



Nurturing growth and innovation
in the agri-tech sector from
start-ups to global companies

Rothamsted
Enterprises



Agri-tech
Business Centre



Providing offices, laboratories
and business support services
to agri-businesses



Welcome to Rothamsted Research and Rothamsted Enterprises



Nicole Sadd
CEO, Rothamsted Enterprises

We are entering one of the most critical periods in human history. Climate change, burgeoning human populations, dwindling natural resources and geopolitical upheaval have created a near perfect storm of challenges for us to tackle.

The next decade will be pivotal if we are to help tackle the world's problems and not exacerbate them. Key to agriculture having a positive global impact will be innovation – turning cutting edge scientific research into practical, workable solutions that feed billions of extra mouths from less land and smarter use of agrochemicals.

Rothamsted Enterprises was set up in 2015 to achieve just that, by harnessing the world-renowned scientific expertise of Rothamsted Research to the disruptive power wielded by true agri-food visionaries, creating one of the most dynamic, vibrant and well-connected R&D communities found anywhere in Europe.



Prof. Angela Karp
Director & Chief Executive, Rothamsted Research

Rothamsted Research has been at the forefront of agricultural innovation since our foundation in 1843. At a time of unparalleled challenges for global farming, our impact focussed science is needed now more than ever.

Whilst our commitment to scientific excellence remains one of our core principles, we are acutely aware that in the past our discoveries have not always had the transformative impact on agriculture that we would like. That is why we are delighted to welcome the Agri-Tech Business Centre to our campus. Bringing more entrepreneurial talent on site will enable our world leading scientists to interact directly with innovators and disruptors, catalysing change and accelerating the improvements that farming so desperately requires to reach its potential for sustainability.

Our founder, John Bennet Lawes, was a businessman whose unique insight was to recognise the power of research to underwrite commercial success. We look to build on that legacy with this new era in Rothamsted's development.

*There's nowhere
like Rothamsted*

About us

Rothamsted is a vibrant and dynamic agricultural research and development hub, where agri-tech visionaries turn cutting edge scientific research into practical, workable solutions that feed billions of extra mouths from less land and via a smarter use of man-made chemicals.

At Rothamsted we enable and facilitate innovation and collaboration in the agri-tech industry and we do this in several ways.

- We create a busy, thriving tenant environment where agri-tech businesses can grow;
- We bring people together in our state-of-the-art events and meeting facilities;
- We enable those 'water-cooler moments' and help you develop business relationships with our range of tenant-focused events and support services.

The Rothamsted Agritech Business Centre has three large buildings offering office and laboratory space and business support services to agri-businesses of all shapes and sizes. Our buildings are all named after famous Rothamsted scientists:

The Daniel Hall Building

Our incubation space:
office and lab space



The Lawes Open Innovation Hub

Our grow-on space:
office and lab space



The Russell Building

Office space



Whether you are a start-up, a spin-out, an SME looking for grow-on space, or a larger organisation within the agri-tech arena, we have the space and services to support you as you grow.

Become part of our unique history and vibrant agri-tech community here at Rothamsted.

The Russell Building

The Russell Building is on the Rothamsted Research campus in Harpenden. It was officially opened in 1919 and originally housed our soil laboratories.

Now, 100 years on and after a thorough refurbishment, we are opening the Russell Building to agritech tenants who want to base themselves at a world-leading, non-profit research centre that focuses on strategic agricultural science.

The Russell Building offers office space in a beautiful, historic building, bathed in natural light and period features.

Our attractive open plan meeting and social spaces are designed to promote collaborative discussions and encourage the exchange and development of ideas.



In addition to the office and lab space you hire, businesses based at Rothamsted will receive:

- 30% discount in the restaurant
- 20% discount in our conference centre
- Water, heating, and electrics
- Wi-Fi and wired connectivity to the internet
- Car-parking (spaces commensurate to office space taken)
- A company representation in your building (poster, or other visual opportunity)
- Links to your website from the Rothamsted Enterprises website
- Access to printing services
- Regular office cleaning
- Access to kitchen facilities

The Lawes Open Innovation Hub

The Lawes Open Innovation Hub creates the perfect setting for new growth. Space within the Hub provides an agile working environment to stimulate and engage your company, with a range of alternative areas to accommodate different activities.



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The Daniel Hall Building

The Daniel Hall Building will stimulate and support your enterprise, helping you to optimise opportunities for growth. The building houses both laboratory and office spaces of various sizes and layouts, perfect for agritech start-ups and small to medium-sized businesses.



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Rothamsted Enterprises – more than just office and lab space



Rothamsted Conference Centre

Rothamsted Conference Centre is perfect for business events. The space is adaptable, flexible and modern. The state-of-the-art auditorium and Fowden Hall include high-quality AV equipment, ensuring an excellent experience for visitors, speakers and event planners. The facility is served by excellent transport links and a dedicated carpark.



