Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum policy conference:
Next steps for agri-tech in England - innovation, AI, adoption and commercialisation
Timing: Morning, Monday, 18th January 2027
*****Taking Place Online*****

WESTMINSTER FOOD & NUTRITION FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

9.05 **Agri-tech in England - key developments, adoption and commercial development**
Steve McLean, CEO, UK Agri-Tech Centre
Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 **Farm adoption of new technology - practical considerations for agricultural businesses**
Charlotte Nott, Science and Innovation Adviser, National Farmers' Union

9.40 **Investment in agri-tech adoption - finance, costs and factors affecting commercial viability**
costs, returns and evidence for farm businesses | access to finance and ownership models | Capital Grants, equipment funding and support for smaller and tenanted farms | experience of SFI26 and design of SFI27 | agricultural property relief and long-term investment | adoption barriers across farm sizes, sectors and tenures | energy costs, grid connections and infrastructure requirements | commercial viability for developers, routes to market and scale-up | manufacturing capacity and supply chain constraints
Tom Allen-Stevens, Managing Director, British On-Farm Innovation Network
Senior representative, agri-tech
Senior representative, investment
Senior representative, tenant farming
Senior representative, agricultural economics

10.05 Questions and comments from the floor

10.25 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

10.30 Break

10.40 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

10.45 **From research and testing to commercial adoption - innovation, collaboration and scale-up**
Chris Danks, Innovation Lead, ISCF Transforming Food Production, Innovate UK

10.55 **AI, automation and robotics in agriculture - assessing practical applications, deployment and regulatory questions**
applications across arable, horticulture, livestock and other farming sectors | suitability for different farm sizes, terrains, production systems and working environments | integration with existing machinery, equipment and farm-management systems | performance in commercial farming conditions and barriers to wider deployment | safety, human oversight, liability, responsibility and cybersecurity | connectivity and data requirements of AI-enabled technologies | farm data ownership, access, portability and interoperability | standards, assurance, certification and emerging approaches to regulation | skills, training, servicing and technical support | workforce implications, labour availability and the continuing role of seasonal labour | experience of trials and early adoption
Senior representative, AI
Senior representative, automation
Senior representative, workforce
Senior representative, legal

11.15 Questions and comments from the floor

11.35 **Precision breeding in England - implementation, regulation and market access**
implementation of the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Regulations 2025 | confirmation of precision-bred plants and FSA authorisation of food and feed | evidence requirements and regulatory assessment | transparency, traceability and labelling, including organic and non-GM supply chains | consumer confidence and communication of benefits and risks | High Court ruling and implications for labelling and traceability | different regulatory approaches across the UK and treatment in UK-EU SPS negotiations | implications for breeders, farmers, processors, exporters and food businesses | investment, IP and routes to commercial use | applications in crop improvement, productivity, disease resistance and resilience
Daniel Green, Director, Agriculture, British Sugar
Professor Joyce Tait, Director, Innogen Institute
Senior representative, research
Senior representative, farming
Questions and comments from the floor

12.30 **Next steps for agri-tech in England**
Professor Anjali Goswami, Chief Scientific Adviser and Director General, Science, Data and Analysis, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
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