, welcome and lunch
13.00-17.00	Interdisciplinary collaboration: exploring cross-disciplinary cooperation in funding applications <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ice-breaker activity• Presentation on exploring cross-disciplinary cooperation in funding applications Presenters: Jacob Thyrsted Johansen (Aarhus University) and Christian Kvorning Lassen (Aarhus University) We will be playing the board game “GRANTED: The Research Grant Game”. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The GRANTED game is ideal for researchers across any field looking to develop multi- or interdisciplinary grant applications. It’s also a valuable tool for junior faculty, PhD candidates, and post-doctoral researchers to sharpen their grant-writing skills. Facilitators: Jacob Thyrsted Johansen (Aarhus University), Christian Kvorning Lassen (Aarhus University) and Annemarie Etzerodt (Aarhus University)
17.00-18.00	Time for oneself
18.00	Dinner
19.00-?	“Hygge”/fun (voluntarily)

Career development

Wednesday, 29 October

8.00-9.00	Breakfast
9.00-11.30	Taking Care of Your Career <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation and workshop about finding the right career for you after your PhD. You will be presented with a number of considerations about your career after your PhD. Whether you are choosing academia, industry, entrepreneurship or something else there are elements that are relevant to consider during your PhD. You will be able to reflect on and work with a plan for your career – that is more than just a job. Presenter: Kristian Østergaard Sørensen (Aalborg University)
11.30-12.15	Lunch
12.15-15.00	Get Social Media to Work for You <p>This workshop will show you how to use social media to extend your own impact, network with your peers, and get access to opportunities in both academia and the agrifood industry.</p> <p>Participants will learn how to exploit platforms like LinkedIn (and its alternatives) as professional tools. And to avoid unnecessary distractions.</p> <p>You will get practical tips on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicating effectively on the platforms• Meeting the right people, and getting others involved in your research process• Sourcing content from collaboration partners• Maintaining a sustainable social media routine that fits into your working day• The workshop is both for beginners, and for those who are more experienced. Presenter: Mike Young (mikeyoungacadamy)
15.00	Coffee and wrapping up
15.15	End of retreat and taxi to Sønderborg train station



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