



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Pershore College: Agri-Tech Research Centre

Newly-refurbished dedicated agri-tech training facility

Summary

This project involved the refurbishment of an existing building at Pershore College, which along with the purchase of capital equipment has been used together to create a dedicated agri-tech training facility.

The Background

- The £500,000 investment from Worcestershire LEP, through the Government's Growth Deal, enables WCG to launch a groundbreaking initiative with an Agri-tech STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) centre based at Pershore College.
- The new applications laboratory and live field-based experimentation and demonstration facility enables the college, local horticultural businesses and students to work together on industry challenges involving the application of innovative technologies.
- The dedicated agri-tech applications laboratory will house electronic, robotic and computer based technologies that will be used to educate and train students and employers on modern applications of agri-tech and provide a centre for simulation of application
- Alongside this, the project will enable the development of a suite of "Horticulture Technology and Innovation" courses and will embed technology focused learning into all Pershore College programmes.

Key facts

LEP: Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership

Location: Pershore

Project completion: September 2019

LGF funding: £500,000

Estimated potential outputs: The project is addressing current and pressing skills shortages in agriculture and horticulture that act as a barrier to innovation and growth for this sector.



The Benefits

- The facility received 40% private sector leverage, created 79 apprenticeships and has assisted 97 new learners in courses that have led to full qualifications.
- **Gary Woodman, Chief Executive of Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership said:** "Agri-tech is one of Worcestershire's key sectors for economic growth and our investment into Pershore College will enable our future workforce and local businesses to benefit from the latest innovations. STEM skills are particularly important in supporting the long-term growth of the county's thriving businesses and the College's new cutting-edge facilities and equipment will help to provide our younger generations with skills that are relevant for the future."