



**UNIVERSITÀ
DI PARMA**

DIPARTIMENTO DI GIURISPRUDENZA,
STUDI POLITICI E INTERNAZIONALI
DIPARTIMENTO 2023
DI ECCELLENZA 2027



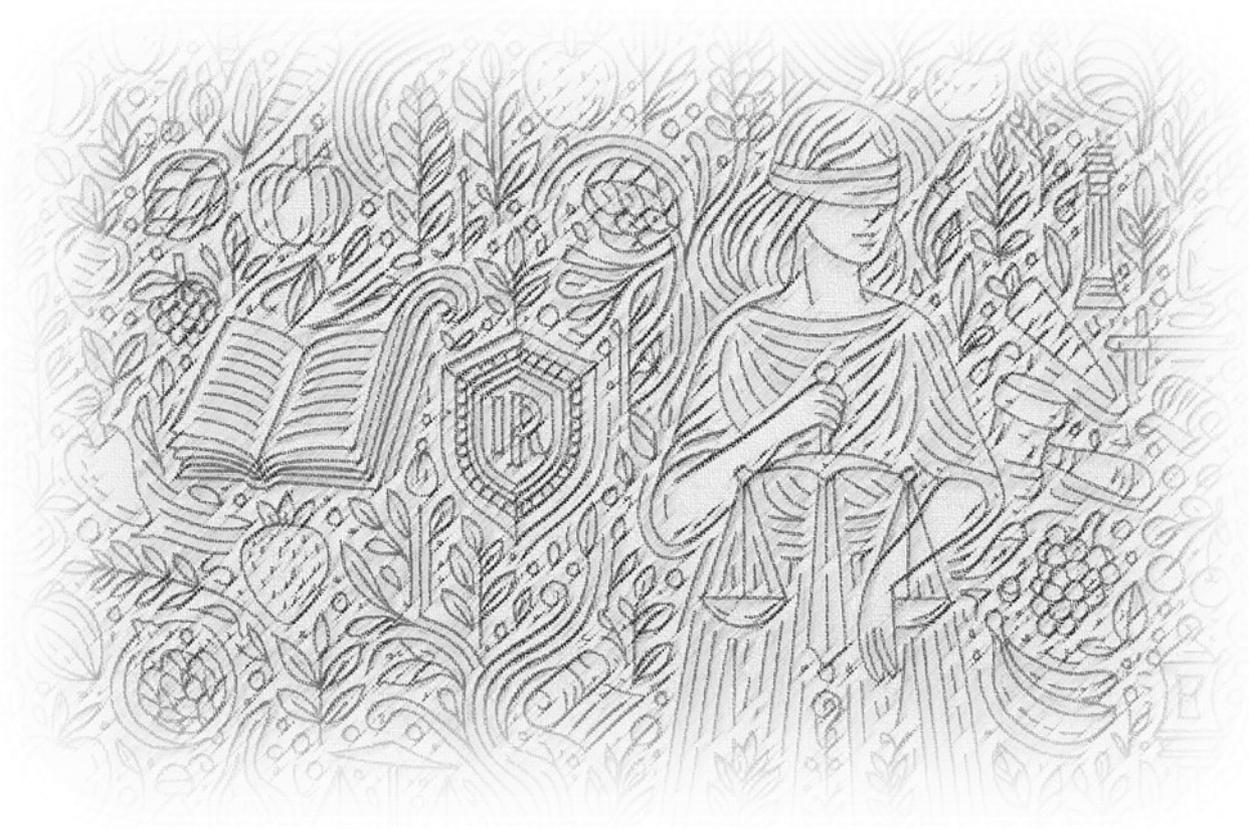
Food Law
Academics
Network

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

**Food Law Academics Network (FLAN) Annual Conference 2026
11-12 May 2026**

University of Parma, Via Università 12 – Parma – Italy

Law and Food Security in Times of Uncertainty and Change



The fourth FLAN Annual Conference starts from the assumption that food is more than just sustenance: it is at the heart of human dignity, community, and survival. Yet in today's world, food systems are under immense strain. Global conflicts disrupt supply chains, climate change threatens agricultural stability, and technological innovations often outpace the legal frameworks meant to regulate them. Meanwhile, inequalities in access to safe, nutritious food persist both within and between countries and are used as weapons against any human rights. In such a framework, law is a central player. It shapes how food is produced, traded, and consumed, how rights are protected, and how innovation is either encouraged or restrained. This conference wish to open debate on a fundamental question:

how can law help ensure food security for all in times of uncertainty and change?

Themes:

We invite academics (professors, researchers, fellow researchers, lecturers and PhD candidates) to submit an abstract, trying to answer the above question, in one of the following areas:

1. Food Sustainability and the Impact on Food Security

The future of food is inseparable from the future of the planet. How can law balance the need to feed people with the urgent task of protecting ecosystems, addressing climate change, and ensuring wellbeing, respect of cultures and economic feasibility? Abstracts should examine policies and laws on the topic, such as those related to sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, water use, food waste, highlighting both successes and gaps.

2. Innovation and Regulation

From biotechnologies to AI, innovation applied to the food sector is one of the key elements to achieve food security but with each invention new questions arise about safety, biosecurity, ethics, sustainability, socio-economic implications and, of course, regulation. Abstracts should explore how laws can support responsible innovation, making sure that progress serves the public good rather than leaving communities behind (or, in worst cases, damaging them).

3. History and Politics of Food Law

Food law has never been neutral, it has always reflected power, politics, and priorities. This session will explore the historical pathways that brought us here, from the earliest food security rules to the rise of international trade regimes. Abstracts will discuss how past legal choices shaped markets and access to food. Proposals on how political choices in times of war or geopolitical uncertainties can affect food security are also welcome.

4. (In)Equalities and Rights

Access to food is one of the most basic human rights, yet inequalities remain stark. This session will explore the social and legal barriers that keep food out of reach for so many, from structural discrimination to international aid frameworks. Abstracts on the legal recognition of the "right to food" are welcome, above all if offering solutions on how this right can be made real in practice.



UNIVERSITÀ
DI PARMA

DIPARTIMENTO DI GIURISPRUDENZA,
STUDI POLITICI E INTERNAZIONALI
DIPARTIMENTO 2023
DI ECCELLENZA 2027



Food Law
Academics
Network

5. Intellectual Property and Control of Food Systems

Who owns food? This session will tackle the thorny world of intellectual property: patents on seeds, plant variety protections, and geographical indications etc. Abstracts are also invited to explore the tension between rewarding innovation and ensuring that farmers, especially in the Global South, have fair access to resources and knowledge.

Submission Information:

Those interested to participate are invited to submit their abstracts (just one per person) of max. 3000 characters (including spaces) via the form at the following link <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/OVx98PjWb3> by **15 January 2026**. Abstracts should relate to one of the outlined themes.

Notifications of acceptance will be communicated **by 15 February 2026**. For organizational reasons, confirmation of attendance (we remind that it will be in person) is required by **15 March 2026**.

Registration and Attendance: Registration to the conference will open on 16 March and close on 20 April 2026.

The registration fee for researchers, lecturers and professors is € 100. For PhD candidates and fellow researchers, a reduced fee of € 60 is applicable.

Participants will bear their own costs.

Conference Scientific Committee:

Mirta Alessandrini, Giulia Formici, Francesco Montanari, Valeria Paganizza, Silvia Rolandi, Lucia Scaffardi, Hanna Schebesta

Conference Organization Committee:

Giulia Formici, Valeria Paganizza

Contacts

For any questions, feel free to contact the organizers by email: flanconference2026@unipr.it