

Pathways for Agri-Tech and Food Tech innovators

14:00- 14:45

Hosted by Cathryn Lambourne
Innovate UK Business Connect





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Pathways for Agri-Tech and Food Tech innovators



Colin Herbert
Founder & CEO
AgriSynth Ltd

Synthetic images

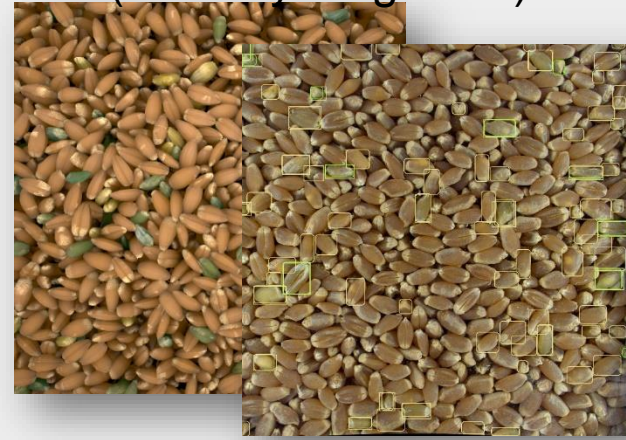
Fat Hen
(problem weed)



Blackgrass in wheat
(complex scenes)



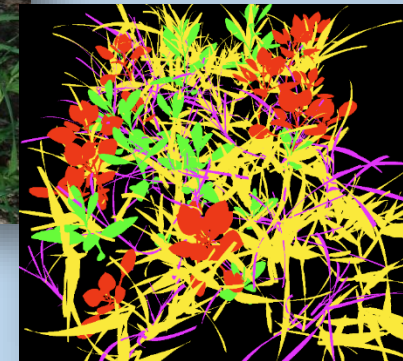
Grain
(and anything else!)



Why synthetic?



Any number of
complex scenes



Perfect labelling

Achievements



Innovate UK

Innovate UK Smart grant

- £453k project (blackgrass in wheat)
- Vision system for treatment targeting



Global Incubator Programme
Canada - Agri-Tech



Global Incubator Programme
Agri-Tech - Gateway to
Australia

Global Incubator Programs

- Canada – first customer
- Australia – range of business
(~£400,000 business with Grain Trade Australia)

Venture Capital companies

- ~8 warm VC's
- Positive about Innovate UK
- Including Silicon Valley

Investment

- Raised £594,000 to date
- Ongoing raise for £500k
- Future multimillion raise for global scaling

Customers

- Robotics company (one of largest in world)

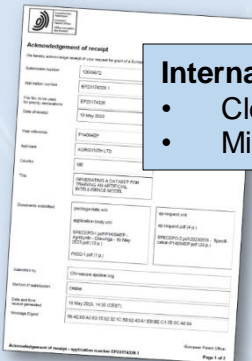


Customers

- Major international group
- View of garden ecosystem from mower

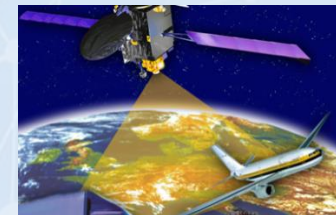
International patent

- Closed loop cycle
- Millions of 'tuned' images



Markets

- Crops, weeds, crop trash, stones, soil, algae on soil, grain kernels, mushrooms, vertical farms, robotics, R&D small plot trials, amenity, horticulture, forestry



European Space Agency

- ESA fund for ultra-precision sprayer
- Funding for commercial product

MAgrisyntn



Please get in touch...

colin@agrisynth.io



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Mihir Kekre
Head of Commercial Partnerships
Tropic Bioscience



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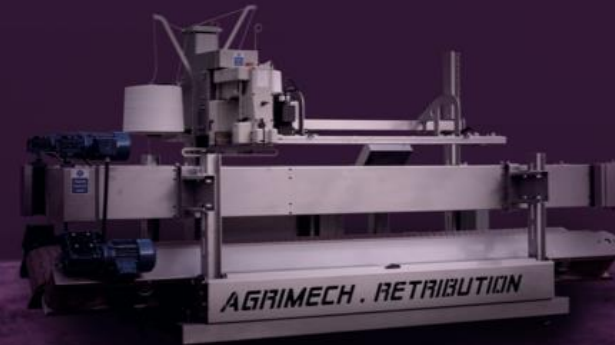


