



ADDRESSING THE NEW NORMAL

In his exclusive blog for the UKFV, Allan Wilkinson, Head of Agrifoods for HSBC, asks how businesses across the food chain are reacting and what they are doing to build a degree of resilience for the present:

Inflation is affecting every food business in every food chain, whether in energy supply or through to the businesses who market the sector's products to British consumers - retailers, or for food delivery.

In a short space of time the focus on knowing how and when these costs are landing on a business becomes critical to potential price negotiation. And it is evident that there are few - if any - businesses who can absorb these cost increases, bringing into sharp focus the subject of availability and continuity of supply in nearly every reassessment and pricing discussion. Inevitably over time the rising cost of food will end at the consumers' door, with all that implies.

The new norm appears to be the frequency with which renegotiations need to take place in order to retain supply and the commercial journey, which in turn builds relationships across a chain probably for the benefit of everyone concerned.

Continued...



SECTOR PROGRESS & HIGHLIGHTS

- HORTICULTURE AUTOMATION REVIEW PUBLISHED
- LEADING A FOOD REVOLUTION CONFERENCE
- BEN BURGESS BUYS DOUBLEDAY GROUP
- HILTON SEAFOOD INVESTS £40M IN GRIMSBY
- 100% FISH UTILISATION
- INSPIRING CAREERS IN SEAFOOD
- NEW RESEARCH NETWORK TO HELP AGRIFOOD REACH NET ZERO
- CREATING A MORE INCLUSIVE & DIVERSE FARMING SECTOR
- UKFV CASE STUDY: NAYLOR FARMS
- £12.5M IN INNOVATION PROJECTS FOR SUSTAINABLE PROTEIN PRODUCTION
- UK TRADE SHOW HELP FOR FOOD SECTOR
- HELP TO GROW DIGITAL
- EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS STORIES
- CALL LAUNCHED FOR SKILLS BOOTCAMPs
- AGRI-TECH HOT FUNDING LIST

ADDRESSING THE NEW NORMAL

Continued...

Not everyone is achieving a price increase – just look at the recent headlines relating to a major retailer and two of the best-known multinational brands, leading to withdrawal of product, at least in the short term, until matters are resolved.

The increasing value of food and its cost will become more apparent as sustainability ascends the global agenda, and climate change continues to challenge and disrupt usual seasonal expectations.

Rising prices and inflation do not resolve the ongoing challenges of labour supply or the imperfect input supply chains that now seemingly exist for many products, such as packaging and cleaning materials, making the current situation all the more challenging, and the 'just in time mantra' for incoming supplies and deliveries is under considerable pressure.

All of that aside, there isn't a business that we've spoken to or visited in 2022 which is not clear about what it needs to do (or has already done), and how it is going to go about it. This set of circumstances is driving many to deliver further efficiencies where possible, and driven by sustainability, are doing so at an even faster pace.

So, what are we seeing?

There are a few themes coming out of all of this. Firstly, the requests for additional working capital to fund these higher prices seem less in volume than one might have first thought. To date, terms of trade don't appear to have changed widely and dialogue across a chain is becoming increasingly crucial. We have seen a number of requests to cope with building stock holding to accommodate the variation in time delays to the delivery of goods such as packaging, PPE, or cleaning products, and other necessities for day to day operations.

Secondly and particularly relevant to these pages is the increased focus on automation in all forms. With that comes an orderly clamour for new technology to assist with driving further cost out of the business,

delivering far greater consistency, reducing or reusing waste, and rectifying wherever possibly the shortage of labour to undertake many tasks. For some businesses, this may be an acceleration of existing plans with very acceptable solutions. For others, the commercial capability of new technology is so temptingly close, yet also seemingly far away. And of course, the industry wide investment in current research and development to find new solutions is greater than ever. This has a massive role to play with some very exciting developments coming to the fore.

So, on reflection, we are highly likely to find ourselves a new norm in these unprecedented times. The challenges are now more evident but so are the opportunities; capturing what existing know-how and new science can deliver for the nation and its food system going forward. Communication and support will be critical, and HSBC UK will be playing its part to help the sector move forward. When they appear, these exciting opportunities are as exciting for you as they are for us.

For more information about how HSBC UK can support your business [click here](#).



YOUR NEWS

HORTICULTURE AUTOMATION REVIEW PUBLISHED

The government has published a review into Automation in Horticulture co-chaired by The Rt. Hon. George Eustice MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Lincoln's Professor Simon Pearson, Director of LIAT.

