UKRI Innovate UK | SPROUT BREAK NEW GROUND

INNOVATE UK GLOBAL INCUBATOR PROGRAMME DELEGATION

NEW ZEALAND
2026

WELCOME

Innovate UK 2026 New Zealand Global Incubator Programme

Innovate UK is the UK's Innovation Agency and the 2026 New Zealand Global Incubator Programme is an acceleration programme supporting UK innovative SMEs to grow and scale through exploring the potential of global markets in partnership with SPROUT, helping them understand the requirements of the New Zealand Agri-Tech market and build the necessary partnerships, collaborations, and networks to accelerate growth.
https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/opportunities/global-incubator-programme-agri-tech-new-zealand-2026-cohort-1/

About Innovate UK

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, is the UK's innovation agency. It works to create a better future by inspiring, involving and investing in businesses developing life-changing innovations. Its mission is to help companies to grow through their development and commercialisation of new products, processes and services, supported by an outstanding innovation ecosystem that is agile, inclusive and easy to navigate.
www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/

About Sprout Agritech

Sprout is New Zealand's leading accelerator and investor in the agrifood value chain. Established in 2015, Sprout has developed the capability of more than 260 entrepreneurs, with an Alumni of 148 ventures who have raised over $127million, and holds an investment portfolio of 14 companies.
www.sproutagritech.com

MEET THE COHORT

Innovate UK
The UK's Innovation Agency

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CLEOBURY

WWW.CLEOBURYPM.COM

Cleobury is a Wales-based innovation company specialising in waste valorisation, spray drying, and microencapsulation technologies. The business converts agricultural and organic waste streams into stable, high-value powders for fertiliser, feed, food, and health-related applications.

Operating across laboratory and farm-based sites in Mid-Wales, Cleobury focuses on sustainable, scalable solutions that support circular economy principles, reduce waste, and improve resource efficiency within agriculture and land management sectors.

ALI WARREN-WALKER

DIRECTOR

Ali specialises in advanced drying methods preserving key nutrients, and develops clean-label products from agricultural and food waste co-products for human nutrition, animal feed, and fertilisers through sustainable waste valorisation initiatives. Mandy brings expertise in novel foods, biochemistry and human health, with an extensive academic research and publishing background. She also manages grant-funded projects and runs a 150-acre farm enterprise.

IN-MARKET GOALS

Cleobury seeks partnerships with farms, anaerobic digestion operators, food manufacturers, research organisations, and commercial partners interested in sustainable waste valorisation solutions. The company is looking to collaborate on pilot projects, grant-funded innovation programmes, commercial processing opportunities, and technology licensing.

Cleobury also welcomes engagement with organisations seeking practical solutions for managing liquid digestate/raw effluent, slurry, and organic waste streams while creating higher-value fertiliser and agricultural products from underutilised materials.

KEY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Cleobury provides spray drying, microencapsulation, formulation development, technical consultancy, pilot trials, grant writing, and commercial scale-up support. A core focus is the drying and stabilisation of liquid anaerobic digestate/raw effluent, slurry, and agricultural waste streams into functional fertiliser ingredients. The company also develops nutrient-dense powders from food and organic co-products for feed and nutrition markets. Services help improve storage, transport, handling, stability, and sustainable reuse of underutilised biological materials.

GALEBREAKER

WWW.GALEBREAKER.COM

Galebreaker is a UK-based Agri-tech manufacturer with over 40 years' experience designing and producing natural and mechanical ventilation systems to create optimised environments for housing livestock. Its solutions integrate intelligent building design, automated control and sensing to improve animal welfare, productivity and climate resilience. With UK-based engineering and manufacturing, a strong export focus and a proven track record of Innovate UK-funded innovation, Galebreaker is scaling welfare-led solutions into global livestock markets.

DAVID GAUTHIER

EXPORT REGIONAL MANAGER

David Gauthier is Export Regional Manager at Galebreaker, leading international growth through distributor partnerships and strategic market entry. With extensive experience developing routes to market for agri-technology solutions, he works closely with partners and customers to translate innovation into commercial adoption. David plays a key role in scaling Galebreaker's UK-engineered products into global livestock markets.

IN-MARKET GOALS

Galebreaker is seeking to engage with progressive New Zealand dairy and livestock farmers, farm equipment suppliers, building providers, industry bodies and technology partners to understand local farming systems and validate solutions under NZ conditions. The company is interested in forming long-term distributor and collaboration partnerships, cooperating on demonstration, research and development projects, and exploring strategic relationships that support market entry and scale-up. Galebreaker is also open to future investment discussions that accelerate growth.

KEY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Galebreaker designs and manufactures products and services that deliver optimised environments for housing livestock. Its offering includes natural and mechanical ventilation systems, automated side curtains, ventilation ridges, positive pressure tube ventilation (for calf and dairy applications), smart building control systems, environmental sensors and data platforms. These are supported by design consultancy, system integration, installation guidance and ongoing technical support to improve animal welfare, productivity, labour efficiency and climate resilience across global livestock systems.

GYROPLANT

WWW.GYROPLANT.COM

GyroPlant is a UK agri-tech company developing reusable plant support technology for Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA). Its core innovation enables plants to grow without single-use growing media—a major input cost and waste stream in CEA. Supported by the European Space Agency and Innovate UK, GyroPlant has over 100 active projects worldwide across the food sector, biomaterials, and pharmaceutical applications.

MARCUS COMASCHI

DIRECTOR & LEAD ENGINEER

Marcus Comaschi is an award-winning designer and engineer with degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Innovation Design Engineering. His experience spans product development from concept through to manufacturing, primarily within sustainability-led engineering startups. His work focuses on developing practical, scalable technologies for controlled environment agriculture and future food systems across home, industry, and space.

