



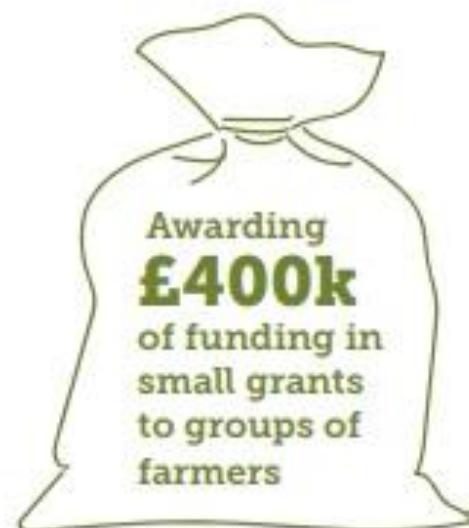
What the network has achieved so far



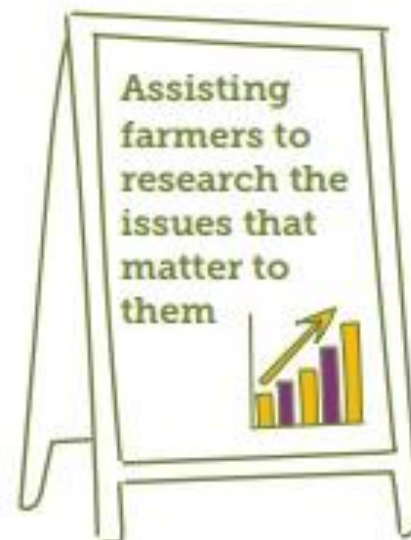
Since 2012 we've
launched over
110 farmer-led
research projects
across the UK

Making
**ideas a
reality**
on a wide range of
topics including:

- Cover crops
- Minimising antibiotics
- Reducing nutrient run off
- Soil amendments
- Non-chemical weeding
- Diverse leys
- Compost tea
- Alternative proteins
- Intercropping



Awarding
£400k
of funding in
small grants
to groups of
farmers



Assisting
farmers to
research the
issues that
matter to
them

Our network has more than
250 farms
actively involved in field labs



How Innovative Farmers works



1



2



Farmers are matched with a **researcher** and a **coordinator**. Together they turn an initial **idea** into a **field lab** to explore a challenge or **trial** a new farming practice

3

The group decides together what **data** to **record** and **monitor**. Ensuring the trial is both **scientifically robust** and **practical** for a **working farm**



4



Did it work?

The group **analyses** the **findings** and **identifies** what has been **discovered**. The **results** are shared with the farming community, **online** and in the **media**

Innovative Farmers model



Farmer led research is so important because it takes to long to learn anything with farming...The more farmers that get involved the better because we can all learn from each other. You only have 40 harvests as a farmer. With each harvest that goes past - if you haven't learnt anything its a wasted harvest.



Mark Lea, Greenacres Farm



Field lab video – Growing cover crops in hopyards



<https://innovativefarmers.org/news/2021/september/21/new-film-hops-growers-using-farmer-led-research-to-change-the-industry/>

Farmer & engineer co-designed tech: lone worker on-farm safety app



Harnessing plant power – trap crops



Improving the targeting of mastitis treatments to reduce antibiotic use



Reducing tomato crop losses with plant sensors



No-till with living mulches



Comms, events & KE



Silvopasture: What it is and how it benefits livestock farming



Tree planting can make a valuable contribution to a range of public goods, such as carbon sequestration, improved soil health, increased biodiversity, water quality and flood mitigation, all of





- Funded within the EIP Agri
- Developed useful tools and documents for people involved in co-creation and innovation projects (e.g. farmers, advisors, researchers, businesses, NGOs, etc). Includes:
 - 32 case study portraits on key findings and the lessons learned
 - 15 Ambassador videos – (subtitles in various European languages) from those with a first-hand experience perspective of co-creation and working with multiple partners
 - Practical materials in Interactive Innovation Tool Box
 - How to Guides to help all that use them enhance the way they co-innovate in farming, forestry and rural development.

How to Guides: Coming together (early phases of idea generation and networking) → Good Planning → Healthy Partnerships → Connected Partnerships (e.g. with stakeholders, engagement beyond the project) → Achieving Impact (disseminating outcomes, boosting impact, evaluating impact)

Impact assessment and evaluation tools - link [here](#)

Thank you

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- The farmers, researchers, supply chain partners and many more





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