

Movement Infrastructure for Systemic Change

Diverse movements are powerful, but without alignment their impact can fragment.

Farming the Future invests in the relational and strategic infrastructure that turns diversity into collective strength. We support the connective tissue that enables agroecology in the UK to move from a set of promising initiatives to a coherent, influential movement.

By strengthening relationships and coordinated action, we help transform multiple voices into movement-level influence, supporting narrative change and strategic intervention rooted in shared values rather than superficial consensus.



Investing in the Conditions for Collaboration

We fund both collaboration itself and the conditions that make collaboration effective. This includes:

- Strengthening groups' capacity to work within their own constituencies and across coalitions
- Supporting facilitation, relationship-building and knowledge co-creation.
- Bridging grassroots actors with policymakers, funders, researchers, and think tanks, ensuring that local insight informs systemic change.

This work is often invisible. Yet without it, long-term systems change does not hold.

Building Movement Infrastructure

Food systems transformation requires infrastructure — not only physical systems, but the relational, political and cultural foundations that make change possible.

For agroecology to function as a coherent movement in the UK, it must build political legitimacy, research credibility, narrative alignment and inclusive leadership.

This infrastructure is deeply relational. It shapes livelihoods, power and identity across the sector. It cannot be rushed and when sustained, it compounds, strengthening the movement's influence over time.



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Demonstrate Practice Viability

Credibility is built through collaborative research and visible demonstration.

From 2021–23, Farmerama partnered with Sheffield Wheat Experiment, UK Grain Lab and Small Food Bakery on The Body Lab, exploring how grain standards shape food culture and the case for heterogeneous seed. The research now informs the HetroGen prototype database and engagement with DEFRA on broadening variety trials, helping build the evidence base for legislative reform.

Alongside this, we have funded practical initiatives including Seed Sovereignty training; pulse value-chain development in North East England; the National Network of Agroforestry Farms; and community food forest pilots with The Orchard Project. We also supported a Fringe Farming initiative, which delivered a toolkit, practitioner forums and policy advocacy, including evidence to the House of Lords, to strengthen the case for small-scale peri-urban agroecology.

By connecting seed, grain, market and policy, these initiatives demonstrate the resilience and economic viability of agroecological systems.



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Establish Political Legitimacy and Visibility for Agroecology

From 'Making Voices Heard' (2019) to the Fruit and Veg Coalition's parliamentary launch (2025), we have worked to align grassroots expertise with parliamentary advocacy.

This has helped make agroecological priorities more visible in policy debates and funding — demonstrating agroecology as a necessary pathway for the future of farming, rather than a niche alternative.

3

Connect Story, Evidence and Practice

Movements lose influence when their messages are fragmented.

We funded the Agroecology Comms Network to strengthen narrative alignment, and the Agroecology Research Collaboration to strengthen farmer-led research legitimacy. Together, these initiatives connect communicators, researchers and practitioners, increasing coherence, confidence and collective reach.



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Strategic Alignment

In 2024, we began funding dedicated Movement Strategy sessions at the Oxford Real Farming Conference.

This step was made possible by trust built through years of foundational work — including the Agroecology Research Collaboration, the Agroecology Comms Network, regional network development, national policy campaigns, and sustained efforts to address barriers for minoritised groups to food and farming.

Strategy emerges from trust. Our long-term investment allows the movement to both respond to and shape policy.



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Shift the Narrative

Changing farming practice means changing the story about food, land, and power.

From Farmerama's Who Feeds Us: Stories from a Crisis to partnerships with Future Narrative Labs and Foodrise, we support narrative interventions that widen the frame beyond productivity and profit toward justice, resilience, and democracy.

Shifting the narrative isn't only about changing the conversation — it's about living different values. By centring wellbeing, connection, and care in how we work and collaborate, we help grow a deeper shift: one that challenges extractive norms and brings regenerative, relational ways of feeding ourselves to life.

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Build a Shared Language

Strategic alignment depends on shared language.

We have funded several complementary initiatives alongside others across the movement. These include support for We Feed the World; funding the Oxford Real Farming Conference, where we have supported interactive Telling Your Story workshops enabling participants to train with Just Farmers in sharing their projects online and through video; and backing for the Agroecology Comms Network to host action-learning workshops exploring agroecology as a social movement, a model of economic resilience and a climate solution.

This work strengthens clarity, confidence and coordination in public-facing advocacy.



5

Enable Collective Action

We invest in spaces where relationships translate into visible collective action.

Through initiatives such as the Justice Hub at the Oxford Real Farming Conference and the Food in Our Hands march, the movement acts visibly and collectively.

Regionally, we support agroecology networks in Scotland, Northern England and Northern Ireland, alongside land justice gatherings — strengthening solidarity and shared strategy across geographies.

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Centre Justice and Inclusion

A transition to agroecology must address the structural inequalities embedded in land, labour and food systems.

We support work that tackles barriers to land access and training, strengthens civic participation, and challenges procurement systems that exclude smaller producers. For instance 'Uplifting Underrepresented Voices', was a partnership between Land in Our Names, Out on the Land and Farmerama Radio to amplify the voices of BPOC and queer landworkers and land justice activists.

By centring racial justice and democratic participation, we aim to ensure that the systems transformation we are working towards is equitable.

