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
Dr Belinda Clarke, Director, Agri-TechE
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
Dr Duncan Robertson, Founder and CEO, Dogtooth Technologies
Dr Karen Rial-Lovera, Associate Professor, Agriculture and Co-Dean, Agricultural Science and Practice, Royal Agricultural University
Senior representative, AI
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 | 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, Co-Director, Innogen Institute, University of Edinburgh
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