

# Innovate UK KTN – Agri-Food

## Funding opportunities

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<https://iuk.ktn-uk.org/>



Innovate UK  
KTN

# The Farming Innovation Programme

- Part of Defra's **Agricultural Transition Plan**
- **£270M** of grant funding for R&D through to 2028/29
- To enhance productivity, environmental sustainability and resilience in England's farming sectors
- Funding is awarded on a competitive basis to high quality, innovative projects
- Collaborative **projects must benefit farmers and growers in England**

# The **Farming Innovation Programme** offers a range of opportunities for farmers, growers, businesses and researchers to collaborate on industry-led research and development:



Small **Research Starter Projects** where farmers, growers & foresters can explore a new idea, or **Projects to Accelerate Adoption** (coming soon) where farmers and growers can trial new innovation on their farms.



**Feasibility projects** where businesses can check if a research idea works in practice.



**Small/Large Partnership Projects**, where businesses can further develop a new farming product or service towards commercialisation.



**Themed competitions** (Farming Futures R&D Fund), where businesses and researchers can work on longer-term innovation focussing on issues like **Climate-Smart Farming**, or **Sustainable farm-based Proteins**.

# Farming Innovation Programme: Which funding is right for you?

<b><u>Explore an idea and develop a team</u></b>	Research Starter	£28-56K	1 year	UK Businesses
<b><u>Check if an idea works in practice</u></b>	Feasibility Studies	£200-500K	2 years	UK Businesses
<b><u>Develop a new product or service</u></b>	Small R&D partnerships	£1-3 million	3 years	UK Businesses
	Large R&D partnerships	£3-5 million	4 years	UK Businesses
<b><u>Work on longer-term innovations</u></b>	Farming Futures R&D	£200K – 6 million	2 to 5 years	Research organisations or UK businesses

# Current Opportunities

**Farming Innovation Programme: Small R&D partnerships (round 3)**

**Opens: 14/08/2023 Closes: 25/10/2023**

**Farming Innovation Programme: Feasibility (round 3)**

**Opens: 18/09/2023 Closes: 15/11/2023**

# Farming Innovation Programme Small R&D Partnership Projects – Round 3

## Total budget



**9.8**  
Million

## Aim of the competition

develop solutions with the potential to improve overall productivity, sustainability, resilience and move existing agricultural sectors to net zero

## Costs

**£1 – 3 million**

## Duration

**Up to 36 months**



Your proposal must be able to demonstrate how the project will benefit farmers, growers or foresters in England.



For **UK organisations** wishing to **collaborate** with other UK organisations

**Competition deadline**  
**25 Oct 2023**

**Projects to start by**  
**1 June 2024**

# Farming Innovation Programme Feasibility Studies – Round 3

(Opens 18th September 2023)

## Total budget



**4.5**  
Million

## Aim of the competition

to fund feasibility studies investigating new solutions that will address major on-farm or immediate post farmgate challenges or opportunities.

## Costs

**£200k – £500k**

## Duration

**12-24**  
**months**



Your proposal must be able to demonstrate how the project will benefit farmers, growers or foresters in England.

