



JUNE 2021 / ISSUE NO.1



I'd like to wish you a very warm welcome to our brand new UK Food Valley Bulletin.

Born out of the ever-growing Food Security Newsletter in response to Covid-19, I am delighted to introduce this development which moves us a significant step closer to positioning Greater Lincolnshire as a global lead in pioneering sustainability through innovation.

The UK Food Valley programme will showcase our Top 10 Global Food Cluster as we work with industry, the technology and research base and government to deliver food chain innovation and growth.

We want to lead in the race to adopt new digital technologies and automation, the transition to Net Zero and to promote the role of naturally good for you foods in health. We have an incredible and unique opportunity on our doorstep and I look forward to working with you to realise it.

Watch out for our new website and the UK Food Valley launch coming soon!

Thank You

Sarah Louise Fairburn

Vice Chair / Greater Lincolnshire LEP Chair, LEP Food Board / Owner & CEO at Imp & Maker

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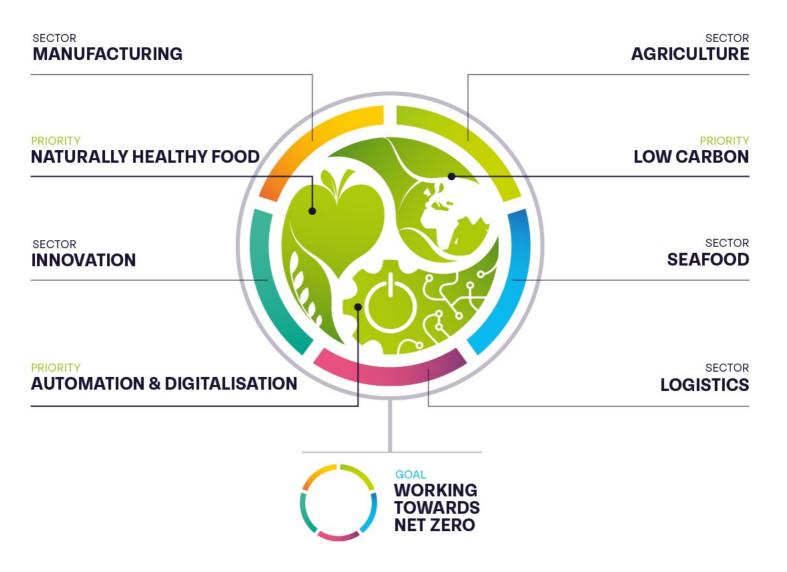
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We are Pioneering the UK's Food Industry

Our logo represents our pioneering food industry, by visually combining our sectors, piorities and goals into a single graphic device.







OPINION PIECE LINCOLNSHIRE'S FOOD PROVENANCE IS OUR ROUTE TO DECARBONISATION

Dr Wayne Martindale FIFST, Associate Professor, Enterprise & Food Insights and Sustainability at the National Centre for Food Manufacturing (NCFM) at the University of Lincoln.

Lincolnshire food system facts are familiar with Lincolnshire leading on products as diverse as vegetables and salads (20% England's total), poultry (18%), prepared and ready meals (17%) and fish processing (70%). While these facts almost seem standardised the actual impact of them is changing and it presents our decarbonisation opportunity.

The soils surrounding 50km of Boston - that many UK farmers will only dream of - are the principle reason for much of this. They support the production of high value field grown vegetables at the volume and quality required for retailers. The resulting cluster of industry is unique, no other UK areas have this scale with much of the land focussed on the UK Food Valley centred on Boston. While this is all rousing for Lincolnshire residents it hides something most important for the food industry. As the UK government begins to look seriously towards decarbonising British business supply chains, the farm to manufacturer to Lincolnshire consumer is clustered and connected in the UK Food Valley so that agri-produce does not have to move that far for processing or manufacturing. This reduces our regional carbon footprint.



Continued...

We know our food industry must connect, it is what we are good at and we will get better. Business recovery from COVID-19 and the transition to more international trading will prove the industry is an exemplar of regionality. Our research that maps food supply clearly demonstrates regional connectors from field to manufacturer result in decarbonisation and reduction of food losses.

The Science Based Targets we use show that less distance between operators provides more shelf life and this in turn results in dramatic reductions in food loss and domestic waste. Our research with frozen foods demonstrate most consumers dispose of food because of reduced shelf life, further research at the University shows smarter energy demand management of refrigeration results in decarbonisation in our food system.

