

Funding For Your Business or Project

Below you will find details of different options to fund your business or project. These include private and government grants, loans, mortgages and crowdfunding. However, this is not a complete list and does not take into account what grants might be available in your local area, so it's always best to check there first.

Search Locally ...

Some of your local public and private organisations often have funding pots that aren't well publicised online. Finding the right person to talk with is often the challenge, so we've given some suggestions on whom to ask for when you're making contact. Don't give up. Until you find someone who talks knowledgably about funding, you probably haven't found the right person yet.

All councils have someone, often whole departments, responsible for businesses, local good causes, the local economy, local food, the local environment, local health. Councils apply for lots of different funding pots, depending on what their priorities are.

Often these funding pots are set up as separate projects, with their own staff and their own website, so finding details can be tricky. These funds don't usually come with big advertising budgets, so you need to talk with the right person / team or be part of the right networks.

Your local council

You can start by asking what funding the council has for helping farms, other businesses, social enterprises, community groups, charities etc. Once you know the name of the funding, you need to find the team responsible for managing it and talk directly with them. Sign up to their newsletters, follow them on social media or connect with key staff on LinkedIn.

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Your Local Enterprise Partnership

All council districts have been set up into Local Enterprise Partnerships or LEP's. These are partnerships between local authorities and businesses. They decide what the priorities should be for investment in your area and they bid for funding to meet those priorities. Ask them what funding they have to support your kind of organisation and find the right person to talk with. They will have their own website and you may find many of the right people on LinkedIn. You can find your local LEP here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-enterprise-partnerships-map> - sign up to any newsletters.

Your local Chamber of Commerce

Many areas have their own Chamber of Commerce(CoC), part of the British Chamber of Commerce network. CoC's are membership organisations which work on behalf of their members - local businesses. They often apply for funding which assists their members and the business community locally. Find out what funding they've applied for and the person dealing with it. Find your local CoC here <https://www.britishchambers.org.uk/page/join-a-chamber> and sign up to their newsletters.

Your local Federation of Small Businesses

A national business support membership organisation which also applies for funding. Sign up to their newsletter & search their website <https://www.fsb.org.uk/>

Local colleges & universities

Further education (FE) institutions will often apply for their own funding to help support businesses.

Local or national specialist learning & research centres

Do you have any specialist Centres of Excellence, research institutes, technical colleges or centres in your local area? If so, they might have funding unique to them.

National sector organisations

Those organisations focused on your sector e.g. farming, health, social enterprise, . These could be membership organisations, governing bodies or sector skills councils. They may have funding themselves and they should be aware of funding available to your sector.

Your local Community Foundation

Community Foundations offer support and funding for community groups, non-profits, social enterprises, charities etc. They have the latest news on what funding and support is available for your organisation. Find your local Community Foundation here <https://www.ukcommunityfoundations.org/our-network>

Online Funding Finders

- GrantNav <https://grantnav.threesixtyg> A free database detailing funds that have been awarded by many different funders. Search key phrases like 'food', 'market garden' 'farm' etc. to find out who has funded and for what.
- Charity Excellence <https://www.charityexcellen> A free funding finder database, simply register.
- Funds Online <https://fundsonline.org.uk/> It's a database with over 8,000 funders - you must pay a weekly or annual subscription fee.
- Get Grants <https://www.getgrants.org.uk> A free online grant funding finder (a bit limited).
- Grantfinder <https://www.grantfinder.co> Grant funding database - subscription required. Some British Libraries offer free access, check here <https://www.bl.uk/business-and-ip-centre/>
- My Funding Central <https://www.myfundingcent> A funding database for charities and voluntary organisations identify funding opportunities - £50 per year or free if turnover less than £30000.

Private Funders

Funder	Fund Name	Web link	Closing date	Who is eligible	Amount	Purpose
Access - The Foundation For Social Investment	Reach Fund	https://www.reachfund.org.uk/what-reach-fund	not stated	charities, social enterprises	avg £11.2k	A grant programme that helps charities and social enterprises raise investment. Social investors are often approached by charities and social enterprises who require extra, final stage support to raise investment. Social investors can refer these to the Reach Fund.

