

Webinar

Regional Food Hubs Support Programme

Tuesday 22 October

12-1pm

Online



sustain



Image credit: Better Food Traders

Regional Food Hubs Support Programme: Cultivating Local Food Systems

Welcome to an innovative programme designed to bolster Regional Food Hubs across the UK. This initiative aims to strengthen local, agroecological food systems through targeted support and training.

Join us in fostering sustainable food networks and expanding market opportunities for agroecological produce.



Defining Regional Food Hubs

Physical Infrastructure

Regional Food Hubs provide essential facilities for storing and distributing locally-produced food.

Digital Platforms

Many hubs utilise online systems to manage orders and connect producers with buyers.

Local Focus

Hubs specialise in produce from nearby farms and producers (agroecological/organic where possible).

B2B and B2G Sales

Hubs facilitate sales to businesses and public bodies, expanding market reach.

Hubs that are currently B2C but want to expand into B2B will be considered.



Programme Overview



1

Duration

12-month programme January to December 2025. Fully funded so free for people to take part, with a commitment of 1/2 day a month.

2

Participation

Up to 15 food hubs in the cohort, ideally two staff members per enterprise. Meetings will be mostly online, with a couple of opportunities to meet in person.

3

Focus

Tailored more towards start-ups, with some advanced modules for more established food hubs. Hubs should at least have a Manager in place, and be looking to start trading next year.

4

Team behind it

This programme is a collaboration between Better Food Traders, Sustain, the Soil Association and Growing Communities.



Programme Components



Online Webinars

10-12 sessions covering sector-specific topics, with a co-created syllabus.



Peer Learning

Monthly sessions for knowledge sharing and collaborative problem-solving.



1:1 Support

Bespoke business advice from Julie Brown, Director of Growing Communities/Better Food Shed.



Accountability Partners

Participants are matched to build connections and provide mutual support.



Benefits for Start-Up Hubs

1 Foundation Building

Gain essential knowledge to establish a strong operational base for your regional food hub.

2 Network Development

Connect with experienced hub managers and industry experts for valuable insights.

3 Tailored Guidance

Receive targeted advice to address the unique challenges of launching a regional food hub.





Support for More Established Hubs

Scaling Strategies

Explore ways to expand your hub's reach and impact.

Operational Efficiency

Discuss new technologies and processes to streamline your hub's activities.

New Markets

Gain insights into B2B and B2G opportunities for growth. Learn about frameworks, bid writing and sales pipelines.

Building Knowledge for the Wider Sector

1

Observer Participation

Members of the Local Food Working Group attend sessions on a rotation, to capture insights, successes and challenges.

2

Shared Notes

Observers provide detailed notes throughout the programme for others working in the sector.

3

Lessons Learned Document

Lessons will be captured and a report will be created to inform future policy and support.

4

Sector-Wide Impact

Findings will guide the Sustainable Food Places programme and other sector work.



Application Process

Eligibility	Regional Food Hub managers in the UK
Application Form	https://form.jotform.com/242603294877364
Deadline	Friday 22nd November
Queries	Lois Gallimore, Programme Manager lois@betterfoodtraders.org

Anticipated Outcomes



Business Growth

See measurable improvements in the food hub's operations and sales.



Stronger Networks

Build lasting connections with fellow hub managers and industry experts across the UK.



Skills and Confidence

Hub Managers feel more skilled, confident and resilient.



Regional Food Hub Support Programme

Questions?

What else would you like to know about the programme?

And a question for you...

For those Food Hubs that are already trading, or have start-up funds in place - where has your funding come from?

We are creating a document that pulls together all funding options for Food Hubs, which we will share with the sector early November.

Sign up to be part of the cohort

Be part of a growing network of food hubs transforming local food systems!