

Farming Innovation Programme: Large R&D Partnerships Round 3 Funding Competition & Consortia Building Event

Webinar date: 23 January 2024, 10am–12pm
Opportunity closes: 13 March 2024, 11:00am

Debbie Tully & Simon Baty
AgriFood Knowledge Transfer Managers
Innovate UK KTN



Innovate
UK

Welcome and Housekeeping

- Please stay on mute throughout the talks
- Please put any questions in the “Questions” Box
- Please use “Chat” to introduce yourself and organisation
- Please use “Chat” to connect with fellow attendees
- This webinar will be recorded with the exclusion of the breakout sessions
- Links to the recording will be circulated afterwards

AGENDA

- 10:00-10:05 **Welcome and Introduction**, Debbie Tully, Innovate UK KTN
- 10:05-10:15 **Overview of Farming Innovation Programme (FIP)**, Alex Howell, Defra
- 10:15-10:25 **Competition Scope Overview**, Chris Lyons, Innovate UK
- 10:25-10:35 **Competition Q&A Session**
- 10:35-11:05 **Panel Discussion – Applicant Perspectives**, Shaunagh Slack from Pepsico, Victoria Nash-Woolley from CHAP and Simon Baty, Innovate UK KTN
- 11:05-11:15 **Q&A Session to the Panel**
- 11:15-11:25 **Application and Interview Tips**, Debbie Tully, Innovate UK KTN
- 11.25-11:55 **Networking and Breakout Sessions**
- 11.55-12.00 **Close and thank you**

About us

Innovate UK KTN exists to connect innovators with new partners and new opportunities beyond their existing thinking.

Accelerating ambitious ideas into real-world solutions.

Expertise across all sectors.



Our Network



46,229
Unique
Organisations



72%
Small

15%
Medium

13%
Large



234,478
innovators



Every university in
the UK

How we can help



Make powerful connections

Via our network of 10,000 AgriFood innovators



Secure funding

Helping identify and secure grants and investment



Get expert insight

Through our team, sector boards and network



Keep you up to date

Via our events, newsletters, website and social media

The AgriFood Team – areas of expertise

Head of AgriFood



David Telford
Sector Boards

KTM AgriFood



Jo Gosling

KTMs – Food Processing and Manufacturing



Debbie Tully
Place & AgriFood



Simon Baty
Investment

KTMs – AgriFood Africa



Joanna Scales
AgriFood Africa



Cameron
Davies
*Innovation
Awards*

KTMs – Livestock and Aquaculture



Caroline Griffin
Bridge AI



Lucy Mather
*Wool Innovation
Network*

KTMs – Plants and Crops



Cathryn Lambourne
D&I & AgriFood



Pedro Carvalho
*Scoping new areas
Regenerative Ag.*



Top Tips

From start to finish be prepared

It's a long process from today to winning in this competition;

- Closes 13th March (11am)
- Invite to Interview 19th April
- Interview between 20th May and 3rd June
- Notification 26th June

Start preparing now

**Your written application needs all
the usual hallmarks of great bid**

<https://iuk.ktn-uk.org/investment/good-application-guide/>



Eight Hallmarks of a Good Application

- **Alignment to the competition scope**
- **Innovation**
- **Strong business case**
- **Convincing value proposition**
- **Credible R&D Plan**
- **Right consortium**
- **Clear need for support**
- **The right kind of risk**

Innovate UK KTN Support

Get in touch if you want our help (<https://calendly.com/d/45n-yvq-zqs/large-r-d-r3-1-2-1-clone>)

Debbie.Tully@iuk.ktn-uk.org

Simon.Baty@iuk.ktn-uk.org

www.ktn-uk.org



Interview – Ahead of the day

- **Research your interview panel – you should be told in advance of your interview who they are.**
- **Be familiar with the format – Zoom.**
- **Great set of slides**
- **Address the deficiencies highlighted by the original assessors.**
- **Ensure key project members are available**
- **Practice as much as you can and be prepared for questions you anticipate**

Interview – On the day

- **Don't be late.**
- **Bring the right people and share the presenting – showcase the team.**
- **Be slick, use as much of the time to present the project. (limited on time)**
- **Use this opportunity to show you are already working well as a team.**

Interview - Tips

- **Demonstrate clearly how your project will impact farmers, growers or foresters in England**
- **Ensure you fully meet the scope.**
- **Know your finances and be ready to justify them.**
- **Provide a convincing exploitation and adoption plan.**
- **Demonstrate strong impact and value for money.**

Couple of things to highlight before we network

- **Collaboration document**

- Document containing all the participants from today who agreed to be included
- Helps to make collaboration and consortium building easier
- Should be out early next week