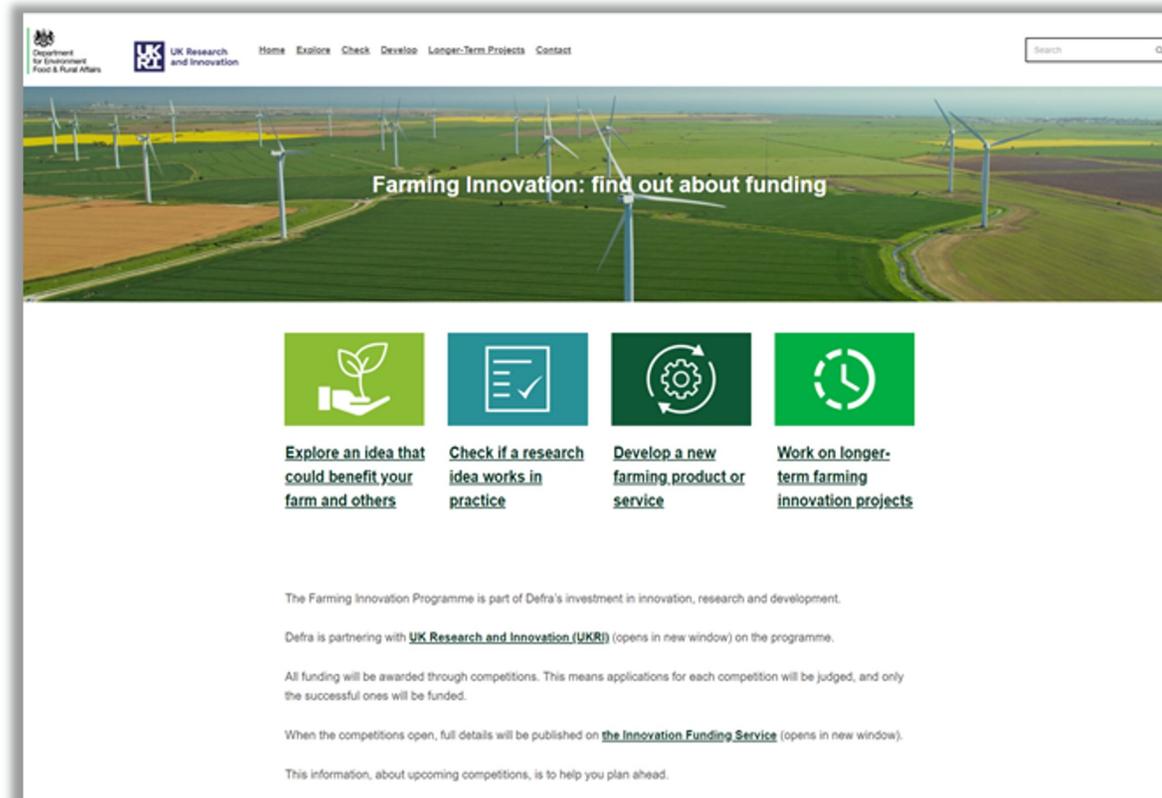


For **UK organisations** wishing to **collaborate** with other UK organisations

**Competition deadline**  
**15 Nov 2023**

**Projects to start by**  
**1 May 2024**

<https://farminginnovation.ukri.org>



# BridgeAI

£100m Innovate UK funded programme to encourage AI innovation and adoption in UK business over the next 2 years.

Bridge AI is an Innovate UK funded programme, delivered by a consortium including Innovate UK, Digital Catapult, The Alan Turing Institute, STFC Hartree Centre and BSI.



# Mission statement

To empower businesses in high-growth sectors within the UK, including agriculture, construction, creative, and transport industries, to harness the power of AI in a responsible and ethical manner, driving productivity and unlocking their full potential.

# AI Solutions to improve productivity in key sectors

Apply for a share of up to £32m for innovation projects that can improve productivity in key sectors through the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

(Opens 27th Sept- closes 8th Nov)

## Single entity strand

Your project must:

- have a grant funding request of up to £100,000
- last **between 4 and 8 months**
- carry out all of its project work in the UK
- intend to exploit the results from or in the UK
- start on 1 April 2024
- end by 31 March 2025

## Collaborative strand

Your project must:

- have a grant funding request between £700,000 and £1.2 million
- last **between 10 and 12 months**
- carry out all of its project work in the UK
- intend to exploit the results from or in the UK
- start on 1 April 2024
- end by 31 March 2025

# Other Funding opportunities

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## **Innovate UK SMART Grants: June 23** (opens 15 Jun - closes 27 Sep)

Smart is Innovate UK's responsive grant funding programme. It supports SMEs and their partners to develop disruptive innovations with significant potential for rapid, economic return to the UK.

## **Innovation Loans Future Economy: Round 11** (opens 14 Sep - closes 8 Nov)

Loans to micro, small and medium - sized enterprises (SMEs), to support innovative projects with strong commercial potential to significantly improve the UK economy.

## **Knowledge transfer partnerships (KTP)**

Partnership between a business and academic partner, with knowledge transfer via a recent graduate.