The UK Government's Decarbonisation Strategy and Carbon Budget published in March this year identifies how 20% of the agri-food industry carbon footprint can be removed by innovative product development and reducing waste. This represents half of the reduction achievable before hydrogen energy and carbon capture and storage programmes

become mainstream, we still have 10 to 20 years for this and the University is working on them. The Lincolnshire regional food system knows what baseline we are working with because manufacturer and field are often within line of sight of each other - the landscape elevation of Lincolnshire helps here! Our research enables the UK food and beverage manufacturing industry to innovate and deliver to international standards including the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Net Zero outcomes.

We are already balancing the here-and-now with the projected hydrogen economy and carbon capture and storage. There are opportunities to incisively decarbonise our UK Food Valley now that includes innovative product development that builds in sustainability, tracking data for carbon footprints and of course the in-field application robotics. All of these are immediately possible even though integrating these things into businesses will take time but our connecting of research to industry has an immediate and transformative impact.

To revisit and modify an older marketing strapline: **'Eat, Drink and We're Ready'.**

13TH MAY 2021 FOOD BOARD

The Greater Lincolnshire Food Board met on 13th May 2021 to debate the transition to low carbon food chains, which is one of three agreed themes our food sector has agreed to work on in the next few years.

Following short presentations from the LEP's Energy Sector lead Duncan Botting, Matthew Smith of Alltech and Bruno Gardner of NFU EnZero, the meeting included a workshop led by the University of Lincoln to agree a set of core areas to focus on in the transition to low carbon food chains. The draft themes are:

- 1. Logistics and Cool Chain to recognise the key role transport and logistics will play in the low carbon transition;
- 2. Supply base transition to low carbon, with a focus on how our food chain companies can work with their mainly SME supply base in farming and food to develop collaborative programmes to measure and reduce their carbon footprint;
- 3. Improving the tools available to set standards and baselines so that we can measure and track carbon emissions in a standardised way across the industry.

We are very interested to understand if you agree these issues are the ones we need to focus on? Please email <u>kate.storey@lincolnshire.gov.uk</u> with any comments.





LEP BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The LEP Food Board is seeking new members to join and drive our vision for a UK Food Valley and to drive the opportunities we embrace. Please send a short cover letter and CV to <u>Kate.storey@lincolnshire.gov.uk</u> if you would like to be involved.

We would also like to pass on our thanks and best wishes to Yvonne Adam, Board Director at Grimsby-based Young's Seafood, a Greater Lincolnshire LEP Director and a member of our Food Board who is moving to pastures new. Yvonne has been a passionate ambassador for the seafood sector and we wish her all the best in her new ventures.

THE UK FOOD VALLEY PROGRAMME

The UK Food Valley programme, and website are in development - watch this space for further details of our launch programme in summer 2021.

The LEP is very pleased to announce that Mark Suthern, Head of Agriculture at Barclays Bank until May 2021, has agreed to help take the UK Food Valley to the next stage and below Mark sets out his interest in working with us on this exciting project.

Mark Suthern: 'It is an exciting time for the agri-food sector with a real focus on developing and improving productivity profitability and sustainability!

Greater Lincolnshire is home to several industry clusters right across the food value chain – from agriculture to food manufacturing, advanced agricultural and food technologies and logistics, and has a unique mix of businesses and research centres working to address the agri-food industry's key challenges through innovation and investment.

This local knowledge and expertise is complemented by a large and specialised agri-food industry workforce, supported by education providers working closely with businesses to deliver the specific skills they need. Greater Lincolnshire is further enhanced by incentivised, valueadded Food Enterprise Zones and Freeport sites and property solutions.

By bringing together the agri-food sector under the banner of the UK Food Valley we can see real opportunities to help the area deliver further growth by promoting the scale diversity and capacity of the existing "field to fork" businesses and organisations and then leveraging this to attract additional investment via collaboration and cooperation and policy support to make the UK Food Valley a global centre for agri-food. Until recently I was Managing Director & National Head of Agriculture for a major UK bank focused entirely on Farming, Landed Estates, Agri-Tech and Energy & Environment, and I am determined to help and support the GLLEP build the UK Food Valley and a key first step will be to deliver an Investment Conference later in 2021 to share the opportunities with a wider audience.'



