



MEETING OF THE EASTERN AGRI-TECH PROGRAMME DELIVERY BOARD

Date: Friday 25th September 2020 **Start Time:** 10am **Finish Time:** 1.25pm

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)
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Item 1: Welcome, Apologies & Declarations of Interests

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

There were two conflicts of interest: Dr Smith concerning the application from InsPro Ltd and Cllr Shuter concerning the application from Chilford Hundred Ltd. It was agreed that Mike Burrows should chair the session with InsPro Ltd, as New Anglia LEP are partners with the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority in delivering the Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative.

Item 2: Applications For Grant Support

There were four applications for grant funding. The Eastern Agri-Tech Programme Board considered and approved three applications and rejected one application. 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 Howseman Agrisupplies Ltd; InsPro Ltd and Chilford Hundred Ltd. The application from JD Cooling Systems Ltd was unsuccessful.

Howseman Agrisupplies Ltd was awarded a growth grant of £33,000 towards the cost of developing/purchasing drip irrigation equipment. The Board liked the proposal and the technology.

InsPro Ltd was awarded an R&D grant of £48,599 towards the cost of proving the worth of a new bioconversion unit for black soldier fly (BSF) cultivation. The Board felt this technology could make a difference in the recycling of food waste.

Chilford Hundred Ltd was awarded a Growth grant of £53,000 towards the purchase costs of additional wine making equipment to expand their wine production capacity.

JD Cooling Systems Ltd's R&D application was to validate their Softripe technology for (stone) fruits relevant to the UK market. The Board had several key concerns, the major one being that the unit belonged to a German company; the Programme Board felt that the German company should be responsible for any validation of their own technology and not UK taxpayers.

Date of Next Meeting

9th October, starting at 2.30pm, to be held via the Zoom on-line meetings platform.

Prepared By:

Martin Lutman

**Agri-Tech Specialist & Secretariat to the Eastern Agri-Tech Programme Board
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority
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