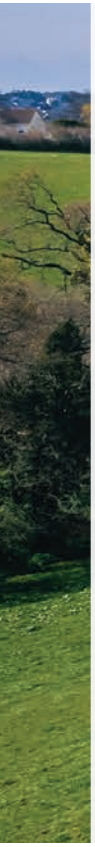
AFCP
The AgriFood Charities Partnership



AgriFood Charities Partnership **Strategy** 2025-2030

Charities working together to support British Food and Farming

VISION

Increasing the impact of agrifood charities and partners.

MISSION

To create opportunities to increase knowledge and expertise in the agrifood sector through collaboration and innovation via a network of charities and partners.

Woodland soil sampling.
Wing Ng, Hartpury University.
Part-funded by the Douglas Bomford Trust.

INTRODUCTION

Building and Developing

The AgriFood Charities Partnership (AFCP) was established in 2008 to create opportunities to increase knowledge and expertise in the agriculture and food sectors through collaboration between agrifood charities and other funders. As we look to develop our strategy for 2025 and beyond, we reflect on how much has been achieved by working together.

TODAY'S CHALLENGES

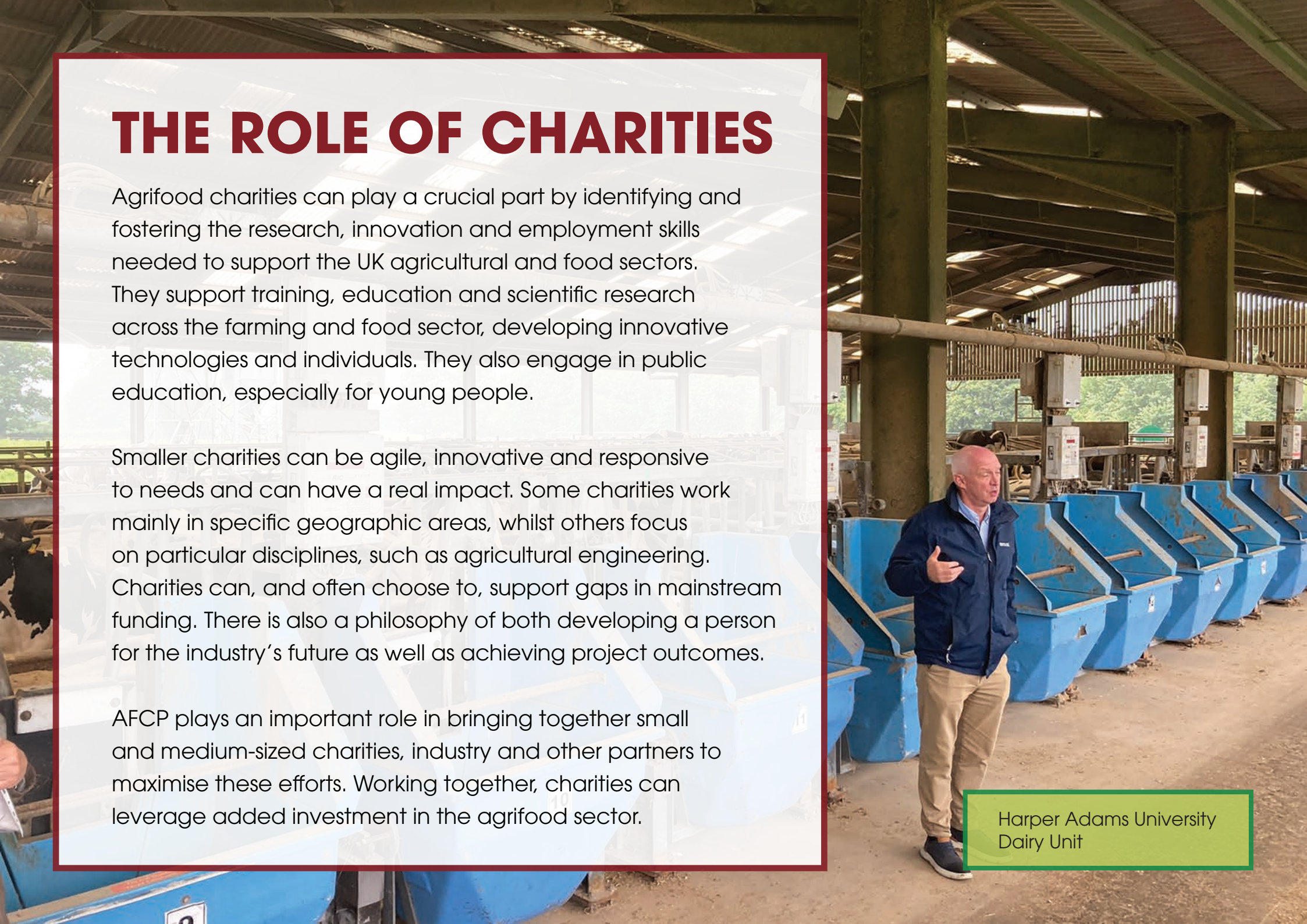
The agriculture and food sectors face challenges ranging from climate change adaptation to geopolitical issues, the accessing of appropriate technology and the training of personnel. Practical solutions are necessary to both feed a growing world and enhance the environment. There is a need for increased awareness of career opportunities as well as improvements in retention and development of individuals in the industry.