Angling Trust and the Environment Agency	The Get Fishing Fund	https://anglingtrust.net/funding/get-fishing-fund/	05/03/2023	Angling Clubs, Fisheries, Organisations, Schools, Local Authorities or Charities	£2.5k max	To encourage more people to give fishing a go for the first time in 2023. Funded from fishing licence sales, grants of up to £2,500 are available to benefit angling-based projects. The funding could be used to help purchase equipment, fishing tackle and resources to run fishing events and activities to give people the opportunity to get into fishing.
Biffa	Biffa Award - Building Biodiversity	https://www.biffa-award.org/rebuilding-biodiversity/	not stated	charity or not-for-profit organisations	£10-75k	Projects under the Rebuilding Biodiversity theme support a variety of living things, including all species of plants and animals and the natural systems/habitats that support them. Work can include habitat improvement works, tree surgery, scrub removal, and the purchase of plants, seeds and trees. At British Airways, we're on a journey to create a better, more sustainable future. We call it BA Better World. It means we're putting sustainability at the heart of our business.
British Airways	BA Community Fund	https://bacommunityfund.co.uk/	not stated	charity or social enterprise over 1 year old	£15k max (+ crowdfunding)	At British Airways, we're on a journey to create a better, more sustainable future. We call it BA Better World. It means we're putting sustainability at the heart of our business.
CLA Charitable Trust	grant	https://www.cla.org.uk/about-cla/charitable-trust/	26/04/23 + 31/08/23	Small and medium sized charities and not for profit organisations such as CIC's	not stated	We support charitable organisations that access the benefits of the countryside to pursue the health and wellbeing of people and to provide opportunities for education about the countryside in England and Wales. Priority areas being children and young people, disadvantaged financially, physically, mentally, or from areas of deprivation.
Co-Op & Community Finance	loan funding	https://coopfinance.coop/	n/a	employee or community-owned social enterprises, incorporated bodies	varies	Supportive loan finance to help people take control of their economic lives and create social benefit

Co-Operative Fund	Carbon Innovation Fund	https://www.coopfoundation.org.uk/how-we-fund/carbon-innovation-fund/	28/02/2023	see link	£75-£200k	Round Two of the Carbon Innovation Fund will deliver against the sustainability element of our youth-led vision and strategy by focusing on creating a more equitable and sustainable food and farming industry.
Crowdfunder	crowdfunding	https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/social-farms-and-gardens	n/a	any organisation or individual	n/a	Crowdfunder is working with UK charity Social Farms & Gardens to help community gardens, city farms, care farms and other community green spaces get back on their feet after what's been an extremely difficult two years. If you're a charity-run farm, garden or green space that wants to get involved, we're offering zero platform fees.
Delamere Dairy Foundation	Grant	https://delameredairyfoundation.org.uk/	31/08/2023	groups or organisations that are "not for profit"; such as charities, community groups and social enterprises	£250-5k	The advancement of agriculture and of environmental protection The advancement in life of young people by developing their capabilities so that they may mature as contributory members of society The relief of financial hardship The advancement of education The relief of sickness
Ecology Building Society	mortgages	https://www.ecology.co.uk/about-us/	n/a	residential, community & commercial mortgages for self-build, off-site build, moorings, woodland, renovation, conversion, buy-to-let, shared ownership	not stated	We're dedicated to building a greener society by providing mortgages for properties and projects that respect the environment and support sustainable communities
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	Our Natural World	https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/our-support/grants/	not stated	not stated	unrestricted	nature-friendly farming, fishing in tandem with nature, fresh clean & healthy freshwater, space for nature & peat

