Farming Innovation Programme ADOPT Project Facilitator Database

Version 1: 15th April 2025

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FIP Accelerating Development of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT)

The Farming Innovation Programme Accelerating Development of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) scheme targets smaller-scale, farmer-led R&D projects to trial and demonstrate the on-farm viability of new and existing technologies, processes and practices to address immediate on-farm productivity and sustainability challenges.

All projects applying for ADOPT competitions must include a Project Facilitator to support project delivery and management. Innovate UK Business Connect have compiled this directory of individuals who have the skills to carry out this role.

The Farming Innovation Programme is part of Defra's investment in innovation, research and development. Defra is partnering with Innovate UK to fund projects that benefit farmers, growers and foresters in England.

If you have any questions, please contact:

ADOPTfacilitator@iukbc.org.uk

0330 106 6400

How a Project Facilitator could support your application

The role that the Project Facilitator is expected to play in the projects that secure funding will vary depending on the individual project, the input required and project budget available for renumeration. The role may include, but is not limited to:

- Acting as a project manager for the duration of the project

- Helping to prepare administrative documents (i.e. reporting documents)

- Ensuring that the project remains on track and that communication is maintained

- Providing expertise in order to help ensure the project is a success

How to register to be a Project Facilitator

If you are interested in becoming a Project Facilitator please find further information here: https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/news/support-the-future-of-on-farm-innovation/

How to use the database

This Database features individuals who are registered Project Facilitators.

Search by Sector
Click on any section of the contents page to be taken to the Project Facilitators for that Sector

Search by keyword
If you'd like to search for a key word you have in mind, use the shortcut "Command (cmd) + F" (Mac) / "Control (ctrl) + F" (Windows) on your keyboard and enter your keyword in the search box that will appear.

Summary table
The summary table is organised by Sector. Individuals are displayed in alphabetical order.

Disclaimer
The text provided in this directory has not been amended by Innovate UK Business Connect.

If a Project Facilitator is selected by an applicant outside of this database, the Project Facilitator is still required to register on the database in order to be eligible to apply for both the Support Grant and the Full Grant and is subject to approval of meeting all the required criteria.

Summary Table

Name	Topic area	Organisation	Region
Alice Mauchline	Broadacre	University of Reading	South East
Aoife O Driscoll	Broadacre	NIAB	East of England
Apostolos Papadopoulos	Broadacre	Crop Intellect Ltd	East Midlands
Betty Bonnardel	Broadacre	Farmer Charlie Ltd	London
Bruce Napier	Broadacre	NIAB	East of England
Colin Peters	Broadacre	Niab	East of England
Daniel Kindred	Broadacre	ARC Agronomic Sciences Ltd	East of England
David Clarke	Broadacre	Niab	East of England
David Farley	Broadacre	AgriEnable	West Midlands
Dominic Amos	Broadacre	Cope Seeds & Grain Ltd	West Midlands
Elizabeth Stockdale	Broadacre	Niab	East of England
Ellie Roberts	Broadacre	NIAB	Yorkshire & the Humber
Emma Powlett	Broadacre	Powlett & Associates Ltd	East of England
Eric Ober	Broadacre	Niab	East of England
Guido Drago	Broadacre	Polygenyn Ltd	Cymru Wales
Hannah Jones	Broadacre	Niab	East Midlands
Harry Henderson	Broadacre	BASIS Registration Ltd	West Midlands
Hassan Awashra	Broadacre	Niab	East of England
Hassan Bagheri	Broadacre	B-Hive Innovations	East Midlands
Heather Sanders	Broadacre	Agrisound Ltd	South East
Jack Pierce	Broadacre	Terrafarmer	South West
Jack Wrangham	Broadacre	Drone Ag Limited	North East & Cumbria
Jonathan Gill	Broadacre	Agronomic digital innovation ltd	Cymru Wales
Joseph Martlew	Broadacre	NIAB	North East & Cumbria
Khalid Mahmood	Broadacre	sawie Ltd	South East
Kiryon Skippen	Broadacre	TEAM Ag UK	South East
Laura Beaumont	Broadacre	British On Farm Innovation Network (BOFIN)	West Midlands
Lesley Boyd	Broadacre	National Institute of Agricultural Botany	East of England
Lindsay Hargreaves	Broadacre	Lindsay Hargreaves Limited	East of England
Lydia Smith	Broadacre	Programme Leader	East of England
Mark Lindley	Broadacre	Hartpury University and College	West Midlands
Mary Dimambro	Broadacre	Cambridge Eco Ltd	East of England

Name	Topic area	Organisation	Region
Megan Vasko	Broadacre	AbacusBio International Limited	Scotland
Nathan Morris	Broadacre	NIAB	East of England
Nicolas Gosman	Broadacre	Gosman Ag Consultants	East of England
Paul Laidler	Broadacre	Phoenix Performance Solutions	North East & Cumbria
Raymond King	Broadacre	Flynt Technology Ltd	South West
Richard Weightman	Broadacre	Alastair Findlay Ltd	East of England
Sarah Roberts	Broadacre	Niab	East of England
Scott Kirby	Broadacre	Harper Adams University	West Midlands
Stephan Haefele	Broadacre	Rothamsted Research	South East
Stuart Knight	Broadacre	Niab	East of England
Tim Isaac	Broadacre	Ceres Research	East of England
Tom Allen-Stevens	Broadacre	British On Farm Innovation Network (BOFIN)	South East
Amanda McMurray	Forestry and bioeconomy	Amanda McMurray Limited	East of England
Andrew Stacey	Forestry and bioeconomy	Avgo Biotech Ltd	East Midlands
Anna Alessi	Forestry and bioeconomy	Biorenewables Development Centre	Yorkshire & the Humber
Catherine Birch	Forestry and bioeconomy	AgriFoodX Limited	Yorkshire & the Humber
Chris Eaglen	Forestry and bioeconomy	chris eaglen improvement projects	South East
Claire Flanagan	Forestry and bioeconomy	Kene B Corp	North West
James Barnard	Forestry and bioeconomy	J & K Barnard (Farms) Ltd.	South West
James MacFarlane	Forestry and bioeconomy	Grantwise	Outside of the UK
Jen Vanderhoven	Forestry and bioeconomy	FREY Consulting	Scotland
Jonathan Thacker	Forestry and bioeconomy	University Of The West Of Scotland	Scotland
Lucy Bates	Forestry and bioeconomy	Harper Adams University	South West
Mariela Paz Aguilera Miranda	Forestry and bioeconomy	SilviBio	East of England
Paul Rhodes	Forestry and bioeconomy	Future Food Solutions Ltd	Yorkshire & the Humber
Rory Harding	Forestry and bioeconomy	Kent Wildlife Trust	South East
Sarah Buchanan	Forestry and bioeconomy	University of Strathclyde	Scotland
Sarah Faulkner	Forestry and bioeconomy	Faulkner and Mayne Sustainable Agriculture Ltd	West Midlands

Name	Topic area	Organisation	Region
Sean Dobbs	Forestry and bioeconomy	Forged Innovation Limited	Northern Ireland
Trudie Cooper	Forestry and bioeconomy	Bagshaws LLP	East Midlands
Will John	Forestry and bioeconomy	Principal Consultant RSK ADAS Ltd	West Midlands
Alex Fisher	Horticulture	Hydronomy	West Midlands
Alicja Dzieciol	Horticulture	SilviBio Limited	Scotland
Charles Whitfield	Horticulture	Niab at East Malling	South East
David May	Horticulture	Hubl Logistics Limited	East of England
Edwin Moorhouse	Horticulture	G's Fresh	South East
Edwin Reyes	Horticulture	Promar International	North West
Emma Jane Garfield	Horticulture	Emma Garfield	East of England
Flora O'Brien	Horticulture	NIAB	South East
Francis Wamonje	Horticulture	Niab	South East
Graham Dow	Horticulture	Niab	East of England
Greg Crawford	Horticulture	NIAB (National institute of agricultural botany)	Yorkshire & the Humber
James Stevens	Horticulture	Innophyte Consulting	East of England
Jan Redpath	Horticulture	Angus Soft Fruits Ltd	Scotland
Kevin Stephens	Horticulture	Agroceutical Products Ltd	Cymru Wales
Louisa Robinson Boyer	Horticulture	NIAB East Malling	South East
Martin Goodchild	Horticulture	University of Bedfordshire, retired from Delta-T Devices Ltd	East of England
Matevz Papp-Rupar	Horticulture	NIAB East Malling	South East
Ralph Noble	Horticulture	microbiotech ltd	West Midlands
Rebecca Beveridge	Horticulture	Grow Partners	South East
Rob Merrall	Horticulture	Merralls Consulting Ltd	West Midlands
Sushma Shankar	Horticulture	Deep Planet	London
Sven Batke	Horticulture	Edge Hill University and Flavour Fresh LtD	North West
Agatha Wildblood-Hawthorne	Livestock	Self. Hawthorne Dairy and Wildblood Farm	North East & Cumbria
Alamgir Hossain	Livestock	Digital Readiness and Intelligent Systems Ltd	North East & Cumbria
Alasdair Cook	Livestock	Mujika Ltd	East Midlands
Andrew Walton	Livestock	WTMS	North West
Douglas Bowden-Smith	Livestock	Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society	Scotland
Emily Mosley	Livestock	Bagshaws LLP	East Midlands
Emma Hawkins	Livestock	TBAT	South East

Name	Topic area	Organisation	Region
Harriet Scott	Livestock	RAFT Solutions Ltd	Yorkshire & the Humber
Holly Shearman	Livestock	Innovation for Agriculture / Royal Agricultural Society of England	South East
Jayne Brookman	Livestock	ElentecBio Ltd.	North West
John Stones	Livestock	Self employed consultant	East Midlands
Lisa Morgans	Livestock	Royal Agricultural University	South West
Lizzie Downes	Livestock	Promar	West Midlands
Marta Ruano	Livestock	ABVista	Scotland
Matthew Sharman	Livestock	Devenish Nutrtition (Retired from)	Yorkshire & the Humber
Matthew Sheehan	Livestock	Promar International Ltd	West Midlands
Peter Williams	Livestock	AG Bio Ltd	North West
Rachel Hayton	Livestock	Synergy Farm Health Limited	South West
Richard Hooson	Livestock	Agri- Eco Solutions	West Midlands
Richard Pearson	Livestock	Oxcel	Yorkshire & the Humber
Robert Misselbrook	Livestock	FD - Oxi-Tech Solutions Ltd (Part Time)	South West
Sam Hoste	Livestock	Quantech Solutions (UK) Ltd	Yorkshire & the Humber
Samantha Green	Livestock	Hudson and Sanders	East Midlands
Campbell Scott	New systems	Atomictractors Limited	West Midlands
Claire Rose	New systems	Graveltrack Consulting	East of England
Davina Fillingham	New systems	Partner Dee Atkinson & Harrison	Yorkshire & the Humber
Jack Farmer	New systems	LettUs Grow	South West
James Barsby	New systems	Intercil	South West
James Willcox	New systems	Mott MacDonald	South West
Muhammad Imran	New systems	Aston University	West Midlands
Paul Huggett	New systems	IUK-Business Connect (retired part time)	East Midlands
Paul Smith	New systems	Board Adviser to Aquagrain and IRTL	East of England
Richard Rampton	New systems	RuralAdvice Ltd	East of England

Broadacre

Alice Mauchline | University of Reading

Organisation Website: University of Reading
Region: South East

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre
Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am an agricultural ecologist and I have worked on a variety of research projects at the University of Reading since 2003. My PhD was in integrated pest management in oilseed rape and since then my research has broadened out into developing sustainable farming systems using participatory approaches. I've been awarded >£2M in funding as part of multi-disciplinary research collaborations with international consortia (as Co-Investigator). I have project leadership experience of international projects including grant budget and staff management (total budget as Reading Principle Investigator £361K).

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Enhanced management / decision support; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Natural capital

Qualifications: BA(Hons), PhD

Aoife O Driscoll | NIAB

Organisation Website: www.niab.com

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Fieldscale vegetables; Salad crops; Agroforestry; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I lead the development of farmer-focused research and associated contract trials business for crop protection and variety/agronomy interactions. I liaise with industry organisations / commercial companies at national and international level to develop proposals and secure funding for this work, and to ensure effective delivery.While working at Niab and ADAS, led and managed 30+ applied agriculture and horticulture focused projects and grants funded by Interreg Europe, Horizon 2020, AHDB, DEFRA, BBSRC and confidental commercial research. Commissioned 10+ on-farm trials and projects while working at Life Scientific

Skills: Agri-business management; Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Agronomy; Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Biostimulants; Crop protection; Diagnostics & sensors; Enhanced management / decision support; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital; Regulation / policy; Regulation / policy; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: BSc, MSc, PhD, BASIS

Apostolos Papadopoulos | Crop Intellect Ltd

Organisation Website: www.cropintellect.co.uk

Region: East Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Biomass; Soft fruit; Salad crops; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have been the lead for an EIC Accelerator project £1.4m and 5 Innovate UK grants worth £4m. I obtained a BSc in Agriculture from Plymouth University, MSc in Crop science and management and PhD in crop and soil research.

Skills: Agronomy; Biostimulants; Crop nutrition; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: PhD in crop and soil

Betty Bonnardel | Farmer Charlie Ltd

Organisation Website: Farmer Charlie Ltd

Region: London

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Biomass; Forages; Soft fruit; Salad crops; Tree crops; Viticulture; Agroforestry; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: An award winning system engineer, fellow of the IET, expert in satellite, teelecommunications and applications to agriculture, forestry and climate change. Through Farmer Charlie, I have developed communication systems and IOT sensors for a range of agritech and agrifood applications, including plug and play soil sensors.

Skills: Agri-business management; Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Automation; Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Circular economy;

Qualifications: MSc and MBA, Prince 2 project manager

Bruce Napier | NIAB

Organisation Website: NIAB
Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre
Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Fieldscale vegetables; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: Bruce is a Research Scientist with 34 years of experience in the contract management and delivery of applied crop research; collaborating with academic and industry partners; delivering knowledge exchange; and providing technical advice to farmers and agronomists. He is responsible for the contract management and delivery of vegetable and salad research trials advising on varieties and agronomy; managing and delivering research; contract trial services; reporting and presenting results to clients, the public and press. He works closely with funders (Defra, grower associations, seed companies, etc.) in identifying research projects, designing protocols and ensuring commercial applicability. He works on vegetable crops including onions, leeks, courgettes, pumpkins, brassicas, and leafy salads. This extends to speciality crops e.g. celeriac, radish, beetroot, winter squash, dwarf French beans, etc. he is involved in projects investigating the utilisation of emerging technologies in vegetable and salad production. He is a specialist in paludiculture, especially in the production of vegetables on lowland peat soils.

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Natural capital

Qualifications: BSc

Colin Peters | Niab

Organisation Website: Niab

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Forages; Novel food systems; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: Many years experience as a commercial farm manager with Sentry Farming and trials farm manager for BBSRC based at Rothamsted. Currerntly work within the Farming System team at Niab as a Break Crop Specialist. Currently project managing various projects including Innovate projects. I also project manage the coordonation of the Sugar Beet VL and RL system as well as the PGRO Descriptive List. I have recently completed work on Catchment Sensitive projects and training as well as scoping work for Paludiculture.

