

# Farmlnn

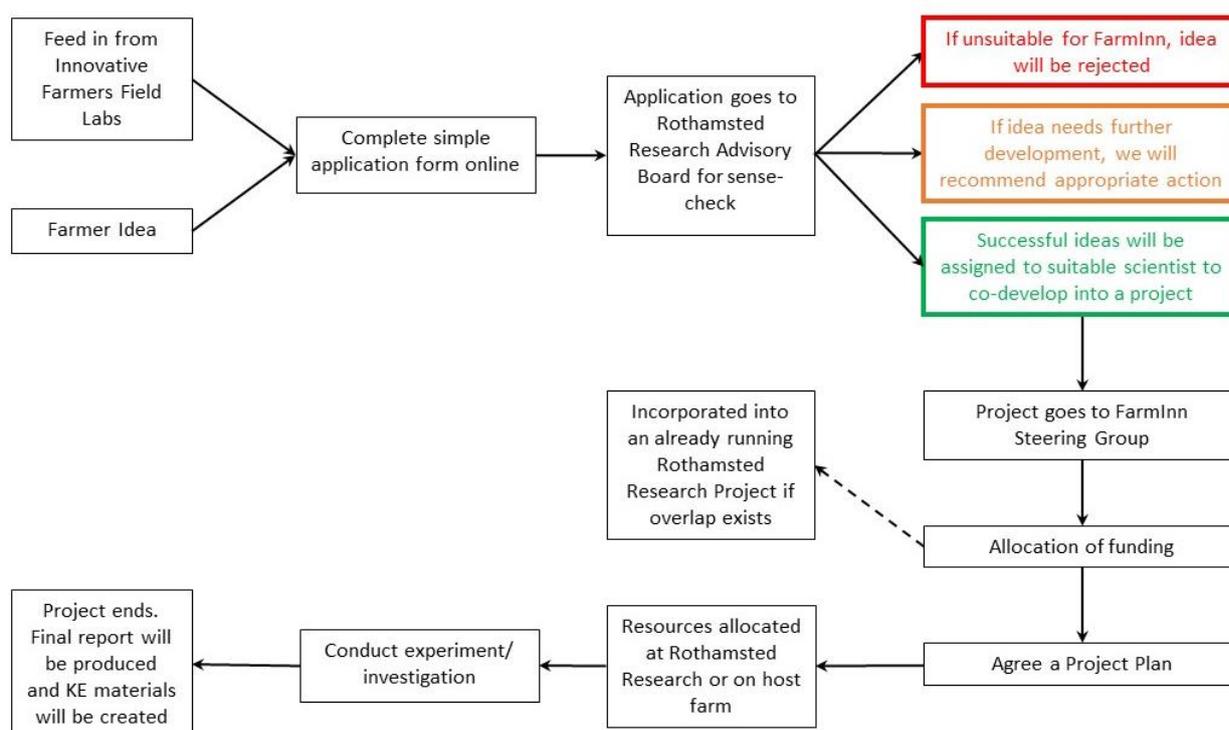
## Innovating with Farmers to improve the competitiveness of British Farming

### The Challenge

To face the challenges ahead, farmers need new knowledge that can be implemented on the ground, or in the field. BREXIT and the re-ordering of the current subsidy system will mean farmers have to improve their competitiveness and re-evaluate their business objectives. There is a need to develop rigorously tested, scientific case studies for use on-farm. The Farmlnn initiative will support innovative on-farm projects which aim to provide real-world, scientifically-proven solutions to challenges faced by UK farmers affecting the efficiency, productivity, and sustainability of farm businesses.

### The Project

The agricultural industry has a significant impact upon the UK's economy and natural environment. The industry will need to be innovative going forward. The Farmlnn initiative will enable farmers to rigorously test new ideas whilst de-risking the process of trying innovative practices. The farmer-focused projects will bring together Rothamsted Research scientists and expertise with UK farmers to provide real-world worked examples of scientific research which can be implemented on farms throughout the country and further afield. Projects will follow the process detailed below:



## The Benefits

Rothamsted Research has a strong reputation for world leading agricultural research. This is performed on our experimental farms and in our cutting-edge laboratory, glass house and controlled environment facilities. Our unique facilities and scientific expertise can be exploited to develop beneficial research for the farming industry.

- *Farmers:* Co-develop solutions with scientists and de-risk the testing of innovative ideas.
- *Industry:* Encourage the uptake of innovative practice and develop the necessary tools to create a resilient and competitive UK agricultural industry.
- *AHDB:* Connecting innovative, proactive farmers with best available science, encourage progressive and viable farming systems and encourage the development of proven on-farm innovation.
- *Rothamsted Research:* Linking Rothamsted Research scientists with farmers who are pro-active and innovative will build better relationships and create a dialogue to influence future research projects. Allow Rothamsted Research to achieve more targeted Knowledge Exchange, create better connections with on-going funded activity and build a tangible portfolio of outcomes.
- *Innovative Farmers:* By working together with Rothamsted Research, projects from the Field Labs can be scaled up and rigorously tested over a longer period of time. Extending projects will also allow longer term benefits and outcomes to be identified. Conclusions drawn from these projects will be scientifically valid.

## Application Form

Farmers will be asked to submit their FarmInn application via email ([farminn@rothamsted.ac.uk](mailto:farminn@rothamsted.ac.uk)). By keeping the application form simple, there should be no barriers to access. Rothamsted Research's Knowledge Exchange team can be contacted to provide support and answer any questions on the FarmInn application. Innovative Farmers will also complete the form for any of their Field Lab projects which they feel would benefit from further research. The application form can be downloaded from the FarmInn website [here](#).

## Rothamsted Research Advisory Board

The Rothamsted Research Advisory Board will provide the first part of application checking. Once the application is received, it will be sense-checked by the Advisory Board and any changes or clarifications made before being paired with a suitable scientist for further development.

- **If the idea needs further development:**  
We will recommend the appropriate action.
- **If the idea is unsuitable for Farmlnn:**  
It will be rejected.
- **Project and KE Plan:**  
Projects which are accepted will then be paired with a Rothamsted Research scientist for further development. The applicant and scientist will jointly complete the Project Plan.

### Farmlnn Steering Group

Once a complete project plan has been produced then it will go to the Steering Group for a final check and allocation of appropriate resources. The Steering Group will include representation from Rothamsted Research, AHDB, Agri-Tech East, LEAF, Innovative Farmers and the NFU.

### KE Channels for Information/Results

Throughout the life of a Farmlnn project, data will be collected, checked and analysed, and results disseminated through such channels as on-farm demonstrations, blogs, videos and press releases. At the end of each project, a report will be made available on the Rothamsted Research website and press releases will be produced. There will be an annual Knowledge Exchange event to present results from the project. The event will also provide a platform for networking and to attract and encourage new Farmlnn proposals. Scientists and farmers associated with each project will also be required to make themselves available for KE activities during the life of the project where appropriate.