



Contemporary agriculture

The realities of modern agriculture

In 2018, the Science Museum will open a landmark new gallery showcasing the science and technology driving modern agriculture. We will reveal the industry's surprising innovations and proposed solutions which will enable us to produce food more sustainably, more resiliently, and in ways that better reflect our social values.

Our audience research shows that people feel removed at a fundamental level from how their food is grown. Our visitors know there are gaps in their knowledge; they expect and trust the Science Museum to help them understand the complexities of contemporary agriculture and navigate difficult consumer decisions.

We know that agriculture is a subject of global interest, and our gallery will draw on our links with industry specialists, researchers, academics and policy-makers to create an experience that will captivate the public.

Our vision for the gallery

As we look to the future, major decisions concerning agriculture and the environment must be made. With no other exhibition in the UK profiling these challenges and the potential solutions, our gallery will play a key role in improving public understanding of where our food comes and encourage industry, government and the public to reconsider this dynamic, scientifically driven industry.

In line with our goal to help bridge the STEM skills gap, this gallery will also be aimed at inspiring the next generation of problem-solvers, scientists and engineers to get excited about the many opportunities in this fast paced industry.

By introducing the global challenges that affect us all, we will encourage our visitors to think about the science behind the issues and how these issues relate to their own food choices.

Thought provoking content

Agriculture is one of the fastest innovating industries today and for good reason. With a growing population, a changing climate and an increasing concern for the planet's precious resources, we need to transform the way food is produced and how the industry is perceived.

By introducing our visitors to the scientists, engineers and farmers of today and the ground-breaking science and technology they're harnessing to grow our food, we will profile agriculture in a new light.

Our audience will be presented with a set of dual challenges, all of which balance the need to produce enough food with:

- Working the land and preserving vulnerable soils
- Controlling pests, weeds and diseases and leaving space for wildlife
- Raising animals for meat, milk, and eggs and ensuring they lead healthy lives
- Giving plants and animals the best conditions to grow and adapting to a changing climate

From robotics and big data, to selective breeding, genetic modification, and agroecology, visitors will explore a variety of scientific and technological approaches to tackling each challenge. They will come face to face with highly sophisticated machinery, learn about the cutting-edge scientific principles underlying new farming practises, and put themselves in the decision-making shoes of the people who grow their food.



Working in partnership

The Science Museum has a long track record working in partnership with foundations, philanthropists and corporations who want to support our mission to make sense of the science that shapes our lives and inspire the next generation.

To enable us to deliver this new gallery, we have a goal to raise £3 million through philanthropic giving, sponsorship and grant investment. We are currently looking for partners interested in supporting this project and furthering the Museum's leading role in scientific learning, innovation and inspiration.

If you would like to find out more about how you can support this exciting gallery or for more information on the content themes, please contact:

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Our mission

As the home of human ingenuity, the Science Museum has a mission to make sense of the science that shapes our lives. This commitment drives everything we do. Through our world-class collections of original historic objects, galleries, interactive experiences and our learning programmes we aim to be the leading international museum championing the understanding, enjoyment and prestige of science in modern society.

Our Strategic Ambitions focus on four core themes: climate science and sustainability, medicine, informatics and the science of data, and understanding the universe.

We are committed to focusing on the urgent choices faced by society and the fundamental science and technology that underpin them. Our plans to tell the story of contemporary agriculture are a powerful testament to this commitment.

Our ambitions and objectives as a leading science museum are made possible by like-minded, forward-thinking partners and supporters. We look forward to collaborating with you to deliver this timely exhibition.