



LINKING ENVIRONMENT AND FARMING
Integrated Farm Management

Sustainable Intensification Platform – LEAF’s Involved!

LEAF is involved with a new Defra funded research project on Integrated Farm Management and its role in delivering Sustainable Intensification.

Defra has commissioned this work through three research projects that will establish the Sustainable Intensification Research Platform (SIP). The SIP started on 1st May and will run for three years to investigate ways to increase farm productivity while reducing environmental impacts and enhancing ecosystem services that land provides to society. The £4.5million investment in SIP aims to develop more integrated and collaborative ways of funding, conducting and applying agricultural research.

Project 1, led by NIAB with 25 partners in total, will look at Integrated Farm Management for improved economic, environmental and social performance. Project 2, led by the University of Exeter, looks at the opportunities and risks for farming and the environment at landscape scales. Project 3, led by ADAS is primarily a scoping study on the influence of external drivers and actors in the sustainability and productivity of English and Welsh farmers.

This is a fantastic opportunity to further promote the benefits of IFM to a wider network of farmers as well as quantify and demonstrate the benefits to farm businesses and their surrounding environment and community. As many of our members are IFM pioneers, we may be in touch throughout the project to ask about practices and attitudes to IFM, giving you the opportunity to shape future research and innovation in this area. The project will also look at the benefits of landscape scale interactions and external drivers of sustainability. More details will be available on www.leafuk.org as the project unfolds.