Fareshare	Surplus with Purpose Fund	https://fareshare.org.uk/giving-food/about-the-fareshare-surplus-with-purpose-fund/	not stated	growers, farmers, producers, pack houses, processors, co-packers, importers, wholesalers, retailers	not stated	FareShare's pioneering Surplus with Purpose scheme works with businesses across the food industry to help cover the extra costs of redistributing their unsold food to people who need it and preparing unfinished surplus food for redistribution.
Garfield Weston Foundation	Grant	https://garfieldweston.org/	not stated	charities , CIO, Housing Associations - must be over 1 year	usually under £100,000	We support a wide range of charities that make a positive difference, working in different sectors in the UK. These include welfare, youth, community, environment, education. health. arts. heritage and faith.
Heritage Fund	Grant	https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding	not stated	not-for-profit organisations or a private owner of heritage	from £3,000 up to millions of pounds	Heritage can be anything from the past that you value and want to pass on to future generations.
John Ellerman Foundation	Arts, Evironment & Social Action	https://ellerman.org.uk/apply-for-funding/what-we-fund	not stated	Looking for national impact projects from charities with turnover of £100K+	not stated	We aim to advance the wellbeing of people, society and the natural world by focusing on the arts, environment and social action. We believe these areas can make an important contribution to wellbeing.
NFU Mutual	NFU Mutual Charitable Trust	https://www.nfumutual.co.uk/about-us/charitable-trust/applications-for-funding/	26/05/23 + 27/10/23	not stated	not stated	Multiple objective - see website https://www.nfumutual.co.uk/about-us/charitable-trust/
Power To Change Trust	Community Shares Booster	https://www.powertochange.org.uk/our-work/our-programmes/community-shares-booster/	not stated	community businesses	average £5k development grant + equity match investment funding	To support new and existing community businesses in England that are at all stages of a community share issue. This includes the very early stages of exploring whether it's the right choice, through planning a community share issue to
Real Farming Trust	Loans for Enlightened Agriculture Programme (LEAP)	https://realfarming.org/programmes/leap/	n/a	CIC's.CIO's, CBS's. coops, CLG's	£20-100k	The Loans for Enlightened Agriculture Programme (LEAP) supports small-scale agroecological food and farming enterprises with funding and business mentoring. LEAP offers a mix of loan and grant.

Social Investment Business	loan funding	https://www.sibgroup.org.uk/funding/	n/a	charities & social enterprises	varies	various options - see link
SUEZ Communities Trust (f. SITA)	Landfill Communities Fund	https://www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk/	not stated	not-for-profit organisations	£50k max	The Fund will consider projects which focus on long lasting physical improvements at a specified site or amenity. Funding is typically awarded for the purchase of materials, equipment and the appointment of a contractor to undertake the improvement work. We do not fund staff posts, organisational running costs, training, events, vehicles or projects on school sites.
Tesco	Community Grant	https://tescocommunitygrants.org.uk/	not stated	voluntary or community organisations (including registered charities/companies), schools, health bodies (e.g. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS Hospital Trust, Foundation Trust),	£1500 max	Tesco Community Grants fund thousands of local community projects across the UK, helping to fight holiday hunger, tackle mental health, support young people, host community events and much more.
The Fore	The Fore Summer 2023 Funding Round	https://thefore.org/applying-for-funding/	opens Summer 2023	registered Charities, Charitable Incorporated Organisations, Community Interest Companies, or Community Benefit Societies Your annual revenue should be less than £500k	£30k max	The Fore offers unrestricted grants of up to £30,000 spread over 1-3 years which have the potential to have a transformational impact on an organisation. Our funding might help your organisation to grow or scale your work, increase your internal capacity, serve new beneficiary groups, become more sustainable or more efficient.
The Foyle Foundation	Small Grants Scheme	http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk/small-grants-scheme/	not stated	established charities	£2-10k	