Skills: Agronomy; Crop nutrition; Crop protection; Natural capital; Renewable energy

Qualifications: BSc (Hons), EMBA, BASIS, Facts, Prince 2

Daniel Kindred | ARC Agronomic Sciences Ltd

Organisation Website: ARC Agronomic Sciences Ltd

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Biomass; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: Farmers son, Agriculture degree from University of Nottingham, PhD in Agronomy from Reading University. 18 years as Crop Researcher in ADAS. Led and managed multiple proposals & projects for AHDB, Defra, LINK, TSB, Innovate UK, EU. Co-founded the Yield Enhancement Network (www.yen.adas.co.uk). Led development of Agronomics approach for robust on-farm trials. Developed FarmPEP platform. Joined Anglo American in 2023 as Crop Scientist, developed concept of the Agronomy Research Circle (ARC) to connect & develop networks, tools and resources for on-farm research globally. Made redundant in December 2024 due to major strategic change in Anglo American. In 2025 set up independent consultancy and working with TEAM Ag UK delivering on-farm research.

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Agronomy; Crop nutrition; Imaging / satellites; Natural capital

Qualifications: BSc, PhD, FACTS

David Clarke | Niab

Organisation Website: https://www.niab.com/about/people/david-clarke

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables

Skills and Experience

Experience: Specialising in spatial data analysis and on-farm applications of models, field trials, and long-term experiments focused on soil nutrition, health, and crop rotations. With extensive experience in spatial data analysis, crop modeling and supporting on-farm research. I have successfully secured and managed research funding from key industry bodies, including AHDB, Innovate UK, commercial partners, and charitable organisations with expertise across project design, implementation, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring effective research outcomes.

Skills: Agronomy; Crop nutrition; Data / AI / machine learning; Imaging / satellites; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: BSc, MSc, MRes, FACTS, PhD

David Farley | AgriEnable

Organisation Website: www.agrienable.co.uk

Region: West Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Soft fruit; Salad crops; Other livestock; Novel food systems; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: EXAMPLE for FareShare, National food surplus re-distribution charity, ('22-'24). High profile £1.5m 2-year project – diverting surplus produce ex. farm to processors for life extension. Undertook feasibility, industrial trials and sector engagement to identify most viable initiatives for scale & impact - leveraged 'halo effect' to influence industry stakeholders, secure funding & production capacity. Acted as PM whilst also leading the internal FareShare team through early stages of scaling production - mentoring as required to enable internal ownership. Key elements and relationships incorporated within King's Coronation Food Project.

Skills: Agri-business management; Circular economy; Diversification & transition management; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: BSc.(Hons) in Agriculture with Land & Farm Management. Professional Membership of the Institute for Agricultural Management.

Dominic Amos | Cope Seeds & Grain Ltd

Organisation Website: https://copeseeds.co.uk/

Region: West Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Fieldscale vegetables; Forages; Agroforestry; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I worked at the Organic Research Centre managing research projects and grants, including EIP and Horizon 2020. I have vast experience of on-farm research networks, including a long established organic variety trial network, and a significant contribution to various Innovative Farmers field labs. We have a published a paper in Agronomy for Sustainable Development, and a major contribution within the Defra funded LiveWheat project.

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Agronomy; Natural capital; Plant breeding; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: BSc, PGDip

Elizabeth Stockdale | Niab

Organisation Website: www.niab.com

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Biomass; Forages

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have over 25 years applied soil and nutrient management research experience, largely on farms, rather than in laboratories. I have carried out a wide range of research projects connected with the study of nutrient cycling in soils and with the environmental impact of farming systems. I moved to Niab and became head of the integrative interdisciplinary Farming Systems research team in 2017 where I regularly work with Niab's farmer members to design and deliver on-farm monitoring and research. Between 2017 and 2022, I led the AHDB-BBRO-funded Soil Biology and Soil Health Partnership and worked with farmer groups around the UK to develop farmer-focussed approaches to measurement of soil health and on-farm toolkits for improved soil management. Most recently I have been working with farmers in the Fens to capture their local soil knowledge to feed into land use planning. I am also leading engagement activity for paludiculture to create a community of interest around funded projects that explore options for more sustainable management of lowland agricultural peat, including novel crops and wetter farming systems. I have also recently co-ordinated provision of business resilience support with the transitional removal of direct payments and the introduction of Environmental Land Management schemes.

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Agronomy; Enhanced management / decision support; Natural capital; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: BSc, PhD, MSc Development Management

Ellie Roberts | Niab

Organisation Website: www.niab.com

Region: Yorkshire & the Humber

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Forages; Ruminants; Monogastrics; Other livestock

Skills and Experience

Experience: Defra funded research projects in opportunities to increase utilisation of underused forage crops. APHA forage crop technical expert. Programme manager for UK National Variety Listing and Discriptive listing trial programmes and decision meetings for forage crops. Centre for High Carbon Capture Cropping Herbal leys and grasslands. Advice and consultancy on herbal leys and diverse swards, agrienvironment, SFI, knowledge exchange and publications

Skills: Agri-business management; Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Natural capital; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: BSc, DTLLS, MSc, PgDip, MBA, FACTS

Emma Powlett | Powlett & Associates Ltd

Organisation Website: Powlett & Associates Ltd
Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre
Additional Areas of Sector Expertise:

Skills and Experience

Experience: Emma Powlett has 30+ years of experience in rural project/grant management and agricultural development, working with public agencies (Defra/MAFF) and as an independent consultant. Project/Grant Management: Managed large-scale programmes, including Defra's £24M ERDP (2000-2006), resulting in £70M economic impact through farm diversification. Advised local authorities on the Rural England Prosperity Fund (2022-2024), drafting programmes and overseeing delivery. Secured £8M in public grants (2017-2024) for rural projects valued at £22M, including business diversification and environmental schemes. Authored 7 Local Development Strategies for the LEADER Programme (2014-2020) and appraised 200+ grant applications. Agriculture: Led a project for Defra's Farm Resilience Programme (2021-2022), 'Soils for Sugar', to improve soil management for sugar beet farmers. Developed regional ERDP policies and technical guidance, aligning with national strategies. Managed Objective 5b Programme (1993-1999), supporting rural business innovation. Collaboration: Chair of Anglia Rural Consultants; member of CLA committees. Co-authored reports (e.g., Norfolk Environmental Skills Gap Analysis, 2024) and regional strategies to engage stakeholders. Proven ability to deliver rural economic growth through grant administration, policy development, and cross-sector partnerships.

Skills: Agri-business management; Circular economy; Diversification & transition management; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: MRICS; Cert Business Management (Aston University) ; Diploma in Rural Estate Management, Royal Agricultural College.

Eric Ober | Niab

Organisation Website: https://www.niab.com/

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots

Skills and Experience

Experience: Have worked in agriculture and plant science research for 30+ years; experience with budget, staff and project workflow management, writing business cases; employed working on farms in younger years

Skills: Agronomy; Biostimulants; Crop nutrition; Irrigation; Regulation / policy

Qualifications: PhD, MS, BSc

Guido Drago | Polygenyn Ltd

Organisation Website: Polygenyn Ltd

Region: Cymru Wales

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Soft fruit; Salad crops

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have been responsible for writing or managing 20 projects over 20 years. The first was an EU project in 2001, Other grants include: A4i, SBRI: Innovative Environmental Sensors, TSB: Formulated Products, 2 Spark Awards, Local Investment Fund, Innovation Voucher, Single Investment Award, US Marketing Scholarship Programme, 2x Technology Exploitation Programmes, DTI BIOWISE Demonstrator Award, British Heart Foundation Junior Research Fellowship, Royal Society Research and The National Heart Research Fund Travel Fellowship.   More specifically in the Agritec sector I was responsible for writing the PathoScout Field Trial application which scored in the top 3 applications for that round. I have also been heavily involved as project partner in Agritec Innovate UK grants between 2011 and 2025, Syeild, LactDetect, Spraysaver and Pathoscout. I am familiar with the grant application process on multiple platforms including Innovate UK and SBRI. I am also familiar with project and partner management on the IFS system and familiar with uploading and managing documents on this platform. I am familiar with working within the Agritech sector specifically communicating with farmers and growers to organise field trials for the detection of mastitis in milk and the detection of pathogens in cereal crops, potatoes and vineyards.

Skills: Agri-business management; Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Crop protection; Diagnostics & sensors; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy

Qualifications: BSc, MSc Forensic Science, PhD Biochemical Genetics, Cert. Business Marketing Strategy Kellogg Graduate School of Management, P.G.Dip.Business Enterprise & Development

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Hannah Jones | Niab

Organisation Website: https://www.niab.com/

Region: East Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Biomass; Forages

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am the Weed Management Specialist at Niab, responsible for managing research projects on weed control methodologies, developing grant proposals, and communicating findings to growers and other stakeholders.   We run field trials and glasshouse experiments, working on behalf of members of Niab's agronomy programme, commercial customers, and as part of grant-funded research consortia.   Before joining Niab, I spent five years investigating photoperiodic flowering genes in winter barley as part of an iCASE BBSRC-funded PhD in partnership with Syngenta Seeds. The research involved a multi-year programme of field trial and laboratory work and required careful project management.   Prior to this, I worked on grant-funded research projects at the University of Sheffield, contributing towards published research outputs in crop physiology and towards future funding applications.

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Agronomy; Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Crop protection; Natural capital

Qualifications: BSc Biology, PhD in Crop Science

Harry Henderson | BASIS Registration Ltd

Organisation Website: https://basis-reg.co.uk/

Region: West Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Biomass; Forages

Skills and Experience

Experience: Working at John Deere UK Ltd, 2005 to 2013 I was tasked with running product development and product focus groups involving farmers and factory engineers from all parts of the world. At AHDB 2013 to 2023 I was heavily involved in the launch of the knowledge exchange platform; Monitor Farms. Arable Business Groups with budget responsibly and reporting. Here at BASIS I create and deliver the NRoSO program to over 200 trainers annually.

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Agronomy; Crop protection; Natural capital

Qualifications: BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (full) March 2002 to date. FACTS December 2003 to date. BASIS Soil and Water Management. BASIS Certificate in Environmental Management January 2024 to date. Level 3 Award in Education and Training 2024. Cranfield University Senior Management training

Hassan Awashra | Niab

Organisation Website: www.niab.com
Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre
Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am an experienced agricultural researcher with a strong academic and practical background, focused on crop protection, pest management, and sustainable farming systems in potatoes and arable crops. My work integrates scientific research with practical implementation to enhance crop productivity and food security. With a BSc in Plant Science, I specialised in improving IPM strategies. I led NGO projects on wastewater irrigation for olives and forage crops, and developing a more efficient system for farmers' compensation. I hold an MSc in Plant Biotechnology and Enterprise at Durham University, focusing on plant pathology, pathogen attack mechanisms, and the translation of scientific knowledge into products to optimise crop protection. My career includes managing field trials in Northeast England, specialising in biopesticides, disease control, and IPM strategies for potatoes and cereal crops. I have extensive experience in grant writing, securing over £250,000 in funding, and leading research teams in agribusiness and environmental consultancy. Currently, as a Potato Research Agronomist at Niab, I manage potato fertilisation, disease, and farming systems trials, coordinating research projects, industry collaborations, and conference presentations. My expertise in funded research, trial management, and agricultural innovation enables me to provide significant advice for sustainable crop production and food security.

Skills: Agronomy; Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Crop protection; Imaging / satellites; Natural capital

Qualifications: BSc in Plant Science, MSc in Plant Biotechnology and Enterprise, BASIS in Crop Protection - Agriculture, (ongoing)

Hassan Bagheri | B-Hive Innovations

Organisation Website: https://www.b-hiveinnovations.co.uk/

Region: East Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have extensive experience in project and grant management within the agricultural R&D sector, currently serving as a Project Manager at B-hive Innovations. I oversee a diverse portfolio of Innovate UK and commercially funded projects, supporting the full lifecycle—from proposal development and budgeting to delivery, reporting, and exploitation. I have a strong track record of coordinating multi-partner consortia, managing relationships between growers, researchers, and industry stakeholders to ensure successful project outcomes. My background is rooted in crop science, and I have worked on a range of projects focused on potatoes, sweet potatoes, brassicas, and other horticultural crops. These projects span precision agriculture, gene editing, disease detection, and sustainable farming practices. I work closely with growers to trial and implement practical, data-driven solutions on-farm, ensuring innovations are aligned with real-world agricultural needs. I'm well-versed in Innovate UK's processes and compliance requirements, and I bring a collaborative and structured approach to project facilitation. I am passionate about supporting farmer-led innovation and enabling knowledge exchange that results in tangible, sustainable improvements in farm productivity and environmental impact.

Skills: Automation; Data / AI / machine learning; Diagnostics & sensors; Enhanced management / decision support; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: PhD

Heather Sanders | Agrisound Ltd

Organisation Website: agrisound.io

Region: South East

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Forages; Bioeconomy; Monogastrics; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: Plant molecular biology and physiology research. Project and grant management, particularly on Innovate UK projects, implementing industry-led research projects worth over £2M in aggregate in the last 3 years.

Skills: Animal health & welfare; Diagnostics & sensors; Natural capital; Plant breeding; Regulation / policy

Qualifications: Bsc, MRes, PhD Environmental and Plant Biology

Jack Pierce | Terrafarmer

Organisation Website: https://terrafarmer.co.uk/

Region: South West

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Forages; Agroforestry; Ruminants; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: Jack, a Harper Adams University graduate in Agriculture with Farm Business Management, is an agribusiness consultant at Terrafarmer. He advises on sustainable and profitable farming, drawing from his experience from previous roles. With hands-on farm work and strategic consultancy experience, he helps clients navigate agricultural transitions and adopt innovative technologies. Jack has worked across England and Scotland and understands the challenges farmers face. Jack's passion is driving innovative practices and technologies on farm. This has been shown through his track record of funding success and project deliverables. Jack takes a proactive approach to projects and enjoys problem-solving.

Skills: Agri-business management; Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Agronomy; Biostimulants; Circular economy; Diversification & transition management; Enhanced management / decision support; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital; Plant breeding; Robotics; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: BASIS soil and Water qualification, Qualsafe Level 3 Award in Mental Health First Aid

Jack Wrangham | Drone Ag Limited

Organisation Website: www.droneag.farm

Region: North East & Cumbria

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables

Skills and Experience

Experience: Over the last 8 years I have worked in an agtech focused company, with a high spend on R&D, especially around drones and AI, but also satellite and robotics. I work closely with a number of farmers and agronomy companies. I have also written two successful grant applications, which we have completed over the last 3 years.

Skills: Automation; Data / AI / machine learning; Enhanced management / decision support; Imaging / satellites; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy

Qualifications: na

Jonathan Gill | Agronomic digital innovation ltd

Organisation Website: https://agdigitalinnovation.com/

Region: Cymru Wales

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Salad crops; Agroforestry; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: At UPL I had a digital budget for R&D projects and implemented 3 projects in budget time at HAU i was Responsible for identifying and writing technical sections of project bids, both government and privately funded for a diverse range of engineering projects which contribute towards profitability of the National Centre of Precision Farming.

Skills: Automation; Crop protection; Data / AI / machine learning; Imaging / satellites; Robotics

Qualifications: BEng robotics and automated systems, NSCH 2019 "how do we embrace automation in agriculture, MIAgrE and soon to be Chartered. C&G PA2

Joseph Martlew | NIAB

Organisation Website: https://www.niab.com/

Region: North East & Cumbria

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Biomass; Forages

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am an applied researcher, leading a portolio of applied research and knowledge exchange activities across the agricultural sector with a diverse range of stakeholders. I have successfully co-led and delivered numerous grant-funded and commercially-funded projects within this space.

