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Agri-EPI Centre

CASE STUDY

At the forefront of the United Kingdom's agricultural technology revolution, the Agri-EPI Centre is a driving force in advancing the Midlands' agri-food sector. This dynamic institution is dedicated to strengthening the UK's position as a leader in agri-tech.

The Centre boasts a variety of office spaces, state-of-the-art conference facilities, advanced laboratories, and round-the-clock access to resources, creating an environment conducive to innovation and business growth.

Beyond physical infrastructure, Agri-EPI extends vital support services. These include project management, bid writing, and hosting services, which are particularly beneficial for small and medium-sized enterprises navigating the complexities of the agri-food industry.

Networking and collaboration are at the heart of Agri-EPI's ethos. The Centre's member network connects over 260 companies, fostering a vibrant

community for collaborative opportunities. Significant partnerships include academic institutions like Harper Adams University and a network of 26 satellite farms, which offer real-world environments for testing agricultural innovations.

The Centre's impact extends both locally and internationally. Collaborating closely with organizations such as Innovate UK, the European Union Development Fund and Midlands Engine, Agri-EPI has become a crucial player in supporting businesses. It acts as a launchpad for companies within the agri-food sector, both in the UK and globally, showcasing its comprehensive approach to fostering growth and innovation in the field.

Success stories:

UPL

UPL, with its international roots in India, has made a marked impact by creating seven new jobs. Their dedication to innovation is evident from their £2m investment in a UK Farm and an additional £2.5m in R&D, underscoring their commitment to agricultural advancements.

Earth Rover

Earth Rover, through the creation of UPP Ltd, has contributed to the job market by filling five new roles and actively seeking to fill one more. Their innovative protein trials have attracted a £500,000 investment, showcasing the potential of their agri-tech solutions.

No Fence

With its Norwegian origins, No Fence has successfully established six new roles within the Midlands Hub, a testament to its growth and investment in the region. Their operations include a UK storage facility rental, indicating an expanding presence in the local market.

TAFE

Tractor And Factory Equipment (India): "TAFE, with its origins in India, has created eight new roles at its new facility, with a new assembly workshop at NiPark Newport and plans for further expansion."

Agri-EPI also supports:

The Innovation Barn: Cultivating Entrepreneurship

The Innovation Barn is a dedicated space for pre-trading and start-up businesses, providing not just a workspace but a thriving ecosystem. It offers an eight-week start-up programme that covers the essentials of entrepreneurship.

Hands-Free Farming Innovation

Focusing on revolutionizing farming through a hands-free, automated system developed with Harper Adams University. The project aimed to bridge the gap between science fiction and practical farming by integrating GPS and automated systems to enhance precision and address labour shortages in agriculture.

The Future of Sanitation: Ozonation Technology

Innovating sustainable sanitation in agriculture using ozonation technology. The initiative involved partners like Oxi-Tech and Harper Adams University & Vets. The goal was to enhance farm hygiene, particularly in dairy farming, to reduce disease spread and improve economic returns.

Robotics in the Field: The Impact of CLAWS Robot on Sustainable Farming

The CLAWS Robot project, a collaboration involving Earth Rover & Polybell Farms, marks a significant advancement in agricultural technology robotics. CLAWS, an autonomous robot for weed detection and elimination has the potential to reduce manual labour. CLAWS can precisely target and eliminate weeds using concentrated light, while preserving the crops.



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