The Leathersellers Company	Small Grants Programme	https://leathersellers.co.uk/small-grants-programme/	not stated	charities registered and operating in the UK (including Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO) but not Community Interest Companies (CIC) - with annual income less than £200k	£5k max	To provide assistance to vulnerable people in their community in geographical areas of deprivation (within the UK) – we recognise all relative measures of deprivation as tracked by the Indices of Deprivation or similar tools. We ask you who your work helps and why this is needed for that group or in that area so you can explain the need that exists there.
The National Lottery	Reaching Communities England	https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/reaching-communities-england#section-2	not stated	Voluntary or community organisation, CIO, CIC, CLG, school, local authority, town /parish / community council, community benefit society, co-operative society, group of organisations	£10k+ for up to 5 years	We fund projects that work to make positive changes in their community. By community, we mean people living in the same area, or people with similar interests or life experiences. We like to see projects that can test new In order to support communities, we fund projects and organisations which aim to: 1) build strong relationships in and across communities 2) improve the places and spaces that matter to communities 3) help more people to reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage 4) support people, communities and organisations that are facing increased demands and challenges as a direct result of the cost-of-living crisis.
The National Lottery	Awards For All	https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england#section-4	not stated	voluntary or community organisations	£300-10k	
The Naturesave Trust	grant	https://www.naturesave.co.uk/naturesave-trust/funding-guidelines-naturesave-trust/	various	charities, voluntary organisations or businesses	£500-5000	Different funding windows support different issues.

The People's Postcode Lottery	grant		see website	voluntary groups, CLG's, CIC's, charities, CBS's	£500-25k	Many themes including 'Improving green spaces and increasing access to the outdoors', 'Improving biodiversity and responding to the climate emergency' & 'Preventing or reducing the impact of poverty'
The Prince's Countryside Fund	Supporting Rural Communities	https://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/how-we-help/rural-communities/	opens 07/03/23 & closes 07/04/23	properly constituted, not for profit organisations with an income of less than £500,000 - projects taking place in villages and towns in rurally isolated areas, where access to services is limited.	£25k max	The Prince's Countryside Fund remains one of very few funders focused on rural communities across the UK. Our experience shows that, by working with local organisations, we can help to address the challenges faced by those who live and work in rural areas. Supporting Rural Communities is our flagship grant programme, awarding £500,000 each year to power community-led solutions that enhance the viability and sustainability of rural communities. Whether you want to convert to organic, refinance, or invest in growth, renewables and diversification, we can help.
Triodos Bank	Business Lending - Agriculture Loan	https://www.triodos.co.uk/business-lending/large-loans/agriculture	n/a	businesses	£20m max	Our approach to sustainable banking means we only lend money deposited with us without borrowing from other banks, so we're in a strong financial position.
Triodos Bank	loan funding for organic food	https://www.triodos.co.uk/sectors-we-finance/organic-food	n/a	farm shops, organic retailers, cafes, producers, farmers, veg box schemes etc.	varies	actively supports food
Triodos Bank	loan funding for organic farming	https://www.triodos.co.uk/sectors-we-finance/organic-farming	n/a	farms, seed producers etc.	varies	actively supports food

Triodos Bank	Raising Capital directly from investors (crowdfunding)	https://www.triodos.co.uk/raising-capital/	n/a	certain start-ups, businesses, charities, social enterprises	£250k-£10m	What unites our clients is their positive impact on people and the planet and the fact that their values and ethos are aligned with ours. This can be subjective but if we feel that a prospective client is seeking to bring about positive change then we're open to engaging with them to see if we can help. At
UK Agricultural Finance	Loan	https://www.ukagriculturalfinance.com/	n/a	sole traders, partnerships (English or Scottish), limited liability partnerships, limited companies, PLCs and pension funds	£100k-£10m (secured on land & buildings)	We are an innovative and flexible lender dedicated to the UK's agricultural sector. Our loans are secured on agricultural land and property, with funds available for any credible business purpose.
Vegware Community Fund	grant	https://www.vegwarecommunityfund.org/	31/08/2023	non-profits	£20-200 per month	Supports sustainability in its widest sense, including the built and natural environment, and community projects, by offering monthly grants or a regular donation of Vegware's eco packaging. Loan funding available to UK farmers to support the industry's need to adapt their businesses to reduce their emissions and support their transition to net zero.
Virgin Money	Virgin Money Agri E Fund	https://uk.virginmoney.com/borrower-money/helping-farmers-create-a-greener-future/	not stated	UK farmers	varies	The fund will provide low cost loans to UK farmers to invest in adaptations to their business to reduce on-farm emissions, helping them to become more efficient and