- **Request for introductions**

- Please use the chat function with any requests
- Please drop us (the IUK KTN Agrifood team a line)
- We will facilitate
- <https://calendly.com/d/45n-yvq-zqs/large-r-d-r3-1-2-1-clone>





Innovate
UK

Thank you

<https://calendly.com/d/45n-yvq-zqs/large-r-d-r3-1-2-1-clone>

Debbie.Tully@iuk.ktn-uk.org
Simon.Baty@iuk.ktn-uk.org

iuk.ktn-uk.org/agrifood
@IUK_AgriFood

Sign up for the AgriFood newsletter: bit.ly/AgriFood_Newsletter



Innovate
UK



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Farming Innovation Programme

Large R&D Partnerships – January 2024

Alex Howell

Agri-Innovation Team - Defra



Why are we supporting innovation?

Productivity: The UK has seen lower productivity growth than our neighbours over the last 30 years

Environment: Agriculture accounted for 10% of UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2018

Fragmentation: many fantastic researchers, innovative businesses and promising ideas, but players don't necessarily collaborate effectively

Coordination: failures in the current innovation system result in poor translation of public spending into real life impacts on productivity/sustainability

Adoption: Low levels of uptake of innovation by farmers, growers, businesses in large part due to capital risk & ineffective knowledge sharing

Previous Programmes

2013 - Agri-Tech Strategy

£70m Agri-tech Catalyst
£90m for 4 Agri-tech Centres

2018 - Industrial Strategy Challenge

Fund (ISCF) £90m Transforming Food Production Challenge

2021 - £14.5m **Farming Innovation Pathways** fund



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



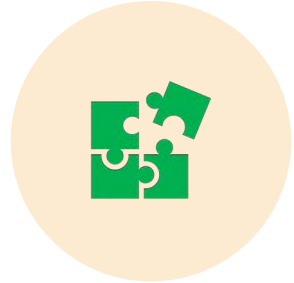
The **Farming Innovation Programme** offers a range of opportunities for farmers, growers, businesses and researchers to collaborate on industry-led research and development:



Small **Research Starter Projects** where farmers, growers & foresters can explore a new idea, or **ADOPT** (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 Timeline

October 2021

- £1M - Research Starter Projects (round 1)
- £8M - Feasibility Projects (round 1)
- £11M - Small Partnership Projects (round 1)

March 2022

- £8M - Large Partnership Projects (round 1)
- £12.5M - Climate-smart farming

May 2022

- £1M - Research Starter Projects (round 2)

July 2022

- £12.5M - Sustainable farm-based Proteins

Autumn 2022

- Feasibility Projects (round 2)
- Small Partnership Projects (round 2)

January 2022

- £12.5M - Automation and Robotics
- £1M Research Starter Projects (round 3)

February 2023

- £8M – Large Partnerships Projects (round 2)

May 2023

- £12.5M On Farm Environmental Resilience

August 2023

- £9.8M - Small R&D Partnership Projects (round 3)

September 2023

- £4.5M - Feasibility Studies (round 3)

December 2023

- £850k – Research Starter (round 4)

January 2024

- £7.8M – Large Partnership Projects (round 3)



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



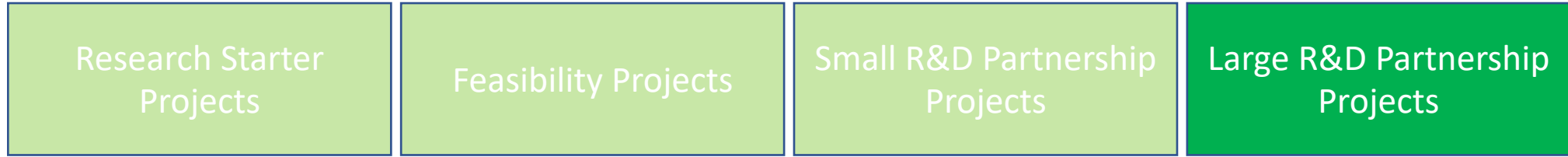
Innovate
UK

Industry-led R&D Partnership Fund

Key Aims

- Drive innovation for responsive, commercially-relevant solutions to address immediate practical industry challenges affecting farmers, growers and the sector.
- Accelerate the impact of new solutions to deliver positive outputs for farmers, growers and the sector
- Drive collaboration between the agri-food sector and wider UK research and innovation expertise
- Enable widespread adoption by delivering effective knowledge exchange and driving commercialisation of new solutions.
- Offer a variety of different types of projects.

Large R&D Partnership Projects



- **Development** and **demonstration** of commercially-relevant solutions that will substantially improve productivity and environmental sustainability of farming, whilst helping the sectors become more resilient
- Projects must have a benefit to farmers and growers in England
- Integrated approaches that can fuse with wider production systems
- Scalable solutions with clear plan for exploitation/route to market so that they can have maximum impact

Farming Innovation Programme Projects



ARWAC

This project lays the foundation for next-generation robotic vehicles powered by renewable energy and tooled to control blackgrass. It drives productivity by increasing yield through weed eradication.