Full details of the review including its recommendations [are available here.](#)

The review was undertaken to understand how we can accelerate the development and adoption of automation and robotic technologies across the fruit, vegetable, and ornamental production sectors and, in the foreword to the review, Professor Pearson sets out why the review was important and how he hopes it will lead to change:

"I have been working in UK horticulture for the last 30 years. It is one of the most vibrant, competitive, and innovative sectors of our agri-food economy. More recently, I have enjoyed working with and helping to develop cutting-edge agri-robotic systems and technologies that have the potential to automate and transform labour productivity on farms.

"The sector's ultimate output - fresh fruit and vegetables as well as ornamental plants - are essential to the health and wellbeing of all in society. However, despite the capital intensity of many horticultural production systems, critical elements of the industry have a high dependency on seasonal migrant labour to harvest crops. This dependency has become even more apparent following the end of free movement between the UK and the EU and the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It was an immense honour to co-chair this review into automation for the horticultural sector, in a personal capacity, with the Secretary of State for DEFRA. The key questions of this review were how, to what extent, and when can these new robotic technologies, and currently available automation, ease the horticulture sectors;

dependency on seasonal labour. In simple terms, 'what do we need to do to turbo-charge automation in the horticulture sector?'.



"The review ran at a significant pace. In just six months we conducted a preliminary cross-sector survey and hosted six roundtables with input from more than 75 stakeholders across horticulture, agri-robotics, automation, academia, and the public sector. While the review demonstrated the diversity of the sector, the common willingness to engage and embrace change was striking and heartening. I am grateful to everyone who gave up their time to help us put together a clear picture of the barriers and opportunities.

"We found a horticulture sector that was actively seeking to adopt technologies when proven, but also an active and emerging cluster of UK agri-robotic expertise funded by both private and public sector investment.

Continued...

YOUR NEWS

Continued...

“From the outset of the process, we have been clear that robotics and automation technologies are not likely to be the single solution that resolves all labour pressures in the sector. However, the review has sought to articulate a series of recommendations for the government to consider that could have the power to transform labour productivity over the medium to longer term. These recommendations have focused on how to create an enabling environment to accelerate robotics development and on-farm adoption.

“The review proposes interventions that reflect the sheer diversity of horticulture, and it highlights how that same diversity poses a challenge to wide-scale agri-robotic adoption. We recognise that robotic systems are expensive to develop and tend to be designed to replicate a limited range of human tasks. On this basis, it is likely that robotic development will focus on the larger crops or where the cost of automation is relatively low, and many tasks and crop groups may never be automated.

“I hope the review will become a pillar that supports a host of novel initiatives to underpin the resilience of UK horticulture, while fostering a new high-tech UK industry in advanced robotics for the agri-food sector.

“It is encouraging to see the development of automation and agri-technology and sustainable food production being recognised nationally as key drivers within the industry going forward. The recent UK government Food Strategy recognises their key role in dealing with the cost-of-living crisis, providing affordable food production whilst ensuring that farmers and food producers can make a living. I look forward to seeing how these factors will be implemented, and how we can all play a vital role in ensuring affordable, sustainable food in the future.



“Thank you again to everyone who contributed. I was struck by the enthusiasm and optimism of everyone I spoke to, and I hope that this report will kick-start further discussions that generate a step change in automation in horticulture.”

Professor Simon Pearson

Co-Chair of the Review of Automation in Horticulture

Director, Lincoln Institute for Agri-Food Technology and Professor of Agri-Food Technology, University of Lincoln.

YOUR NEWS

LEADING A FOOD REVOLUTION CONFERENCE

Marketing Humber and Team Lincolnshire are holding a morning conference in North Lincolnshire on 7th September to explore the challenges facing the food industry and the potential solutions.

Following numerous disruptions to the global food supply chain and an ever-changing demand landscape, food and drink businesses are no stranger to adapting to change and delivering under pressure. Led by our panel host; Martin Collison, of the UK Food Valley, our fantastic speakers will discuss some of the biggest challenges facing their sector, while highlighting stories of success and diving into some of the game-changing opportunities on the horizon to future proof their businesses.

Martin will be joined by speakers from across the food sector including; Hilary Hamer, Chair of Hull Food Partnership; Grahame Dunling of Worldwide Local Salads; and Chef and Cookery Academy Owner Nigel Brown.

With a growing national obesity crisis, rising bills, the pandemic, pressure to reduce our carbon footprint and global food shortages highlighting food insecurity across the globe, we are hungry for a food revolution.