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Agronomy; Natural capital; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: BSc (Hons) Biology (Plant Science); MPhil "Traffic and tillage management for row crops in Sub Saharan Africa"; PhD "Quantifying and alleviating subsoil compaction in arable soils"; BASIS Agriculture (R/E/7506/IFM); FACTS (FE/5938); BASIS Advanced Plant Protection Award; BASIS Advanced Soil and Water Management

Khalid Mahmood | sawie Ltd

Organisation Website: www.sawie.co.uk

Region: South East

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tree crops; Bioeconomy; Agroforestry; Ruminants; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I've helped projects at Rothamsted with values upto £5million. I've excellent project management skills. I've experience of using project management tools. I've good sense of planning and budgeting. I've worked on delivering projects with in budget an times.

Skills: Agri-business management; Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Enhanced management / decision support; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Natural capital

Qualifications: PhD

Kiryon Skippen | TEAM Ag UK

Organisation Website: www.teamaguk.com

Region: South East

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Fieldscale vegetables; Forages; Bioeconomy; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: Grew up in mixed farming. After my degree worked for PBI then Bayer in EU trials co-ordination, then led R&D agronomy teams for BASF before moving into commercial strategic roles where I started and ran national farmer groups.. Joined a distributor and developed/built new service areas into the business Eg Healthy Soils as well as building up large client base for business advice. In 2017 I started up a Capital raising business into Agricultural ventures internationally. This led to the formation of TEAM Ag UK which helps develop new solutions for farmers. We work across farms and supply chains using a farmer led approach. Therefore I have experience in on the ground farming, farm group management, project management, science, finance and business management of various sizes and scale.

Skills: Agri-business management; Agronomy; Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: BSc Hons (Biochemistry) BASIS, FACTS

Laura Beaumont | British On Farm Innovation Network (BOFIN)

Organisation Website: www.bofin.org.uk

Region: West Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Fieldscale vegetables; Forages; Bioeconomy

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am Head of projects at the British On-Farm Innovation Network (BOFIN), set up to represent farmers who carry out on farm trials, seeking a more scientific approach. We are the leading providers of farmer-led trials in UK, with 70 farmers currently contracted to deliver trials across four major Defra-funded projects. BOFIN works with scientists to ensure trials results are accurate and replicable but can be practically carried out on farm without specialist equipment. We set up platforms to upskill farmers and provide a robust means of testing innovations. We develop communities around projects to help farmers share experience, best practice and knowledge to advance adoption of new technologies & the benefits these accrue for farmers.   As Head of projects, I lead the management of the projects, reporting, resource management and development of processes. Due to the nature of the projects this means liaising directly with farmers to ensure that the trials will both provide results that are impactful on farm but also help to deliver the aims of the projects to ensure the project delivers outputs.   I have extensive experience of the practical and administrative elements of running a farm business from years of working on my family farm.

Skills: Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Crop nutrition; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Natural capital; Regulation / policy

Qualifications: BA History, Prince 2 Foundation and Practitioner, currently studying MSP (Managing Successful Programmes

Lesley Boyd | National Institute of Agricultural Botany

Organisation Website: https://www.niab.com/

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Salad crops

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have led and participated in research and development projects related to cereal and broadleaf production for over 30 years. My main area of expertise is in cereal and broadleaf pathology. Since 2018 I have been working with industry and commercial farming organisations through Innovate projects to translate Niab research into practical applications that address current issues around arable and horticultural production. I am currently a member of the UK Mycotoxin Forum and UK Ergot Working group. I have collaborated with many UK stakeholders, including BASF, Syngenta, G's Fresh, Limagrain, KWS, RAGT, Elsoms, Bayer and AHDB, as well as farmer organisations, including LEAF and the Morley Agricultural Foundation.

Skills: Crop protection; Diagnostics & sensors; Natural capital; Regulation / policy

Qualifications: PhD, MSc, BSc

Lindsay Hargreaves | Lindsay Hargreaves Limited

Organisation Website: www.lindsayhargreaves.com

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Ruminants; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: Over 30yrs front-line experience in large scale farm management prior to establishing own consultancy based on business planning, new technology and water resources for agriculture. Track record of successfully planning, delivering and commissioning large, complex capital projects in crop storage and processing, irrigation infrastructure and business reorganisation. In the past 15yrs, work with Innovate UK as project monitoring officer and grant application assessor, also work as a participant in a number of Innovate UK funded projects in various roles including project lead, consortium member, project manager and innovation manager.

Skills: Agri-business management; Automation; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Irrigation; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: BSc, FRAgS, FIAgrM, NSch, Basis, Facts

Lydia Smith | Programme Leader

Organisation Website: www.niab.com; www.carboncapturecropping.co.uk

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Biomass; Forages; Bioeconomy; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have been working as a research leader in practical agricultural and horticultural projects for more than 35 years; many of which either involved farmers directly, or had a specific farmer interaction implicit in delivery. I either led or co - led 20 of over 35 projects in this space. My research has been funded by a broad range of funders including Defra (and MAFF) BBSRC, NERC AHDB, HDC, EU, plus a number of private industry and small charities such as Felix Cobbold, Agricultural Charities etc. This was preceded by a short period in university lecturing on soil science and environmental biology. In addition to research myself I have supervised more than 15 students for PhD all of which were in subjects relating to soil ecology land reclamation for agriculture and amenity use of damaged land. Having set up NIAB innovation Farm, my work often includes talking groups of farmers large and small about relevant innovations and Agritech. Recently I have also been working as a science and farmer outreach lead at the farmer-facing FarmED a PIC based in the Cotswolds (Literally looking at Farmer Education through lectures events and discussions).

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Agronomy; Biomaterials, bioenergy; Natural capital; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: BSc. MSc. PhD.

Mark Lindley | Hartpury University and College

Organisation Website: https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/for-business/digital-innovation-farm

Region: West Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Forages; Ruminants

Skills and Experience

Experience: As Project Officer my current role involves liaising with farmers, government bodies, funding organisations and other key stakeholders to source and secure grants and funding. Previous roles include providing investment readiness assessments and writing investment propositions for funding and equity investors. My career in farming and farming technologies, encompasses experience of managing sales and support teams, along with participation in multi-disciplinary teams in multi-national corporates.

Skills: Agri-business management; Diagnostics & sensors; Diversification & transition management; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital

Qualifications: BSc (Hons) Agriculture

Mary Dimambro | Cambridge Eco Ltd

Organisation Website: www.cambridgeeco.co.uk and www.youtube.com/@sustainablefoodproduction3213

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Biomass; Forages; ioeconomy; Agroforestry

Skills and Experience

Experience: Mary has 20 years of project management experience, leading and coordinating projects with farmers, consultants, academics, and government agencies. She has secured 27 funding applications for diverse agricultural research projects, from novel organic biopesticide trials and reducing the use of peat in horticulture, to investigating plastics and microplastics in agriculture. Funding sources include Innovate UK, WRAP, Environment Agency, National Trust, Scottish Government, Defra and AD sites. Mary has managed scientific trials investigating the use of organic materials (digestates, composts, frass, manures) on crop production, soil quality, and plant growth across various environments, including arable land, grassland, brownfield sites, polytunnels, and glasshouses. She is dedicated to reducing ammonia emissions with livestock farmers by trialling novel materials on FYM and slurry stores. Since 2004, Mary has focused on reducing farming impacts through research and supporting farmers with applying for funding and managing projects. As a Land Management Advisor and Project Manager for Natural England (2005-2013), she gained expertise in agri-environment funding and capital grants. Her areas of knowledge include biodiversity, soil health, water quality, greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions and carbon sequestration. Mary has also facilitated >100 farm advice events, including webinars, workshops and field walks.

Skills: Diversification & transition management; Natural capital; Plant breeding; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: BSc in Environmental Biology with Italian (1997). MSc Crop Protection (1999) Institute of Arable Crop Research. PhD The effects of environmental change on plant growth and nitrogen metabolism in arctic and temperate vegetation' (2003). Institute of Biological Sciences, University of Wales, Aberystwyth. FACTS (since 2016). Nutrient Management Planning additional FACTS course (2017). BASIS Environmental Advisers Register.

Megan Vasko | AbacusBio International Limited

Organisation Website: www.abacusbio.com

Region: Scotland

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Fieldscale vegetables; Soft fruit; Ruminants

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am an accredited programme manager with over 15 years of experience spanning both start-ups and corporate environments. My expertise includes Agile and Waterfall methodologies, stakeholder-driven project planning, and securing high-value contracts. At AbacusBio, I manage a portfolio of complex initiatives across multiple clients and geographies, ensuring successful project delivery and strong client relationships. My experience in securing funding includes several commercial initiatives, such as £12m from Bayer Crop Science. Smaller amounts have been secured through grants, such as a DEFRA Tender (£55K) on duel purpose heritage breeds assessment. In the agricultural sector, I have led projects that integrate technology and genetics to drive innovation. Previously, at Open Food Chain, I managed a blockchain-enabled anti-slavery initiative in Southeast Asian fisheries and played a key role in the design and launch of customer-facing traceability tech solution in the juice industry. I also secured sponsorship for the StrikeTwo Summit. My work has involved business development, strategic marketing, and operational efficiency improvements, all tailored to the needs of the agriculture and food industries. With a strong background in change management and stakeholder engagement, I bring a results-driven approach to project and grant management within the agricultural sector.

Skills: Enhanced management / decision support; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Regulation / policy; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: BSc - Medical Dietetics, MSc - Public Heath Research

Nathan Morris | NIAB

Organisation Website: www.niab.com

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have been actively involved in the knowledge exchange and farmer training activities including the NIAB Training Programme (https://www.niab.com/services/training/technical-agronomy-training) and have participated in national farming events such as Cereals where over the past years the 'soil pit' has been a major attraction and involved many 1-2-1 discussions with growers. I have a particular interest and expertise in farming systems and the impacts on soil structure and fertility whilst maintaining crop productivity. I have been actively involved with many projects funded through AHDB, Defra, EU Seventh Framework programme which have included the dissemination of results to groups of farmers, agronomists and allied businesses.

Skills: Agronomy; Crop nutrition; Natural capital; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: PhD, FACTS

Nicolas Gosman | Gosman Ag Consultants

Organisation Website: Www.gosmanagconsultanssolutions.com

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops

Skills and Experience

Experience: 37 years in commercial plant breeding and academic plant science. Highlights: leading R&D teams with NIAB, Bayer Crop Science and R&D manager reporting to the board in biotech spinouts in UK and Australia

Skills: Agri-business management; Agronomy; Biostimulants; Crop protection; Diagnostics & sensors; Enhanced management / decision support; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Imaging / satellites; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital; Regulation / policy; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: Bsc Hons. Botany & Genetics, MSC Seed Technology, MSC Plant Genetics, PhD Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions

Paul Laidler | Phoenix Performance Solutions

Organisation Website: linkedin.com/in/paullaidlerntd
Region: North East & Cumbria

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Biomass; Salad crops; Bioeconomy; Agroforestry; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: Specifically, I have worked in the dairy industry, come from a mixed farming background (Cattle, sheep, pigs and arable) and have experience of AD systems from the food industry. I have worked previously in the many areas of sustainability and waste recycling, with direct experience with three companies involved in converting food waste into digestate fertilizer, bio gas and carbon black. Also, converting farm manure into pelletised fertilizer for Hydroponic farming and field crops. I have operated in the Clean Tech space for over 15 years and managed hydroponics projects to minimise water use in food production and solar irrigation projects to make best use of rain water for more efficient farming. This includes the design and implementation of solar powered crop irrigation and drying systems to improve produce yields and increase the efficiency of farms and agribusiness enterprises as well as to ensure sustainability of natural and renewable resources.`

Skills: Diversification & transition management; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital; Renewable energy

Qualifications: BSc, MBA

Raymond King | Flynt Technology Ltd

Organisation Website: https://www.linkedin.com/company/flynt-technology/
Region: South West

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Biomass; Salad crops

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am a Chartered Engineer with over 10 years experience in Agricultural Engineering, designing, developing, testing and manufacturing a range of machinery in robotics, energy, livestock, aerospace and construction. I have worked with notable companies such as Small Robot Company, Teagle Machinery, Claydon Drills, BioFactory and JCB. I have also successfully managed Innovate UK grant funded projects in the agtech sector delivering technology such as autonomous spot spraying robots and novel interrow mowing robots. I managed team workload, materials budgets and timelines as well as being responsible for updating and engaging internal and external stakeholders in each project. I am used to working directly with farmers to help them turn their ideas into reality and access the full value of the innovations. I have extensive contacts throughout multiple engineering disciplines including AI, electronics, software, robotics as well as the mechanical engineering skill set that I can bring to the table.

Skills: Data / AI / machine learning; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Renewable energy; Robotics

Qualifications: BEng(Hons) Agricultural Engineering

Richard Weightman | Alastair Findlay Ltd

Organisation Website: NA

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Fieldscale vegetables; Salad crops

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am an experienced research scientist with a special interest in crop quality and utilisation, food safety and crop improvement. I led the crop utilisation area within ADAS until 2014, and have over 20 years experience as a crop scientist. I prepared proposals for, and managed three projects for Innovate UK, including Triticale for bioethanol (101093), Reducing waste in fresh produce by hydraulic shock washing (101389) and Production of leaf protein concentrate. I have delivered a range of other project for Defra, AHDB and the Food Stabdards Agency

Skills: Agronomy; Biomaterials, bioenergy; Crop nutrition; Regulation / policy; Renewable energy

Qualifications: BSc (Hons) Agricultural Science, PhD

Sarah Roberts | Niab

Organisation Website: Niab
Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre
Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Tubers & roots

Skills and Experience

Experience: From my PhD onwards I have spent my career designing, bidding for, managing and delivering potato physiology and agronomy research projects. I lead the development and delivery of grower-focused potato experiments at Niab with projects ranging from improving varietal seed rate recommendations to assessing the efficacy of novel plant protection products. My work includes managing and delivering both more academic projects (developing a descriptive model for quantifying canopy growth during my PhD, useful for identifying differences in the rates of aboveground potato development), confidential commercial projects (e.g. optimising application timings of novel biostimulant products) and business-research collaborations funded through the IUK Farming Innovation Pathway (fibre production and nutrient uptake). For example, I have led Niab's collaboration with Fibe Ltd to ensure that the project data collection strategies generate the necessary data to inform strategic business decisions (such as identifying which farm crops have the highest quality feedstock for fibre extraction).

Skills: Agronomy; Biostimulants; Crop nutrition; Natural capital

Qualifications: BA, PhD

Scott Kirby | Harper Adams University

Organisation Website: www.harper-adams.ac.uk
Region: West Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Biomass; Forages; Bioeconomy; Ruminants

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am a land management professional with over 30 years of experience managing sustainable land-based businesses and organisations, both as a consultant and an estate manager within the higher education sector. Driven by a passion for innovation and sustainability, I transitioned from business consultancy to higher education to explore new opportunities for advancing sustainable land management practices. My work focuses on developing ways to attain commercial viability while reducing the environmental impact of agricultural operations and leveraging the regenerative potential of natural systems. My contributions to farm management have been recognised through accolades such as being a finalist in the 'Farm Manager of the Year' category at the Farmers Weekly Awards. Additionally, receiving a Nuffield Scholarship enabled me to further research and advocate for a sustainable land-based sector. With a well-established reputation in the industry, I am privileged to collaborate with leading companies and organisations. Currently, I am pursuing Chartered Environmentalist status and have founded my own company to develop land management and restoration initiatives.

