

SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION PLATFORM

BASELINE FARM SURVEY

Farmer interview schedule

SECTION A. SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION – YOUR VIEWS AND PRACTICES

1. Have you heard of the term Sustainable Intensification? *(Tick one box)*

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not sure

If YES, in what context have you been made aware of this term?

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2. What do you understand Sustainable Intensification to mean?

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3. a. The following are some examples of Sustainable Intensification activities. Please indicate if you are already involved in carrying out these activities, would consider introducing them or increasing usage of them in the future, or if they are not applicable to your farming system. *(Tick all that apply)*

Activity	Already carry out	Would consider increasing/ introducing	Would not consider using	N/A to farming system
Grow crop varieties with increased tolerance to stresses such as drought, pests or disease				
Reduce tillage to minimum or no till				
Incorporate cover crops, green manures and other sources of organic matter to improve soil structure				
Improve animal nutrition to optimise productivity (& quality) and reduce the environmental footprint of livestock systems				
Reseed pasture for improved sward nutrient value and / or diversity				

Predict disease and pest outbreaks using weather and satellite data, and use this information to optimise inputs				
Adopt precision farming: using the latest technology (e.g. GPS) to target delivery of inputs (water, seeds, pesticides, fertilisers, livestock manures)				
Monitor and control on-farm energy use				
Improve the use of agriculturally marginal land for natural habitats to provide benefits such as soil improvement, pollution control or pollination, and allow wildlife to thrive				
Provide training for farm staff on how to improve sustainability / environmental performance				

3b. Are there any particular barriers that would prevent you from considering these practices?

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SECTION B. QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FARM BUSINESS

4. What is your role in the farm business? (Tick one box)

- ☐ Sole proprietor
- ☐ Partner with parent
- ☐ Partner with son/daughter
- ☐ Partner with other relative
- ☐ Partner with non-relative
- ☐ Director/manager
- ☐ Other (please tell us) _____

5. What is the total area that you farm?acres hectares

6. a. How many people are working in your business, including yourself and your family?

	Full-time (year round)	Part-time (year round)	Casual
You and your family			
Employees			

b. Do you use contractors?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If YES, what for?

7. Approximately, what proportion of your total household income is derived from each of the following sources: (Tick one box in each row)

Farming	
Non-farming (diversified) enterprises	
Your off farm employment:	
Off farm employment by other members of farm's main household	
Savings, investments & pensions	
Other (please tell us)	

8. Taking all of your income sources into account, how would you describe the current economic position of your farm business? (Tick one box):

☐	☐	☐	☐
Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent

9. The average net profit for England from the 2013/14 financial year was £43,000. In comparison to this, was your farm business income (Tick one box):

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Considerably lower	Similar	Somewhat greater	Considerably greater	Prefer not to disclose
(less than £21,500)	(less than £5000 away from £43,000)	(greater, but less than £86,000)	(more than £86,000)	

10. How much are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the overall level of physical production / yield of the farm business? (Tick one box)

☐	☐	☐	☐
Not satisfied at all	Less than satisfied	Satisfied	More than satisfied

11. Does the farm business make use of any software, including apps, or specific guidance documents, such as the RB209 fertiliser manual, to inform decisions? *(Tick one box):*

☐ Yes

☐ No

If YES, please provide the name of up to three that you find most useful?

1..... 2..... 3.....

SECTION C. RECENT AND ANTICIPATED CHANGES IN THE FARM BUSINESS

12. Has there been any significant change in this farm business over the last 5 years? If so, what AND why?

Prompt for changes in area farmed, farm infrastructure (eg buildings, slurry store), enterprise mix, changes in land management, changes in livestock numbers or breeds, changes in crop types/varieties and the adoption of new technology

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13. Have you any firm plans to make any significant changes to this farm business in the next 3 years? If so, what AND why?

Prompt for changes in area farmed, farm infrastructure (eg buildings, slurry store), enterprise mix, changes in land management, changes in livestock numbers or breeds, changes in crop types/varieties and the adoption of new technology

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SECTION D. ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- 14. Do you have, and use, any of the following management plans for your farm business? (Tick one box in each row)**

	Have and actively use	Have but do not actively use	Do not have formal plan	N/A to farming system
Manure management plan				
Nutrient management plan				
Energy efficiency plan				
Crop protection plan / Integrated Pest Management plan				
Soil management plan				
Wildlife / biodiversity management plan				
Water management plan				
Pollution risk assessment and corresponding action plan				
Animal health plan				
Other (please specify)				

- 15. If you do have one or more of the above plans, can you give examples of where a plan has led to a change in your management.**

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- 16. Are you involved in any farm assurance schemes?**

Examples: Red Tractor, LEAF Marque, Other retailer scheme, LEAF Audit

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- 17. a. Do you generate any energy on your farm that is used within your business? (Tick one box):**

☐ Yes ☐ No

If **YES**, please estimate the percentage of your total energy use (other than diesel and petrol) that you generate.....%

b. What type of renewable technology do you have on the farm (if any)? (e.g .Wind, AD)

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18. a. What area, if any, of your land is certified organic?Acres or Hectares

b. Do you have any land under organic conversion?Acres or Hectares

19. Do you currently have an agri-environment scheme agreement? (Tick one box):

[Note – NOT including the new ‘greening’ measures following CAP reform]

☐ Yes (Go to Q20)

☐ No (Go to Q21)

20. If YES (you have an agri-environment scheme agreement):

a. In which scheme(s) are you participating and for how long?