The Humber and Greater Lincolnshire employ over 103,500 people in our food and agriculture sectors combined, making our neighbouring regions the country's largest food producing area. Our regions are perfectly placed to play a crucial, leading role in shaping a future system that is fair, healthy, and sustainable for both people and our planet.

Continued...

Leading a Food Revolution



Wednesday 7th September
9.30 am - 12.30 pm



Doubletree by Hilton
Forest Pines, Broughton,
Brigg, DN20 0AQ



Marketing Humber
delivered by Bondholders

**+ TEAM
LINCOLNSHIRE**
Together We're Greater



**UK
FOOD
VALLEY**

**Greater
Lincolnshire**
Local Enterprise Partnership

YOUR NEWS

Continued...

Now is the time for exciting developments to come to the fore - including innovative technology, healthy protein alternatives and low carbon solutions - to be harnessed in order to accelerate positive changes within the food and drink sector.

Collaborating with our local food and drink businesses from global brands to artisan businesses, we're building a deluxe grazing table full of high quality locally sourced produce, to give you a taste of the best food and drink our regions have to offer.

Local, national and international investment, the future is looking bright for our regions as we lead a food revolution.

The conference is taking place on: Wednesday 7th September 2022, 9.30am - 12.30pm at DoubleTree by Hilton Forest Pines, Ermine Street, Broughton, DN20 0AQ. For full details and to register [please click here](#).

BEN BURGESS BUYS DOUBLEDAY GROUP



On 23rd August the shareholders of Lincolnshire/Norfolk based John Deere dealership group, JW Doubleday, announced they have entered an agreement with Ben Burgess for the sale of the business.

In line with John Deere's dealer of tomorrow strategy, Ben Burgess will formally acquire the Doubleday Group with all employees and existing Doubleday depots across Lincolnshire & Norfolk operating as part of the Ben Burgess group.

Founded in the early 1970s by John Doubleday the business has remained family owned, successfully growing for over 50 years and becoming a core part of the agricultural community. In 1982, the business became a main dealer for John Deere – as Deere was first growing its UK presence. JW Doubleday operates from locations in Swineshead, Holbeach, Kings Lynn, and Old Leake. The company employs 54 staff and has built an enviable reputation for serving customers across Lincolnshire and Norfolk

Ian Doubleday-Collishaw, grandson of the founder, said: "This decision has not been taken lightly but we the Doubleday family, were determined to protect the future of our loyal team and the longevity of a reputable John Deere dealer across our trading area.

Continued...

YOUR NEWS

Continued...

"We believe this is the correct decision for everyone involved. Ben Burgess share Doubleday's values for providing premium brands backed by expertise and excellent standards of customer service. The combination of our joint processes, dedicated teams and the infrastructure already in place at Ben Burgess will deliver the best value to both our team and customers. We are confident the level of service you our customers are accustomed to will continue uninterrupted.

"My family and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated team and our loyal customers, many of whom we consider our friends who have supported us throughout our 40 years as a John Deere dealer."

Ben B Turner Dealer Principal at Ben Burgess added: "The Doubleday family have built a highly successful, strong and customer focused business over the past 50 years and were adamant that they wanted to pass their legacy over to a family business that shared the same values. We are enormously proud that they have chosen Ben Burgess to continue their outstanding work.

"The combined business will strengthen our position in the industry and enable the future investments required in facilities and technologies to proactively support our customers, offer greater opportunities and security to all our employees whilst continuing to grow in a responsible and sustainable manner. This growth will give the company a strong platform to enable our business to continue building on the great legacy of these two-family businesses.

"We aim to conclude the deal by the end of September to facilitate a quick and smooth transition for the benefit of all our staff and customers."

HILTON SEAFOOD INVESTS £40M IN GRIMSBY

In late July, Hilton Seafoods announced a £40m investment in Grimsby, which will include the opening of new offices and staff welfare facilities, followed by a £20m investment in a new automated cold store next to the A180, which links the cluster to the national motorway and distribution networks.

Simon Dwyer, Seafood Grimsby & Humber Cluster Board Director, said: "This investment by Hilton Seafoods is welcomed and another testament to the importance of Grimsby as one of Europe's leading seafood processing clusters. Hilton is a major employer in the region and its emphasis on employee well-being, attraction and retention will I'm sure have a far-reaching impact on local communities."

Since acquiring the former Seachill business over four years ago, Hilton Food Group has continued to invest in production in Grimsby, securing Hilton Seafood's position as a leading industry member.

The business is now the largest chilled fish processor and supplies salmon, white fish, shellfish, coated fish, fishcakes, prawn cocktails and other added value products. The business has ambitions to continue to grow strongly, with Grimsby a key part of this ambition.