Skills: Agri-business management; Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Plant breeding; Regulation / policy; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: BSc Agriculture, BASIS, FACTS, Nuffield Scholar, Fellow of the Institute of Agricultural management

Stephan Haefele | Rothamsted Research

Organisation Website: https://www.rothamsted.ac.uk/
Region: South East

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre
Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Salad crops

Skills and Experience

Experience: I studied soil science and agronomy and spent a considerable part of his career in international research in Africa and Asia. I worked now for +8 years in the UK, and my main research interests as a systems agronomist are focused on plant nutrition, soil health, and the relation between crop nutrition and crop quality for human consumption. Apart from my own research in a team of ten colleagues and PhD students, I am heading the Soil Science Section/Department at Rothamsted Research. He is also leading the spectral laboratory at Rothamsted which investigates new methods for soil and plant analysis. Currently, I am contributing to several ongoing projects funded by the BBSRC (Growing Health, Resilient Future Farming), ESA (Earth Observation for estimating and predicting crop nutrients), and INNOVATE UK (Ferti-Green-Coating" a greener biodegradable polymer for a new generation of Controlled release fertilizer).

Skills: Agronomy; Crop nutrition; Diagnostics & sensors; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: PhD

Stuart Knight | Niab

Organisation Website: https://www.niab.com

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am a Research Agronomist with 35 years of experience in applied crop management research; combinable crop trials; authoring research reviews; collaborating with academic and industry partners; delivering knowledge exchange; and providing technical advice to farmers and agronomists. I have broad expertise in combinable crop performance and agronomy. My research interests include management of soil and fertiliser nutrients within arable rotations; monitoring and controlling cereal fungal diseases; novel or alternative crops and farming systems; managing within-field variation, and decision support for combinable cropping. I have led or collaborated on more than 25 R&D projects and research reviews, most of which have involved grower participation or interaction. These have ranged from small agronomy-focused collaborations (£25K or less) to multidisciplinary consortia with 20+ partners spanning industry and academia (£2M or more). I have extensive experience in the design, delivery, and interpretation of small plot and larger-scale arable crop field trials for evaluating the efficacy of plant protection products (including fungicides, insecticides, herbicides, and plant growth regulators), manufactured fertilisers and foliar crop nutrients, and new crops, varieties, or growing systems.

Skills: Agronomy; Crop nutrition; Crop protection; Enhanced management / decision support; Natural capital

Qualifications: BSc

Tim Isaac | Ceres Research

Organisation Website: https://ceresresearch.com/

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Agroforestry; Ruminants

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have extensive experience in project and grant management within the agricultural sector, spanning industry organisations and private consultancy.   As East Region Surveyor for the CLA, I advised and represented members on all aspects of land and farm business management, developing a strong foundation in agricultural policy and rural business support. I then joined AHDB as a Regional Manager, pioneering the Monitor Farm programme in East Anglia before leading the national Arable team.   As Director of Knowledge Exchange at AHDB, I managed an £11 million budget for a UK-wide network of Strategic Farms, Monitor Farms, discussion groups, and technical events. I also oversaw further funding for some of these projects via grants from other organisations such as the Scottish Government and EU programmes. They were all focussed on supporting farm innovation and knowledge exchange and enhancing grower resilience through research-led demonstration.   Since joining Ceres Rural as a Partner, I secured and led the £1.5 million DEFRA-funded Future Farming Resilience Fund (FFRF) project, providing business support to farmers navigating policy and market changes. This involved project planning, stakeholder engagement, financial oversight, and ensuring delivery on time and within budget.   I have a strong track record in securing and managing publicly funded agricultural projects, delivering measurable impact for farmers and the wider industry.

Skills: Agri-business management; Diversification & transition management; Enhanced management / decision support; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Natural capital

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Qualifications: BSc Agricultural Business Management, Diploma in Rural Surveying, CAAV, Professional Fellow of the Institute of Agricultural Management, PRINCE2 Project Management, Worshipful Company of Farmers Rural Leadership, BASIS Principles of Sustainable Land Management, BASIS Soil & Water

Tom Allen-Stevens | British On Farm Innovation Network (BOFIN)

Organisation Website: www.bofin.org.uk

Region: South East

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Broadacre

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Biomass; Forages; Ruminants

Skills and Experience

Experience: I lead the British On-Farm Innovation Network (BOFIN), set up to represent farmers who carry out on farm trials, seeking a more scientific approach. We are the leading providers of farmer-led trials in UK, with 70 farmers currently contracted to deliver trials across four major Defra-funded projects. These focus on introducing innovations in slug control, soil & root health, pulse crops and precision-bred crops. Most of the trials are on arable systems, in combinable crops. BOFIN works with scientists to ensure trials results are accurate and replicable, but can be practically carried out on farm without specialist equipment. We set up platforms to upskill farmers and provide a robust means of testing innovations. We develop communities around projects to help farmers share experience, best practice and knowledge to advance adoption of new technologies & the benefits these accrue for farmers. I have 30 years' experience in farming innovations, working with commercial and research partners & building networks. The BOFIN team includes Laura, head of projects, PRINCE2 qualified, who leads on all aspects of project management; Clemmie, head of communications, who amplifies farmer-led innovation, builds connections, and bridges science and practice; Skye, community manager, who ensures farmers and trialists are well-supported.

Skills: Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Crop nutrition; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Natural capital; Regulation / policy

Qualifications: MSc in advanced farm management

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Horticulture

Alex Fisher | Hydronomy

Organisation Website: www.hydronomy.net

Region: West Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Fieldscale vegetables; Soft fruit; Salad crops; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have successfully delivered over 10 Innovate UK agricultural innovation projects over the last 13 years, including multiple on farm and in collaboration with farmers, combining to multiple millions of pounds. I won the InnovateUK cross-sector award for Productivity Improvement. I run R&D projects in multiple geographies, have obtained over 25 patents and a registered trademark, and collaborated with more than 10 leading academic institutions in the UK and Europe. I have a deep understanding of and experience in the complete process from early-stage R&D through to the commercial realities of farming and the onward supply chain.

Skills: Biostimulants; Crop nutrition; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Irrigation; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: BA MSc

Alicja Dzieciol | SilviBio Limited

Organisation Website: www.silvibio.com

Region: Scotland

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Soft fruit; Salad crops; Tree crops; Forestry; Bioeconomy

Skills and Experience

Experience: I founded my company SilviBio to work directly with growers to help them grow more plants more sustainably and help solve problems that growers want solved. In doing so I created patentable agritech technologies, conducted IP management (building on my previous experience in technology transfer), secured funding for agritech innovations and managed several agritech and forestry R&D projects simultaneously. I have never once failed a project, but ensured that all project outputs are delivered on time and on budget. I've taken a grower first approach to innovation, ensuring that any R&D projects involving growers put them at the centre of the project and have outputs that are applicable to them. I've been directly involved in grower trials to ensure that the trials are achieving what they were set out to do and made adjustments as necessary. I have extensive experience interfacing with project monitoring officers from different agencies and understand how to use their systems and what their expectations are.

Skills: Agri-business management; Biomaterials, bioenergy; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: PhD

Charles Whitfield | Niab at East Malling

Organisation Website: https://www.niab.com/about/people/dr-charles-whitfield
Region: South East

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Fieldscale vegetables; Soft fruit; Salad crops; Tree crops; Viticulture

Skills and Experience

Experience: 10 years experience developing and submitting R&D proposals, managing a portfolio of R&D projects in the horticulture sector, with a focus on crop protection and precision technologies. The majority of my projects have been funded by Innovate UK and I am extremely experienced in all stages of project development, management, and delivery. My experience and expertise includes spray application, precision technologies (including robotics and automation, sensors, remote sensing, machine vision, and augmented reality), novel pesticides and biopesticides (including repellents and attractants), trial design, integrated pest management, and statistical analysis. I work closely with growers and understand the challenges of running trials on commercial farms.

Skills: Agronomy; Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Crop protection; Data / AI / machine learning; Diagnostics & sensors

Qualifications: BSc, MSc, PhD

David May | Hubl Logistics Limited

Organisation Website: https://www.coolrun.co.uk/

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Fieldscale vegetables; Soft fruit; Salad crops; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have been involved in UK funded projects for most of my career. These have ranged from providing technical expertise on research to project managing an Innovate funded project on the Cool chain in Malawi. As Deputy Director of the Lincoln Institute for AgriFood Technology I managed the operational delivery of the £6.4m Research England E3 grant and a supported a number of other Innovate farming Projects. I have a wide range of experience in Horticulture – mainly glasshouse horticulture, but also robotics, early pest and disease detection, crop forecasting across a range of crops. I am trained Horticulturalist having worked with farmers and growers as a consultant. I am also an Agronomic advisor to Fotenix working with growers on the adoption of technology.   At Hubl I project manage the delivery of the Malawi grant and have been involved in the product development of the pods from concept through to manufacture to improve cool chain of fresh produce in Africa.

Skills: Agri-business management; Agronomy; Automation; Diagnostics & sensors; Robotics

Qualifications: BSc Horticulture BASIS - now lapsed

Edwin Moorhouse | G's Fresh

Organisation Website: https://www.gs-fresh.com/

Region: South East

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Fieldscale vegetables; Soft fruit; Salad crops; Tree crops; Viticulture

Skills and Experience

Experience: Product/process research and innovation has been a core part of all the roles that I have undertaken for the whole of my career. I have obtained experience on various public and private research projects over this time which has necessitated interactions with a wide range of stakeholders from farmers through to senior academics and supply companies to NGO's. Most of my recent experience has been with the creation, development and management of nearly 20 Innovate UK projects of behalf of various UK businesses. These have covered a wide range of targets (eg. agronomy, crop protection, robotics, automation and sensor development) with consortia comprising up to 8 commercial partners and 3 RTO partners. The majority of projects have been developed based on specific grower needs to address current or predicted commercial challenges and have been highly focused on exploitable and practical outcomes. I have also supported Innovate UK with the assessment of new project proposals or various competitions which has provided additional insight into the competitive process for these competitions.

Skills: Agronomy; Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Crop protection; Diagnostics & sensors; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy

Qualifications: BSc, PhD

Edwin Reyes | Promar International

Organisation Website: Promar International

Region: North West

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Fieldscale vegetables; Soft fruit; Salad crops; Tree crops; Ruminants

Skills and Experience

Experience: As a Senior Agri-food Consultant for a leading agricultural consultancy company in the UK, I have been involved in a wide range of projects across the agrifood supply industry, both in the UK and overseas, including the EU, South East Asia, Gulf countries, North and Latin America. My work covers assessing and identifying markets, market trends, and business opportunities via various routes to market, including mainstream and niche retail, foodservice, and e-commerce/online retailing. Additionally, I have experience in assessing the effectiveness of agricultural projects and programs in the agricultural and food sector. My work covers different agricultural industries, including dairy, meat, fresh produce and agri-tech. My responsibilities include acting as a project manager, monitoring, budgeting, and assessing projects, and utilizing a wide range of research techniques. These techniques include business-to-business work, desk-based analysis, and online research with a combination of producers, processors, importers, retailers, agri-tech businesses and foodservice operators, as well as trade associations, levy boards, government agencies and departments. I hold a Master's in Agricultural Economics and am Prince2 certified in project management.

Skills: Agri-business management; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital

Qualifications: MSc Agriculture Economics

Emma Jane Garfield | Emma Garfield

Organisation Website: Emma Garfield
Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Soft fruit; Salad crops; Agroforestry; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: Managed grant applications, project management and delivery in farming industry for > 25 years, with funding ranging from internal/grower funding through to government funding (RPA, InnovateUK, BBSRC, DEFRA)). Most recently managing a Research Starter project, Feasibility and Small R&D and KTP projects, including a current UKRI follow on project with 8 partners. Industry programme lead for CTP for Sustainable Agricultural Innovation (£3.6M PhD programme). Experienced in all areas of horticultural and crop science.

Skills: Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Crop nutrition; Crop protection; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: BSc, MSc, BASIS, FACTS

Flora O'Brien | NIAB

Organisation Website: https://www.niab.com

Region: South East

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Soft fruit; Tree crops; Viticulture

Skills and Experience

Experience: Dr Flora O'Brien is a root and soil biologist, with research interests in soil health, root-soil interactions and rhizosphere microbiology in relation to management of horticultural cropping systems. She has experience of grant and project management from her role as PI for IUK projects 10026588 "Increasing productivity and sustainability in UK viticulture: investigating the potential impact of groundcover management practices on soil health, yields and juice quality, and emissions", and current project 10115551 "Developing a holistic soil biological health assessment". She has also helped to deliver the IUK project 105534 "Developing prototype VOC sensor-based products for determining soil health on-farm". Dr O'Brien has co-authored an AHDB-funded report on carbon sequestration in UK dessert apple orchards and is the lead author of peer reviewed papers on soil microbial community-based studies. She has been the first author of several peer-reviewed publications: https://doi.org/10.20870/oeno-one.2025.59.1.8089, 10.3389/fmicb.2019.01486; 10.3389/fmicb.2018.01620. She is also the project manager for the sustainability grant and training programme Growing Green, which is funded by Growing Kent & Medway (a Strength in Places project).

Skills: Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: PhD, MSc

Francis Wamonje | Niab

Organisation Website: https://www.niab.com/
Region: South East

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture
Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Soft fruit; Tree crops; Agroforestry

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am an experienced research and project manager with 8 years post PhD experience, the last three as a Senior Research Leader. I hold academic and practical scientific expertise in Plant Sciences, Entomology and Genomics. I have competitively won and co-won over GBP 2.5 million in grants within the past 4 years in Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator roles from a variety of funders, including IUK, Defra, UKRI and grower collectives such as British Apples and Pears and Worshipful Company of the Fruiterers. My day-to-day work is primarily 'Cradle-to-grave' project management, delivery and budget monitoring. Currently, I have 5 active projects and have project managed six to completion since joining Niab in September 202. As a research leader in entomology, I have supervisory responsibility over teams and provide scientific leadership for the different agricultural projects we do. I also serve as the resident plant health officer responsible for adherence to institutional plant health regulations. I have international experience and networks, having worked internationally in 4 countries (UK, Canada, Kenya and Tanzania) in academia and national and international research organisations. I can support strategic thinking, ideation, grant writing, and research activation. I also mentor postgraduate students.

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Crop protection; Diagnostics & sensors; Plant breeding

Qualifications: PhD in Plant Sciences

Graham Dow | Niab

Organisation Website: https://www.niab.com

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Soft fruit; Tree crops; Viticulture; Forestry; Agroforestry

Skills and Experience

Experience: Have led and currently lead research grants in resource use efficiency and environmental responses of horticultural crops (apple and strawberry, to date).

Skills: Data / AI / machine learning; Diagnostics & sensors; Imaging / satellites; Irrigation; Regulation / policy

Qualifications: BSc, PhD

Greg Crawford | NIAB (National institute of agricultural botany)

Organisation Website: https://www.niab.com/

Region: Yorkshire & the Humber

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Fieldscale vegetables; Salad crops

Skills and Experience

Experience: Zero Carbon Farms ltd - Growing manager. UK Salads ltd - Greenhouse manager, NIAB - Farm business resilience consultant. Worked on various trial projects in Horticulture to increase yields and worked on the Future Farming Resilience Fund providing business support in one-to-one and group format.