Belinda Smith
Co-Founder
Agrimech



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Kevin Gooding
CEO/Founder
Diometer



Diometer

Kevin Gooding

Founder/CEO

kevin.gooding@diometer.com

We Help Farms

Diometer

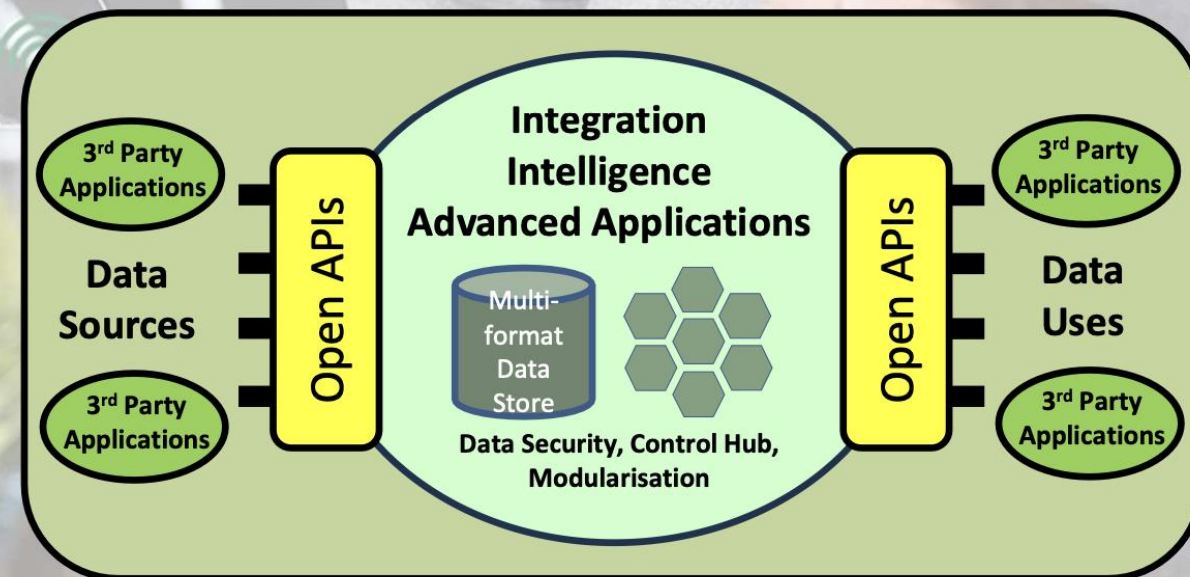
Flexibility & Adaptability for:

- ↓ Subsidies
- ↕ In/Output Costs
- Net-Zero
- ↑ Biodiversity
- ⊕ Climate Change

Digital Technology Challenges:

- Multiple Tools/Minimum Integration
- Proprietary Systems
- Data Swamping
- New/Emerging Tech

We solve this with FLEXIFARM



Digital Plumbing with added Intelligence

An Open Data Management platform for farms

Innovation

Diometer

1) Flexifarm Pilot Platform

- Shipped and live
- IUK funded development (£130k)
- Proof of Concept (pre-MVP)
- Follow-on funding

2) The Open Digital Farm (ODF)

- Founded The ODF Initiative
- >25 organisations
- Very high interest (whole food supply chain)
- Validation/Evidence – ODF project

3) Two new Innovate UK Projects

- University of Suffolk + 4 farms
- AI Application focus (revenues)
- AI platform enhancements (Agri-KG)
- £370k total project value



A Roadmap for the future of Open Farming Systems



Diometer

Flexifarm Digital Plumbing for Innovative Farms



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Bethany "Bee" Nichols
Business Development and Impact
Manager
Earlham Institute

Bridging the gap between data and discoveries

Using genomic and bioinformatics expertise, we're helping our partners and collaborators to accelerate plant breeding, mitigate against pathogens, and improve soil health and biodiversity.