Rothamsted Manor

Rothamsted Manor is our stunning Grade I listed Jacobean manor house, set in acres of Hertfordshire woodland with beautiful gardens. Known as Harpenden's hidden gem, the Manor sits in the historically significant Rothamsted Estate and is available for private hire.



Rothamsted Restaurant

Rothamsted Restaurant is a focal point for many visitors to Rothamsted, and as a hub for staff, members of the public and local businesses. The restaurant serves delicious barista-made coffee and a sustainably-sourced breakfast and lunch menu which changes daily.



Scientific services available for hire

Our Farms	Rothamsted Research farms cover over 800 Ha and are spread across 4 counties.	Glasshouses and Controlled Environment Services	The Horticultural and Controlled Environments are specialist plant growth and ancillary support facilities here at Rothamsted Research.
Livestock and Farm Resources, North Wyke	Rothamsted Research's North Wyke site hosts a 350ha beef and sheep farm and is home to the North Wyke Farm Platform National Capability. The research at North Wyke aims to demonstrate the true impact and value of ruminant livestock systems through improvement in efficiencies of pasture-fed livestock, whilst reducing emissions to the atmosphere and water courses, an approach described as the sustainable intensification of livestock. Expertise includes soil science, grazing systems, greenhouse gases and ruminant health and nutrition.	Bioimaging	Rothamsted Research's bioimaging facility provides equipment and training dedicated to facilitating cutting-edge science through the provision of up-to-date and advanced imaging equipment and expertise in the life sciences. Our facility is open to all investigators, internal research staff, collaborators and external clients. Our team has specialist expertise and we provide access, training and a fully managed service as required.
The Rothamsted Insectary	A specialised facility that maintains a range of both indigenous and exotic insect species.	Metabolomics at Rothamsted (MeT-RO)	Using NMR and MS techniques, MeT-RO delivers a high throughput plant metabolomics facility that supports Rothamsted Research projects and is accessible to internal and external users.
Cereal Transformation	Rothamsted Research offers a cereal transformation service to generate transgenic wheat plants for research purposes for both internal and external contracts.	Analytical Chemistry Unit	The Analytical facility with laboratories at Harpenden and North Wyke provide a specialist Agricultural Analysis service in support of the research programmes of the Institute, collaborators and external clients.



Scientific resources available

The Rothamsted Sample Archive	With remarkable prescience, Lawes and Gilbert retained samples of crops, soils, fertilisers and manures from the long-term experiments, dating back to the 1840s.	E-RA	The electronic Rothamsted Archive (e-RA) provides a permanent managed database for secure storage of data from Rothamsted's Classical Experiments, the oldest, continuous agronomic experiments in the world.
The Insect Survey	The Insect Survey is a National Capability hosted by Rothamsted and funded by BBSRC. The Insect survey is host to a nationwide network of suction and light traps that collect invaluable data on the migration of moths and aphids.	KNETMINER	Knetminer provides an easy-to-use, web interface to visualisation and data mining tools for the discovery and evaluation of candidate genes from large scale integrations of public and private data sets.
PHI-BASE	The Pathogen-Host Interaction database is an open access internet resource which provides information on pathogenicity, virulence and effector genes from different pathogens.	The UK National Willow Collection	Rothamsted Research holds the National Willow Collection, one of the largest ensembles of Salix germplasm in the world.
Farm Platform Data Portal	The Farm Platform National Capability Data Portal contains data for the Farm Platform at North Wyke in Devon and makes this available to both Rothamsted staff and the wider research community.	Field Scanalyzer	A fully-automated, high throughput field phenotyping platform built by LemnaTec GMBH.



Our Stakeholders

Rothamsted Enterprises was established in 2015 with support from the following organisations:



Rothamsted Research is the longest running agricultural research station in the world, providing cutting-edge science and innovation for over 175 years. Its mission is to deliver the knowledge and new practices to increase crop productivity and quality and to develop environmentally sustainable solutions for food and energy production.



The Lawes Agricultural Trust (LAT) aids the advancement of agricultural science through providing support for Rothamsted Research and Rothamsted Enterprises, including ownership of land and buildings on the Harpenden site.



BBSRC has a unique and central place in supporting the UK's world-leading position in bioscience. They are an investor in research and training, with the aim of furthering scientific knowledge, to promote economic growth, wealth and job creation and to improve quality of life in the UK and beyond.

Wider Network



Agri-TechE is an independent, business-focused cluster organisation, to improve the international competitiveness and sustainability of plant-based agriculture and horticulture. It brings together farmers and growers with scientists, technologists and entrepreneurs to create a global innovation hub in agri-tech. Rothamsted Enterprises are members of Agri-TechE.