Skills: Agri-business management; Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Circular economy; Diversification & transition management; Irrigation; Renewable energy

Qualifications: Agricultural business management -BSc - Newcastle university

James Stevens | Innophyte Consulting

Organisation Website: www.innophyte.co.uk

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Soft fruit; Salad crops; Viticulture; Bioeconomy; Novel food systems; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: I started working in the ag / horticulture sector in 2015 during my PhD at the University of Essex, looking at drought tolerance in barley. I have since worked in CEA as a lecturer at Essex, as a senior scientist at Vertical Future Ltd, and as a consultant with Innophyte Consulting.   I am an MSP of multiple DEFRA and other agriculture / horticulture projects which all involve at least one grower. Elsewhere, I have facilitation experience at University of Essex where I ran meetings and conferences for the Essex Plant Innovation Centre (EPIC), as well as when working in the private sector at Vertical Future (for instance, coordinating round-table discussions), and at Henderson where convened work with other analysts to advise on IFRS accounting standards. I have designed, written and won grants including #10030778 - a KTP with the University of Essex, and #10089325 a collaboration with University of Cambridge. I ran #10005832 – Chronoculture as project lead. This project was so successful I was invited by IUK to apply for follow-on funding. In addition, I am currently project manager on #10134099 with NIAB, Matrex & Flex Farming. Therefore, I believe I have the project management skills required for this role.

Skills: Crop nutrition; Diagnostics & sensors; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: PhD, Plant Science, University of Essex

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Jan Redpath | Angus Soft Fruits Ltd

Organisation Website: www.angussoftfruits.com

Region: Scotland

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Soft fruit

Skills and Experience

Experience: Currently involved in 3 grant funded agri-tech projects, as lead in 2 of those, and have a long history of project management for innovation to benefit growers and fruit quality.

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Agronomy; Crop protection; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital

Qualifications: BSc Agriculture, MPhil Plant & Soil Science, Nuffield Scholar

Kevin Stephens | Agroceutical Products Ltd

Organisation Website: www.agroceutical.com

Region: Cymru Wales

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Biomass; Forages; Viticulture; Bioeconomy; Ruminants

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have been designing, applying for and delivering grant programmes for 15yrs+

Skills: Agri-business management; Agronomy; Biomaterials, bioenergy; Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy

Qualifications: MBA, MSc

Louisa Robinson Boyer | NIAB East Malling

Organisation Website: www.niab.com

Region: South East

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Fieldscale vegetables; Soft fruit; Salad crops; Tree crops

Skills and Experience

Experience: An experienced research leader and consultant with over 20 years of experience transversing academia and industry specialising in sustainable agriculture and horticulture crop production, nature-based solutions and soil microbiomes. Currently, as a research project leader I manage a diverse portfolio of projects developing opportunities, themes and projects, collaborating with diverse cross-sector national and international stakeholders, underscoring the translation of novel strategies into actionable, practical strategies for growers and the wider agricultural sector. My portfolio of projects are funded by IUK, BBSRC, British council and Horizon 2020 and address global challenges such as food security, climate change, natural resource management, IMP, biodiversity and resilience of farming systems. My experience spans sustainable horticulture and agriculture, nature-based solutions, plant sciences, biotic and abiotic stress, synthetic microbiomes, soil health, climate change and extreme weather events. I manage a flagship industry-led PhD program worth £4.3 million, training future leaders in horticulture. A skilled communicator, I effectively engage with diverse audience, through written reports, scientific presentations, media and translating complex concepts for stakeholders, growers, and the wider community.

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Biostimulants; Natural capital; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: Bsc.- Biology, Msc.- Microbiology, PhD- Molecular microbiology.

Martin Goodchild | University of Bedfordshire, retired from Delta-T Devices Ltd

Organisation Website: https://www.beds.ac.uk/irese/about/ retired from https://delta-t.co.uk/

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Soft fruit; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: Project manager and principal investigator for Delta-T Devices on the following IUK projects: IUK 102124, IUK 101623, TSB 130924, IUK 101818

Skills: Data / AI / machine learning; Diagnostics & sensors; Enhanced management / decision support; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: BSc & PhD

Matevz Papp-Rupar | NIAB East Malling

Organisation Website: NIAB East Malling
Region: South East

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture
Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Soft fruit; Salad crops; Tree crops; Viticulture; Forestry

Skills and Experience

Experience: During post-doctoral research (University of Nottingham, 2014-2017) on UV-light mediated defences in tomato and cut rose production in the UK and Kenya (TSB 101919) I led development of methodology and prototypes, explored molecular mechanisms, designed on-farm experiments, prepared reports and organised quarterly progress meetings. Since joining Niab, East Maling (2018-present) I have written 10 Innovate UK grant applications in collaboration with producer organisations, tech start-up and other SMEs of which five were funded (10115551, 10055598, 10056477, 10055366, 10023635). I have timely and on budget delivered high quality research, assisted industry partners with project set up (collaboration agreements, NDAs, MTAs, etc), project management and reporting, claiming process, project change requests, and also communicated project outcomes via in-person talks, videos and written materials to academic, agri-/horti-industry and general public audiences. My research expertise include sustainable disease management, remote sensing, soil health, microbiome use in sustainable food production, climate change mitigation, net-zero and cyclic economy. I have also co-led EU-funded research on biostimulants and sustainable growing substrates (Bio4safe, Horti-blueC, SpinFert), BBSRC funded projects on apple endophytes and ash dieback (BB/P007899/1, BB/R017670/1), BBSRC follow-on projects on apple canker management, forestry cutting production (TPIF) and numerous grower levy and industry funded projects (AHDB, BAPL).

Skills: Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Biostimulants; Circular economy; Crop protection; Diagnostics & sensors

Qualifications: Biotechnology BSc/MSc, Molecular Plant pathology PhD

Ralph Noble | microbiotech ltd

Organisation Website: www.microbiotech.co.uk

Region: West Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Soft fruit; Salad crops; Viticulture

Skills and Experience

Experience: Currently technical Director of Microbiotech, a research and development company which specialises in the analysis and management of micro-organisms and insect pests in horticultural soils and cropping substrates. I have worked as an applied microbiologist in horticultural crop research since 1984, initially with MAFF and Horticulture Research International. I was the manager of the University of Warwick Bioconversion Unit for seven years, and until 2018, was a Principal Research Scientist at NIAB EMR (formerly East Malling Research). I have coordinated applied research projects on a diverse range of topics including suppression of soil-borne plant diseases using organic amendments, replacement of peat in horticulture, biocontrol of pests in horticultural crops, and the control of fungal and bacterial pathogens in composting and anaerobic digestion. These projects have involved consortia of grower and science partners. I have worked with growers in the UK, Europe and many other countries including the USA, Australia, New Zealand, China, South Africa and Kenya. I have written over 200 scientific papers, patents and technical publications on my research areas.

Skills: Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Circular economy; Crop protection; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: PhD (Cranfield University, Agricultural Engineering) BSc (Reading, Horticultural Science) BASIS

Rebecca Beveridge | Grow Partners

Organisation Website: www.growpartners.co.uk

Region: South East

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Fieldscale vegetables; Biomass; Soft fruit; Salad crops; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am a co-founder and Director of Grow Partners, a specialist consultancy, providing strategic and planning advice and project management services to the UK commercial agriculture and horticulture sector. We work with developers, growers, suppliers, educators and stakeholder organisations of all kinds, including delivery of marketing and research, cutting-edge tech and construction projects. We are currently project managing 3No Innovate UK R&D projects on behalf of Fargro Ltd.

Skills: Agronomy; Automation; Data / AI / machine learning; Renewable energy

Qualifications: MSc Project Management, Prince2 Practitioner

Rob Merrall | Merralls Consulting Ltd

Organisation Website: www.merralls.com

Region: West Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Fieldscale vegetables; Soft fruit; Salad crops; Monogastrics

Skills and Experience

Experience: My partner Vickie Cooper and I established Merralls Consulting Ltd in 2012, building on a strong network from a career in farm machinery and agricultural engineering research. About 60% of our activity is monitoring InnovateUK funded projects - several hundred over the years. We are fortunate to monitor a range of diverse teams, but we also really enjoy delivery through project management for carefully selected groups.   Our in-depth understanding of the process helps with the management of large and small projects alike, from small feasibility studies to large multi-million pound collaborative projects involving corporate manufacturers. As very practical people with a farming background, it is really rewarding to have a hand in making innovation happen, rather than just observing it.   MCL are a team of four with complimentary skills, meaning we can undertake project management or project monitoring with a hands on, experienced and thought through approach. Steph provides organisation: diary management, reminders and often is a first point of contact. Helen uses her data analytics and advanced IT and presentational skills to ensure projects are accurately tracked, deadlines are met and presentations look good. This allows Vickie and I to concentrate on working directly with project teams.

Skills: Crop protection; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital; Renewable energy

Qualifications: Engineering Doctorate, BEng (Agricultural Engineering). The Engineering Doctorate included the taught element of the Cranfield MBA (including Project Management).

Sushma Shankar | Deep Planet

Organisation Website: www.deepplanet.ai

Region: London

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Tubers & roots; Tree crops; Viticulture; Forestry

Skills and Experience

Experience: Founder of Agri tech company, Deep Planet, Expereince in grant management, agriculture projects, collaboration with farmers and technology providers

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Data / AI / machine learning; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: MBA

Sven Batke | Edge Hill University and Flavour Fresh LtD

Organisation Website: https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/person/sven-batke/staff/
Region: North West

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Horticulture
Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Soft fruit; Salad crops

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am.the chair of the Greenhouse Innovation Consortium (https://youtu.be/6Nqjg96pwgI?feature=shared), and I have been helping growers and manufacturers in the greenhouse sector to test and implement new technologies in their businesses. In particular I am doing a lot of work around glas coatings and light improvement in greenhouses. I have secured national and international funding and was awarded industry funding to support R&D and KE activities. The GIC works closely together with the British Growers Association and the British Tomato Grower Association. For example, jointly we are currently mapping the greenhouse sector for Britain and developing policy briefs. I am also an advisor for Lancashire Councils on the food sector. I have both project management and two leadership qualifications (Cambridge Alumni).

Skills: Automation; Crop protection; Diagnostics & sensors; Enhanced management / decision support; Natural capital

Qualifications: PhD

Forestry and Bioeconomy

Amanda McMurray | Amanda McMurray Limited

Organisation Website: amcm-associates.com

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Biomass; Bioeconomy; Other livestock; Novel food systems; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have extensive experience of project and grant management, across a wide range of technology and application areas including agriculture. Examples are : as Business Development Director for the Genome Analysis Centre (plant and animal genomics) Generated £800K per annum commercial income from small commercial services; won and delivered projects of value £1M with industrial partners. As monitoring service provider have monitored (managed grants) for up to 10 agrictech projects.

Skills: Biomaterials, bioenergy; Diagnostics & sensors; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital

Qualifications: BSc PhD MBA

Andrew Stacey | Avgo Biotech Ltd

Organisation Website: www.avgo.uk
Region: East Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy
Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Salad crops; Monogastrics

Skills and Experience

Experience: Avgo Biotech - Founder and CEO   Avgo is a food waste recycling business – taking egg and seashells and converting them in high value materials for the pharmaceutical, food and industrial sectors. •   Successfully developed technology from base zero to a pilot plant at TRL 7 through multiple development projects funded by IUK (£275k) and business angels (£270k). •   Developed vertically integrated supply chain. •   Filed patents for above technology in Europe and North America. Cellular Systems – Owner Cellular Systems is a consultancy undertaking research projects to commercialise agrifood waste streams. •   Engaged, sold and built research consortia around diagnostic and food waste technologies (£500k+, 5 projects), •   Project Managed multiple multi partner research projects, co-ordinating activities to apply laboratory technology to developed low TRL processes, to extract valuable raw materials for the food, supplements, healthcare and other industries, RoboScientific – Business Development Consultant Took a Leeds University technology and developed it into a functional "electronic nose" capable of detecting low levels of infectious agents in a wide range of agricultural and clinical settings. •   Engaged the salad, poultry and cattle industries to build research and commercial consortia. •   Built projects and wrote successful bids (9 projects - £1.5m+) •   Ran projects as project manager, o Successful co-ordinating of awarded project set up, with members and principles, o Management of projects, using project management tools such as gannt charts, risk registers, and regular remote and face to face meetings, o   Co-ordinating project spend, financial reporting and funding claims, o   Facilitating regular and timely reporting to principles, oCulminating in successful projects, with technology successively raising through TRL levels and the development of greater commercial traction and pipeline,

Skills: Biomaterials, bioenergy; Circular economy; Diagnostics & sensors; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: BSc

Anna Alessi | Biorenewables Development Centre

Organisation Website: https://www.biorenewables.org/

Region: Yorkshire & the Humber

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Biomass; Bioeconomy; Ruminants; Novel food systems; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am an skilled project manager utilising my 5+ years of a postdoctoral experience in valorising agricultural wastes, biofuel production, and anaerobic digestion. As part of the Business Partnership Team at the Biorenewables Development Centre, I have successfully managed a £5.2 million portfolio of the research and commercial projects collaborating with industry bioinnovators, farmers, and academic partners. I managed the £1.8M Newton Bhabha-funded project (completed in 2022) to reduce industrial waste in India's sugarcane industry and the £1.2M ERDF-funded ADCEY program (completed in 2023), supporting 34 Yorkshire SMEs in developing and commercializing biobased solutions, including on-farm waste valorisation, anaerobic digestion improvements, and nutrient management and retention technologies. Additionally, I oversaw three IUK-funded projects aimed at diversifying Yorkshire farming through controlled environment agriculture, geothermal heat, and biofertilizer technology from chicken manure. Currently, I manage two IUK-funded projects: one developing a circular model for low-emission food production with Kilnsey Park and another advancing sustainable farming through microbial amendments with CroBio. I also manage a £4M BBSRC-funded sLoLa research project led by the University of York Prof Gavin Thomas that further strengthens my expertise in securing and delivering high-impact research and innovation projects.

Skills: Biomaterials, bioenergy; Biostimulants; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Renewable energy; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: PhD (Microbiology, University of East Anglia, 2011)

Catherine Birch | AgriFoodX Limited

Organisation Website: AgriFoodX Limited

Region: Yorkshire & the Humber

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Biomass; Soft fruit; Bioeconomy; Novel food systems; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have project managed numerous InnovateUK projects (14) over the past 4 years. Have a wide experience of completion of documentation for projects. I have also mentored numerous project partners within these projects. I also have a wide experience of writing grant proposals successfully, including IUK, BBSRC, European grant applications for Horizon 2020, ERDF projects which I have also managed.

Skills: Algal biotech/fermentation; Animal nutrition/feed formulation; Biomaterials, bioenergy; Circular economy; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital; Regulation / policy; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: MB ChB PhD MSc FHEA CIMA FIFST

Chris Eaglen | chris eaglen improvement projects

Organisation Website: chris eaglen improvement projects

Region: South East

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Forestry; Agroforestry; Ruminants; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: Worked in agriculture whist at school and after school for two years in mixed agriculture including liaising with ADAS representatives in LEEDS. Produced field experiment briefs and project briefs when seconded to Silsoe Research Institute for corn drying improvements. Undertook research review into modelling pastures to improve hay and grass yields based on biochemistry understanding of photosynthesis. Undertook review of date harvesting machine with NCAE Professor Kilgour. Reviewed soil and ground improvement with NCAE Professor Spoor for different objectives including improving National Grid Interconnect WCML. Undertook feasibility concept for reducing algae growth and fish habitats with bubbling air into lakes.

