Verena Seufert

Postdoctoral Fellow at University of British Columbia, Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability

Vancouver, BC, CA

Scientist interested in all things food and nature. Studying how we can do agriculture better.

Biography

Verena Seufert is an environmental scientist specializing in agriculture and food topics. She received her PhD degree from the Department of Geography at McGill University, and is currently working as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES) and the Liu Institute for Global Issues at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Verena?s research focuses on the question of how to do food better: How can we create a world where everyone has sufficient and nutritious food they enjoy eating? How can we produce our food without destroying the very natural resources that food production depends on? How can we create a food system that is more just and more sustainable? There are many purported answers to the question of how to do food better. Paleo! Organic! GMO! Vegan! Local! Global! But what do we actually know about these supposed solutions? Debates around these issues are often very passionate, but typically not sufficiently informed by good science. A particular focus of Verena?s work has been to assess these debates as objectively as possible, using rigorous scientific tools, to help us make sense of different claims, and in the end to allow us grow and eat food in a better way. Verena has puplished her research in internationally renown journals (including, for example, Nature and Science Advances), she has given many invited talks (including keynotes) at international conferences, and her research has appeared in numerous print, online, radio and TV media outlets.

Areas of Expertise

Sustainability, organic agriculture, Sustainable Agriculture, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land use, Food Security , Farmer livelihoods, Ecosystem services

Education

McGill University
Ph.D. Geography

University of Würzburg
Diploma Biology

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