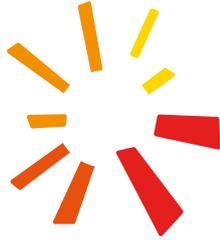


BRIEFING ON SEFARI

LEADING IDEAS FOR BETTER LIVES

SEFARI

LEADING IDEAS
FOR BETTER LIVES



BIOMATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS SCOTLAND

THE JAMES HUTTON INSTITUTE

MOREDUN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

THE ROWETT INSTITUTE

THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH

SCOTLAND'S RURAL COLLEGE

SEFARI stands for Scottish Environment, Food and Agriculture Research Institutes – it is the **collective** of Moredun Research Institute; Scotland's Rural College; The James Hutton Institute; Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh; The Rowett Institute; and Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland. These institutes work together to deliver unique and globally distinctive multi and inter-disciplinary research across:

- Plant and Animal Health;
- Agriculture;
- Land and Communities;
- Climate and the Environment;
- Rural Economy;
- Food and Drink Innovation;
- Healthier Foods;
- Science Education



The collective of institutes delivers the Scottish Government funded 2016-2021 Strategic Research Programme (SRP) on agriculture, environment, food and land. The SRP also helps **leverage funding** for global, multidisciplinary and **collaborative projects** and develops foundations for **commercialisation**.

SEFARI aims to deliver 'Leading Ideas for Better Lives', reflecting that publicly funded research in Scotland must ultimately deliver positive impact for individuals, whether in Scotland or elsewhere. **SEFARI** has a critical role to improve the flow of research findings and expertise to policy, commercial and public users. It also has a role to understand the challenges faced by these users. This is sometimes known as **Knowledge Exchange**.

SEFARI aims to ensure the right research and expertise is available for existing and potential research users. The idea is that the right people, with the right knowledge, can help explain a landscape and the complicated interactions taking place – whether a physical, policy, business, or household landscape. Research can deliver solutions, then, in the development of policy or law; in business practice; or in the choices individuals make every day.



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SEFARI carries out work to improve this flow of expertise through a number of mechanisms including:

- **Dialogue:**

- **Key conversations** with policy, business and individuals, for example, mapping research against specific sectors on issues such as biodiversity, rural economy, climate change, Good Food Nation, international opportunities;
- **Partnership working**, for example with the Scottish Centres of Expertise on climate, water and animal disease;
- **Events Programme**, for example Edinburgh Science Festival, Science in Parliament, Royal Highland Show, and development of our own programme.



- **Funding:**

- **Think Tank** on national and grand global challenges, for example, biodiversity; urban food, climate challenges of global food; proteins from different plants;
- Innovative **Knowledge Exchange**, for example between farmers and vets, or developing science education resources for schools;
- **Fellowships** e.g. Scotland's Futures Forum; Cairngorms National Park Authority.



In practical terms, the Knowledge Exchange element of **SEFARI** draws staff from across the institutes, all of whom are experts in their own fields, and so understand their own sectors well. They also know where to go across the institutes for more information and expertise. They have intrinsic understanding of research users, or potential users – and how to communicate with them effectively.





Graeme Cook is **Director of Knowledge Exchange and Impact**. Graeme is on a two year secondment from the Scottish Parliament, where he was Head of Research and Knowledge Exchange. In his parliamentary career Graeme has led on climate change, energy and the Crown Estate, and had overall responsibility for the Health, Environment and Europe Research Team supporting MSPs and Parliamentary Committees. Graeme is on the board of the Scottish Universities Insight Institute.



Charles Bestwick is a **SEFARI Advisor**. He is also Principal Investigator at the Rowett Institute, University of Aberdeen and holds an Honorary (Visiting) Professorship at Robert Gordon University. Charles works across research themes and knowledge exchange systems to support our impact agenda. His specific research interests include the identification of human health benefits from consumption of crops and wild edible plant species.



Lorna Dawson is a **SEFARI Advisor** and **Sector Lead for Environment**. She is also head of Forensic Soil Science at the James Hutton Institute, visiting Professor of Forensic Science at Robert Gordon University and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Lorna is a registered expert with the National Crime Agency, works with police forces and agencies across the UK and overseas soil trace evidence provision in search and evidence.



Kenneth Loades is the **Sector Lead for Soils and Crops**. He is a soil physics and root soil interactions research leader within The James Hutton Institute. His research encompasses soil management and also how roots interact with soil from both a soil stabilisation perspective, for infrastructure, and also improving crop roots for improved performance.



Alan Rowe is the **Sector Lead for Food and Drink**. He is a Food and Drink Industry Specialist with the Rowett institute. Alan is a trained chemist, but has worked in the academic and knowledge exchange fields for over 20 years, gaining extensive knowledge of the Food and Drink sector in Scotland and in developing new mechanisms for academic-industry interaction.





Philip Skuce is the **Sector Lead for Livestock**. He is also a Principal Scientist at the Moredun Research Institute. Philip's research interests include: Determining the impact of climate change on livestock disease; understanding the role of improving animal health in reducing greenhouse gas emissions; sustainable control of disease; and monitoring disease risk in the environment.



Steven Thomson is the **Sector Lead for Communities**. He is an applied agricultural economist with over 20 years of experience delivering research, consultancy and education for Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). Steven has a particular interest in agricultural and rural policy evaluation, and is involved in a wide range of rural economy studies.



Andrew Kelloe is a **Research and Communications Officer**. Andrew has an MSc in International Development. His research focuses on exploring the inter-dependencies between pressing environmental concerns and development pressures. Andrew is also involved in knowledge exchange and engagement, particularly in the policy sphere.



Michelle Wilson-Chalmers is a **Research and Communications Officer**. Michelle specialises in science communication and public engagement, in which she has an MSc. She also has a doctorate in chemistry and has worked in industry for over 15 years. Michelle is a teaching fellow at the University of Edinburgh.



Joshua Bird is a **Network Co-ordinator**. He is also a Policy Engagement Officer for Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). Joshua's role entails him keeping abreast of pertinent policy developments, mapping stakeholder networks and creating accessible and informative policy outputs.