Skills: Agricultural engineering; Biomaterials, bioenergy; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: BSc Equivalent from National College of Agricultural Engineering Silsoe and University of Cranford MSc Project Management Construction and PhD in Control Systems Engineering also AI module from the Open University

Claire Flanagan | Kene B Corp

Organisation Website: https://www.kene.partners/

Region: North West

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Biomass; Soft fruit; Tree crops; Bioeconomy; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am a highly experienced innovation consultant and grant writer in supporting SMEs secure R&D grant funding from UK national (Innovate UK, Defra, DSIT, DESNZ) and European level (EIC Accelerator, CBE JU, Horizon Europe, Eurostars) funding competitions by leading development of winning R&D project proposals. I have a demonstrable track record of successfully securing grant funding to advance development of innovative products, processes and/or services on behalf of my clients. Through my consulting work I have engaged with a wide range of established and emerging industries including those related to agriculture and agri-tech solutions as well as industrial biotech; biobased and advanced materials; resource recovery & recycling; novel proteins; cultivated meat; agri-chemicals discovery ; precision agri-approaches, sensors, diagnostic tools; imaging and analytical monitoring devices. I am well versed in the commercialisation considerations associated with bringing technical innovations to market e.g. business planning and resourcing, market analysis and research, go-to-market strategy development in line with IPR, evaluating regulatory landscapes plus funding requirements for growing deep tech start ups. My technical background is in the chemical and biological sciences. I have extensive experience of collaborating with industry and academia from the bioeconomy, chemical, biotech, agri-tech and pharma sectors and have built a broad network of connections across the UK's R&D innovation ecosystem. I am particularly interested in technologies and innovations that are aimed at improving sustainability and will contribute to the growing circular and bio-economies to achieve the UK's Net Zero ambitions.

Skills: Algal biotech/fermentation; Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Crop protection; Regulation / policy; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: PhD Prince2

James Barnard | J & K Barnard (Farms) Ltd.

Organisation Website: J & K Barnard (Farms) Ltd.

Region: South West

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Ruminants

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have managed projects up to a value of £400,000 specialising in lowland managment in the Somerset area.   This has included appearing at govenment select committiies, TV appearances and media and PR presentations.

Skills: Agri-business management; Animal health & welfare; Circular economy; Renewable energy

Qualifications: B. Sc. Ph. D.

James MacFarlane | Grantwise

Organisation Website: www.grantwise.co.uk

Region: Outside of the UK

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Bioeconomy; Novel food systems; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: Over the last 15 years, I've worked with more than 300 UK organizations to secure £100M in non-dilutive funding, specializing in AgriTech, CleanTech, and Engineering Biology sectors. My expertise spans the entire innovation funding landscape, from initial concept development through to implementation and commercialization. What distinguishes my approach is my dual perspective as both funding advisor and founder. I've personally led multiple AgriTech ventures, including a circular economy startup that developed and deployed biochar technology directly on farms. This hands-on experience means I understand the technical challenges, market barriers, and commercial realities that agricultural innovators face. My experience includes: Developing technology roadmaps that align with funding opportunities Building cross-sector partnerships between academia, industry, and farming communities Structuring projects to maximize impact and commercial viability Navigating the unique requirements of agricultural innovation funding This founder's perspective transforms how I approach funding applications—moving beyond theoretical models to create proposals that address practical implementation challenges and real-world agricultural contexts.

Skills: Biomaterials, bioenergy; Circular economy; Diagnostics & sensors; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: PhD

Jen Vanderhoven | FREY Consulting

Organisation Website: https://www.frey-consulting.co.uk/

Region: Scotland

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Biomass; Bioeconomy; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: PhD in biochemistry, with Forestry Commission. Managed several projects and grants.

Skills: Algal biotech/fermentation; Biomaterials, bioenergy; Circular economy; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: PhD

Jonathan Thacker | University Of The West Of Scotland

Organisation Website: University Of The West Of Scotland

Region: Scotland

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Forages; Tree crops; Forestry

Skills and Experience

Experience: My area of expertise comprises the development of products for environmentally friendly pest management. I am the author of 'An Introduction to Arthropod Pest Control'. I have worked on pest management projects in Brazil, Kenya, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the UK amongst other countries. I have had funding to manage these projects from industrial partners and from governments.

Skills: Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Crop protection

Qualifications: BSc, MSc, PhD, PgCert, SFHEA, FRSB

Lucy Bates | Harper Adams University

Organisation Website: Harper Adams University

Region: South West

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Fieldscale vegetables; Salad crops

Skills and Experience

Experience: 20 years as primary producer (organic horticulture, conventional arable). Suite of 4 ELM Test & Trials for LEAF 2019-20. LEAF Technical manager overseeing LEAF Network plus Horizon project contributions including IPM Works and DiversIFY. Input to ELM co-design for LEAF and Wildlife Trusts. Local farm cluster formation and input for Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Natural capital accounting oversight for Wiltshire Wildlife Trust 2021-23. Responsibility for planning, budget & delivery of Sustainable Farm Networks initiative through Harper Adams University School of Sustainable Food & Farming.

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Agronomy; Natural capital; Plant breeding; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: BASIS (FACTS; Env. Adv. Reg); MSc (dist) Agroecology; APM Project Management Qualification

Mariela Paz Aguilera Miranda | SilviBio

Organisation Website: https://www.silvibio.com/our-story

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Salad crops; Tree crops; Forestry; Bioeconomy; Agroforestry

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have over five years of experience in agricultural and forestry research and innovation management. As a co-founder of SilviBio, a biotechnology company focused on enhancing crop productivity through sustainable solutions, I have led R&D projects from concept to completion. My expertise includes successfully supporting and writing R&D/innovation grant applications and managing Innovate UK and other DEFRA-funded projects, ensuring timely delivery of milestones and maintaining compliance with funding requirements. I have successfully facilitated cross-functional collaboration between farmers, forestry nurseries, and industry stakeholders to implement and evaluate on-farm and nursery trials. Additionally, I possess strong skills in grant application writing, budget management, and impact reporting. My PhD in plant science and experience in agronomy and forestry enable me to provide scientific insight to projects and rigorously test new products in glasshouse or field environments, while my project management capabilities ensure effective coordination and communication. Through my work in both academic and commercial agricultural environments, I am well-versed in translating research outcomes into practical applications that address real-world challenges. I am committed to supporting innovative, farmer- and forester-led initiatives that drive productivity and sustainability in the agriculture and forestry sectors.

Skills: Agri-business management; Circular economy; Natural capital; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: PhD in Plant Science

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Paul Rhodes | Future Food Solutions Ltd

Organisation Website: www.futurefoodsolutions.co.uk

Region: Yorkshire & the Humber

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Ruminants; Monogastrics; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have been working in UK agriculture since leaving Newcastle University in 1986. Firstly as a farmer until January 1st 2000- winning a number of industry awards such as Farmers Weekly Pig Farmer of the Year 1991 and runner up Farmer of the Year . I was also Executive Chairman of Yorkshire Farmers a Livestock Marketing Cooperative for 15 years. I worked as a Regional manager for EFFP for 10 years responsible for East Midlands , Yorkshire and the NE. My role was to create , support and develop farmer cooperatives and develop collaborative supply chains from farm to factory/ retail. In 2013 i set up Future Food Solutions with the aim of developing more sustainable and resilient supply chains mostly for large brands such as Heineken , Coca Cola, KP (Intersnack) , Suntory to name a few. 6 years a go we establishe Sustainable Landscapes Programme on behalf of Yorkshire Water to support farm transition to Regen-Ag. This programme has scaled to 195 farmers farming 200,000 acres in Yorkshire. we have also established a programme for Anglian Water in North Lincs. Also in 2013 I set up another business called Sustainable Food Chains which provides supply chain consultancy and applies for grants on behalf of a broad client base with 100% success with over 100 grants and grants valuing over £20M . In recent years working with a number of Universities have developed the CarbonBank a vehicle to monetise carbon sequestrated in arable soils.

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Natural capital; Plant breeding; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: BSc (Hons) Agriculture Newcastle University

Rory Harding | Kent Wildlife Trust

Organisation Website: https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/

Region: South East

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Forestry; Agroforestry; Ruminants; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I grew up working on the family beef farm in the South East. I also worked at my Uncle's nearby Organic dairy, which included habitat interventions to support biodiversity. I have subsequently shaped my career, linking conservation and farming in a wide range of roles. Within the forestry sector I worked on project development, coordination and delivery of woodland planting projects nationwide at Trees for Cities 2017-19. I currently work as lead on farmer engagement at Kent Wildlife Trust 2019- present, this includes facilitation of farmer cluster groups, developing and delivering innovative field trials and landscape scale project co-design with farmers. I am part of numerous agricultural networks, attend regular training and knowledge sharing events such as Groundswell Ag and have directly developed R&D projects with regenerative farmers including pesticide reduction trials, intercropping and most recently liquid compost extracts. This has included applying for, administering and reporting on grants from Water companies and supermarkets. The most recent field trial work, sponsored by Co-op Foundation, has been featured on BBC radio 4, through the Food and Farming Awards programme.

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Natural capital; Plant breeding; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: BASIS Foundations in Agriculture

Sarah Buchanan | University of Strathclyde

Organisation Website: https://www.strath.ac.uk/

Region: Scotland

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Biomass; Forestry; Bioeconomy; Agroforestry

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am a bid development professional and have written and managed many successful grant applications, I grew up and worked on a farm in Lanark which is our family business though the sector is not my main focus, i work in engineering at the university. However i understand the agricultural sector due to growing up on and working on our family farm.

Skills: Agri-business management; Automation; Diagnostics & sensors; Diversification & transition management; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital; Renewable energy; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: None

Sarah Faulkner | Faulkner and Mayne Sustainable Agriculture Ltd

Organisation Website: www.fmagri.co.uk

Region: West Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Soft fruit; Bioeconomy; Ruminants

Skills and Experience

Experience: Sarah Faulkner is an experienced environmental professional working in the agricultural sector for over 25 years. A Cranfield University graduate, Chartered Surveyor (MRICS), Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv), Full Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. She is also a FACTS qualified adviser and a BASIS registered Environmental Adviser.   She has a passion for helping agricultural businesses thrive with detailed knowledge of biodiversity, agriculture and horticulture. She has expertise in interpreting complex agricultural and environmental policy issues for farming businesses. Sarah has extensive experience of facilitating farmer groups and of public speaking and as a chair. She has bidding and project management experience including a Defra funded Environmental Stewardship Test and Trial. Sarah worked for National Farmers Union NFU for 19 years, providing strategic leadership and managing all NFU Midlands agricultural policy activity. She has experience of change management and team management. She was the NFU West Midlands environment lead for more than 15 years developing experience in water quality, water resources, land management and planning expertise. Sarah previously worked for the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) in Shropshire and on Powys County Council's farm estate.

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Natural capital; Plant breeding; Regulation / policy; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: BSc, CEnv, MCIEEM, RICS, BASIS Reg Env Adviser, FACTS

Sean Dobbs | Forged Innovation Limited

Organisation Website: https://forgedinnovation.com/

Region: Northern Ireland

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Biomass; Forestry; Bioeconomy; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I served as CTO for four years, securing over £2 million in R&D funding for large collaborative projects. I then built a team to scale these efforts, identifying and ranking emerging opportunities and markets by maturity and readiness. We also assessed project feasibility, including budget requirements. With this team, we secured an additional £6.7 million in funding. In 2019, I founded Forged Innovation to bring this expertise to SMEs and start-ups. Since then, we've helped hundreds of businesses structure their R&D pipeline, providing data-driven clarity and direction. In some cases, we've also led and managed projects from inception to completion. This skillset has enabled me to develop my own climate-tech/Agri-tech product, securing over £700,000 for a mixture of funding, government contracts, and private investment over the past 2.5 years. The business has consistently tripled in size year-on-year for four consecutive years.

Skills: Biomaterials, bioenergy; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: BEng Hons Mechanical Engineering, Post Grad in Business and Management

Trudie Cooper | Bagshaws LLP

Organisation Website: www.bagshaws.com

Region: East Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Forestry; Agroforestry; Ruminants; Monogastrics

Skills and Experience

Experience: Assisted farmers and landowners with a range of grant applications and ongoing project management for the last 15+ years. Successfully written 8 innovation grant funding applications and assisted with the management of these projects to ensure they translate from paper to action on the round. Negotiated 17 Higher Level Stewardship and 11 Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship agreements (including SSSI and Scheduled Monument designations and rare habitats), 1 Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation Grant, 56 Countryside Stewardship Mid-Tier agreements and 46 Countryside Stewardship Capital Grants. Some larger grants can take at least a year to progress from initial meetings to agreements being in place, and I then assist all existing agreement holders with regards ongoing advice, agreement amendments, SSSI consent forms, and project managing capital works for habitat management through agreements up to 10 years in length. I am Lead Facilitator for the Peak District Estates Farmer Group (Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund), including over 40 farmers and covers more than 10,500 hectares, and engages farmers with all manner of environmental gains, including water quality, air quality and habitat management and considering new technologies. I have previously delivered a successful renewable technology project for farmers with the Peak District National Park Authority.

Skills: Animal health & welfare; Diversification & transition management; Renewable energy; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: BSc Countryside Management (Hons)

Will John | Principal Consultant RSK ADAS Ltd

Organisation Website: https://adas.co.uk/

Region: West Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Forestry and bioeconomy

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Forages; Soft fruit; Forestry; Ruminants; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: Will has worked in the field of agriculture and environmental consultancy for over 30 years. Will has expertise across a range of disciplines including business management, soil health & water quality, environmental compliance, innovation, ecology, forestry and latterly BNG and nutrient neutrality. Will has worked on a 1:1 basis as well as in group situations, bringing together land owners and industry to improve the knowledge base in the rural sector. Will is a Prince 2 Practitioner who uses his project management skills on a daily basis to ensure projects (often grant based) remain on schedule and within budget.

Skills: Agri-business management; Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Diversification & transition management; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: Bsc Geography, MSc Environmental Forestry, Member of the Chartered Institution for Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM), FACTS, BASIS Soils & Water, Member of the British Society for Soil Science (BSSS), Prince 2 Practitioner

Livestock

Agatha Wildblood-Hawthorne | Self. Hawthorne Dairy and Wildblood Farm

Organisation Website: na

Region: North East & Cumbria

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Ruminants; Monogastrics; Other livestock; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: I successfully applied for innovation grants for my companies, and won sev3ral awards in innovation in agriculture. I also managed large private estates as a surveyor, focusing on farms, and have supported businesses working for the DWP as a business growth advisor.

Skills: Agricultural engineering; Animal health & welfare; Animal nutrition/feed formulation; Diversification & transition management; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy

Qualifications: Masters degree, RICS

Alamgir Hossain | Digital Readiness and Intelligent Systems Ltd

Organisation Website: https://www.d-ready.co.uk

Region: North East & Cumbria

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tree crops; Ruminants; Monogastrics; Other livestock

Skills and Experience

Experience: Professor Alamgir Hossain has extensive experience in project and grant management, particularly in AI-driven innovations for agriculture and sustainable farming. He has successfully led and contributed to various EU, UKRI, and Newton-funded projects across multiple countries, fostering global collaboration in smart agriculture, fisheries, and disease management. His notable projects include the Newton Research-funded TB Testing Project for Humans and Animals (2018-19) with Malaysia, which integrated AI for early disease detection. He also worked on the Foot and Mouth Disease Project with Thailand (2020-21), leveraging AI-driven diagnostics to improve livestock health. Additionally, he played a key role in the Innovate UK Global Exploration Project on Fisheries with Cambodia (2021-22), supporting AI-powered solutions for sustainable fish farming. He recently secured funding for the AI Hatcheries Productivity Enhancement Project (2024-25) to optimize aquaculture productivity. Beyond these projects, he has worked on several EU-funded smart farming initiatives involving over 15 countries, collaborating with institutions such as Swansea University's Fisheries Department and the Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture. His deep-rooted understanding of farming stems from his upbringing in rural Bangladesh, where he gained firsthand experience working with farmers. This background, combined with his AI and digital transformation expertise, positions him as a leader in agricultural innovation.