UKSPA is the authoritative body on the planning, development and creation of Science Parks and other innovation locations that are facilitating the development and management of innovative, high growth, knowledge-based organisations. Rothamsted Enterprises are members of UKSPA.



Farm491 is a space for innovators to grow their businesses by applying technology to growing environments. Farm491 provides high-spec facilities created to foster entrepreneurship, ideas generation, and collaboration – it includes 491 hectares of farmland for research and testing.



The UK Business Angels Association (UKBAA) is the national trade association for angel and early-stage investment, representing over 650 members that collectively deploy in excess of £2bn per annum. Its members include angel groups, individual investors, early-stage VCs, equity investment platforms, family offices, universities and accelerators. UKBAA is a not-for-profit organisation, run by and for its members. Rothamsted Enterprises are members of UKBAA.

Our Partners



The Green Triangle is a committed partnership based around the world-leading research of three organisations: The Building Research Establishment (BRE), Rothamsted Research and the University of Hertfordshire (UH). They already make a major contribution to the Hertfordshire economy. As individual local employers, we are among the largest in Hertfordshire.



Hertfordshire LEP is one of 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships tasked by the Government to drive forward economic growth and develop Local Industrial Strategies that play to their individual strengths and address local challenges. The LEP has secured over £300m to date to invest in the county's people, places and businesses.



The Hertfordshire Science Partnership is an innovative collaboration between the University of Hertfordshire and Hertfordshire LEP, which leverages the University's state-of-the-art science facilities and academic expertise to boost the dynamic pharmaceutical, life sciences and agri-technology sectors in the East of England. Launched by Business Minister Richard Harrington on 29 March 2018, the programme strengthens links between business and academia to accelerate cutting-edge scientific R&D to market and supports the growth of SMEs by providing access to facilities and academic expertise. This project aligns with the LEP's objective to stimulate enterprise and innovation within the county through targeted investment in its key sectors.



Hertfordshire IQ is an Enterprise Zone just 30 minutes from London, leading the development of 3 million square feet of commercial space over the next ten years. With innovation, office and industrial space already available and new commercial space planned, there's everything a growing business needs to thrive: good transport links, local amenities and a skilled workforce. Plus they offer tax breaks and business support. Through their partners, Rothamsted Research, the University of Hertfordshire and BRE Group, Hertfordshire IQ also offers businesses opportunities to collaborate and reach new markets.



Established in 1924 the Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce is a privately run membership organisation which can open doors for local businesses and organisations of all types and size by helping them to grow their profile and connect with other businesses locally, nationally and globally. As the British Chamber of Commerce's (BCC) Accredited Chamber of Commerce for Hertfordshire members can benefit from association with 52 other UK chambers and a network of 41 chambers globally.



Our Tenants



AgRIA (Agri-Tech Research Innovation Accelerator) is a £2.7M fund to support innovation projects that bring together researchers and small businesses. Supported for 3 years by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), it is led by Rothamsted Research in partnership with the University of Hertfordshire, University College London, Cranfield University, Green Triangle, and Rothamsted Enterprises.
www.rothamsted.ac.uk/agria



Agrimetrics provide access to the linked-data, infrastructure and expertise that organisations and researchers require to solve global food and environmental challenges.
www.agrimetrics.co.uk



ApresLabs are specialists in pesticide resistance. The company was set up by Dr Graham Moores, a biochemist with a wealth of experience in the insecticide resistance field.
www.apreslabs.co.uk



Archer Biolabs specialises in the surface coating of biological molecules.
<https://archer-biolabs-ltd.weeblysite.com>



Barton Blakeley researches and develops methods of manufacturing high value materials via the conversion of Greenhouse Gas Emissions.
www.babwebartonenterprises.com/



Bio Nano Consulting, a division of AquAffirm Ltd, is a technology consultancy providing international project management, product development and innovation consulting.
www.bio-nano-consulting.com



CHAP, a UK Agri-Tech Centre funded by Innovate UK, brings together leading scientists, farmers, advisors, innovators and businesses to understand industry challenges, drive research and innovation and develop and trial solutions that transform crop systems.
www.chap-solutions.co.uk



Femtogenix was founded in 2015 to discover and develop next generation DNA-interactive payload molecules for use in antibody-drug conjugates.
www.femtogenix.com



FungiAlert are soil health and plant disease experts with a passion for increasing agricultural productivity and sustainability.
www.fungalalert.com



The Gowan Group is a global, family-owned agricultural solutions company. It specialises in the development, registration and marketing of crop protection products, seeds and fertilizers as well as retail / crop consultancy, contract formulation / warehousing and the production of Medjool dates.
www.gowanco.com

Correct at time of going to press – April 2021. Please visit our [website](#) for an up-to-date list.



