Innovate UK is the UK’s innovation agency supporting business to help take forward new ideas, technologies and concepts towards commercialisation to generate wealth creation and jobs for the British economy. Since our inception in 2007 (as the Technology Strategy Board) we have invested more than £1.5bn of public funding in innovation, drawing in a further £1.5bn from businesses. This £3bn public-private investment has supported over five thousand UK companies, adding an estimated £7.5bn to the UK economy and creating, on average, 7 new jobs in each of the businesses that have worked with us.

The Sustainable Agriculture and Food Innovation Platform (SAF-IP) is a £90m initiative to support UK innovation across the agri-food sector. Since 2010 a series of thematic competitions has been run to help UK companies focus on specific challenges facing the sector such as crop protection, sustainable protein production and food processing & manufacturing efficiency. With the publication of the Government Agri-Tech Strategy (ATS) in July 2013, Innovate UK has been implementing the investment of £70m through the Agri-Tech Catalyst to support innovation in primary production. A further investment of £90m is being used to strengthen UK capability in agriculture through the creation of new Centres for Agricultural Innovation.

The paper will provide an overview of the work Innovate UK has taken forward to deliver the SAF-IP and ATS, with examples of collaborative projects that are helping UK companies with their ‘concept to commercialisation’ journey to take new technologies and products to market.