

Integrated farm management for sustainable intensification: what role for advisers?

A Sustainable Intensification Platform workshop hosted by landbridge

Date: Thursday 8th September 2016

Venue: Nafferton Farm, Northumberland

The aim of the Sustainable Intensification Platform study farm network is to test a range of alternative farm management practices (as 'interventions') that have the potential to simultaneously increase farm output and competitiveness, whilst protecting the countryside and enhancing the environment, and demonstrate these to farmers and advisers. But how practical or useful are the interventions and could farmers be encouraged to consider trying similar approaches? In this free workshop there will be presentations from a selection of the SIP study farms and a farm walk at Nafferton to see the sustainable interventions in practice. There will be interactive sessions which will explore how advisory professionals might use the findings emerging from the SIP and further refine these based on their own knowledge and expertise in providing advice to clients. The workshop will also consider the potential opportunities for advisers and their clients from encouraging sustainable intensification. With the support of leading professional bodies and associations, the event will be used to generate recommendations on how advisers' expertise can better inform future research on sustainable intensification and the ongoing work of the Sustainable Intensification Platform.

Workshop aims

- To reflect on the key messages advisers can draw from the SIP findings
- To explore how advisers might encourage sustainable intensification interventions
- To consider what advisers think of sustainable intensification and what's in it for them
- To generate practical recommendations for a policy note on the role of advisers in sustainable intensification

Audience

This event will be of interest to land professionals and their associations and representatives of the agricultural and ancillary industries.

[Landbridge](#) is a knowledge exchange network for researchers and rural professionals who advise farming and land businesses. The [Sustainable Intensification Research Platform](#) (SIP) is a multi-partner research programme funded by Defra comprising farmers, industry experts, academia, environmental organisations, policymakers and other stakeholders. It is exploring the opportunities and risks of Sustainable Intensification (SI) from a range of perspectives and landscape scales across England and Wales.

Programme

10:00-10:30	Registration and coffee
Welcome and Introduction	
10:30-10:40	Opening remarks from Chair Caroline Drummond, LEAF Chief Executive and Head of AFRD, Prof Rob Edwards
10:40-10:55	Introduction to the Sustainable Intensification Research Platform – Prof Michael Winter
Session 1: Farm Management Practices for sustainable intensification	
10:55-11:00	Introduction - Chair
11:00-11:30	Putting theory into practice – findings so far from a selection of SIP study farms on the interventions tested and the key results to date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nafferton Farm (Gillian Butler, Newcastle University on the use of recycled wastes as fertilisers and management of minor cereals) • The Allerton Project (Chris Stoate, GWCT on cover crops at Loddington) • Henfaes Research Centre (Dave Chadwick, Bangor University on comparing high- and low-input management of lowland and upland sheep grazing)
11:30-11:40	Q&A for speakers
Session 2: Facilitating the uptake of SI practices	
11:40-11:45	Introduction – Chair
11:45-11:50	Personal reflections on SI experiences to date
11:50-12:30	Small group discussions considering different SI practices to explore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the current take-up of SI practices? • Learning from current adviser experiences: what works, what doesn't and what could be done differently? • How best can advisers understand and learn about SI practices? • How might advisers use and develop the SIP findings based on their own knowledge and expertise in providing advice to clients? • What strategies and approaches might advisers adopt in encouraging take-up of different SI interventions? (particularly with hard to reach/hard to action farmers)
12:30-13:00	Feedback of key findings
13:00-13:40	Lunch
Session 3: SI in practice	
13:40-15:00	Farm walk to see SI interventions at Nafferton
Session 4: Understanding advisors' views on sustainable intensification	
15:00-15:05	Introduction – Chair
15:05-15:40	Small group discussion to explore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do advisers see as the potential opportunities and challenges in encouraging SI and the take-up of interventions (personally, commercially, for their client)? • How might the challenges be overcome and what knowledge exchange tools and formats might assist them? • How can advisers' expertise better inform future research on SI and the ongoing work of the Sustainable Intensification Platform
15:40-16:10	Feedback of key priorities
16:10-16:15	Concluding remarks – Chair
16:15	Close