Mark is an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers, a Fellow of the RSA, a member of the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society, a member of The Farmers Club, a Council Member with the Institute of Agricultural Management, Chair of The Board of Trustees for The Farming Community Network Charity, an External Advisor with N8 – Agri-Tech an interdisciplinary research programme for Russell Group Northern Universities, a Mentor for the Lord Henry Plumb Foundation and a member of The Ceres Investment Committee (University of Cambridge et al)







BOSTON COLLEGE OPENS NEW DIGITAL, TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS ACADEMY (DTLA)

Boston College are holding an employers' open event to celebrate the opening of the DTLA on the 16th July 9.30–13.00. Digital, Transport and Logistics focussed employers will be able to view the college's outstanding training facilities along with being able to discuss current and future training requirements with our expert staff. Booking will be essential, limited spaces available (covid secure).

For bookings and information please contact sam-l@boston.ac.uk

For more information and news stories on the Boston College Digital, Transport and Logistics Academy please click <u>here</u>

£20M BID TO LEVELLING UP FUND (LUF) FOR BOSTON TO SPALDING STRETCH OF THE A16

Lincolnshire County Council's Executive discussed an application to improve the A16, which is an important link for the agri-food industry, during their meeting on Wednesday 2nd June.

The County Council is working with Boston Borough and South Holland District Councils to address pinchpoints on the network in both Boston and Spalding, as well as looking at longer term options for route upgrades.

This recognises that 30% of the UK food transport starts or ends in the South Lincolnshire and that the industry's future requires efficient transport solutions. The low carbon transition will make this focus on efficient transport connectivity even more critical in coming years, as recognised by the Greater Lincolnshire LEP Food Board.

Decisions on which projects the government supports from the Levelling Up Fund will be known later in 2021.



YOUR NEWS & NATIONAL NEWS

REVERSE COAL, POLLYBELL AND UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

On 24th May it was announced that a pioneering project led by a North Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire farming business, Lapwing Estate Limited, has been selected as one of 24 projects nationally for Phase 1 of the **Direct Air Capture and Greenhouse Gas Removal Programme**, funded by BEIS.

REVERSE COAL: is the development of a long-term solution to store and abate carbon whilst generating food, and is led by Lapwing Energy Limited assisted with research by University of Lincoln and the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.

Reverse Coal provides long term carbon sequestration through biofuel crop production whilst mitigating negative impacts of land loss on long term food security and abating carbon dioxide emission for UK peatland. It produces short willow coppice on rewetted degraded peat soils, uses pyrolysis to produce biochar for long term storage (c. 670kg CO2e per year for each ha of biofuel crop grown) and the associated energy to power a highly productive vertical farm that produces food. Reverse Coal is unique, stores carbon, abates carbon, and generates food. Biochar generated in the process is stored in shallow layered deposits (aka Reverse Coal) that are rewetted to prevent oxidisation and permanently lock in and store carbon dioxide.

MADE GREAT IN GRIMSBY (#MGIG) WEBSITE LAUNCH

Made Great in Grimsby tells the story of one of the world's largest seafood processing and trading cluster producing thousands of fish and seafood products processed (made) in Grimsby. It explains the history, focus and dynamism of the Grimsby seafood cluster and how it sources seafood from harbours across the UK, as well as being the largest processor of imported fish and seafood, which has been sustainably sourced from all over the World. The new website is available <u>here</u>.

CONSULTATIONS



England's Larder the Future of Geographical Indication (GI) for Speciality Foods

From Cornish pasties to Wensleydale cheese, Cumberland sausages to Melton Mowbray pork pies, there are a feast of British treats whose geographical status is rightly protected, meaning poor imitations cannot threaten their reputation for excellence.

Now, the UK's newest food group, Food from England, is lending its support to plans to expand and develop this so-called Geographical Indication (GI) scheme by getting the nation's foodies involved. The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Geographically Protected Foods has launched a consultation for consumers, producers and retailers to ask them how the scheme can be improved. The results will be shared with the Government.

Food from England, which was launched back in November after being created from over 30 regional groups jointly representing more than 40,000 producers, is relishing the opportunity to ensure that the country's finest delicacies are further safeguarded against inferior copies, while also playing its part in helping to identify more tasty treats and tipples to add to the GI list.