Further reporting on this investment can be found [here](#).

YOUR NEWS

SUSTAINABLE FUTURE TOWARDS 100% FISH UTILISATION

On 19th October the National Centre for Food Manufacturing (NCFM) and Seafood Grimsby & Humber Alliance are hosting the Sustainable Future Towards 100% Fish Utilisation Workshop at Healing Manor, Grimsby.

The workshop programme includes insight from two organisations based in Reykjavik, Iceland, MATIS Research Institute and the Iceland Ocean Cluster.

Both organisations were visited in May by the workshops' hosts together with Seafish Industry Authority. Head of The National Centre for Food Manufacturing (NCFM), Professor Val Braybrooks said: "It was fascinating and insightful to meet MATIS and the Ocean Cluster in Reykjavik last May. Their organisations are collaborative and focused on the value-chain of the fish co-product. I'm looking forward to them sharing their stories of best practice in enhancing the value-chain."

The programme will be supported by the Seafish Industry Authority and Reykjavik headquartered, Marel who specialise globally in the supply of filleting machinery. During the week of the workshop Marel will be displaying their whitefish filleting machine for the micro and SME market.

Facilitating the workshop is Simon Dwyer, who manages the Seafood Grimsby & Humber Alliance cluster board. Simon commented: "The relationship with our partners in Iceland has been long-standing so it's a great pleasure to facilitate this workshop in Grimsby and share with the cluster companies the opportunities of sustainable utilisation of fish co-product and the innovation that Marel deliver in filleting automation."

For further details or to register interest in attending the event on the 19th October please contact Rebecca Brothwell at the National Centre for Food Manufacturing (NCFM) rbrothwell@lincoln.ac.uk



Pictured left to right: Marcus Coleman, CEO Seafish, Professor Mark Swainson NCFM, Alexandra Leeper, Head of Research and Innovation, at the Iceland Ocean Cluster, Professor Val Braybrooks NCFM, and Simon Dwyer of the Seafood Grimsby & Humber Alliance.

YOUR NEWS

INSPIRING CAREERS IN SEAFOOD

A new training course, funded by the Fisheries Charitable Trust in partnership with [The City and Guilds Foundation](#), aims to showcase career opportunities across the seafood sector in England's Northeast, recruiting more local people into stable, lucrative, and rewarding careers in Seafood.

The first course titled 'Women into Seafood' ran on 14th to 16th of June 2022. Delivered by the charity [CatZero](#) in partnership with the Grimsby Fish Merchants Association, the three-day course provided attendees a mix of hands-on training, site visits, and discussions with local business leaders. Attendees left the course with a Foundation Certificate in Food Safety and Hygiene, and their eyes opened to a range of potential careers covering all elements of business from the processing floor to logistics, accounts, administration, and finance.

On completing the course, all participants reported increased confidence, motivation, self-determination, perseverance and problem-solving. Feedback from local JobCentre Plus advisors was positive, with one local advisor reporting a transformation and real boost to the participants' attitude to work within the sector.

Pete Tighe, Operational and Partnership Manager for CatZero said: "The programme was a fantastic opportunity for unemployed people from the Grimsby area to learn about the opportunities open to them with the seafood industry, that are right on their doorstep".

Alongside local business leaders and large processors, Emma McKeating, [certified Advanced Fishmonger](#), joined the course to share just how varied and interesting the life of a real [@girlyfishmonger](#) can be.



The Grimsby and Humberside region handles the bulk of seafood imported and processed in the UK, employing over 6,000 people, and offering real opportunities for a diverse range of professional careers.

Speaking about the course, Polly Rowe from City & Guilds Foundation, said: "The City & Guilds Foundation is passionate about supporting people with barriers to develop their skills. We're delighted to be funding this exciting programme, alongside The Fishmongers' to get more local individuals in the North East in to secure and sustained employment."

To find out more, [click here](#).



YOUR NEWS

NEW RESEARCH NETWORK TO HELP UK AGRIFOOD INDUSTRY REACH NET ZERO

The UK Food Valley has welcomed a new low carbon network for the agrifood sector which has been established with the University of Lincoln as a partner, supported by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). As low carbon is one of three UK Food Valley core themes, the new network can help bring partners together to address a major challenge for the food industry.

Awarded £5 million by UKRI, the network will bring UK researchers together to explore effective ways to support the industry to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and improve its environmental sustainability. The network will also help the UK's agrifood industry enhance biodiversity, maintain healthy ecosystems, nurture livelihoods, support healthy consumer habits, and minimise the environmental impacts of overseas trade.