Skills: Automation; Data / AI / machine learning; Diagnostics & sensors; Imaging / satellites; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: PhD in Control & Systems Engineering

Alasdair Cook | Mujika Ltd

Organisation Website: www.mujika.org

Region: East Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Ruminants; Monogastrics

Skills and Experience

Experience: Experienced in the management and delivery of projects related to livestock animal health in academic, Government and commercial sectors from small scale to long-term multidisciplinary teams including planning, resource management, data collection and analysis and reporting.

Skills: Animal health & welfare; Data / AI / machine learning; Diagnostics & sensors; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy

Qualifications: BVM&S; MSc; CertPM; DipECVPH; PhD; MRCVS

Andrew Walton | WTMS

Organisation Website: Believe in Science Ltd

Region: North West

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Ruminants; Monogastrics; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: Within the food manufacturing and agriculture sectors, I have successfully written, managed, and delivered projects both with and without grant funding across both owner occupier businesses and large public limited companies. Through my facilitation and communication skills I ensure that projects are to time and budget and stakeholders are communicated to appropriately and in a timely manner. The projects I have overseen have improved both product quality and productivity improvement projects involving large stakeholder groups and complex reporting requirements. As a farmer and consultant I have three decades of experience spanning the entire food chain from conception to consumption, I possess transferable skills, knowledge, and experience that make me an ideal candidate for achieving the goals of an ADOPT facilitator.

Skills: Agri-business management; Animal nutrition/feed formulation; Enhanced management / decision support; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching

Qualifications: BSc Hons Agriculture and Land Management; MSc Meat Science; Fellowship in Manufacturing Management, Post Graduate Certificate in Agriculture

Douglas Bowden-Smith | Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society

Organisation Website: https://saos.coop/
Region: Scotland

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Forestry; Ruminants

Skills and Experience

Experience: With hands-on experience in two family farming enterprises across England and Scotland, integrating mixed rotations and livestock, I bring both practical agricultural knowledge and strategic expertise in project and grant management. As a key team member at SAOS, I specialise in agricultural supply chain strategy, agri-innovation, and cooperative development, supporting SAOS's 64 agri-cooperative members. PRINCE2-certified, I have led and managed multiple agriculture-focused projects, including sustainability benchmarking in farming, abattoir access research for livestock producers, and national mapping of deer larder facilities. My work involves farmer engagement, supporting policy development, and data analysis, and shaping industry strategies. Currently, I manage a £119k pilot fund to enhance low-ground venison supply chains, improving infrastructure for deer managers and expanding market access. I also lead SAOS's Sourcing for Growth initiative, connecting food manufacturers with Scottish farmers to strengthen local supply chains and substitute imports with homegrown produce. Additionally, I oversee agricultural grant applications, including KTIF projects involving farming cooperatives, develop agri-digital systems, and manage data-driven projects that deliver direct benefits to farmers.

Skills: Agri-business management; Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Plant breeding; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: MA (Hons) & PRINCE2 certified & Attractiss trained

Emily Mosley | Bagshaws LLP

Organisation Website: www.bagshaws.com

Region: East Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Forages; Forestry; Agroforestry; Ruminants

Skills and Experience

Experience: I come from a family beef farm with a dairy background and have hands-on experience in both commercial and pedigree beef, sheep, and arable farming across England and Scotland. My roles have included farm operations and secretarial work, ensuring compliance with regulations, schemes and maintaining accurate records. I hold a BSc (Hons) in Agriculture with Farm Business Management from Harper Adams University graduating in 2021. Currently, I work as a FACTS farm advisor specializing in Slurry, Nutrient & Soil Management, as well as grant applications and project management. I have successfully secured and now manage four Slurry Infrastructure Grants, overseeing stakeholder engagement, project milestones, and compliance. Additionally, I assist a broad client base with SFI and Capital Grant Applications and Agreements, ensuring adherence to scheme requirements while streamlining processes for farmers. My expertise lies in navigating complex regulations, connecting farmers with industry specialists, and delivering practical solutions for sustainable farm management.

Skills: Agri-business management; Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Natural capital; Regulation / policy; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: FACTS: FE/7277. BSc (Hons) in Agriculture and Farm Business Management

Emma Hawkins | TBAT

Organisation Website: https://tbat.co.uk

Region: South East

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Forages; Ruminants; Monogastrics; Other livestock; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am a full time Grant Funding Consultant at TBAT Innovation, a value-led independent consultancy, with a strong interest in the agricultural sector (particularly agritech and livestock). In this role, I support clients with applications for grant funding from a range of sources including Innovate UK. I also get involved with Grants Claims Management, supporting clients with the often complicated admin and reporting involved with grant-funded projects. Prior to joining the TBAT team I worked as Project Support Officer at CIEL (Centre for Innovation Excellence in Livestock) which is now known as the UK AgriTech Centre. In this role I worked on a number of projects, both grant and industry funded, working with innovative farmers and agricultural businesses. I got my first taste of the funding journey when I took part in an internship with an agritech start-up developing livestock tracking technology; this opened my eyes to the complexity of grant funding and how, as a newcomer, it can be difficult to know where to start. My grant writing and project management experience is supported by an Animal Science BSc Hons degree from The University of Nottingham. I am based in South Oxfordshire and can travel as needed.

Skills: Animal health & welfare; Data / AI / machine learning; Diagnostics & sensors; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy

Qualifications: BSc Hons. Animal Sciences from University of Nottingham. Prince 2.

Harriet Scott | RAFT Solutions Ltd

Organisation Website: www.raftsolutions.co.uk

Region: Yorkshire & the Humber

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Ruminants; Monogastrics; Novel food systems; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: Experienced project manager in UK Agri-Tech and innovation in sustainable food production. Specialised in writing, delivering and publishing research and development projects of all scales and sizes including project management of 18 Innovate UK funded projects.

Skills: Agri-business management; Animal health & welfare; Animal nutrition/feed formulation; Diagnostics & sensors

Qualifications: Recognised PRINCE2 Practitioner

Holly Shearman | Innovation for Agriculture / Royal Agricultural Society of England

Organisation Website: Innovation for Agriculture / RASE
Region: South East

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Bioeconomy; Agroforestry; Ruminants; Monogastrics; Other livestock

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am an experienced, qualified project manager, in the agricultural sector; adaptable in approach to different problems and able to organise and prioritise a heavy workload, whilst operating to strict deadlines. Having written bids for and then successfully managed large cross sector national livestock disease eradication and innovation projects for commercial and charitable clients as well as DEFRA, Horizon Europe & UKRI. I am a qualified R-SQP (RAMA) with a BSc (Hons) degree in Animal Science and hold a Prince2 practitioner project management qualification. I am also a beef and sheep farmer from Sussex, passionate about animals, the environment and in particular sustainable production animal health and welfare, and the challenges that the agricultural industry faces today. Through my years as a project manager in the livestock and veterinary industries, I have developed an excellent working relationship with several key stakeholders as well as individuals across all levels of the industry and beyond. I am also very experienced in utilising successful PR & communications to engage farmers and wider industry into attending events, to ensure maximum attendance; as well as facilitating meetings and workshops, to get the most out of the attendees, as well as to ensure maximum impact is achieved and measured for funders as well as attendee's benefit. I am a hardworking pro-active self-starter who enjoys a challenge, with the ability to relate to and form positive working relationships with a wide range of people from all sectors and agencies both on an individual and group basis. I enjoy researching new subjects and can assimilate large amounts of information quickly and accurately and disseminate it according to the audience.

Skills: Animal health & welfare; Circular economy; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Natural capital; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: BSc, RAMA (rSQP), PRINCE2 PM Practioner

Jayne Brookman | ElentecBio Ltd.

Organisation Website: elentecBioAg.com

Region: North West

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Bioeconomy; Ruminants; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have managed grants and multi-participant projects for over 30 years with particular experience of collaborative projects between knowledge providers (often universities) and industry helping to manage the communication between partners and with funders as well as the overall progress of the project. I coordinated the BBSRC (UK research council) Crop Club (wheat, barley and OSR) and Diet and Health Club and supervised coordination of the Animal Club (Breeding and animal health), these were groups of projects with a clear focus on delivering for the end user. I have managed EU- projects, and as the dissemination partner for SME-focussed consortia. I was the lead for the Global Challenges Research Fund AgriFood Africa programme 2019-2020 before taking up a regional role at the European Funder, EIT Food, where I was responsible for AgriFood projects for the UK, Ireland and Iceland. I was promoted to a pan-European role (Chief Partnership Officer) in 2023 and left in March 2025 to lead a IP-generating SME in slurry treatment. I have a broad understanding of agriculture, but my main expertise is in coordination of partners , translation of end user needs into research or policy targets and communication between funders, participants and target audiences.

Skills: Agri-business management; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital

Qualifications: BSc (Hons), PhD

John Stones | Self employed consultant

Organisation Website: Project monitoring officer - contracted to Innovate UK

Region: East Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Forages; Bioeconomy; Ruminants; Monogastrics; Novel food systems; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: Ownersip and full management of pig farming business, latterly combined with full management of Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust, including provision of group & individual training and mentoring. Since 2012 contracted to monitor collaborative R&D projects funded by Innovate UK

Skills: Algal biotech/fermentation; Data / AI / machine learning; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Natural capital; Robotics

Qualifications: HND Agriculture plus ongoing management & leadership training

Lisa Morgans | Royal Agricultural University

Organisation Website: https://www.rau.ac.uk/about-rau/our-staff/dr-lisa-morgans

Region: South West

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Ruminants; Monogastrics; Other livestock; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: I began my career in agriculture as a practicing veterinarian where I worked for 4 years in mixed practice in Cornwall and established a successful herd health club with clients based on peer-to-peer learning. I then moved to Bristol University to complete a PhD in a participatory, farmer-led approach to reducing antimicrobial use, which went on to win the Antibiotic Guardian Awards for research. I then briefly worked in New Zealand helping dairy farmers and vets practice responsible medicine use and then became Head of Livestock at Innovation for Agriculture, where I ran a number of knowledge exchange projects at European and local level. This ranged from coordinating farm demonstration events, wool-welfare discussion groups, bovine TB task & finish groups to securing funding and setting up and collaborative projects to tackle slurry and farmer mental health challenges. I then moved to the RAU in 2023 where I now split my time between teaching and doing applied farmer-led research on regenerative farming and breeding of livestock, as well as social science projects on understanding impacts of cultured meat and improving the sustainability of the broiler sector. I have been an innovation manager for an IUK funded researcher starter on composting too.

Skills: Animal health & welfare; Diagnostics & sensors; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Natural capital

Qualifications: BVSc, PhD, FHEA

Lizzie Downes | Promar

Organisation Website: www.promar-international.com

Region: West Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Soft fruit; Viticulture; Ruminants; Other livestock

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have been an MSP for over 2 years, and have monitored over 40 projects, so have good awareness of the systems in place. A number of these projects were farmer led, here I have ensured I spend time with the farmer to work through the requirements of IUK, so that they are fully aware of all the T&C's and work through the submission of claims. I enjoy supporting farmers, and pride myself on being accessible and responsive to enquiries, and well as being well humoured. I have a strong farming background, which helps me to understand the challenges within the Ag sector. I was raised on a dairy & sheep farm, and went on with my husband to establish our own sheep and livery business. Alongside being an MSP, I was the Project Manager for the Defra Resilience Fund within Promar, where we delivered over £3.3m of support to farmers across England. Along with this, in 2024 I managed the delivery of the UK Farm Assurance Review which was sponsored by the NFU & AHDB.

Skills: Animal health & welfare; Diversification & transition management; Regulation / policy

Qualifications: BSc (Hons) in Agri-Food with Marketing & Business Studies

Marta Ruano | ABVista

Organisation Website: https://www.abvista.com/

Region: Scotland

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Viticulture; Ruminants; Monogastrics; Novel food systems; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: As a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Strathclyde, I have actively contributed to the development of lipid-based delivery systems for applications in animal nutrition and health. Working in collaboration with AB Vista, I have played a key role in formulating bioactive lipid nanoparticles for feedstock incorporation, ensuring scalable and effective solutions for agricultural use. My experience includes optimizing peptide formulations using advanced analytical and physicochemical techniques and evaluating their efficacy against key pathogens relevant to livestock health. During my tenure as a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) Associate, I worked closely with industry stakeholders, including farmers and agricultural specialists, to facilitate the implementation of novel feed formulations. I translated complex scientific findings into practical applications, providing training and technical support to industry partners. Additionally, I liaised with AB Vista's management and R&D teams to ensure alignment between research outcomes and commercial needs. At Leitat Technological Centre, I led projects on functionalized textiles for agricultural use, such as insect-repellent coatings and antimicrobial treatments. I also collaborated with industry partners to develop microencapsulated ingredients for animal feed and functional foods. My ability to bridge the gap between research and real-world agricultural applications has been a key aspect of my work, ensuring impactful and sustainable innovations.

Skills: Animal nutrition/feed formulation; Biomaterials, bioenergy; Biopesticides, pesticide alternatives & biocontrol; Crop nutrition; Enhanced management / decision support; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital

Qualifications: Chemical Engineering and PhD in Physical-Chemistry

Matthew Sharman | Devenish Nutrtition (Retired from)

Organisation Website: https://www.devenish.com/

Region: Yorkshire & the Humber

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Ruminants; Monogastrics; Other livestock; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: Over 35 years' experience in writing grant proposals and managing/coordinating multi-partner agri-food projects with Research Organizations, SMES, Universities and Policy makers. This has included projects are National and European level. My most recent project, funded by UKRI, was on "Advancing Bioprocess Sustainability for Poultry Feed from Algal Biotechnology" This was highlighted as an exemplar project (see https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/ISCF-Transforming-Food-Production-Challenge_Digital_Pages.pdf)

Skills: Algal biotech/fermentation; Animal nutrition/feed formulation; Diagnostics & sensors; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Natural capital

Qualifications: MSc CChem FRSC FIFST

Matthew Sheehan | Promar International Ltd

Organisation Website: https://promar-international.com/

Region: West Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Forages; Viticulture; Ruminants; Other livestock; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: A Principal Consultant at Promar since 2016, working with a wide range of farming and food supply chain businesses. Over 30 years' experience in the agriculture sector, from practical on-farm roles, through to senior manager and business directorship in large supply chain organisations, as well as in agri-food consultancy. In addition, a highly experienced Innovate UK MSP, having worked with 80+ projects, in agriculture, food, sustainability and biosciences since 2019 – offering extensive understanding of what makes projects successful, whether in set-up, during delivery, and in post-project exploitation. As a consequence of this range of roles, am highly familiar with farmers and farming businesses (understanding how they tick and what makes them successful), with particular strengths in dairy and forage farming systems, but familiar with agriculture more broadly and the wider food supply chain, working comfortably with stakeholders of all types throughout the sector. Have led teams and managed numerous projects throughout this career, whether they be for technical improvement or business change. Very familiar with project set-up, grant application and how effective grant management and project management need to operate hand-in-hand.

Skills: Agri-business management; Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Animal health & welfare; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital

Qualifications: BSc Hons (Biology); Post Graduate Diploma in Farm Management; MSc (Master of Agricultural Science (Tropical Agricultural Development, Economics and Planning option)).

