



MEETING OF THE EASTERN AGRITECH PROGRAMME DELIVERY BOARD

Date: Wednesday 16th September 2020 **Start Time:** 10am **Finish Time:** 1.30pm

Venue: Virtual Meeting via the Zoom meetings platform

Present

Mike Burrows	New Anglia LEP
Dr Jonathan Clarke	John Innes Centre
Dr Dave Hughes	Syngenta UK
Dr Lydia Smith (Chair)	NIAB
Cllr Mathew Shuter	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Beverley Spratt	Norfolk County Council

In Attendance

Martin Lutman	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (Agri-Tech Lead & Secretariat to the Board)
Julie West	New Anglia LEP
Paul Mace	Norfolk County Council

Item 1: Welcome, Apologies & Declarations of Interests

Apologies received from Dr Belinda Clarke (Agri-Tech East).

There was one declaration of interest which concerned Dr Lydia Smith and the application from Microbiotech Ltd which had been confirmed by the company prior to the meeting. Microbiotech Ltd are licensees of the Eastern Agritech Innovation Hub and Dr Smith is the Head of the Eastern Agritech Innovation Hub. It was agreed that Mike Burrows would chair that applicant's session, as New Anglia LEP are partners with the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority in delivering the Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative.

There were no other conflicts with any other member of the Eastern Agri-Tech Programme Board.

Item 2: Applications For Grant Support

There were four applications for grant funding. The Eastern Agri-Tech Programme Board considered and approved all four applications. This followed applications and presentations from each applicant and discussions with the Eastern Agri-Tech Programme Board.

In the order they appeared on the Agenda, the successful applicants were Future Farms Ltd, Poortvliet Farms Ltd, Fox Robotics Ltd and Microbiotech Ltd.

Future Farms Ltd was awarded an R&D grant of £60,000 towards the cost of developing an IT platform that will allow farmers to sell their wares in an online marketplace and aggregate their output with others who meet the criteria around regulatory, quality, cost and location, to fulfil an order from food buyers.

Poortvliet Farms Ltd was awarded a Growth grant of £65,904 towards the cost of introducing sophisticated potato storage and processing to an existing barn on its premises.

Fox Robotics Ltd was awarded an R&D grant of £25,000 towards the cost of developing an autonomous mobile robot to support logistical operations for agricultural businesses.

Microbiotech Ltd was awarded an R&D grant of £13,000 towards the cost of developing a sustainable protein supplement for mushroom growing compost leading to reduced odor.

Date of Next Meeting

18th September, starting at 10am, to be held via the Zoom on-line meetings platform.

Prepared By:
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