



The Global Food Security programme

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The Global Food Security Programme:

A collaborative partnership between the UK's major public funders of food-related research (Research Councils, Govt Depts, Devolved Administrations, Innovate UK)

- 'Federation' of funding agencies and 'one-stop shop' with independent secretariat
- World leading in coordinating across government and other funding agencies
- Single shared high-level strategy
- Food systems and interdisciplinary approach
- Horizon scanning and bringing together stakeholders to develop common framing of issues - enables collective action & research agenda setting
- Co-design of new research in strategic areas
- Translation of knowledge into policy and practice
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Partners and affiliates



Science & Technology
Facilities Council



Public Health
England

EPSRC

Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council



Innovate UK



Scottish
Government
gov.scot



Department for
International Trade



Department
for International
Development



Department
of Health



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Met Office



Food
Standards
Agency



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Government
Office for Science



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

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The Global Food Security programme

“The Global Food Security programme is **an excellent example of interdisciplinary research**, bringing together a range of expertise across the biological, environmental and social sciences to address the many uncertainties facing the UK’s food system. **Jo Johnson, Former Minister of State for Universities and Science**

“GFS have shared insights into **global and national issues** that will have an impact on our business in the future.” **Thanet Earth**

“GFS has influenced and reached a **significant proportion of our customers’ attitudes to the environmental agenda**. From a couple of initial university contacts, the company now has 16 universities undertaking joint working.” **Martin Ross, South West Water**

“GFS in various ways both directly and indirectly, **added impetus and credibility to the arguments** that we were putting and thus contributed significantly, and maybe critically, to the positive outcomes that are increasingly apparent.” **Peter Radman, former IAgRE president**

“GFS involvement has been extremely valuable for **clarifying the thinking of all these groups and influencing their direction**” **Jon Woolven, IGD**

"Forging these strong partnerships between research councils...are vital in addressing major challenges facing our society like feeding a growing population." **Greg Clark, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

Using blockchain technology to enhance the food system

“Distributed ledger technologies have the potential to help governments to collect taxes, deliver benefits, issue passports, record land registries, **assure the supply chain of goods** and ensure the integrity of government records and services” *Sir Mark Walport, Distributed ledger technology: beyond block chain*

GFS activity

- This project will explore how blockchain technology could improve transparency, safety, authenticity and traceability within the food system
- GFS will work with partners and the Food and Drink Sector Council to run a workshop in the Summer on blockchain, identifying research gaps and future priorities.
- Outputs include a workshop report and future road map





Using blockchain technology to enhance the food system

Past funding

EPSRC - £3.6 million investment in new uses of [digital distributed ledgers](#) in energy, healthcare, banking and policy-making.

GCRF - Interdisciplinary Research Hubs to address intractable challenges faced by developing countries. £8M - £20M available for each hub

Current funding

Innovate UK – £19 million for [emerging and enabling technologies](#) that help businesses to innovate in order to find sources of revenue from new products, processes or services. Scope includes IOT and distributed ledger technologies

Closing date Weds 28th March





Opportunities and future funding...

UKRI Strategic Priorities Fund

- Announced in the Industrial Strategy White Paper
- It will support high quality R&D priorities which would otherwise be missed – multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary programmes identified by researchers and businesses at the cutting edge of research and innovation.

Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund

- The Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund provides funding and support to UK businesses and researchers. The fund is part of the government's £4.7 billion increase in research and development over 4 years.
- Transforming food production: from farm to fork – To put the UK at the forefront of advanced sustainable agriculture (subject to full business case)





Thank you!

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