

RAS – Opportunities in the Bio-economy in Yorkshire

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Bio-economy

... includes the production and conversion of bio-mass into value-added products, such as food, bio-based products (e.g. chemicals) and bio-energy.

... includes sectors such as agriculture, aquaculture, horticulture, Forestry, food and drink, industrial biotechnology, bio-energy, utilities.

... in Y&H: GVA £8.7 billion; employs 105,000 people

A global leader in Agri-Food & the Bio-economy

Our focus for 2016-21 - SEP extract:

6 Enable businesses to access new intellectual property, technology and processes which drive commercial value

- *Innovation and resource efficiency support for businesses*

#8 Develop markets

#9 Develop the skills needed by businesses for the future

Our assets

- 2 Centres for Agri-tech Innovation - one-stop shop for research and KE
- A diverse, forward-looking land-based sector; largest concentration of food & drinks businesses in the UK - 3.5 times more concentrated than national
- Key R&D and skills assets for agri-food and bio-renewables; private / public sector



Applications in the Bio-economy

- Precision Farming – reduced fertiliser / pesticide applications; sustainability
- Automated harvesting – higher quality jobs as repetitive element is taken out; salad crops
- Food manufacturing – safer work place; QA easier to achieve; bread packing line/ onion realignment
- Waste valorisation - robotic waste separation
- BioTech – most systems are supported by RAS

Why is RAS of interest to LEP ?

- Cross-sectoral solutions
- Potential re. Innovation and KT Interface
- High quality jobs / increased productivity
- Data collection to improve decision making
- Our new £10m capital fund could support key infrastructure



BUT

RAS isn't highlighted specifically in our SEP, i.e. it happens as part of agri-tech activities, etc.

No current involvement with the Northern Robotics Network

LEP's ambitions to create jobs vs more automation – do we need ethical debate ?

Seeking opportunities

Please get in contact

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