Regional Funders

Forever Manchester	various	https://forevermanchester.com/funding-and-support/	not stated	Not-for-profit community groups, CIC's, Charities or CLG's	not stated	Forever Manchester cares about those people who care enough to act. We champion local people doing extraordinary things to make our communities thrive.
City Bridge Trust	Small Grant + Food Poverty schemes	https://www.citybridgetrust.org.uk/funding	not stated	charities, CIC's, charitable companies, IPS, BenCom	varies	Supports food growing & food distribution projects in London

Harpur Trust	small grants	https://www.harpurtrust.org.uk/grants	various	must meet objectives of the organisation	not stated	Our grants to organisations must fit one or more of the following charitable objects: education, relief of poverty, sickness or distress recreation with a social welfare purpose
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Government Funding

Defra & UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)	The Farming Innovation Programme - Research Starter Round 3	https://farminginnovation.ukri.org/	8th March 2023	farmers, growers and foresters in England.	share of up to £850k	The programme's aims are to: help farmers, growers and foresters increase productivity, sustainability and resilience reduce the environmental impact of agriculture and horticulture apply agricultural research to provide real benefits for farmers, growers and foresters use science to develop solutions for the practical challenges in agriculture and horticulture To get funding, you must work in collaboration with a team.
Innovate UK	Better Food For All - Innovation for Improved Nutrition, Early Starter, Mid-Stage, Late-Stage	https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1419/overview/bf643697-317d-4ffa-b1c4-d5874fd18999	29th March 2023	registered business, charity, not-for-profit, academic institution, RTO, public sector organisation	share of up to £20m	The aim of this competition is to support UK registered businesses in the development of innovative solutions to address significant nutrition challenges.
UK gov	Tree health pilot scheme	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-health-pilot-scheme	none stated	landowner, tenant, occupier, landlord, licensor, land agent, charity, local council etc. In North West, West Midlands, South East or London	varies	see weblink

UK gov	Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-for-farmers-in-protected-landscapes	Project must end by March 2024	farmers and land managers within an AONB or National Park in England, or the Broads	not stated	<p>It will offer funding to farmers and land managers in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), National Parks and the Broads. It is not an agri-environment scheme.</p> <p>The programme will fund projects that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) support nature recovery 2) mitigate the impacts of climate change 3) provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage 4) protect or improve the quality and character of the landscape or place
UK gov	Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme (NCPGS)	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nature-for-climate-peatland-grant-scheme	Project must end by March 2025	environmental groups, local authorities, charities, public bodies, individual landowners and organisations	none stated	<p>The Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme (NCPGS) provides funding to restore peatlands in the uplands and lowlands of England. It is a competitive grant scheme that will run until 2025.</p> <p>Application criteria</p> <p>Natural England is looking for landscape scale applications that work to restore the whole hydrological unit of a peatland. This is likely to involve a number of sites and landowners, so applications from partnerships or substantial land holdings are encouraged.</p>

UK gov	Sustainable Farming Incentive	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-farming-incentive-how-the-scheme-will-work-in-2022	none stated	farmers	varies	<p>SFI aims to help farmers manage land in a way that improves food production and is more environmentally sustainable.</p> <p>Farmers will be paid to provide public goods, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) improved water quality 2) biodiversity 3) climate change mitigation 4) animal health and welfare
UK gov	Basic Payment Scheme (BPS)	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/basic-payment-scheme	none stated	<p>Farmers with at least 5 hectares of agricultural land and 5 'entitlements' can apply. Some businesses are not allowed to claim if they carry out certain business activities.</p>	none stated	<p>The Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) is the biggest of the rural grants and payments that provide help to the farming industry. Farmers apply once a year - between March and May - and payments begin in December. Farmers with at least 5 hectares of agricultural land and 5 'entitlements' can apply. Some businesses are not allowed to claim if they carry out certain business activities.</p> <p>There are some rules about what you can and cannot do with your land if you claim BPS.</p> <p>If you're an arable farmer you might need to grow 3 different crops and use 5% of your land to do specific things that are good for the environment. Farmers will need to make decisions about what to do with their land so that they can follow the rules. If you claim BPS you must also follow the cross compliance rules.</p>