The network will be led by a team of four researchers: Dr Angelina Sanderson Bellamy of the University of the West of England, Professor Tim Benton of the University of Leeds, Professor Sarah Bridle of the University of York, and Professor Neil Ward of the University of East Anglia. It will also unite a much wider network of researchers, industry leaders, government, and members of the public.

According to the latest research, the UK's agrifood industry is responsible for almost a quarter of the country's greenhouse gas emissions. Given this significant contribution, it is one industry in which greenhouse gas emissions needs to be addressed if the country is to meet its net zero goals by 2050. However, although the industry contributes to and is affected by climate change, it can also be part of the solution.

The agrifood industry is more than farming alone and involves the whole journey from the farm to the plate and beyond, including manufacturing, retail, consumption, and waste management. Any efforts to reduce the industry's greenhouse gas emissions therefore needs expertise from across a range of research disciplines. The agricultural, biological, natural, environmental, physical, engineering, economic and social sciences all have a role to play.

Led by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and UKRI, the network is co-funded by three other research councils in recognition of the inter-disciplinary nature of the carbon challenge in agrifood. Co-funding was provided by the: [Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council \(BBSRC\)](#); [Economic and Social Research Council \(ESRC\)](#); and the [Natural Environment Research Council \(NERC\)](#).

Announcing the new project, Professor Dame Lynn Gladden, EPSRC Executive Chair said: "The agriculture food system produces nearly a quarter of the UK's carbon emissions. By bringing together a multidisciplinary team and engaging a wide range of stakeholders, this project will explore how the journey from farm to fork could be made more sustainable, helping to meet the UK Government's strategy for achieving net zero by 2050." The funding runs for three years from July 2022.

YOUR NEWS

CREATING A MORE INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE FARMING SECTOR

Mark Suthern of the UK Food Valley team shares his thoughts on the need for us all to [Play Our Part in Creating a More Inclusive and Diverse Farming Sector](#). Mark is chair of the Board of Trustees for the Farm Crisis Network (FCN) and this article has been adapted from [FCN's Annual Report \(April 2021 – March 2022\)](#).

UK agriculture is undergoing some of the most significant changes it has seen in the last fifty years. Change is often scary, challenging and takes considerable time to implement. But change is also exciting – it is how we innovate, create new opportunities, and adapt to changing circumstances.

Over the last couple of years, we have all been reminded of the importance of reliable supply chains and systems of food production. Labour shortages, high input costs and the growing energy crisis to name but a few have put significant pressure on farmers from across all sectors. We especially feel immense sadness for our friends in Ukraine and other countries impacted by war. We hope and pray for an end to this conflict and for the safety and health of all those affected.

The way our industry looks ten years from now could be considerably different from how it looks today. We must work together to ensure agriculture and its associated professions attract the best talent, and is seen as being a desirable, profitable, and rewarding industry to work in.

There should be a place for everyone in agriculture, including those taking their first steps into farming and those who have farmed for many years. Generational family farms remind us all of the strong farming tradition across the UK, and the ongoing legacy many families are continuing to build upon. In addition, new entrants should be empowered to enter our industry and mentored and equipped with the skills and knowledge required to succeed and flourish.

We are delighted in FCN to be playing our part in creating a more inclusive and accessible industry in the work that we do. We are championing diversity and inclusivity within our charity; we are making conscious efforts to work with a wide range of people from different walks of life; and we are actively involving ourselves in schemes and initiatives to bring people into our industry who may not be from farming backgrounds. Greater education of the public and further collaboration is necessary in creating a thriving agricultural industry that is respected and understood by all.

Connecting and empathising with others is a significant part of what we do within FCN. Our dedicated volunteers are trusted to 'walk with' farmers, who let us into their lives and share with us the pressures they may be under. We are privileged to be in the position we are in and have been described as a lifeline by those we have helped.

I would like to sincerely thank all of those who work with our charity, as well as everyone who supports us and raises awareness. As we continue to grow as a charity, we hope that you will continue to walk alongside us on this journey, helping to ensure that everyone in our essential industry is able to thrive now and, in the years to come.



YOUR NEWS

UK FOOD VALLEY CASE STUDY: NAYLOR FARMS

Naylor Farms, one of Europe's biggest cabbage producers, is building the world's first brassica plant-based cold extraction facility in the Lincolnshire Food Valley. Developed by Naylor Farms, Naylor Nutrition will pioneer a range of highly nutritious functional protein ingredients which will be the first innovation of its kind.