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b. Were you in another scheme before this?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If YES, for how long?

c. What are the main management activities you are carrying out under this/these agreement(s)?

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d. What area (or proportion) of the farm is covered by the agri-environment management activities? [Note – include rotational options and woodland creation]

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e. Does the agreement involve formal cooperation with other farmers?

☐ Yes

☐ No

(Now go to Question 22)

21. If NO (you do not have an agri-environment scheme agreement):

a. Have you had an agri-environment scheme agreement previously? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b. Which scheme(s) did you participate in and for how long?

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c. What were the main management activities you carried out under the agreement(s)?

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- d. What area (or proportion - % area) of the farm was covered by the agri-environment management activities? [Note – include rotational options and woodland creation]
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22. What do you consider to be the main activity on the farm that benefits the environment?

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23. Do you feel that any of your farming activities have an avoidable detrimental impact on the environment?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

Please explain:

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SECTION E. COMMUNITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE

24. Typically, how much contact (eg face-to-face, phone, email) do you have with other local farmers? (*Tick one box*)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| None | Less than once a week | Once a week | More than once a week |

If YES (you have contact with other local farmers), in what capacity / context?

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25. Typically, how much contact (eg face-to-face, phone, email) do you have with non-farming members of the local community? (*Tick one box*)

☐
None

☐
Less than once a week

☐
Once a week

☐
More than once a
week

If YES (you have contact with non-farming members of the local community), in what capacity / context?

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26. Typically, how much contact do you have with the individuals, organisations or companies to whom you sell your products? (Tick one box)

☐
Less than once a week

☐
Once a week

☐
More than once a
week

In what capacity / context?

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27. a. How important do you feel farming is to the local community?

☐
Essential

☐
Quite important

☐
Neither important
or unimportant

☐
Not particularly
important

☐
Not important at
all

b. Why do you say that?

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28. a. Have your levels of contact with non-farmers changed over the last five years?

☐
Increased

☐
Stayed the same

☐
Decreased

b. Why is that?

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29. Please describe what it is like to be a farmer in 2015

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SECTION F. COOPERATING WITH OTHERS

30. Are you involved, either formally or informally, in any of the following forms of cooperation/joint working with other farmers?

	Currently involved	Previously involved	Considering involvement	Not involved	Do not regard as cooperation /joint working
Membership of buying group(s)					
Membership of discussion group(s)					
Membership of producer organisation/co-operative(s)					
Membership of trade union(s) (e.g. NFU)					
Commons agreement (any type, including AES)					
Environmental management (e.g. joint agri-environment scheme agreement)					
Contract rearing of any livestock – for / by other farmers					
Contract growing of any crop - for / by other farmers					
Short term keep of livestock - for /by other farmers					
Share farming					
Sharing labour					
Sharing machinery					
Swapping manure and straw					
Lending breeding sires					
Other (please specify)					

31. Farmers who have never cooperated with others GO TO Q34

What do you consider to be the most important form of cooperation which you are / have been involved in, AND WHY?

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32. a. Thinking about when you cooperate with others, do you have a preference for formal (e.g. involving payments / contracts) or informal cooperation?

- ☐ Formal
☐ Informal

b. Why do you say that?

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33.

a. What are your main reasons / motivations for cooperating with others?

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b. In your opinion, what are the main benefits arising from cooperation?

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c. In your opinion, what are the main difficulties / problems arising from cooperation?

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d. In your opinion, what are the main factors that enable cooperation with others to work well?

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e. Have you ever been involved in setting up cooperative activities?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES, what activity and how did this come about?

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(NOW GO TO QUESTION 36)

34. *(For farmers who have never cooperated with others):*

What do you consider to be the potential benefits, if any, from cooperating with others?:

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35. What do you consider to be the potential problems / difficulties in cooperating with others?:

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SECTION G. PERSONAL INFORMATION

36. What is your highest level of formal education? (Tick one box)

- ☐ Prefer not to disclose (*If this box is ticked go to Q38*)
- ☐ School education (left at 16 or before)
- ☐ A' levels
- ☐ Technical qualification (NVQs, BTEC, OND, HND, etc)
- ☐ Degree
- ☐ Post-graduate qualification
- ☐ Other (*Please tell us*) _____

37. Was your highest level of education related to agriculture? (Tick one box)

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

38. What is your age?

Thank you for your co-operation in completing this interview.

Would you be willing to be contacted as part of further research within the SIP project? This might involve taking part in another interview or being part of a discussion group with other farmers. If you agree to take part in further research for the SIP project we may share you contact details with selected members of the project team for the purpose of this research only.

YES ☐

NO ☐

Would you like to be kept informed of the results of our research?

YES ☐

NO ☐

IF YES would you prefer that we contact you by post or email?

Post ☐

email ☐

email address:.....