This project will push the technology from laboratory stage to full testing in multiple farm environments.



Hoofcount Vision Detection for Early signs of DD Lesions and Lameness Within Dairy Cattle

Dairy cows are susceptible to a range of hoof issues such as sole ulcers, white line disease and overgrown hooves. This project is focussed on the development of an early detection lameness monitoring system for dairy cows. Detecting and treating these issues at an early stage is beneficial to the animal in keeping the hooves healthy and preventing severe lameness which leads to a lower production and increased veterinary / treatment costs.



Muddy Machines - Robotic Courgette Harvester

Developing a novel class of agricultural machine that can reliably replace manual labour. Building from their autonomous asparagus harvester, Muddy Machines are focussing on Courgettes, which present more complex challenges for imaging, software, and gripping.



**Develop a new farming
product or service →
Large R&D Partnership**





Develop a new farming product or service

→ Large R&D Partnership

Summary

Total budget



8

Million

Total project costs

£3-5

Million

Duration

Up to 48
months



If you have **primary producers** receiving grant funding, a **min of 50%** of those funds, **must be allocated** to primary producers **based in England**



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



Businesses within a supply chain, are encouraged to come together as a partnership to solve major challenges or opportunities

Competition deadline
13 March 24 11:00 am

Projects to start by
1 October 2024



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Innovate
UK

Scope



In Scope

Address major on-farm or immediate post farmgate challenges or opportunities.

Solutions **must** significantly **improve**:

- ✓ productivity
- ✓ sustainability and environmental impact
- ✓ progression towards net zero emissions
- ✓ resilience

Out of Scope: we **will not fund** projects that

- × do not benefit farmers, growers or foresters in **England**
- × are equine specific
- × involve wild caught fisheries
- × involve aquaculture, **for fish production or human consumption**
- × are cellular or acellular production systems, fermentation systems for bacteria, yeast or fungi **for human consumption**
- × are for the production of crops or plants for medicinal or pharmaceutical use



Specific Themes



Address a significant **industry challenge or opportunity** in at least one of the below:

- ✓ livestock
- ✓ plants
- ✓ novel food production systems
- ✓ bioeconomy and agroforestry



In Scope



Projects **developing and demonstrating commercially relevant solutions** for major on-farm or immediate post-farm gate challenges

Your project must demonstrate how:

- ✓ work with **end users across the supply chain** to identify the major farm challenges or opportunities
- ✓ benefit English farmers, growers, or foresters
- ✓ show how your approach can best achieve widespread use and impact
- ✓ demonstrate how the project will support a transformative change in the agriculture sector
- ✓ develop and deliver a knowledge exchange (KE) plan
- ✓ exploit the outputs of the project





Application: additional questions

3 mandatory but non-scored questions:

Question 1	Applicant location
Question 2	Location of Farmers, growers and foresters
Question 3	EDI in project

1 additional scored question

Question 15	Knowledge exchange and dissemination
--------------------	---

Consortium building



✓ **Innovate UK KTN event**

- Consortium building workshop to help identify potential collaborators and make connections
- Put forward issues that farmers, growers and end-users may be facing across priority areas
- Make 1-1 connections with other attendees
 - Date: 23 January, 10:00 – 12:00pm

✓ **Build and get to know your partnership**

- Large consortiums – can require greater resource for managing so many partners
- Ensure all partners are well justified, some partners could be better as subcontractors
- Partners must provide match funding

Hints and Tips

✓ Preparation is Key

Do not leave this until last minute

✓ Eligibility and Scope

To avoid missing out before assessment

✓ Build up your partnership

Get to know and understand your partners

Know who you are planning to work with before you commit and make sure all partners are aware of their role and responsibilities

Farming Innovation Programme website

<https://farminginnovation.ukri.org/>



Lessons from panel pitches

[Andrew McLay, 7 January 2021 - ISCE, Support](#)

Given the year we have had in 2020, I hope this new year brings in a lot of opportunities and successes for all of us.

A number of months ago, I had the privilege of sitting in as an observer on 30 panel interviews to identify winning bids for our Transforming Food Production (TFP) programme: Future Food Production Systems and STIP Demonstration competitions.



<https://innovateuk.blog.gov.uk/2021/01/07/lessons-from-panel-pitches/>

UK Research and Innovation Home Explore Check Develop Longer-Term Projects Contact

Farming Innovation: find out about funding

Explore an idea that could benefit your farm and others

Check if a research idea works in practice

Develop a new farming product or service

Work on longer-term farming innovation projects