



The Agri Food Charities Partnership (AFCP)

What does AFCP do?

AFCP provides information that enables:

- individuals to identify easily charities that might support an educational, research or personal development project
- charities to identify opportunities for collaboration both with other charities and/or other supporters of the industry
- charities to better direct their funding at the strategic needs of the sector.
- charities to work together to improve processes

When combined agricultural charities contribute about £3 million annually to support education, personal development and research in the agricultural, horticultural and food sector.

The impact of this funding is magnified through leverage and by seeding novel initiatives.

What is AFCP's vision?

To maximise industry benefits through effective support from charities.

What are AFCP's four key objectives?

1. To develop robust and effective links between charities supporting education, research and personal development services

Better understanding of each other's needs and processes will result in more efficient and effective support for the sector.

2. To establish AFCP as the recognised catalyst for supporting charities to deliver benefits to the sector

As a result charities will have opportunities to align their funding decisions with the strategic needs of the industry and to maximise their impact through collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, especially fellow charities and other funders and through better understanding the needs of institutions providing educational, research and personal development services.

3. To develop and deliver effective support for groups of charities

Closer relations with fellow charities foster better understanding of the opportunities for collaboration, through shared analysis of the issues and the development of improved practices.

4. To develop robust and effective links with major funders of education, research and personal development

Knowledge and understanding of the various funding streams communicated to charities deliver opportunities for them to optimize the impact of total funding available.

How does AFCP operate?

1. By maintaining a web site – www.afcp.org.uk

The website is a recognised resource for individuals, charities, providers and funders to identify opportunities for funding or collaboration. Being easily edited and kept current with relevant information of initiatives and opportunities across the industry, it is AFCP's primary communication route.

2. By facilitating interaction between groups of charities

Groups of charities may be connected by a variety of common interests: location, funding arena or process issues. AFCP facilitates formulation and maintenance of these groups as the need arises further strengthening the basis for collaboration.

3. By liaising with Funders and Providers

The major funders and providers are ideally positioned to understand the strategic needs of the industry and to develop initiatives and programmes that address these needs. It is important for AFCP to be closely associated with these organisations to ensure relevant and timely information is available for presentation to charities enabling appropriate opportunities for charity funding to be incorporated within their programmes.

4. By organizing an Annual Forum and Occasional Workshops

The Forums address subjects relevant to charities and the issues they face in providing effective support for the industry and to enable those involved with charities, either directly or indirectly to meet. These are always attended to capacity.

Occasional workshops are held on specific issues in response to requests from charities.

What resources do AFCP need?

AFCP operates with modest resources consisting of a part time CEO and Secretary. These are supported and supplemented by a combination of charitable funding, donations, volunteer professionals, *pro bono* facilities and subscriptions from member charities. To achieve its objectives AFCP requires support from all contributors to the agri-food industry.

What are AFCP's achievements?

These are presented on the website, are regularly updated and include

- Charity for funding obtained via AFCP for production of key RASE Report on soils
- Established a group of charities based in Eastern England to identify and progress opportunities for collaboration. As a result they are
 - organising one meeting a year
 - exchanging applications received that may have relevance to another
 - have successfully collaborated to fund projects on potato cyst nematodes;
 - measurement of soil properties; diseases of oilseed rape
- Secured funding from Royal Bath & West Association for a major project to develop training guidelines for the Fire Service, on accidents involving animal transportation
- Established the "AFCP Award" with AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds to give charities the opportunity to propose research topics that would be jointly funded with AHDB.
- AFCP initiative provided extra funding from a charity for better travel opportunities and equipment.
- Facilitated the opportunity for two charities to support an industrial BBSRC CASE studentship on potatoes.
- Delivered seven Annual Forums that have explored a wide range of issues relevant to charities including, careers, education and research strategy, and provided opportunities for charity representatives to meet and discuss strategic issues relevant to the industry with experts in the area.
- Held 2 Forums specifically for students funded by charities to present their work and exchange ideas
- Successful support for the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association to develop a methodology to deliver agriculture related topics into the school curriculum

Those wishing to discuss how they may support AFCP should contact Dr Paul Biscoe (paulbiscoe@hotmail.com) or any of the Directors listed on the web site

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