IN-MARKET GOALS

GyroPlant is keen to engage with growers to initiate trials for new crops being integrated into Controlled Environment Agriculture(CEA) systems, ranging from leafy greens, berries, and tree saplings to protein crops, pharmaceutical plants, and biomaterials. The company is also looking to collaborate with CEA irrigation and sensing technology companies for cross-development and integration into future products. GyroPlant is also interested in partnerships within the space agriculture sector and is currently raising to scale its operations.

KEY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

GyroCup® — Reusable plant support cup enabling substrate-free growing, designed to integrate into existing CEA systems.
Crop-specific designs — Tailored GyroCups for leafy greens, berries, trees & other crops
CEA system design — Custom systems for terrestrial and space agriculture applications
R&D and trials — Collaborative testing with growers, research institutions, and industry
Integration support — Guidance on implementation within existing hydroponic systems
STEM growing kits — Educational systems for at-home and classroom-based plant science

HIFE PLANTS

HIFEPLANTS.COM

HiFe Plants know how to breed crops containing more iron than any other plant source on the planet. We will address iron deficiency by developing high-iron plant varieties to produce fresh vegetables, powdered ingredients and supplements, offering a versatile, plant-based source of iron.

We have developed high-throughput screening methods to identify genetic variation in plants that cause iron accumulation. We then characterise the agronomic performance of the trait, and use a broad range of analytical laboratory techniques to record the speciation and bioavailability of iron within the plant and downstream food products.

JACOB PULLIN

DIRECTOR

Jacob is a plant and protein biochemist from the John Innes Centre, Norwich. He's passionate about improving the nutritional quality of food and helping to tackle iron deficiency. He has been leading HiFe Plants since March 2024 and has expertise in novel foods and nutrient bioavailability.

IN-MARKET GOALS

Jacob is keen to meet with supplement and ingredient manufacturers to partner with us on scaling our ferritin extraction procedure. We are happy to arrange trials of our HiFe pea material for further discussion.

We would also like to engage with salad growers to gauge demand for our technology in the broader New Zealand market, and hopefully, make new contacts in the plant breeding sector for new high-iron crop variety development partnerships.

KEY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

A genetic platform that enables the breeding of crops with high (up to 40x) iron levels. We have non-GM, non gene-edited traits ready for commercial breeding programmes in Pisum sativum and Medicago sativa, but are working to expand into other species.

HiFe Plants also offer enriched, plant-based iron ingredients with high bioavailability for food and supplements. We can also measure the bioaccessibility or bioavailability of iron in food products as a service.

POLYSOLAR LTD

WWW.POLYSOLAR.CO.UK

Polysolar is a UK-based clean technology company specialising in transparent solar glazing, agrivoltaics and building integrated photovoltaics (BIPV). We develop and integrate photovoltaic glass and lightweight solar technologies for buildings, infrastructure and agricultural applications, combining renewable energy generation with natural light transmission. Our solutions support sustainable design, energy efficiency and reduced carbon emissions across the built environment and farming sectors.

HAMISH WATSON

CEO

Hamish Watson is the founder and CEO of Polysolar Ltd, a background in consulting, advising multinationals setting up in China in the 90's, he has been involved in a number of start ups. Based in Cambridge, with its research operations in the University Cavendish Laboratories, the company is also leading the development of the next generation of spray printed solar solutions.

IN-MARKET GOALS

Polysolar is aiming to understand if there is a commercial market for our products in New Zealand, how to address the market, the drivers and requirements of the market. We aim therefore to talk to both the end customers but also the associated supply chain. We are looking for early adopter customers, agent/distributors and possible investment in our broader product offerings.

KEY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Polysolar offers transparent solar glazing, agrivoltaic systems and Building Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) solutions for projects across the UK and internationally. Our products include transparent PV glass, solar facades, canopies, carports, skylights, greenhouses, lightweight flexible solar and bespoke solar structures for commercial, public sector and agricultural applications. We also provide system design, integration and consultancy services for renewable energy, EV charging, battery storage and sustainable infrastructure projects.

X10AI

WWW.X10AI.CO.UK

x10AI develops advanced digital twin technology for livestock farming, using AI and machine learning to model nutrient flows, carbon cycles, and environmental performance. Working with ABP's beef and sheep supply chain into Sainsbury's, x10AI aggregates individual farms into scalable portfolios that deliver measurable impact at water catchment level. The platform supports regulatory compliance and carbon accounting, enabling farmers, policymakers, and investors to make data-driven decisions that improve sustainability and unlock environmental market opportunities.

THOMAS CROMIE

CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

Thomas Cromie is a co-founder of the x10AI platform, a digital twin system modelling nutrient flows and carbon cycles in livestock farming. Specialising in geospatial data and AI, he translates complex agricultural processes into actionable insights. Thomas also contributes to the Defra GeoAI Challenge, bridging ground-truthed data with Earth observation to support scalable, policy-aligned environmental decision-making.

IN-MARKET GOALS

We are seeking partnerships with livestock processors, retailers, and government agencies to deploy x10AI at scale within New Zealand's pastoral systems. We are interested in collaborating on pilot projects at farm and catchment level, and engaging with investors to support international growth. Our focus is on aligning with partners who can integrate digital measurement into supply chains and deliver verifiable environmental outcomes

KEY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

x10AI provides digital twin platforms that model nutrient flows, carbon emissions, and environmental performance in livestock systems. Its services include nutrient management planning, carbon accounting, and regulatory compliance support. In the UK, x10AI works across integrated supply chains to deliver catchment-scale sustainability outcomes. Globally, the UK-developed platform is adaptable to any livestock sector, enabling consistent, data-driven assessment of environmental impact across diverse geographies, production systems, and regulatory frameworks.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US