



Dear Cotswold Taste Member,

Please find below the latest Food from England newsletter.

We are pleased to announce that the new Cotswold Taste website is very close to completion.

We are also delighted to announce that we will be holding a “face to face” event in conjunction with the Queens Hotel in Cheltenham on 20 May 2022. This will be a dinner event where members will be offered the chance to showcase their produce. We are now starting to plan this event and will be in contact soon.

Also please do remember to send in any stories, news and events and we would be pleased to share on Cotswold Taste social media platforms.

As usual, if you have any feedback, comments, further questions or would like support from Cotswold Taste please do get in touch.

We will do our best to help you.



DEFRA UPDATE

Trust in food supply chain remains high, consumer survey reveals

The latest wave of the **Food Standards Agency's** (FSA) Food and You 2 survey shows that public trust in food safety, authenticity, and the food supply chain remained high, even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. In wave three of the survey published last week, 90% of respondents reported they were confident that the food they buy is safe to eat. Almost three quarters (73%) reported that they had confidence in the food supply chain, with most respondents (87%) reporting confidence in farmers.

[Trust in food supply chain remains high, consumer survey reveals | Food Standards Agency](#)

UK partnership launched to tackle agricultural challenges

The UK Government has launched the **UK Agriculture Partnership (UKAP)**, a new forum which will bring together stakeholders from across the UK to identify and improve collaborative working on shared issues facing the agricultural sector. Discussions will explore topics such as on-farm water usage optimisation, the role of science and agri-tech in supporting food production, and solutions to reduce pollution and carbon emissions in the sector. The first meeting of the UKAP took place on Thursday 27 January at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, and focussed on water quality. Attendees heard from a range of experts who set out the challenges the UK is facing, and discussed solutions for improving water quality across the agriculture sector.

[UK partnership launched to tackle agricultural challenges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Support available for exports to Europe

If you sell food and drink to customers in Europe there is support available to you. No matter the size of your business, how much you export or where in the UK you are based, **the Export Support Service** is your first point of contact. Visit www.gov.uk/ask-export-support-team or call 0300 303 8955. The Export Support Service currently focuses on questions you have about trading with Europe but will expand to cover more global markets this year.

Help to Grow Schemes – Boost Your Business's Performance and Growth

In the March 2021 Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the new 'Help to Grow' schemes, to help small and medium sized businesses across the UK learn new skills, reach new customers, and boost profits. Eligible small businesses can now access:



1. Help to Grow: Management

Help to Grow: Management is an intensive leadership and management course that will help businesses improve their performance and growth potential. This is an ongoing programme.

[Help to Grow - Management - Small Business Charter](#)

1. Help to Grow: Digital:

The government's Help to Grow: Digital scheme – designed to support small and medium sized businesses to adopt digital technologies so they can grow – opened for applications on 20th January. Under the scheme, eligible businesses can now receive discounts of up to £5,000 off the retail price of approved Digital Accounting and CRM software from leading technology suppliers. This software will help them to effectively manage their finances and build customer relationships, helping them to save time, save money and grow. Businesses from any sector that have 5-249 employees and have been operating from at least one year are welcome to apply for a voucher.

Any businesses can also access practical, specialised support and advice on how to choose the right digital technologies to boost their growth and productivity through the new online platform. Find out more about Help to Grow: Digital and to register for a nearby course on their website.

[Help to Grow: Digital \(learn-to-grow-your-business.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.service.gov.uk/learn-to-grow-your-business)

New drive to promote woodland creation grants for landowners

Farmers and landowners encouraged to create new woodland as a financial and environmentally rewarding option. The grant schemes will help land managers diversify their business, with the potential to receive a grant of over £10,000 for every hectare of new woodland created

[New drive to promote woodland creation grants for landowners - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/new-drive-to-promote-woodland-creation-grants-for-landowners)

Towards a market for low emissions industrial products

BEIS published Towards a market for low emissions industrial products on 6 December. The Call for Evidence will be open until 28 February 2022.

[Towards a market for low emissions industrial products: call for evidence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/towards-a-market-for-low-emissions-industrial-products-call-for-evidence)

Industrial Energy Transformation Fund (IETF) new £60 million Phase 2 competition window

BEIS has launched a further competition window for applications to IETF. To view the applicant guidance and make an application for funding, please visit the competition page. The competition will open for applications on Monday 31 January and will run until Friday 29 April 2022.