Food from England co-founder, Rachel Mallows MBE, who runs member group 'Made In Northamptonshire', says inviting the nation's food lovers to have their say on the future of the scheme, thanks to the public consultation recently announced by the Government's All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Geographically Protected Foods, is an exciting step in enhancing Britain's place on the global culinary map.

"We're also delighted that, with just 65 GI products here in the UK compared with France's 217 and the Italian's'267, we can all help to identify more products to be included in the scheme.

Those are sentiments echoed by the All-Party Parliamentary Group's founder and Chair and MP for Rutland and Melton, Alicia Kearns, who wants everyone to contribute: "It is vital that we make the GI scheme even better so that local food producers can take advantage of new opportunities at home and abroad all of us can support our wonderful heritage foods".







PROMOTION

AUTOMATION IN FOOD PROCESSING IN THE GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT

Greater Lincolnshire's expertise in food processing automation has been showcased to the world by the Department for International Trade (DIT).

The <u>Greater Lincolnshire High Potential</u> <u>Opportunity (HPO) for Automation in</u> <u>Food Processing</u> has been launched by the DIT Network via two webinars which were attended by 50 people across multiple countries and time zones.

Martin Collison and Jane Lycett, agrifood specialists at the <u>Greater</u> <u>Lincolnshire Local Enterprise</u> <u>Partnership</u> and the DIT Midlands team respectively, presented the HPO to embassies around the world to help them understand the investment opportunity in Greater Lincolnshire and to inform their discussions with investors.

"The HPO and the region's new <u>Agrifood Investment Proposition</u> are generating significant interest for businesses looking to locate to Greater Lincolnshire," said Sarah Louise Fairburn, Deputy Chair of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP and Chair of its Food Board.

"Further discussions have already taken place with DIT Posts in America and Thailand, a targeted list of global companies has been compiled and meetings have already begun with high tech automation and robotics businesses that are looking to locate to the UK and to our region."

Karen Seal, Principal Officer for Place and Investment at Lincolnshire County Council, said: "The HPO is putting Lincolnshire on a global stage and, with the help and support of DIT, we are attracting interest from a lot of businesses that will help us to futureproof the agri-food sector.

"There's a wealth of transferrable skills and technologies between automation and robotics within the agri-food sector and other industries, which creates more opportunities and helps us to address labour supply shortages."

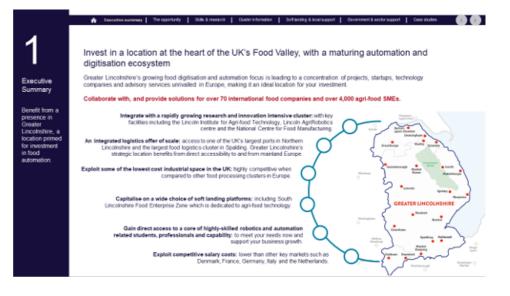
Councillor Colin Davie, Executive Councillor for Economic Development at Lincolnshire County Council, said: "Automation and robotics in the food sector in Greater Lincolnshire was chosen by the Government as one of 19 new investment opportunities across the UK last year.

"Along with the announcement of new freeports for the Humber and East Midlands Airport, Greater Lincolnshire is an incredibly attractive area for investment. Together with the LEP, the county council is playing a lead role, alongside fellow Team Lincolnshire ambassadors, in unlocking this potential and pushing for and utilising Government funding to grow our economy."

The High Potential Opportunities (HPO) scheme aims to increase inward investment into the UK with the help of DIT's global network based in 177 cities around the world.

The next steps include an online webinar for potential investors on 16th September 2021 and the inperson <u>FPC Future 2021 Conference</u> at the Lincolnshire Showground on 4th November 2021 which potential investors can attend as part of an inward mission.

A focus on internationalisation and positioning Greater Lincolnshire's UK Food Valley as a top 10 global food cluster is a key part of the LEP's agrifood strategy, building on the presence in Greater Lincolnshire of many leading global food companies.