Naylor Farms is a family run business which has been producing quality, sustainable British produce since 1909. Its CEO, Simon Naylor is a fourth-generation brassica farmer tending the farm which has been passed down through the family.

Naylor Nutrition is made up of a team of industry experts and international food scientists who have developed the world's first unique cold extraction process, capable of producing high protein-plus ingredients from whole cabbage. Cabbage is a unique source of protein with multiple health benefits. It has an outstanding nutrient profile and is especially high in vitamins C and K. Research suggests that eating cabbage may even help lower the risk of certain diseases, improve digestion and combat inflammation. Most notably, cabbage has scientifically proven cancer fighting properties. It contains polyphenols which prevent oxidative stress and fight free radicals. Glucosinolates are also present inside cabbage, helping by altering the way compounds are broken down by the body. **Continued...**



YOUR NEWS

Continued...

Cabbage is a more economically, socially and environmentally beneficial crop to grow than other alternative protein sources such as pea protein. Concentrated pea protein has recently been associated with rising reports of allergic reactions. Cabbage on the other hand is considered a rare allergen. Pea protein is also considered less sustainable as it is more susceptible to droughts and wet harvests. Naylor Nutrition's cabbage-based protein is a sustainable, locally sourced and allergen and GMO-free alternative. It has an exceptionally high yield, with full traceability and it's cost effective to harvest. Cabbage is one of the most widely grown vegetables in the world as it can be grown on all types of soil.

Naylor Nutrition has planning permission to build a new 2,500m² agricultural processing plant on its farm in Spalding, Lincolnshire. The factory will be designed with regeneration at its heart; rainwater will be collected and reused, the heat from the processing plant will be used to warm the offices and the creation of a woodland area will be implemented, contributing to healthy biodiversity of the farm.

The Naylor Nutrition project will create a number of skilled jobs for people wanting to get into the food industry. As part of their commitments to clean and sustainable energy, Naylor Nutrition will introduce electric charging points for vehicles and a cycle-to-work scheme. The project will also give back to the local and agricultural community by restoring the jobs for farmers who work with high sugar products and have been affected by the introduction of sugar taxes.

£12.5 MILLION IN INNOVATION PROJECTS FOR SUSTAINABLE PROTEIN PRODUCTION

On 25th July DEFRA opened a new call for innovation projects on Sustainable Protein Production. This call is part of DEFRA's Farming Innovation Programme which is delivered in partnership with UKRI's [Transforming Food Production Challenge](#). The focus of this competition is sustainable farm-based protein production, and it aims to:

- Accelerate the development of novel and disruptive technologies, that will transform traditional farm protein production systems into more sustainable models.
- Support innovation with the potential to grow the sustainable protein industry and create new sources of resource efficient, low emission proteins.
- Support significant improvements to farming productivity, environmental sustainability and resilience in the sector and move existing agricultural sectors to net zero.
- Accelerate R&D of game changing opportunities by building diverse consortia including the UK agricultural sector and relevant research expertise.
- Support projects that demonstrate environmental and societal impact, and include clear project deliverables for measuring the sustainability of the solutions and how they are preventing negative impact upon the sector.
- Encourage dissemination and knowledge exchange to drive impact and wide uptake in the farming sector.

Continued...

YOUR NEWS

Continued...

Proposals must be able to demonstrate how the project will benefit farmers and growers in England. This competition is split into 2 strands:

- [Strand 1: Farming Futures R&D Fund: Sustainable farm-based protein, feasibility studies](#)
- [Strand 2: Farming Futures R&D Fund: Sustainable farm-based protein, Industrial research](#)

The funding is provided as a grant and is aimed at projects with total costs of between £200-500,000 for Strand 1 Feasibility Studies and £500,000 and £1 million for Strand 2 Industrial Research projects. The deadline for application is the 21st September.

UK Food Valley Comment:

With the UK Food Valley including a theme on Naturally Good for You Foods and Protein Transition as one of its three core themes, we are delighted to see this new funding call and urge businesses in the Food Valley to explore the potential it provides.

UK TRADE SHOW HELP FOR FOOD SECTOR COMPANIES

Businesses exporting, or considering exporting, from the UK can attend the UK Tradeshow Programme's selection of supported overseas tradeshow and conferences and potentially receive grants to offset some costs. The UK Tradeshow Programme provides all successful applicants with training, both about tradeshow in general and specifically about the event that they applied for. The highest ranked applicants may also receive financial support to help with exhibiting at the show, such as the costs of stand space. If you are not sure that the UK Tradeshow Programme is right for you, click [here](#) to check your eligibility. In the food sector, for example, DIT is supporting a trade mission to SIAL in Paris from the 15th - 19th October 2022, with a focus on businesses located in the Midlands Engine and Northern Powerhouse.

