



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Farming Innovation Programme

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Why are we supporting innovation?

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

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

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

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

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

Previous Programmes

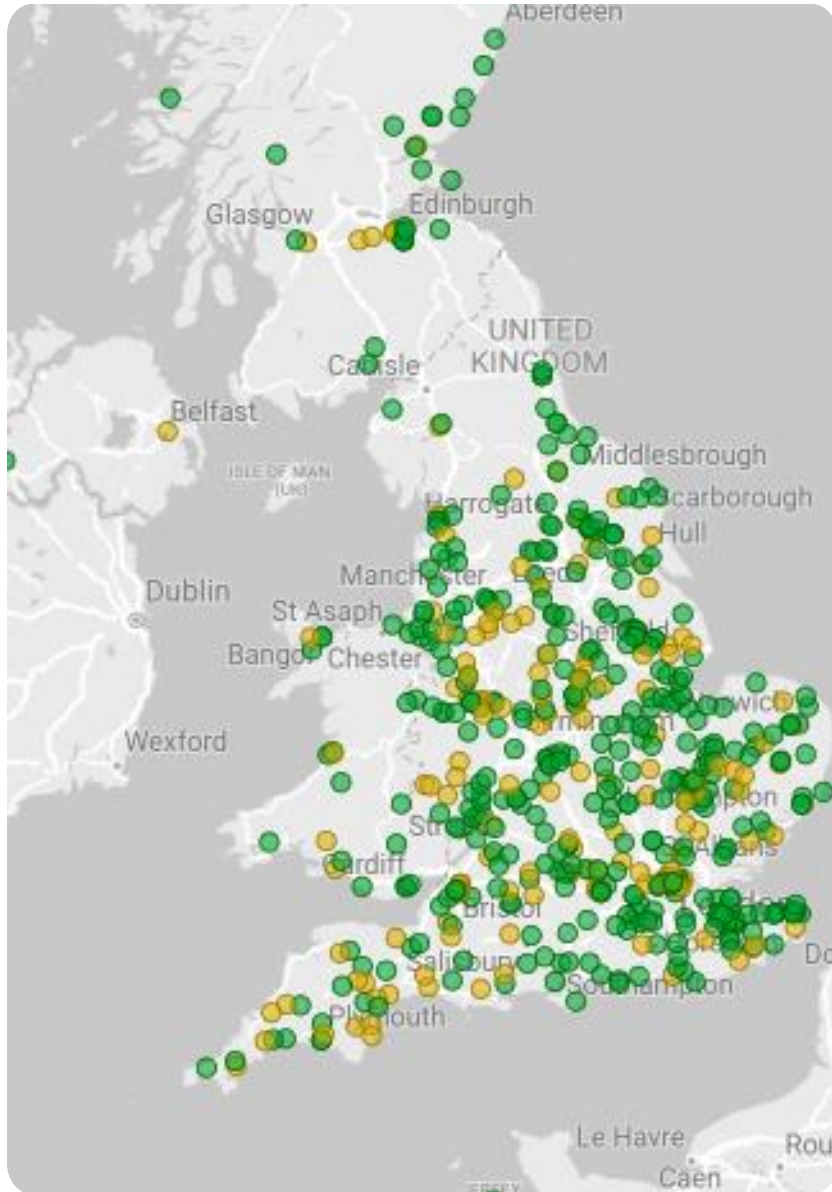
2013 - Agri-Tech Strategy

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

2018 - Industrial Strategy Challenge

Fund (ISCF) £90m Transforming
Food Production Challenge

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



Farming Innovation Programme

- Since 2021, the **Farming Innovation Programme** (FIP) has been Defra's flagship for supporting research and innovation in farming and is one of the main vehicles for our innovation and research ambition.
- FIP aims to enhance productivity, environmental sustainability and resilience in England's farming sectors.
- Funding is awarded on a competitive basis to high quality, innovative projects.
- To date it has supported 294 projects involving 611 organisations, enabling nascent technology development and creating a long-term pipeline of future businesses.
- FIP has committed over £150m of Defra funding and attracted over £54m of private investment.

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**



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

FIP Timeline

October 2021

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

March 2022

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

May 2022

£1m - Research Starter Projects (round 2)

July 2022

£12.5m - Sustainable farm-based Proteins

Autumn 2022

£5.5m Feasibility Projects (round 2)
£11m Small Partnership Projects (round 2)

January 2023

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

February 2023

£8m - Large Partnerships Projects (round 2)

May 2023

£12.5m On Farm Environmental Resilience

July 2023

£5m Investor Partnerships Projects

August 2023

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

September 2023

£4.5m - Feasibility Studies (round 3)

December 2023

£850k - Research Starter (round 4)

January 2024

£7.8m - Large Partnership Projects (round 3)

May 2024

£15m - Nutrient Management

April 2025

£20.6m - ADOPT (round 1)

May 2025

£12.5m - Precision Breeding

£12.5m - Low Emissions farming

June 2025

£5m Investor Partnerships Projects
ADOPT (round 2)

To come

£7.8m Small R&D Partnerships (round 4)
£4.8m Feasibility Studies (round 4)

Programme 'additions'

- £6.3m assigned to follow on funding (invite only)
- £2m assigned to funding 7 additional projects from previous Feasibility round (invite only)

Coming up...

Feasibility round 4

Small R&D Partnerships round 4

The future...

Announcement within the Modern Industrial Strategy to allocate at least £200 million to the Programme up to 2030

Agri-tech one of the sectors featured in the Advanced Manufacturing Sector Plan

