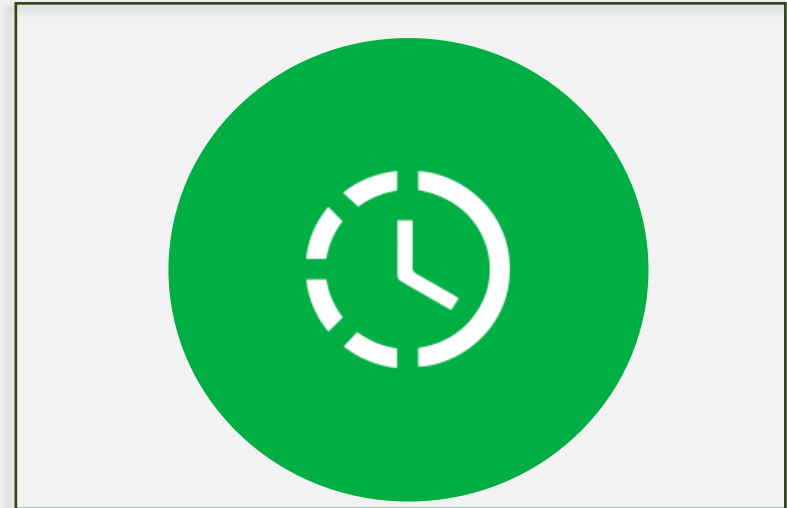


Farming Futures R&D Fund

- Precision Breeding Competition

**Precision Breeding Consortium Building
Event**

**Holiday Inn Peterborough West by IHG,
Peterborough**



Agenda

- Key Dates
- Programme Summary
- Competition Background
- Scope
- Summary
- Useful Information



Key Dates

Timeline	Dates
Competition Opens	5 May 2025
Submission Deadline	25 June 2025 at 11am
Invite to interview	11 August 2025
Interview	15 – 26 September 2025
Applicants notified	10 October 2025
Project start and end dates	Start by 01 January 2026 End by 31 December 2028

Farming Innovation Programme

Enhancing productivity, environmental sustainability and resilience in England's farming sectors



The Farming Innovation Programme

- Part of Defra's Agricultural Transition Plan
- To enhance productivity, environmental sustainability and resilience in England's farming sectors
- Funding is awarded on a competitive basis to high quality, innovative projects
- Collaborative projects must benefit farmers and growers in England



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



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



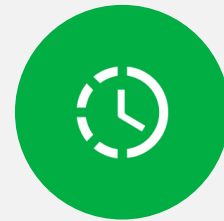
Small **Research Starter Projects** where farmers, growers & foresters can explore a new idea



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



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



Themed competitions (Farming Futures R&D Fund), where businesses and researchers can work on longer-term innovation focussing on issues like: Climate-Smart Farming, Sustainable farm-based Proteins, Robotics and Automation, Environmental resilience or Nutrient Management, etc



ADOPT Fund where farmers can trial on-farm new innovations, practices or technologies



Farming Futures – Precision Breeding Background



Aligned with Defra's targets and commitments and empowers the **Genetic Technology Act 2023**



Collaborative Industrial Research
Projects to develop ambitious new solutions



Focus Areas:

- **Horticultural Crops**
- **Arable Crops**



Advance Sustainable, Resilient, and Productive Farming in England





Scope

In Scope

Projects in this competition should deliver on ambitious new solutions that can help realise a range of improvements to existing crop production, including but not limited to:

- ✓ Increased crop yield – quality and quantity
- ✓ Increased plant resistant to pests, diseases and pathogens
- ✓ Increased plant resilient to climate change / resistance to abiotic stresses
- ✓ Enhanced photosynthesis / reduce crop growth cycles
- ✓ Improved crop harvesting and storage characteristics
- ✓ Improved nutritional value of crops e.g. biofortification
- ✓ Reduced allergens and toxins in crops
- ✓ Improved palatability and visual appeal of crops
- ✓ Increased shelf life of crops





Scope



Exclusions, we are not funding projects that:

- × are not addressing precision breeding techniques as set out in the Genetic Technology Act 2023
- × are **duplicating existing projects** funded by the **Genetic Improvement Networks (GINs)** or any **UK public funded body***
- × are relating to animals
- × are forestry specific
- × are focused on novel food production systems e.g. cultivated meat, etc
- × are for the production of crops or plants for medicinal or pharmaceutical use
- × do not benefit farmers, growers or foresters in England
- × are circular energy production specific.



Our ask of projects

- ✓ evidence how precision breeding approaches can help to provide benefit for farmers, growers or foresters in England
- ✓ demonstrate clear project deliverables that will enable improved resilience, sustainability and productivity of farmers
- ✓ ensure concepts are closely aligned with industry priorities to deliver business – orientated, transformative opportunities
- ✓ encourage dissemination and knowledge exchange of precision breeding technologies and their potential benefit to the wider sector and increase the maturity or market readiness of emerging solutions



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Farming Futures – Precision Breeding Details

Budget	£12.5m
Category	Industrial Research
Lead organisation	Business only
Collaboration	YES (Compulsory)
Duration	Up to 36 months
Project size	£1m - £2.5m

Useful Information

- UKRI's [General Guidance](#)
- Innovate UK Business Connect's [Good Application Guide](#)
- [Who we fund](#)
- Collaboration Agreement Guidance: [Lambert Toolkit](#)
- [Innovate UK: Shaping the Future](#)

Funding opportunities

To find out more about the competitions currently available you can visit either the [**Innovation Funding Service \(IFS\)**](#) or the [**funding finder**](#) on the UKRI website. Through these links, you can review the competitions available and decide which ones may be right for you.

You can [**sign up to our newsletter**](#) to receive all the latest information on our competitions straight to your inbox or [**register for email alerts**](#) to get page updates from Innovate UK.

The government also offers [**other opportunities for businesses to get finance and support**](#).

Innovate UK reserves the rights to host competitions on a needs basis and will adjust each competition criteria and scope accordingly. We may occasionally run closed competitions that are for invited applicants only. These are run based on the challenge requirement or need.



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Thank You



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