The biggest one-stop shop in the food and drink industry, SIAL Paris is the place to be for tastemakers and trend-seekers who want to grow their business. Every two years, producers, importers, buyers and retailers, media specialists and independent associations of every shape and size meet for five-days of inspiration, debate and exchange. Whether you are a rising startup or an established brand, SIAL Paris can be your springboard for success. [You can register interest in SIAL here.](#)

As well as SIAL, DIT is also supporting UK businesses for other EU events in Scandinavia, Germany and global events including ones in Asia and Gulfood in January 2023.

The [UK Tradeshow Programme](#) website gives details of the full programme and all the events being supported, with some events providing support for exhibitors and others for visitors.



YOUR NEWS

HELP TO GROW DIGITAL AVAILABLE TO ALL BUSINESSES

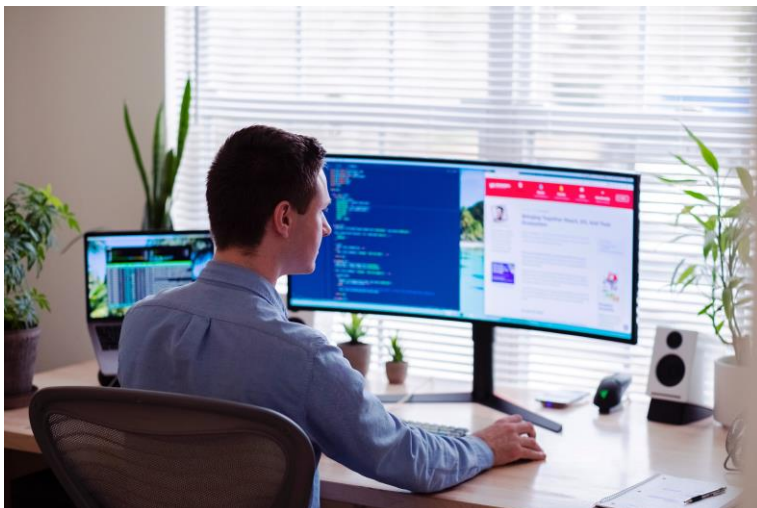
The UK Food Valley continues to promote the importance of digital transition with the need for increased investment in automation and digitalisation one of three core themes for the Food Valley. The UK Food Valley thus welcomes the extension of the [Help to Grow Digital programme](#) to all SMEs regardless of size or structure.

The programme provides 50% support for investment in approved business software, with grants of up to £5,000 for approved Digital Accounting, Customer Relationship Management and eCommerce software.

Help to Grow: Digital is a government backed, UK-wide scheme that supports eligible SMEs to choose, buy and integrate software into their business. As well as providing grants you can also access free, impartial advice and guidance. [Learn more](#) about how the software in this scheme can help your business and explore the free eLearning modules and [find your software solution](#) here.

To be eligible your business has to be:

- Registered in the UK, with either Companies House or be a registered society listed on the Financial Conduct Authority's Mutuals Register.
- Have traded for over 12 months.
- Have 1 - 249 employees.
- Be purchasing the approved software for the first time.



SAVE THE DATE!

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP is holding it's highly acclaimed Annual Conference on 10th November at the Lincolnshire Showground. Save the date and look out for more details and registration coming soon!

LEP BOARD VACANCIES

The LEP has a number of vacancies on it's boards including the [Manufacturing Board](#) and [Finance and Audit Committee](#). Click the links and call us for an informal chat.

YOUR NEWS

GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE LEP EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS STORIES

The LEP has been busy progressing a number of ground-breaking interventions and projects across Greater Lincolnshire. Here is a roundup of a few of its latest successes:

Honouring careers education at 122 Lincolnshire schools

Thirty-five businesses attended an employer-led celebration at Boston United's Jakeman's Community Stadium this week to honour the impact careers education is having on schools across Greater Lincolnshire. Click [here](#) to read the full story or get involved in future events.

Seven Grantham Businesses Smash National Manufacturing Day

Seven engineering and manufacturing businesses in Grantham and South Kesteven are celebrating after successfully opening their doors to students for Make UK's National Manufacturing Day. Click [here](#) to read the full story.