UK gov	Improving the health of soils	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/a-summary-of-the-sfi-in-2022	none stated	farmers	none stated	<p>The Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) is the first of 3 new environmental schemes being introduced under the Agricultural Transition Plan. The other 2 schemes are Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery. SFI aims to help farmers manage land in a way that improves food production and is more environmentally sustainable.</p> <p>Farmers will be paid to provide public goods, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) improved water quality 2) biodiversity 3) climate change mitigation 4) animal health and welfare <p>In 2022, SFI aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) encourage actions that improve soil health 2) recognise how moorland provides benefits to the public (public goods) 3) improve animal health and welfare by helping farmers with the costs of veterinary advice for livestock <p>In 2022, farmers who are eligible for BPS can apply for money from SFI to identify and assess the environmental features of their moorland.</p>
UK gov	Understanding moorland	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/a-summary-of-the-sfi-in-2022				

UK gov	Managing habitats, woodlands, flood risk and reducing water pollution	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/countryside-stewardship	not stated	farmers, foresters and land managers	varies	<p>You can apply for Countryside Stewardship (CS) to get paid to look after and improve the environment. Applications are open until 2023 (for agreements starting in 2024).</p> <p>Environmental Stewardship (ES) agreements are not open to new applicants. If you have an existing ES agreement you can switch to CS, SFI and LNR agreements from 1 January 2023 without penalty.</p>
UK gov	Making space for nature on farms and in the countryside	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-nature-recovery-more-information-on-how-the-scheme-will-work/local-nature-recovery-more-information-on-how-the-scheme-will-work#what-we-will-pay-for	not stated	farmers, foresters and other land managers	not stated	<p>Through Local Nature Recovery, farmers will be able to contribute to important national priorities, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) reversing the decline in biodiversity 2) improving water quality 3) net zero 4) building the resilience of the environment to climate change 5) improving air quality 6) natural flood management 7) coastal erosion risk mitigation 8) heritage and access
UK gov	Woodland Creation Planning Grant	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-creation-planning-grant	not stated	Landowners, land managers and public bodies (other than Forestry England)	£30k max	Landowners, land managers and public bodies (other than Forestry England) can apply to the Forestry Commission to support the design of new woodland under the Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG).
Forestry Commission	Urban Tree Challenge Fund	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/urban-tree-challenge-fund	not stated	Anyone with consent	min £10k	To support the planting and establishment of standard trees in urban and peri-urban areas in England.

UK gov	Protect Improve Expand Sustain (PIES) Offer	https://sylva.org.uk/pies	not stated	Landowners in England	not stated	<p>The PIES project (Protect Improve Expand Sustain) is supporting landowners across England who want to care for their land to enhance its environmental condition and deliver goods and services for the benefit of everyone.</p> <p>The PIES project includes a network of independent forestry agents that is able to offer high-quality and standardised advice to landowners across England. Landowners taking part in the project will receive subsidised support, including one-to-one advice, plus ongoing online support and technical services.</p>
Defra	Farming Innovation Programme: Research Starter Round 3. EoI	https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1446/overview/391c3c0c-d1c0-412c-8931-7939784cda58	08/03/2023	Farming, growing or forestry businesses	varies	<p>The aim of this competition is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) investigate early-stage solutions with the potential to substantially improve overall productivity, sustainability, resilience and move existing agricultural sectors to net zero 2) prioritise solutions that have positive outputs for farmers, growers or foresters in commercially relevant situations 3) accelerate development of effective new agricultural solutions by working with end-users and collaborating with the wider UK research community in the innovation process