Our Tenants (cont'd)



Grow Biotech seeks to unlock the medical potential of cannabis for those who need it.
www.growbiotech.com



Part of The Human Milk Foundation, the organisation aims to provide the opportunity of being fed with human milk to every baby who could benefit.
www.heartsmilkbank.org



Phytoform Labs seeks to minimise the damaging impact of agriculture on the environment and to make food crops healthier for consumers.
www.phytoformlabs.com



Plant Impact aims to find ways to improve crop quality and yield. By researching complex plant stress responses their scientists can develop new bio stimulant chemistry that can work with plants' natural processes to improve crop quality, yield and shelf life.
www.plantimpact.com



Prayon are a world leader in phosphate chemistry. Prayon manufactures and distributes a wide range of purified phosphoric acids, phosphate salts and fluorine products geared towards the food and fertiliser sectors.
www.prayon.com



Ryeharvest aims to reduce single-use plastic wrapping of protein and cereal bars. The company is seeking to invent eco-friendly, edible and non-pollutant packaging by producing a biopolymer which is made entirely from organic, plant-based ingredients.



S-Chelate Plant Nutrition has developed a range of novel, biologically friendly micronutrients that very effectively deliver essential minerals to plants and is in the process of obtaining Organic Certification.
www.s-chelate.com



Straw Innovations was started in December 2016 with the purpose of making better use of Asia's leftover rice straw. The company is developing an integrated process that will use this vast resource to produce more food, fuel and green construction materials.
www.strawinnovations.com



Timac AGRO is an industrial company specializing in soil improvers, plant and animal nutrition. For more than 60 years the company has been constantly innovating to offer agronomic and zootechnical solutions that improve agricultural performance in an environmental-friendly way.
www.timacagro.com

Correct at time of going to press – April 2021. Please visit our [website](#) for an up-to-date list.



Innovation Support

Supporting innovation in our ecosystem

The vision for Rothamsted's ecosystem aligns perfectly with the aspirations of the UK Government Research and Development Roadmap, published in July 2020. The roadmap sets out the Government's long-term vision to unlock the power of science, research and innovation to tackle *"some of the big challenges of today and tomorrow"*.

Operational Support

Whether it be broken chairs, or health and safety reviews, at Rothamsted your business is fully supported by our operational team. We are at the end of the phone or email to ensure that your office or laboratory is always in full working order. You will have a point of contact available to you during office hours and you can expect the very best service to support the facilities that you rent from us.

Meetings

Having a professional space on site to meet contacts, clients and investors is important to developing your business. In the heart of our campus is our conference centre which offers a variety of meeting spaces for you to hire. Onsite businesses benefit from discounted rates for meeting room hire. However, if you would like to hold a more informal meeting or networking event our restaurant adjacent to the conference centre offers a perfect place to meet for a simple coffee.

Links to Business Networks

Rothamsted belongs to many local business networks such as the Hertfordshire and St Albans Chambers of Commerce and National Agri-tech networks such as Agri-techE and Farm491. Through our links to local and national business networks we aim to introduce you to organisations that can support business growth or to facilitate collaboration opportunities. An example of a current opportunity is our partnership with Herts IQ. If businesses locating to Rothamsted meet their application criteria, tenants may qualify for business rates relief. www.herts-iq.co.uk



Events

We host several campus events that aim to facilitate collaboration. Events range from social events with tenants, Rothamsted Scientists and our PhD students, to large academic forums. As we are partnered with Herts IQ and other academic institutes we often choose to run events in collaboration, around a variety of themes and emerging trends in the sector.

Training

Starting a business can be exciting and challenging, but often you may need support to achieve your goals. We run a number of business skills workshops to help you set up your business and support you in areas that allow you to run your business better. Topics vary, and have previously included how to secure investment for your business, how to build a successful social media following and how pitch to clients.

Funding

There are a number of funding opportunities that are shared in our tenant weekly newsletter that are directly from BBSRC and Innovate UK. Rothamsted with its academic links to other research organisations are often looking at funding opportunities to support innovation.

The most recent success is the launch of the SHAKE programme, in partnership with Société Générale, Cranfield University, University of Hertfordshire, UCL and Rothamsted. SHAKE is unlike any other accelerator programme as successful applicants have access to this breadth of expertise. The SHAKE team are committed to working with entrepreneurs to help build their business. Each member is giving their time and expertise to entrepreneurs taking on the challenges of climate change in agriculture and pushing the boundaries of food and farming.

www.shakeclimate.org



Where are we?

We are located in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, just 23 minutes to London by train. We are easily accessible from London, Oxford and Cambridge, sometimes known in agritech circles as the 'golden triangle'.

Rothamsted is a lively and friendly campus with onsite restaurant, free parking, and social facilities.



Contact us

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