Peter Williams | AG Bio Ltd

Organisation Website: AG Bio Ltd

Region: North West

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Bioeconomy; Ruminants; Monogastrics; Other livestock; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: Approx 8 years experience as Innovate UK Monitoring Officer. Prior to that was project lead

Skills: Agri-business management; Animal nutrition/feed formulation; Circular economy; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: BSc MSc PhD Emeritus Professor

Rachel Hayton | Synergy Farm Health Limited

Organisation Website: Synergy Farm Health Limited
Region: South West

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock
Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Ruminants

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have worked as a clinical farm animal vet for the last 30 years and now manage an extensive research programme on our client farms. We usually have about a dozen active projects running at any one time. In the last 2 years I have successfully managed project managed 3 Innovate funded studies including: Can Bulk Milk Revolutionise TB Testing?, ImmunIGY: A Novel Pen-side Test for Checking Calf Immune Status, to increase the efficiency of beef production through supply chain feedback and improved management and Cow Recovery: The Sustainable Solution for Improving Downer Cow Outcomes.

Skills: Animal health & welfare; Animal nutrition/feed formulation; Diagnostics & sensors; Natural capital

Qualifications: BSc, BVM&S, MRCVS, Advanced Practitioner in Cattle Health and Production

Richard Hooson | Agri- Eco Solutions

Organisation Website: I currently don't have a website.

Region: West Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Forages; Ruminants; Monogastrics; Other livestock

Skills and Experience

Experience: I started my career as a farm consultant with Promar International (a Genus Company), focusing on budgets and cashflows, animal nutrition, crop nutrition, succession planning. This developed into being project manager for Genus as Emergency Vaccination Resource (EVR) Project Manager (Foot and Mouth vaccination). Then I ran Genus Milking Systems engineering business. Followed by Afimilk UK manager (advanced milking systems and herd management software). Dyneval Veterinary Lead (start up). For last 2 years I have set up and run Agri-Eco Solutions - a consultancy business specialising in SFI applications for farmers.

Skills: Agri-business management; Animal nutrition/feed formulation; Diagnostics & sensors

Qualifications: BSc, FACTS.

Richard Pearson | Oxcel

Organisation Website: www.oxcel.com

Region: Yorkshire & the Humber

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Ruminants; Monogastrics; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: Consulting on Agri Tech Start up Oxcel - Enhancing Livestock Drinking Water. Head of Agriculture Morrisons - developed producer groups. Regional Director NFU - supported countless farm projects and legal actions.. Ran own Start up business for 10 years.

Skills: Agri-business management; Animal health & welfare; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital

Qualifications: BSc Hons Agricultural Marketing

Robert Misselbrook | FD - Oxi-Tech Solutions Ltd (Part Time)

Organisation Website: FD - KMO Fleet Ltd (Part Time)
Region: South West

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Fieldscale vegetables; Biomass; Viticulture; Ruminants; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have undertaken 2 specific Innovate UK projects with the Agri-Centre through Innovate UK with Oxi-Tech Solutions Ltd. This was in reference to Dairy herds and removing chemicals and energy from the milking cycle and reducing Mastitis. This was for both Manual and Robotic milking. I was Project Manager for both and undertook all communications and grant management with Innovate UK. I have also led grant applications for Poultry, Water feed, Flower management and an innovative Geo-thermal driven project for production of Sugarcane in the UK.   I have been advising and helping companies apply for and manage grants, including all financials, for over 10 years. The focus of my grant work has been on Innovate UK and European Grants such as Cornwall's BIG1/2 grants. I have recently applied for and won a grant for a customer for the Strategic Prosperity Fund, centred around Engineering and the renewable sector.

Skills: Agri-business management; Animal health & welfare; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Renewable energy; Robotics

Qualifications: B Eng, Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)

Sam Hoste | Quantech Solutions (UK) Ltd

Organisation Website: Quantech Solutions (UK) Ltd
Region: Yorkshire & the Humber

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Forages; Bioeconomy; Ruminants; Monogastrics

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have led grant funded projects from conception through to completion since 2004. These have been projects with farmers, companies (Map of Ag, AB Agri, PIC, Carrs Billington, Farmway, etc.), whole supply chains, and organisations such as AHDB, the Defra funded Red Meat Industry Forum "International Best Practice" project, the Agri-tech centres, and currently the Yorkshire Agricultural Society and the Agri-Sense project. My project leadership and management has covered developing a fundable concept, identifying potential partners and supporters, writing and managing the writing of applications, leading the dialogue with company finance managers, orchestrating the overall project team, and consulting with the funders such as Innovate UK. Frequently, I have initiated a significant amount of co-creation with farmers and others involved – for example in regional animal health improvement we involved farmers, vets, government vets, hauliers, processors, and AHBD. The novel aspect was that we identified focal farmers to work with their neighbours on localised animal health improvement plans. I am academically involved with agriculture and animal science universities and colleges in the UK and overseas, all potential project partners. I mentor agri-tech companies for two universities.

Skills: Agri-business management; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital

Qualifications: BSc(Hons) Agriculture, MSc Animal Breeding, PhD Animal Genetics, MBA

Samantha Green | Hudson and Sanders

Organisation Website: Hudson and Sanders

Region: East Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: Livestock

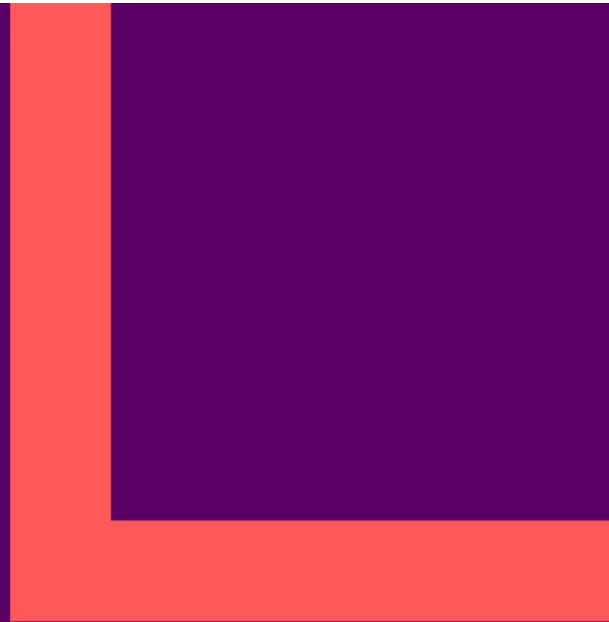**Additional Areas of Sector Expertise:** Ruminants; Monogastrics; Other livestock; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have a degree in Animal Health and Welfare. Since graduating I have project managed poultry farming and technology project both privately and and through IUK. I have written multiple successful bids and been project lead on 4 innovate UK projects. I have also led multiple private projects and trials on our company poultry farms

Skills: Animal health & welfare; Animal nutrition/feed formulation

Qualifications: Prince 2 training ongoing. Bsc Hons in Animal Health and Welfare, level 3 extended diploma in Agriculture

New
Systems

Campbell Scott | Atomictractors Limited

Organisation Website: www.atomictractors.com

Region: West Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: New systems

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Biomass; Forages; Ruminants; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: With over 20 years of experience in the agricultural sector, including as former Director of Marketing for Massey Ferguson (AGCO), I bring extensive expertise in project and grant management across both commercial and innovation-led environments. I have led and delivered a wide range of short- and long-term projects, from modest initiatives to multi-million-pound programmes, consistently meeting deadlines and budgets. Many of these projects involved collaboration with CEJA (the European Council of Young Farmers) and its national affiliates, giving me strong experience in stakeholder engagement and international coordination. Since founding my own company, Atomictractor Limited, in 2021, I have successfully secured a Fast Start Grant and led or partnered in over ten Innovate UK grant applications. I have acted as Project Lead Applicant and Consortium Partner, with direct involvement in application writing, budget planning, milestone tracking, and reporting. My hands-on understanding of both the agricultural sector and the innovation funding landscape equips me to effectively support farmer-led R&D initiatives. I'm passionate about helping projects stay focused, well-coordinated, and outcomes-driven—ensuring innovative solutions reach the farm gate.

Skills: Agri-business management; Data / AI / machine learning; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital

Qualifications: BA MSc Chartered Marketer

Claire Rose | Graveltrack Consulting

Organisation Website: Graveltrack Consulting

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: New systems

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Soft fruit; Viticulture; Bioeconomy; Other livestock; Novel food systems; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: I worked at Lincoln Agri Robotics as development lead, building outreach with business and supporting agritech startups through Eagle Lab Farm Innovation. I also worked on an agri robotics Hrozon project scoping global market for viticulture robotics.

Skills: Agri-business management; Agricultural engineering; Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Automation; Circular economy; Crop nutrition; Crop protection; Data / AI / machine learning; Diagnostics & sensors; Diversification & transition management; Enhanced management / decision support; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Imaging / satellites; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Irrigation; Natural capital; Plant breeding; Regulation / policy; Regulation / policy; Renewable energy; Robotics; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: MBA

Davina Fillingham | Partner Dee Atkinson & Harrison

Organisation Website: www.dee-atkinson-harrison.co.uk

Region: Yorkshire & the Humber

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: New systems

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Forages; Salad crops; Tree crops; Viticulture; Forestry; Agroforestry; Ruminants; Monogastrics; Other livestock; Novel food systems; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: In 2013 I was awarded a Nuffield Farming Scholarship to study the Application for Precision Agriculture for Rural Land Management following on from that through my professional career as a Rural Surveyor and Agri – Business Consultant I have advised farmers on the adoption of technology test and trials on farm and worked on the implementation of technology on farm, projects have included 3 way optical sorting for potato grading, adoption of robotics on farm, review of systems for managing and interpreting data. I have developed a significant network of people in the Agri-Tech sector from research institutions to farmers keen try new technologies. I have prepared and managed applications under the Farming Investment Fund and Farming Transformation fund and Farming Equipment Technology Fund including implementation and the claims process, as well as recently operating a project to support farmers in the adoption of technology on farm known as Agri-Sense this is a precision agriculture special interest group funded by the York and North Yorkshire combined Authority and run and administered with regular claims in a format that replicates the Innovate funding. As well as Agri-Tech funding I have worked in grant management in the agriculture and agri environment sector throughout my entire professional career implementing projects and managing claims.

Skills: Agri-business management; Diversification & transition management; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Natural capital

Qualifications: Bsc(Hons) NScH, MRICS FAAV PMIagrM

Jack Farmer | LettUs Grow

Organisation Website: www.lettusgrow.com

Region: South West

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: New systems

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Soft fruit; Salad crops; Tree crops; Novel food systems; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: 10 years building and operating LettUs Grow, horticultural technology company. Plant scientist by training with nearly a decade of experience in supplying/operating controlled environment agriculture projects (polytunnel, glasshouse, vertical farms) in the vegetable and soft fruit sectors.

Skills: Animal health & welfare; Automation; Data / AI / machine learning; Diagnostics & sensors; Robotics

Qualifications: BSc

James Barsby | Intercil

Organisation Website: https://www.intercil.com/

Region: South West

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: New systems

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Forestry; Bioeconomy; Other livestock; Novel food systems; Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: 23 years professional experience, of those 15 years in funding acquisition and project coordination and grant management/facilitation as PI and workpackage lead on UK IUK SBRI, EC FP6,P7, Horizon2020 and Horizon agri-tech projects; including Dorset's LEPs OneHealth Agri-tech work programme. >£50m won in that time across various funding programmes.

Skills: Diagnostics & sensors; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital; Renewable energy; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: Working towards Chartered Director qualificaton with IoD

James Willcox | Mott MacDonald

Organisation Website: https://www.mottmac.com

Region: South West

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: New systems

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Salad crops; Forestry; Ruminants; Other livestock; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have worked as a project manager for 8 years spanning Defence, IT and Agritech. These projects include Innovate UK funded R&D projects both small scale (£50k) and large scale (£5M) projects, all have been delivered successfully.

Skills: Agri-business management; Automation; Data / AI / machine learning; Diversification & transition management; Enhanced management / decision support; Facilitation, co-design, business coaching; Imaging / satellites; Natural capital; Plant breeding; Regulation / policy; Renewable energy; Robotics; Soil / water / air quality management and improvement

Qualifications: MSc Agricultural Technology. BSc Oceanography. APM PMQ. Prince 2

Muhammad Imran | Aston University

Organisation Website: https://research.aston.ac.uk/en/persons/muhammad-imran

Region: West Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: New systems

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Biomass; Soft fruit; Viticulture; Bioeconomy; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I have over 15 years of experience in leading and managing innovation-focused R&D projects in agriculture and sustainable technologies, both in academic and commercial contexts. My expertise includes successful development and delivery of grant-funded initiatives under Innovate UK, Newton Fund, and Horizon Europe, with particular emphasis on smart farming, agri-tech, and post-harvest systems. I have collaborated closely with farmers, grower groups, and agri-businesses to co-design solutions that improve on-farm productivity and sustainability. I have facilitated stakeholder engagement across multidisciplinary teams, ensuring effective communication, timely delivery, and alignment with project objectives. My experience includes writing successful bids, preparing reporting documentation, budget management, risk mitigation, and monitoring outputs in compliance with funder requirements. I am currently supervising projects involving solar-powered irrigation, hybrid cold storage for rural farms, and AI-driven resource optimisation for agriculture in the UK and internationally. My agricultural experience is reinforced by hands-on collaboration with growers and farm-based businesses, particularly in technology trials and adoption assessments. I hold a leadership position at a UK university and am committed to advancing innovation that delivers real-world impact in the agricultural sector.

Skills: Agroecological, regenerative, biodynamic, organic farming systems; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Natural capital; Regulation / policy; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: PhD

Paul Huggett | IUK-Business Connect (retired part time)

Organisation Website: https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk (retired)
Region: East Midlands

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: New systems
Additional Areas of Sector Expertise:

Skills and Experience

Experience: Project managed delivery of various IUK/TSB funded industrial projects in commercial and academic context. Managed major technology transfer programmes between UK and Canada

Skills: Data / AI / machine learning; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Irrigation; Renewable energy; Robotics

Qualifications: BSc, PhD

Paul Smith | Board Adviser to Aquagrain and IRTL

Organisation Website: www.aquagrain.co.uk

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: New systems

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Combinable Crops; Tubers & roots; Fieldscale vegetables; Salad crops; Bioeconomy; Novel food systems

Skills and Experience

Experience: I am an award winning cross-sector business and product development director who delivers innovative and sustainable transformative outcomes through engaging leadership, collaborative project management and outstanding research and analysis. I have 12 years Agtech experience of food industry organic waste recycling, food and water security, acquired through directing the commercial development of hydrogels and organic soil improvers. I have scoped, costed and secured funding for a number of UK and International collaborative projects. In recent years, I have secured over £3m in Agri-Tech development grant funding for ten projects I have managed with total budgets of £4m on time and on budget. I have also secured four winner and runner international food and water security corporate, or government sponsored competition successes. I have a proven track record of identifying industry challenges and developing pioneering products and services. Known for delivering and driving practical, profitable, ethical, and sustainable impacts in evolving business landscapes. Expert in maximizing resources in challenging environments, and translating complex technical and scientific information into compelling and actionable content. Skilled in creating and managing business and product development strategies and programs from concept through to commercialisation, raising development investment finance and securing innovation grant funding.

Skills: Agronomy; Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Irrigation; Natural capital; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: None

Richard Rampton | RuralAdvice Ltd

Organisation Website: www.ruraladvice.com

Region: East of England

Sector Expertise

Primary Area of Sector Expertise: New systems

Additional Areas of Sector Expertise: Novel protein

Skills and Experience

Experience: Lifetime experience in farm management as manager, lecturer and consultant with experience in UK, Papua New Guinea and Australia. Consultancy experience in UK, Russia, Balkans, including project management (Russia). Innovation experience making successful applications to Innovate UK and currently managing Feasibility project.

Skills: Innovation / commercialisation management and strategy; Renewable energy; Robotics; Sustainability, circular economy, renewables

Qualifications: MSc in Fram Management (Distinction); Reading University