- Collaboration with IBM, STFC, RAGT to make wheat pangenomes accessible to breeders
- Using sugar beet to study host-pathogen interactions with BBRO and KWS
- Data management for the Horizon funded Legume Hub of 17 partners in 9 countries
- Influencing policy around Soil Health through microbiome research with UK CEH
- Impact of Biodiversity Net Gain on the genetics of 'indicator' plants through intensive cultivation
- TraitSeq, our first spin-out company, accelerates and derisks the development of complex traits



Research
collaboration



Employee
exchange



Student
sponsorship



Strategic
partnership



Contract
research



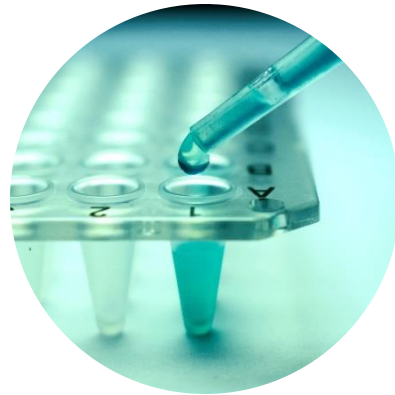
Scientific
training



Knowledge Transfer Partnership with Tozer Seeds

Advancing and integrating genomics technologies to accelerate celery breeding for the integration of favourable agronomic and consumer traits into superior celery varieties.

- Awarded £260,000 for a 30-month project from September 2024
- Embed knowhow and expertise from Earlham directly into Tozer
- Improved vegetable varieties reaching producers in half the time





Panel Discussion

Hosted by Chris Till

Innovate UK Business Connect



Eastern Agri-tech & Food-tech Launchpad Round 3

- The aim of this competition is to support outstanding innovation projects led by businesses.
- Your business must be growing innovation activities in the agri-tech and food technology cluster in Eastern England including Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership area, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Norfolk and Suffolk.
- We want to fund a variety of projects across different technologies, markets, technological maturities and research categories.



Round 3 will follow the same scope as Round 2. < Follow this QR code for more detail.

	CR&D	MFA
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead must be a UK registered business • Must be collaborative • Involve at least 1 SME • Be active or growing activities in Eastern England 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK registered SME • Ambition for business growth • Be active or growing activities in Eastern England
Grant Costs	Between £150,000 - £300,000	Between £25,000 - £100,000 (100%)
Project length	6-18 months	6-12 months

Round 3 opens on 23rd Sept 2024 and closes 6th Nov 2024, with c.£2.5m for the two competitions above.

Analysis for Innovators Round 14: Stage 1 EOI

- The aim of this competition is to help businesses address their existing analysis and measurement problems. These are problems that can be best explored by scientists and cutting-edge facilities available in the UK.
- This is an Expression of Interest - stage 1 of a 2 stage competition. No funding is awarded at this stage.
- If you are successful at this stage, you will be invited to brokerage consultations with relevant analysis for innovators partners. These will focus on potential approaches to solving your problem. You will work together to propose joint projects to develop solutions and apply for the stage 2 competition to request funding.

Competition opens: Monday 9 September 2024

Competition closes: Wednesday 9 October 2024

More info here ->



Farming Innovation Programme – three funds



INDUSTRY-LED R&D PARTNERSHIP FUND

Connecting groups of farmers, growers, foresters and businesses with researchers for R&D that is responsive to immediate, practical industry needs



FARMING FUTURES R&D FUND

Driving more fundamental R&D into strategic and sector-wide challenges that will improve productivity and enhance environmental outcomes in the long term.



ACCELERATING ADOPTION FUND

Smaller-scale, agile projects to trial the on-farm viability of new technology ideas, processes and practices and boost their adoption by farmers and growers.



Upcoming funding opportunities in AgriFood



Check if an idea works in practice

Feasibility

£200K- £500k

Projects up to 2 years



Develop a new farming product or service

Small R&D Partnership

£1-3m

Projects up to 3 years

Large R&D Partnership
£3-5m

Projects up to 4 years



Farming Futures R&D

Themed competitions

Must be collaborative and ideally include a farmer, grower or forester in England



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