## **Royal Society: Industry Fellowships for academic and industrial researchers**

The scheme enables talented scientists and engineers from industry and academia to move between the sectors thanks to funded secondments. Apply before 28 September.

## **BBSRC: Business and academia prosperity partnership: round 2**

Apply for funding to support established or high-potential research partnerships between business and academia. Your project can be up to five years. Details to be confirmed.

## **BBSRC: Sustainable Aquaculture Partnerships for Innovation**

UK research organisations can apply for funding to bring academia and industry together to develop solutions to challenges impacting the sustainable growth of UK aquaculture.

# AgriFood Funding, Events & News



## AgriFood Funding, Events & News



### Horticulture funding opportunities for UK growers

Horticultural growers, by their very nature are an innovative bunch. This is often made necessary by challenges like renting land, unpredictable weather, changes in regulation for crop protection products, managing dwindling labour forces and competition from imports. We take a look at the challenges horticulture faces and funding opportunities for growers with innovative ideas.

[READ MORE](#)

### Latest News



#### Improving food security in Africa via innovation in soil health and crop nutrition

Experts at our recent webinar gave an overview of innovations that could be used to boost soil health and crop nutrition in Africa, and how these could be incorporated into farming systems more effectively. They discussed biological solutions, investment and capacity building for farmers. Read our round up here.



#### Key insight into Earth Observation Technologies in Africa

We recently explored how the adoption of Earth Observation (EO) technologies can help to improve African agriculture economically and environmentally during a webinar. Speakers raised three key points to ensure EO technologies deliver impact for users and leads to positive change.

### A Journey through wool Innovation and circularity

We have brought together a group of innovators from across the wool supply chain to develop a Circular Action Plan for UK wool. Find out about innovative uses for wool.

### Q&A - Farming Innovation Programme - Small R&D Partnership Projects R3

If you have a new farming product or service that could improve farming methods and help the environment and you want to find out about funding to develop it, watch our Q&A on replay.

### Driving innovation in industrial biotechnology and engineering biology

We explore the role Industrial Biotechnology and Engineering Biology can play in moving towards producing chemicals and materials from alternative, sustainable feedstocks.

### Boosting productivity in AgriFood using AI – Take our short survey

Innovate UK is seeking new ideas to improve productivity using Artificial Intelligence in a range of sectors including AgriFood, as part of the BridgeAI project.

[VIEW MORE NEWS](#)

### Latest Funding & Opportunities

#### Farming Innovation Programme - Small R&D Partnership Projects - Round 3

UK registered businesses can apply for a share of up to £9.8 million to develop a new farming product or service that could improve farming methods and help the environment.

#### Farming Innovation Programme - Feasibility Study - Round 3

UK businesses can apply for a share of up to £4.5m to explore the potential of a new farming product or service that could improve farming methods and help the environment.

#### Showcase your innovation to ministers, businesses, government officials, and influencers

The new Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) is marking its six-month anniversary with an invite to businesses and organisations to exhibit within its new headquarters.

#### Got an innovative way to increase shelf life for perishables goods?

The Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya is looking for innovative ways to transport fresh produce and flowers from Kenya to Europe. Get up to £25k funding to work with them.

#### Innovate UK Smart grants: June 2023

UK registered organisations can apply for a share of up to £25 million for game changing and commercially viable R&D innovations that can significantly impact the UK economy.

#### Industry Fellowships for academic and industrial researchers

The scheme enables talented scientists and engineers from industry and academia to move between the sectors thanks to funded secondments. Apply before 28 September.

#### Sustainable aquaculture partnerships for innovation

UK research organisations can apply for funding to bring academia and industry together to develop solutions to challenges impacting the sustainable growth of UK aquaculture.

#### Funding for research partnerships between businesses and academic institutions

Apply for funding to support established or high-potential research partnerships between business and academia. Your project can be up to five years.

Sign up for IUK KTN AgriFood newsletters and funding alerts:

<https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/2VFU-7B5/agrifood-mailing-list>



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# Find out more

<https://ktn-uk.org/>  
<https://ktn-uk.org/agrifood/>

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Why not get the KTN [AgriFood Newsletter](#) each month?

<https://iuk.ktn-uk.org/>



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