

Innovate UK



GLOBAL BUSINESS INNOVATION PROGRAMME

TECHNOLOGY VISIT TO CHINA - FOCUS ON THE AGRI-TECH SECTOR

DATES

Visit dates:

Saturday 9th -Saturday 16th
March 2019

Closing date for full application:

Sunday 27th January 2019 17:00hrs

Pre-visit workshop dates:

w/c 11th February 2019 - final dates
TBC

As part of Innovate UK's Global Business Innovation Programme, Enterprise Europe Network is organising an innovation mission to China aimed at helping businesses working in the Agri-Tech sector identify partners for international collaboration. Delegates will have the opportunity to access major research facilities and agricultural centres and meet key industry stakeholders including researchers, government policymakers and Chinese businesses. The aim of the innovation mission is to develop strong international partnerships for future collaboration and commercialisation.

The programme includes a two day pre visit briefing in the UK to prepare the delegation and give insight into the requirements for successfully accessing the Chinese market.

WHY CHINA?

Agriculture accounts for only 9% of Chinese GDP yet the industry employs over 320 million people. The nation's expanding cities are consuming farmland at breakneck speed, soil health is an issue and the farm workforce is ageing. China has to feed one fifth of the world's population from only one tenth of its arable land. The challenge of feeding a growing nation has long been a major concern. China estimates that by 2030, when its population is expected to level off at around 1.5 billion, it will need to produce an additional 100 million tons of food each year. China recognises the need to accelerate the modernisation of this sector, improve productivity and produce safer foods by integrating smart technologies into its food

production. Aware of the UK's Agri-Tech capabilities the Chinese government is providing major investment to stimulate UK- China collaboration to overcome shared challenges and drive the adoption of new technologies and innovative approaches.

KEY TECHNOLOGY SECTORS

Solutions that include sensors, robotics, systems, autonomous vehicles and data driven solutions and which focus on:

- Improving productivity of farmed livestock - including aquaculture, animal welfare, nutrition and health.
- Improving productivity in protected environment and high value crops.
- Food safety - Optimising the use of pesticides and fertilisers - solutions to maximise sustainable production.
- Optimising yields and quality.

ITINERARY (subject to change)

Date	Activity
Sat 9 March / Sun 10 March	Depart UK / Arrive Beijing
Mon 11 March	Introductory Briefing – R D & I and collaboration opportunities in China. China-UK Agri-Tech technology & innovation pitching and matchmaking. Networking reception at the UK Ambassador's Residence.
Tues 12 March	China Rural Technology Development Centre - Sustainable food production matchmaking event and site visits. Networking dinner.
Wed 13 March	Shijiazhuang – Agri-Tech opportunities in the Jing-Jin-Ji regional corridor. Dingzhou National Agricultural Science and Technology Park and site visit. Networking dinner.
Thurs 14 March	Meetings with Shandong Academy of Agricultural Sciences and site visit. Networking dinner.
Fri 15 March	Meetings with Jiangsu Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Matchmaking. Networking dinner.
Sat 16 March	Depart Shanghai.

BENEFITS OF THE GLOBAL BUSINESS INNOVATION PROGRAMME

- Pre-visit and in-country briefings providing market information and advice on how to access the Chinese market, training on how to improve your pitch and protect IP.
- Exclusive access to the Chinese Agri-Tech sector and the opportunity to meet key companies and research organisations.
- Your organisation and technology profile in the visit brochure, to be distributed to the Chinese Agri-Tech sector.
- Targeted, pre-arranged meetings at organised matchmaking events.
- Opportunity to discuss project ideas with leading research and commercial partners, build consortia and scope out proposals for future Agri-Tech bilateral funding calls.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS/FUNDING

For eligible companies joining the Global Business Innovation Programme, flights, six nights accommodation (one representative per company) and subsistence will be funded. (Full terms and conditions will be sent in an offer letter).

On acceptance onto the programme, a commitment fee of £500 will be required from you, which will be refunded on completion of the programme and implementation of an agreed follow up action plan.

Non-compliance with the terms and conditions of the programme after formal acceptance will result in forfeiting some or all of the fee.

VISAS FOR CHINA

Entrants normally require a visa to visit mainland China. With effect from 1 November 2018, all visa applicants aged between 14 and 70 inclusive will need to make their visa application in person at a Visa Application Centre (based in London, Manchester, Belfast & Edinburgh). As part of the application process, biometric data (scanned fingerprints) will have to be provided. You should allow at least two weeks for the process to be completed.

NB Chinese New Year celebrations commence Tuesday 5th February. As a result, visa applications will be delayed over this period.

PROGRAMME ELIGIBILITY

Your company must be an innovative SME established within the UK. Attendance at the pre-visit workshops is mandatory.

HOW TO APPLY

[Please click here to apply](#). It is a competitive process and places are limited. Applications will be evaluated by a selection panel. Successful applicants will be notified of the outcome by **Friday 1st February 2019**.

For more information, please contact Louise Hooker or John Woodruffe, GBIP Project Managers:

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