[Industrial Energy Transformation Fund \(IETF\) Phase 2: Spring 2022 - how to apply - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/industrial-energy-transformation-fund-ietf-phase-2-spring-2022-how-to-apply)



DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE UPDATES

Take your Website to the World 11 January - 19 April 2022

Unique to DIT East Midlands, we are delighted to offer you another chance to join our free 'Take your Website to the World' programme. If you sell your products and services overseas or are planning to, your website, now more than ever, needs to be able to attract and appeal to an international audience. Your website is your window to the world and has the potential to reach over 4bn global internet users.

22 February 2022 - Creating and Adapting content for an international audience

8 March 2022 - Search Engines: How they work, and what they look for on your website

22 March 2022 - Increasing website traffic through paid and organic search
5 April 2022 - Conversion Rate Optimisation (CRO) in 7 easy steps

18 April 2022 - How to track and monitor your website analytics to increase performance

[Home \(eventscloud.com\)](https://www.eventscloud.com)

Take Your Social Media to the World 18 January - 26 April 2022

As global average daily use of social media now surpasses the two-hour mark, no business can afford not to be part of the social media explosion. With your customers spending more and more time engaged with social media channels, your business needs to be where they are. Programme: With your customers spending more and more time engaged with social media channels, your business needs to be where they are. Sign up today for our exclusive programme of masterclass sessions [here](#).

15 February 2022, - YouTube for business

1 March 2022 - We Chat for business

15 March 2022 - Pinterest for business

30 March 2022 - Instagram for business

13 April 2022, - TikTok for business

26 April 2022 - Line (Japan) for business

[Home \(eventscloud.com\)](https://www.eventscloud.com)



GLOBAL RESEARCH & INNOVATION IN PLASTICS SUSTAINABILITY (GRIPS)

Tuesday 15th March - Thursday 17th March 2022

[Personal Information - Global Research & Innovation in Plastics Sustainability \(cvent.com\)](https://www.cvent.com)

Global Research and Innovation in Plastics Sustainability is a conference, exhibition and showcase that will be held on 15th – 17th March 2022 online. It is organised and run by Innovate UK KTN and hosted by the UK Circular Plastics Network (UKCPN). View exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities here. Register for GRIPS 2022 as an exhibitor or delegate here.

The packed programme, covering three parallel sessions over the three days, is being finalised, with speakers including David Shukman (Former Science Editor, BBC), Alicia Greated (CEO, Innovate UK KTN), Prof. Tony Ryan (University of Sheffield), Jude Allan (Chair of Packaging Group, IOM3), Prof. Michael Shaver (Professor of Polymer Science, University of Manchester), Rachael Rothman (Grantham Centre for Sustainability), and Adam Read (Suez).

We're delighted to announce a number of exhibitors spanning the plastics sphere, including TRANSFORM-CE, Evolve Packaging/Cambond, AgrifoodX Ltd., Britest Ltd., Innovation Advantage Ltd., Chip(s) Board Ltd., Plastic-i Ltd., CanCan Sharing Systems Ltd., and Pinweld Ltd.

The Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging Challenge will have a prominent place at GRIPS 2022, effectively having its own mini-conference within the programme. You'll be able to find out about funding and everything there is to know about the challenge, as well as opportunities to interact with the SSPP team. Their session will focus on whether we are on target for 2025 and will be chaired by Dr. Paul Davidson (Challenge Director of the Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging Challenge, UKRI), featuring speakers from WRAP, Defra, BPF, and Tesco

UK RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

BSRC is investing £17 million in frontier bioscience through its strategic longer and larger grants programme.

The funding will support over 50 established and aspiring research leaders within four world-class teams from 10 research organisations as they pursue ambitious interdisciplinary projects. These are aimed at advancing our understanding of the fundamental rules of life. By pursuing great ideas and undertaking dynamic interdisciplinary research, these collaborations will assemble the people, skills, and cutting-edge technologies necessary to tackle complex interdisciplinary problems in innovative ways. This will also advance the frontiers of bioscience knowledge.

Find out more.

[BSRC backs frontier research with £17m investment in team science – UKRI](#)



INNOVATE UK

NEW & CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Climate and environmental risk analytics for resilient finance: phase one Organisations can apply for a share of up to £1.5 million inclusive of VAT, to develop solutions that integrate climate and environmental factors in the financial services industry.

[Climate and environmental risk analytics for resilient finance: phase one – UKRI](#)

Innovate UK smart grants 2022 UK registered organisations can apply for a share of up to £25 million for game-changing and commercially viable research and development (R&D) innovation that can significantly impact the UK economy.

[Innovate UK smart grants: Jan 2022 – UKRI](#)

Eureka Eurostars 3: call 2 UK registered SMEs can apply for a share of up to £2.5 million to develop collaborative research in partnership with organisations from participating Eureka Eurostars member countries.

[Eureka Eurostars 3: call 2 – UKRI](#)