

Paludi-Imaginaries:

Re-Imagining Wetland Futures (A Creative Workshop)

About the workshop:

Paludiculture is gaining traction in science and policy as a viable land management tool, in conjunction with peatland restoration. However, the conversation can feel distant from the people who actually work the land. Farmers hold generations of knowledge about their fields, their water, and their soils, yet re-wetting is often presented as a technical proposition - rather than a future they can shape.

Paludi-Imaginaries is a facilitated creative workshop that puts land practitioner and farmer at the centre. The workshop will be introduced by a short presentation that introduces three horizons: the past (how wet-farming was utilised in thriving wetland communities), the present (how wet-farming is being used today), and the future (what impact can wet-farming have on re-building community, land stewardship and farmer agency?).

Participants will be encouraged to respond creatively through different mediums: zine-making, collage, poetry, drawing - each piece becoming a tile within a collective mosaic that captures the room's shared visions.

We don't expect creative experience, nor is this designed for traditional artists. If you know your land, tell stories about your fields, soils, seasons - you are already creative and we invite you to channel it into this session.

The output feeds directly into ongoing interdisciplinary research, giving practitioners a meaningful voice in how paludiculture develops and grounding the science in the lived relationships land owners have with their land.

What to expect?

Presentation (10-15 mins):

- 1) Introductions - Who we are and what is Paludiculture?
- 2) Wet-farming in the past - Why should we care?
- 3) Current state of play - Paludiculture Trials & Benefits to society
- 4) The Future - Why wet-farming requires imagination & reflections on arable land definitions (how the value of land can remain stable by raising the water table)

Workshop (1.5 hours):

1) Invite participants to explore different themes via the following prompts:

- Sustainable materials
- Food
- Peatland Restoration and Land Management
- Societal vs Practitioner Relationship With The Land

2) Participants to draw spider diagrams exploring each theme in more depth - this can be individual, in pairs/groups, discussions are encouraged.

3) Once participants have explored their themes they can choose a medium to creatively explore the theme further: zine-making (visual or written), poetry, drawing, pastels - free creative reign!

4) Finished creative products will be transferred to a 'tile' on the mosaic sheet of paper where participants are invited to come together and show eachother's work.

5) Discussion to finish - participants are encouraged to discuss their work, what feelings came to them in the process, postmortem of whether they feel differently about paludiculture, what have they learned, do they feel inspired?