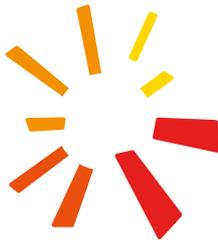


BRIEFING ON RURAL ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES

LEADING IDEAS FOR THE RURAL ECONOMY

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.

This collective delivers the Scottish Government funded 2016-2021 Strategic Research Programme (SRP) on agriculture, environment, food and land. **SEFARI** improves the flow of research findings and expertise between the Programme and policy, commercial and public users. **SEFARI** works alongside the Scottish Centres of Expertise on climate, water and animal disease.

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. Whilst this work takes place across a number of sectors, this briefing focuses on examples of **Rural Economies and Communities** research funded within the 2016-2021 Strategic Research Programme.



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Rural Communities and Wellbeing

- Improving our understanding of the underlying factors, that can lead to disparity in the social, economic and environmental resilience of local communities (e.g. the role of population change);
- Assessing the role of place-based policies in supporting inclusive social and economic growth in rural areas and small towns (e.g. asset based development and the growing emphasis on wellbeing);
- Provide insights into the interdependencies between rural areas, small towns, and urban areas and create a new way of classifying rural areas and small towns to improve targeting of policy;
- Develop evidence on the links between the environmental and landscape qualities of rural areas and the wellbeing of those that visit or live in these areas (e.g. evaluating pathways to community wellbeing);
- Develop measures of success for rural community resilience and develop methods that capture the impact and outcomes of policy interventions. (e.g. through the development of a Community Resilience Assessment Tool).

Supporting a Sustainable Rural Economy

- Providing analysis, evidence and policy support on the drivers of change within Scotland's rural economies and how policy makers and business can adapt for a more resilient economy;
- Providing supporting evidence on the Common Agricultural Policy and for Scottish Government negotiations with the European Commission, including developments towards a post-Brexit agricultural support package (e.g. through modelling and statistical techniques - including assessing redistributive impacts arising from changes to agricultural payments);
- Improve varieties of major Scottish crops to cope with climatic conditions and disease; threats through knowledge of their DNA;
- Developing new ways to measure how efficient and resilient rural businesses are including characteristics of businesses in different groupings;
- Assessing opportunities for rural businesses to engage in the circular economy;
- Improving understanding of climate-climate impacts arising from agriculture, and assess the ways to reduce impacts and adapt to climate change.