AgriFood Charities Partnership Annual Review 2025

Promoting education and science relating to the practice of agriculture and production through collaboration of charities and other funders.

Our Members

We remain committed to strengthening connections and encouraging meaningful exchange, creating spaces where opportunities and collaboration can flourish between agricultural charities and partners.

We are grateful to our charity and research partner members for their continued support and for the many ways they contribute to our work, both individually and through shared initiatives.

In November we hosted an event looking at 'What is the future of farming, and what is our role in it?' This hybrid event brought together charities, partners and stakeholders for a nationwide exchange of views and debate.

Lord Curry of Kirkharle, AFCP Patron, AFCP, November 2025.

Communication

The AFCP website has been refreshed and relaunched. One of the key features is an improved filtering and search facility for our open-access search-based directory, providing individuals and charities with a valuable tool to connect with potential funding partners.

The AFCP Strategy 2025-2030 sets out a refreshed mission focussed on four strategic pillars: Knowledge, Support for People, Advocacy, and Enabling. This bold new strategy will help meet challenges in the agri-food sector, from geopolitics to biodiversity, and from recruitment to robotics.

AFCP Strategy 2025-2030

AFCP have produced a series of newslettesr and communications covering events and activities. The AFCP LinkedIn presence continues to grow, providing a platform for sharing blogs and opinion pieces, as well as highlight the work of AFCP and its members. Blog topics have included: novel crop breeding in legumes; competition of oilseed rape pathogens; AUC Summer School (see later); launch of the AFCP strategy; food waste and a circular economy; and the Future of Farming.

Catalyst and Facilitator

Dr Yusra Zireeni commenced work on a joint-funded MRes (Masters of Research) in the School of Sustainable Food and Farming (SSFF) at Harper Adams University. The project looks at mapping carbon tool evidence for the Sustainable Farm Networks (SFN).

Elena Bidash is continuing a joint AFCP research collaboration with the University of Cambridge's Crop Science Centre, investigating virus-induced gene silencing and gene editing in soybean, with the intention of applying the resulting insights to other crops in future research.

A partnership of nine AFCP member charities part-funded the Agricultural Universities Council (AUC) Food and Farming Summer School. In June 2025, 26 undergraduates and postgraduates from a range of disciplines took part in an inspiring week-long tour of research and innovation in agriculture.

AUC Summer School group at Rothamsted Research. Credit: Kayleigh Crouch.

Prof. Sharon Green

Governance

The AFCP AGM was held in November 2025 alongside our Future of Farming event.

Geoff Dodgson stood down from the AFCP Board. We would like to thank Geoff for this valuable input into AFCP over the years.

We welcome Prof. Sharon Green to the AFCP Board. Sharon is a Principal Fellow and Professor of Vocational Education and Skills at the University of Lincoln. With a background in farming, and management experience in the meat industry, she contributes widely to education policy, governance, and workforce development.

2026 and beyond

AFCP host their biennial Student Forum in March 2026. We remain focused on developing new opportunities for collaboration across the agrifood sector.

www.afcp.org.uk

Patron: Lord Curry of Kirkharle

Chair: Prof. Stuart Reid

AFCP Contacts
Michaela Canham (Company Secretary): CoSec@afcp.org.uk
Kathryn Green (Charities Coordination Director): Kathryn@KathrynGreen.co.uk

Board Directors
Bob Bansback, Gordon Bennett, Sharon Green, Ian Munnery, Jim Orson, Alex Payne, Stuart Reid, Jim Stevens

AgriFood Charities Partnership is a Company Limited by Guarantee and Registered in England & Wales
Registered Company Number: 6510709; Registered Charity Number: 1162177
Registered Address: Morley Business Centre, Doepham Road, Morley St. Botolph, Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 9DF.