

# Economic Development Sub-Committee

Norwich Research Park / Agritech update  
14<sup>th</sup> July 2016

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# Background

Agriculture, Food and Drink is regarded as one of Norfolk's underpinning sectors:

- the largest employer
- £2.2 bn GVA per annum
- Farms produce 20% of UK's vegetables
- The sector grew faster than average during 2007 to 2010
- Agritech and Life Sciences are key sectors for growth



# The Agri-tech landscape

Agri-tech: making use of technology to add value to the sector:

Norfolk's household names



A large logistics sector supports the sector:



Government, NALEP and NCC support the sector



# Eastern Agritech Growth Initiative

Run by GCGP and supported by NALEP and NCC

A £4m + fund supporting agri-businesses

R&D or growth applications are possible

Scheme runs till March 2017



16 Norfolk businesses have already benefitted, including

Diesel Dynamics; Dofy Gate; Flint Vinyards;

Fountain Foods; Pangaea Agrichemicals

# Case Study: J A Collison and Sons

- A family farm based near King's Lynn, one of the largest cut flower growers in the UK
- Applied for a Growth Grant provided to purchase and install a fully automatic, robotic flower processing and bunching facility to grow the business.



The installation has led to the following:

- i) company won a new supermarket contract to supply packed tulips
- ii) production increase by 30%
- iii) staff upskilling and training

# Case Study: The Genome Analysis Centre



The Genome Analysis Centre (TGAC) are based at the Norwich Research Park.

They successfully bid for an Agritech R&D grant

They aim to develop their 'Crop Quant' concept to create a product ready to commercialise

If successful, the product will provide a mass produced market solution, retailing at around £30,000.



# Food Enterprise Zones

- Norfolk has its first Food Enterprise Zone designated

FEZ are designed to facilitate growth in the agri-food, agri-tech and food and drink processing sectors



The Greater Norwich FEZ covers land from Honingham in the west, taking in land below Easton village and encompassing the Showground to the east

# Agri-tech East



- Agri-tech East is an independent membership organisation
- Its creation was supported by NCC
- It supports agricultural innovation
- The organisation promotes and supports the Eastern Agritech Grant Initiative



# NCC Initiatives

- NCC supports the sector in a number of ways:
- County Farms
- UEA NERC bid
- LEADER programme
- Inward investment



# Norwich Research Park (NRP) overview

- Norwich Research Park - Europe's largest single site concentration of research, training and education institutions in health, food and environmental sciences.
- An annual research budget of over £100m
- Over 2,700 scientists and 12,000 further staff employed
- World class organisations with first class research citations.
- The life sciences sector is worth £132m pa to Norfolk and Suffolk



# Norwich Research Park: current assets

- Over 40 innovative businesses are located in the Norwich Bio-Incubator and the Innovation Centre on the site.



The Centrum provides a commercial laboratory, offices and business centre.

- The Enterprise Centre will support low carbon sector businesses



# Norwich Research Park – coming soon

- The Quadram Institute is under development, and will specialise in human health, food and disease research.
- Enterprise Zone status achieved.
- NCC is supporting NRP with their “Nature’s Engineers” project - to find investors to support healthy new products, using biological systems and molecule manipulation techniques.
- Leaf Systems have started building their bespoke facility



Thank you