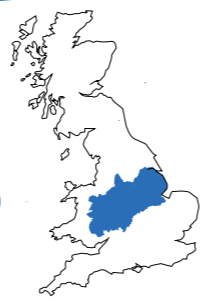


# FOOD AND AGRI-TECH IN THE MIDLANDS

## LEADING THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE UK FOOD SYSTEM



### THE MIDLANDS FOOD SYSTEM AT A GLANCE

#### END-TO-END FOOD SYSTEM

**66,000**  
businesses



**857,000**  
jobs

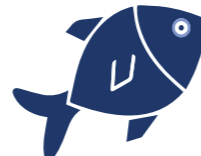
**£32bn**  
GVA (2020)

#### LEADING PRODUCTION CLUSTERS

**39%**  
of vegetable and salad  
production in England



**41%**  
of poultry production  
in England



**>70%**  
of fish  
processing

#### TRADING AND INVESTING AT SCALE

**£2.1bn**  
of goods exports  
(2022)



**26%**  
of UK FDI in food and drink  
manufacturing (2017-2021)



**>£3bn**  
industry investment  
per year in growth

#### FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN & INNOVATION LEADERSHIP

**LOGISTICS HUB**  
of the UK food chain



**32%**  
of Innovate UK awards to  
food and drink businesses  
since 2005

**45**  
universities, colleges and  
research centres working  
in the food system

### MIDLANDS CLUSTERS

The Midlands food system is large, with clusters of larger firms and SMEs extending across the whole region.

Food manufacturing in Birmingham, Coventry, Lincolnshire and Nottingham

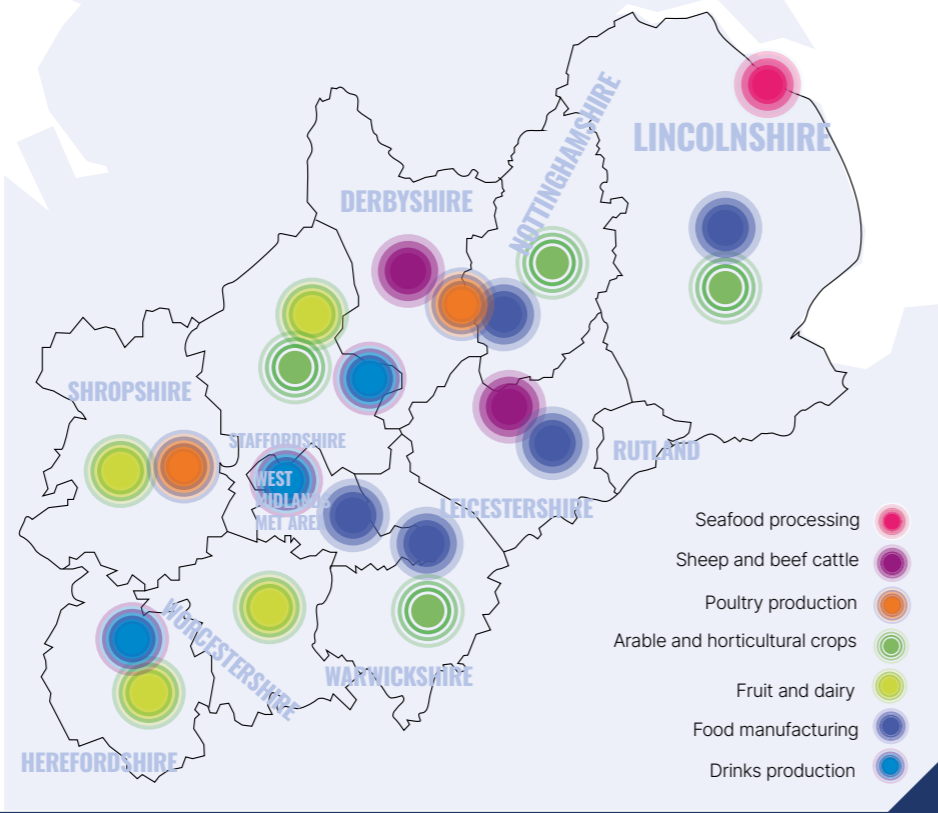
Fruit and dairy in Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire

Arable and horticultural crops in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire

Sheep and beef in Derbyshire and Leicestershire

Poultry production in the East Midlands and the Marches

The UK's largest seafood processing cluster in Grimsby



### THE OPPORTUNITY

In the Midlands food and drink industry is investing more than £3 billion a year in expansion, innovation and technology, delivering increased productivity and sustainability, healthier diets, and quality jobs.

By 2030:  
**£6bn**  
GVA

**Jobs**  
**9,000**

**Investment**  
**£2bn / year**

The Midlands Engine Food White Paper evidences major opportunities for sustainable UK food system transformation and growth, and the scale of potential economic gains in the Midlands.

By 2040:  
**GVA**  
**£18bn**

**Jobs**  
**26,000**

**Investment**  
**£8bn / year**

### INNOVATION

The Midlands has UK-leading assets for agri-food system innovation such as the University of Nottingham's Food Systems Institute, Lincoln Institute for Agri-Food Technology (LIAT), Barclays Eagle Farm Lab, Harper Adams University and the Midlands Hub for Agri-EPI.

Midlands universities are leading the way in developing agri-tech in collaboration with industry partners. High-performing universities include the universities of Nottingham; Keele; Birmingham; Leicester; Lincoln; Warwick; Loughborough; and Nottingham Trent.

The region has world-class innovation hubs including the National Centre for Food Manufacturing (Lincoln); Food Enterprise Zones (South Lincolnshire); SmartParc; Ni.Park; Lincoln Science & Innovation Park; National Centre of Excellence in Food Engineering.

### THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

The Midlands food system proves that the power to transform the food system for decarbonisation and improved health and social outcomes lies in working in partnership, exchanging knowledge and sharing resources and expertise.

Building on and expanding regional partnerships to collaborate on larger, longer-term projects is crucial to bring forward delivery of a transformative plan for sustainable food systems growth.

Midlands industry, academia and public sector partners are already working together to create the conditions for sustainable food system growth via a 'triple helix' partnership.

Current food system support is characterised by multiple, often short-term, disconnected projects. Longer-term programmes deliver more efficient interventions and build industry confidence.

A single programme model would build on a 'triple helix' partnership united around the common goal of sustainable food chain growth, led by the industry and facilitated by the public sector and knowledge base.



Click here to read the **Food White Paper** with the recommendations available at [midlandengine.org/resource-library](https://midlandengine.org/resource-library)