Four new training facilities have been opened across Greater Lincolnshire this year

As a result of an investment programme supporting business and local residents, four new training facilities have been opened across Greater Lincolnshire so far in 2022 thanks to £7.66m of funding from the Greater Lincolnshire LEP to include the new Digital, Transport and Logistics Academy, Boston College's £750,000 Care Centre of Regional Excellence (Care CoRE), and the Scunthorpe University Campus North Lincolnshire (UCNL), part of DN Colleges Group. Click [here](#) to read the full story.

CALL LAUNCHED FOR SKILLS BOOTCAMPS

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP has been successful in gaining £820,000 to fund the delivery of new Skills Bootcamps on behalf of the Department of Education and is looking for education, training providers and businesses, to design and deliver them.

A call for proposals has been published and interested organisations are invited to complete the grant application form by midday on Monday 19th September 2022.

An online Q&A session will be held on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th September at 11am. If you are considering applying to deliver Skills Bootcamps and would like to attend one of these sessions, please send an email request to greaterlincslep@lincolnshire.gov.uk. Click [here](#) for application forms and to find out more.

FUNDING

AGRI-TECH 'HOT FUNDING' LIST – A REGULAR LIST OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRI-TECH

If you are working in agriculture, farming or food production then these funds may help.

The agri-tech research teams at the University of Lincoln are expert at working with industry to build practical solutions to productivity, transportation and growing challenges for food and farming.

If you have a process, resource or technology challenge inside your farm or food business, then please do get [in touch with us](#) or for Innovate UK enquiries at the [University of Lincoln](#).

FARMING FUTURES – UKRI / DEFRA

The Farming Futures R&D competition is for ambitious research projects that could benefit farmers in England.

Each competition has a different theme. You'll need to collaborate with at least one other business or research organisation.

- Sustainable proteins (Theme 2): opens 25th July 2022 and closes 21st September 2022.

Projects can last up to four years and need to cost between £3 million and £6 million. [For more information click here.](#)

FOOD SYSTEM TRIALS TO ENCOURAGE HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE DIETS – ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

The Economic and Social Research Council, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Evaluation Task Force, Cabinet Office and HM Treasury, Food Standards Agency, Department of Health and Social Care, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and Department for Education invites proposals for its tender Food system trials to encourage healthy, sustainable diets.

This supports a research team to co-design innovative food system research trials, working closely with government partners with the aim to encourage and enable the take up of healthier and more sustainable diets. Closing date 20th September 2022. [More information here.](#)

FUNDING

HORIZON-JTI-CBEJU-2022 – OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS - CIRCULAR BIO-BASED EUROPE

The Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking invites applications for HORIZON-JTI-CBEJU-2022 – open call for proposals. This supports projects focusing on production of bio-based chemicals, materials and products, other than biofuels and bioenergy, food and feed, pharmaceuticals.

Closing date 22nd September 2022. [More information here.](#)

DEEP TECHNOLOGY GLOBAL CHALLENGE – HELLO TOMORROW

Hello Tomorrow invites applications for its deep technology global challenge. This supports scientists and entrepreneurs in developing new deep technology research and projects. The following tracks may be addressed:

- Environment
- Food and agriculture

Closing date 23th September 2022. [More information here.](#)

HORIZON-MISS-2022-SOIL-01 – SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOIL HEALTH AND FOOD MISSION

Horizon Europe, under Horizon Europe: Missions, invites applications for HORIZON-MISS-2022-SOIL-01 – supporting the implementation of the soil health and food mission.

This supports projects that support the implementation of a mission in the area of soil health and food.

Closing date 27th September 2022. [More information here.](#)

FUNDING

PRODUCTIVITY HUBS PROGRAMME



The Productivity Hubs programme is a University of Lincoln initiative, funded by the ERDF. The programme is aimed at helping businesses in Scunthorpe, Boston and Grimsby to develop, grow and thrive. Eligible businesses will be provided with either or both of the following:

- **Business Development:** Access to a business development manager who will work with you to identify key challenges and opportunities and help you to develop a plan to drive your business forwards to increased productivity and profitability.
- **Business Acceleration:** Aimed at ambitious start-ups that are committed to accelerating the growth of their business. Eligible businesses will get a package of intensive support designed to improve performance and drive growth, and an opportunity to pitch for seed-funding grants of up to £10,000.

[More information here](#). Contact Gary Mumby, Business Advisor: GMumby@lincoln.ac.uk | 07989 868 969.





**UK
FOOD
VALLEY**

**PIONEERING SUSTAINABILITY
THROUGH INNOVATION**

WWW.GREATERLINCOLNSHIRELEP.CO.UK