PROMOTION

BARCLAYS EAGLE LAB AGRITECH ACCELERATOR FINAL

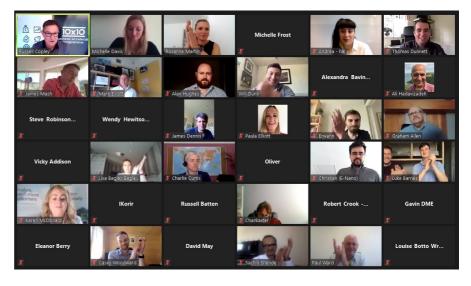
On 27th May, 12 early-stage AgriTech businesses from across the UK pitched for a range of cash and other prizes in front of a live audience. The pitching finale was the culmination of 11 weeks of intense business support as part of the University of Lincoln's AgriTech Accelerator, supported by Barclays Eagle Labs and delivered by Lincolnshire business accelerator specialists, 10x10.

Having been through 30 hours of workshops, 4 Masterclasses, an Ask the Expert panel session and several hours of specialist mentoring from experienced AgriTech professionals the businesses were put through their paces. Each business had 5 minutes to pitch, "Dragons Den" style, to a panel of 4 judges drawn from the University, Barclays Bank, Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub and an experienced AgriTech entrepreneur.

At the end of the pitches the judges had the tricky decision to decide who should win the prizes. Winning £2,500 was third placed Casey Woodward from AgriSound - an early stage business that uses acoustic monitoring as a means of measuring and predicting behaviour in bee hives. Picking up £5,000 for second prize was Will Dunn from AgDrive who have developed an app to help farmers and farm contractors to manage, monitor and account for their work. And finally, picking up a cheque for £10,000 was Alan Hughes from Farming Solutions in Shropshire.

Alan has developed a number of farming innovations including a novel badger-proof cattle feeder that helps to control bovine TB.

As one of the participants said "this has been the best business support programme EVER!"



4TH JUNE MIDLANDS` ENGINE FOOD GROUP

On 4th June Prof Simon Pearson of the University of Lincoln, Jonathan Oldfield of Moy Park and Martin Collison, LEP Agrifood Advisor, joined partners from across the Midlands to discuss the potential to start a Midlands Engine Food Group. The group is chaired by Ian Noble of Mondelez and includes industry, academia and LEPs.

The group is intended to both promote the food industry and bring partners together to bid for projects through the Midlands Engine, Midlands Connect which focuses on transport connectivity and other regional initiatives.





PROMOTION & FUTURE EVENTS

19TH MAY DIT EVENT

On 19th May Karen Seal, LEP lead on investment and Martin Collison, LEP AgriFood lead, briefed the DIT national teams for food, agriculture and linked technology on the scale of the agrifood sector in Greater Lincolnshire and the opportunities for investors in the UK Food Valley.

This has already led to follow up meetings with overseas DIT teams and investors from North America and Thailand and we hope to have announcements to make on investments and partnerships which have resulted from this in the coming months. The presentation built on the region's new <u>Agrifood</u> <u>Investment Proposition.</u>

29TH MAY CHINA BRITAIN BUSINESS COUNCIL EVENT

On 29th May Assoc. Professor Janet Bellamy from NCFM and LEP Agrifood Advisor, Martin Collison spoke at a China Britain Business Council (CBBC) event to link the large food cluster in Greater Lincolnshire to Nanjing thriving food and technology cluster in a UK-China Modern Food Science and Technology Webinar.

Dealing with both the potential for food sector growth and the technology that will underpin this, the webinar is hoped to be the first stage in a partnership between the knowledge and commercial base in both regions.

MEET THE BUYER B2B EVENT FOR FOOD PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY AND SUPPLIES

Working with Make UK, the national body for UK manufacturing, the LEP is planning to hold a B2B Meet the Buyer event in September 2021 to help SMEs and larger companies who have products or services which can be used by food producers to meet larger buyers in the industry, such as large food manufacturers. This approach has been used successfully in other industries, such as defence, but will be a new concept for the food industry.

Food company buyers attend the event, which will be held online, free

of charge. If you lead a food business we would be interested in discussing how this could work for you. The only commitment is to identify the types of needs you have in advance and to make your buying or technical teams available on the day of the event to meet with potential suppliers.

Potential suppliers with technology or products to supply to food sector companies, will be charged a small fee to receive facilitated introductions to pre-accredited potential customers. You will then be matched up with buyers who we know in advance are looking for the type of products or services you supply. In other industries this has worked very well and led to long term business relationships.

