

**Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum policy conference:
Next steps for technology, innovation and AI in UK agriculture**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 11th December 2025

*****Taking place online*****

Draft agenda subject to change



- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **The UK's agri-tech sector and opportunities for the future**
Professor Simon Pearson, Head, School of Agri-Food Technology and Manufacturing, and Director, Lincoln Institute for Agri-Food Technology, University of Lincoln
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Priorities for development, investment and commercialisation in the agri-tech industry**
opportunities following the Industrial Strategy / coordination across funding streams and incentives / broadening access to growth finance and research facilities / supporting rollout of proven technologies / pathways for commercialisation and scale-up / advancing net zero and biodiversity aims / status and timing of secondary legislation under the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act 2023 / regulatory priorities and market entry / access to facilities and infrastructure / coordination across research, industry and farmers / aligning with devolved approaches and regional participation
Senior representative, investment
Senior representative, consultancy
Senior representative, research
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, farming
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Progress and next steps for technology, innovation and AI in agriculture**
Professor Anjali Goswami, Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and Honorary Professor, Department of Genetics, Evolution and Environment, UCL
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.15 **The future for AI and automation development and governance**
assessing the role of data and digital tech in enabling targeted, efficient and resilient systems / transparency, clarity in decision-making and public engagement / integration of AI in yield optimisation and efficient use of fertiliser, water and crop protection / improving reliability and assurance / implications of robotics and automation for addressing labour shortages / governance, liability and insurance for autonomous systems / regulatory sandboxes and testbeds / cybersecurity and operational resilience / alignment across UK, devolved and international frameworks / compliance and oversight for AI and gene-editing
Senior representative, AI
Senior representative, automation
Senior representative, legal
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 **Strategies for collaboration and supporting adoption of novel technologies**
Senior representative, innovation
- 12.05 **Addressing challenges in scaling up innovation, improving skills and engaging farmers**
routes to adoption for smaller and diverse farm types / widening on-farm trials and peer-to-peer exchange / improving access for farmers facing cost constraints / integrating digital skills into education and training / transition support where automation affects employment / priorities for rural connectivity and interoperable data systems / frameworks for data ownership, privacy and benefit-sharing / data sovereignty and cross-border data flows / trust, communication and community engagement / coordination between local, devolved and UK-wide programmes
Senior representative, farming
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, skills
Senior representative, data
Senior representative, local authority
- 12.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Jessica Lear, Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum