

In June 2026, the UK government published the **Farming Roadmap 2050: Growing England's Future**. Following extensive sector engagement through regional and national workshops, focus groups, and farmer discussions at auction marts, conferences, and shows, the roadmap seeks to provide a clear long-term plan for the next 24 years. Although not a year-by-year delivery plan, the roadmap does set out detailed practical steps the government will take over the next 5 years to meet the immediate challenge.

Farmers are the custodians of 70% of England's land; they employ in excess of 400,000 people, support a £153bn agri-food sector, and provide 65% of the nation's food. Agriculture is **critical national infrastructure**. Rising environmental expectations, fast-moving technological change, volatile global markets and the growing impacts of climate change together mean that this is a time of significant change for farming businesses. Food is the primary purpose of farming, but as set out in the **Land Use Framework** earlier this year, food production can be maintained while achieving the environmental ambitions of cleaner air, water, and increased biodiversity; farms are uniquely positioned to support this.

The Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE) welcomes the UK Government's recognition of the importance of farming and the need for it to be productive, sustainable, and ultimately profitable. IAgrE and its members have a long history of driving innovation and improving agricultural productivity across the sector, from advances in machinery, crop and livestock infrastructure, and data-driven automation, through to improvements in soil, water, and nutrient management. IAgrE is instrumental in supporting the careers of scientists and engineers who will ultimately be tasked with developing the technologies, land-use systems and processes required to achieve the ambitions of the **Farming Roadmap**.

IAgrE supports UK government actions that recognise not only the role of government and farmers, but also the supply chains and markets that shape the economic and environmental conditions farmers face, including disproportionate value extraction and unfair competitive practices. Wider stakeholder involvement in de-risking R&D for farmers is essential to support technology adoption. In addition, continued investment in scale-up through Innovate UK's Agri-scale programme and the opportunities presented by agri-tech's inclusion in the Advanced Manufacturing Sector Plan should be fully leveraged.

IAgrE's membership consists of highly qualified professional engineers, environmentalists, and industry leaders with a wealth of knowledge and experience in developing and deploying agricultural systems and technology. Agricultural engineering education is at risk; therefore, we support the roadmap's focus on sector skills, education and professional recognition. We welcome the formation of 'Task and Finish Groups' and encourage the full use of our members' expertise in delivering the ambitions of the Farming Roadmap to 2050.

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