For more information or contribute suggestions on what you would like to see included in such a B2B event for the food industry, please contact: Charlotte Horobin, Region Director – Midlands & East of England Make UK at <u>chorobin@makeuk.org</u>





FUTURE EVENTS

Greater Lincolnshire is hosting two major food chain events in the next few months:

CEREALS EVENT

Lincolnshire 30th June and 1st July 2021

<u>Welcome - Cereals 2021 - Your</u> <u>Industry. Your Arable Event</u> (cerealsevent.co.uk)

The Cereals Event returns to Lincolnshire on 30th June and 1st July just South of Lincoln at Boothby Graffoe. The event features many companies, seminars and demonstrations as a must visit event for the UK arable sector.

The event is open:

Wednesday, 30th June 2021 8:00am – 6:00pm

Thursday, 1st July 2021 8:00am – 5:00pm

FPC FUTURE AND FPC CAREERS



Lincolnshire Showground / 4th November

FPC Future, on 4 November 2021 at the Lincolnshire Showground, is the agritech event for the fresh produce and flower industry and houses an exhibition, conference, working displays and tours of the University of Lincoln's specialist facilities at its Riseholme Campus.

Exhibitors at FPC Future will be organisations who supply the industry with technologies to help businesses keep up to date with this fast-developing sector. FPC Future will showcase all that is new right now and also what the future promises. Visitors will be able see how new technologies can help them become more efficient, increase productivity and help their workforce.

The conference programme is an extensive one with eight conference sessions covering pre and post farm robotics and automation, data driven technologies, plastics and packaging, supply chain waste, carbon supply chains, vertical farming and sustainability. There is also a theatre dedicated to exhibitor presentations where exhibitors can present their latest offerings to a captive audience. This, coupled with the facility for working displays gives exhibiting companies a unique opportunity to ensure their products and services are seen.

The tours of the University of Lincoln's Riseholme Campus will provide a fantastic opportunity for visitors to see first-hand the technological developments that this institution is carrying out. Visitors will have the chance to view robotic harvesting of strawberries, a state of the art refrigeration unit, along with other facilities supporting projects in artificial intelligence, robotics and engineering.

More than 60 leading edge organisations are now participating in FPC Future as exhibitors, sponsors or speakers. There are still a lot of participating opportunities available. To find out more please contact <u>linda@freshproduce.org.uk</u> or visit <u>www.fpcfuture.co.uk</u>

FPC Future is co-located with FPC Careers, the careers event for fresh produce and horticulture where undergraduates and postgraduates will be able to meet those companies with vacancies to fill and looking for fresh talented young people.





AGRITECH & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

THE 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 at: LAR@lincoln.ac.uk; or for Innovate UK enquiries at the University of Lincoln: JBootmarshall@lincoln.ac.uk.

AGRITECH AND FOOD FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC): Recovery, renewal and resilience in a post-pandemic world

Apply for funding to investigate how COVID-19 will affect society in the medium and long term.

Your proposal must address key gaps in our understanding to help:

- reduce the pandemic's effect on society
- support recovery and renewal.

Further information can be found <u>here</u>

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council: Horticultural Quality and Food Loss Network applications

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, as part of UK Research and Innovation, invites applications for its quality and food loss network. This supports projects addressing key issues in the area of food quality and losses which will strengthen the quality, collaborative, including industry involvement, and cross-disciplinary nature of future innovative and novel grant proposals to UKRI-BBSRC.

For more information visit

European Joint Programme Soil, EU: Climate-smart management of agricultural soils

The European Joint Programme Soil invites applications for its first external call – towards climate-sm art management of agricultural soils. This supports the development of sustainable agricultural soil management solutions contributing to key societal challenges, including climate change and future food supply. Projects should focus on one of the following topics:

- understanding soil carbon storage sequestration;
- soil biodiversity;
- site-specific or landscape-scale approaches to improve sustainability, resilience, health and productivity of soils.

For more information visit

SMART Agri- Hubs EU: Expand the Network

The Smart Agri Hubs invites applications for its expand the network call. This supports activities to realise innovation experiments, mobilise stakeholders and facilitate access to competence centre related services to promote digital innovation in agri-food that will be realised in their own region or together with other regions.

For more information visit





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