THE ROLE OF CHARITIES

Agrifood charities can play a crucial part by identifying and fostering the research, innovation and employment skills needed to support the UK agricultural and food sectors. They support training, education and scientific research across the farming and food sector, developing innovative technologies and individuals. They also engage in public education, especially for young people.

Smaller charities can be agile, innovative and responsive to needs and can have a real impact. Some charities work mainly in specific geographic areas, whilst others focus on particular disciplines, such as agricultural engineering. Charities can, and often choose to, support gaps in mainstream funding. There is also a philosophy of both developing a person for the industry's future as well as achieving project outcomes.

AFCP plays an important role in bringing together small and medium-sized charities, industry and other partners to maximise these efforts. Working together, charities can leverage added investment in the agrifood sector.



Harper Adams University
Dairy Unit

THE ROLE OF AFCP

AFCP is an independent charity promoting and supporting the development of talent in the agrifood industry, alongside research which addresses practical challenges. Together, we identify areas where additional knowledge would lead to development and real progress.

Charities, who are AFCP members, collectively spend more than £1.5 million[1] per year to support research, education and training for the UK agrifood industry.

Across its network of members, AFCP aims to support individual charities to increase their visibility through its website, to provide collaboration opportunities, and to collectively promote the agricultural and food sectors.

AFCP also works to increase the impact of individuals, charities and organisations, and welcomes all those supporting its objectives.

[1] Sum of financial years ended in 2022

KNOWLEDGE

We aim to assist in the development of research, training and education across the agrifood industry.

We will

- Stimulate and facilitate opportunities to promote education and science within agrifood
- Provide forums to learn more about agrifood charity funding opportunities, research opportunities and needs, and to share ideas
- Build new partnerships offering funding and/or collaboration within the agrifood industry to build on the knowledge needed for the industry of the future
- Bring together like-minded organisations to achieve common goals
- Raise awareness of wider opportunities to support the agrifood industry within the UK through collaboration, funding and provision
- Provide opportunities for collaboration and improved effectiveness for charities and partners in the agrifood industry.

GFP fluorescence observed in systemic *N. benthamiana* and faba bean leaves. Elena Bidash, University of Cambridge supported by Chadacre Agricultural Trust, Felix Thornley Cobbold Agricultural Trust, Perry Foundation, and The Morley Agricultural Foundation.

SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE

We aim to support our members and the wider agrifood industry to develop the talent needed within individuals and organisations for the future of food and farming.

We will

- Stimulate and facilitate opportunities to promote education and science within agriculture
- Develop our offer for corporate organisations
- Develop new projects providing collaborative opportunities between college and university, research, industry and charity members
- Support the delivery of Continued Professional Development for individuals within the industry through our charities, research, education and industry members
- Support the delivery of agrifood understanding at all levels.

ADVOCACY

We will increase awareness of our work, and the work of our members, to support the agrifood industry through training, education and research across the UK farming and food sector.

We will

- Strengthen our engagement with, and between, members including developing communication
- Enhance and develop engagement with other stakeholders at all levels from charities, foundations, civil society groups, governments, research and educational establishments, and industry
- Provide a central database for individuals, charities, research partners and industry seeking funding and/or collaboration to benefit the agrifood industry
- Raise awareness of smaller charities, to support applications to these charities of suitable, high-quality projects consistent with their objectives
- Develop and promote the AFCP 'brand' and our members
- Strengthen our digital presence including through blogs and opinion pieces.

ENABLING

We will manage our charity effectively in respect of people and governance.

People: We will

- Value our people: contractors and volunteers
- Build in equality, diversity and inclusion
- Develop and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with charities, corporates, research organisations, colleges and universities and all other stakeholders
- Ensure our strategies align with, and facilitate, the objectives of our members and partners, wherever possible.

Governance: We will

- Diversify our income streams to ensure our resources match our ambition
- Ensure our work is delivered competently and gainfully
- Ensure best practice in AFCP governance.

"The current challenges facing the AgriFood sectors are unparalleled. As a result of Climate Change we need to reduce carbon emissions to achieve net zero by 2050 and deal with frequent, extreme weather events.

Crucially, given recent global events we need to focus on food security and a high level of domestic self-sufficiency when there is massive pressure on land use. We need to improve the natural environment whilst being a global exemplar in animal welfare standards and the integrity of our food systems.

To meet these challenges we need to invest in great people and great science. AFCP can help do both by playing a key role in harnessing the collective resources of our charitable sector. With our ongoing commitment and support I am sure it will!"

- Lord Curry of Kirkharle, AFCP Patron

Farm Visit supported by the Lugden Hill Trust

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Patron: Lord Curry of Kirkharle
Chair: Professor Stuart Reid

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Registered Company Number: 6510709; Registered Charity Number: 1162177
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS Professor Graham Jellis, AFCP Chair 2016-2024