

Tips for food and farming careers

A tips booklet for young
people that would like to
explore a career in the
agrifood industry

www.eitfood.eu

This booklet was created for you by EIT Food
North-West which is responsible for the UK,
Ireland and Iceland region of EIT Food



Why work in the agrifood industry?

The agrifood industry has a variety of exciting jobs on offer throughout the food value chain.

Currently, the agrifood industry is expected to face a labour shortage by 2030, with some areas of the industry already experiencing a decline in the supply of workers.

Also, the agrifood industry has been associated with unskilled and low-skilled jobs, when in fact, the industry required workers in highly-skilled positions.

We need skilled people with technical and entrepreneurial skills to address some of the biggest challenges our food system faces, from mitigating climate change to combatting food fraud to feeding a growing population sustainably.

The future of our food systems relies on a new generation of innovative, creative and hard-working people, that can help to produce safe, sustainable and nutritious food for all of society.





What career pathways exist in the agrifood industry?

There are numerous pathways into agrifood careers, which vary for different types of jobs.

Agrifood careers typically require a combination of knowledge and skills to be developed before you are qualified for a job. You can pursue an academic route to gain knowledge into a particular area and/or a vocational route to gain industry skills through practical learning and experience

A university degree is often a requirement for STEM-related agrifood jobs such as a nutritionist, food scientist or researcher.

However, other jobs do not require a university degree and instead require practical qualifications through apprenticeship schemes and/or on-the-job training.

The most important factor when pursuing a career in the agrifood industry is to have a passion for food!



What is an academic route to a career in the agrifood industry?

An academic route to a career in the agrifood industry typically involves a university degree.

The benefits of a university degree can include:

- To gain a qualification that is recognised and respected by employers and academics worldwide
- To develop the necessary skills you'll need to flourish in your career such as: communication, organisation, team work, leadership and problem-solving
- To increase your earning potential – having a degree makes you more attractive to employers, you'll have a greater choice of jobs and you'll earn more.

A qualification in a food related degree can also help you to understand the challenges of sustainable and healthy food production and consumption. This will help when you begin your career, as you will have an understanding of the industry you are working in.



What is a vocational route to a career in the agrifood industry?

A vocational route to a career in the agrifood industry involves acquiring practical skills and experience for a particular job.

The benefits of a vocational pathway can include:

- Helps with job-specific learning
- Training with real experience to help to adapt to your role quickly
- Acquiring knowledge and experience at the same time
- Dealing with the latest trends in the business world

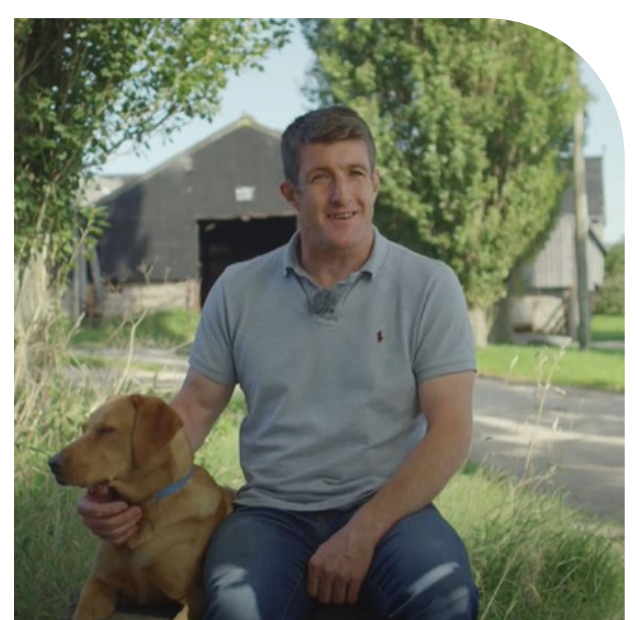
Another route to a career in the agrifood industry can include a blended approach, which involves gaining a qualification and on-the-job training at the same time.

A example of this is an apprenticeship, where you will learn the skills and knowledge needed to perform your role. This includes a combination of on-the-job training with an employer and off-the-job studying with a training provider.



EIT Food's Day in the Life Series

EIT Food's 'Day in the Life' series aims to encourage young people to consider a career in the agrifood industry, by profiling a range of jobs that the industry has to offer. The series includes videos which follow a specific individual as they carry out the typical tasks and responsibilities in their day-to-day job.



[Visit the project page](#)

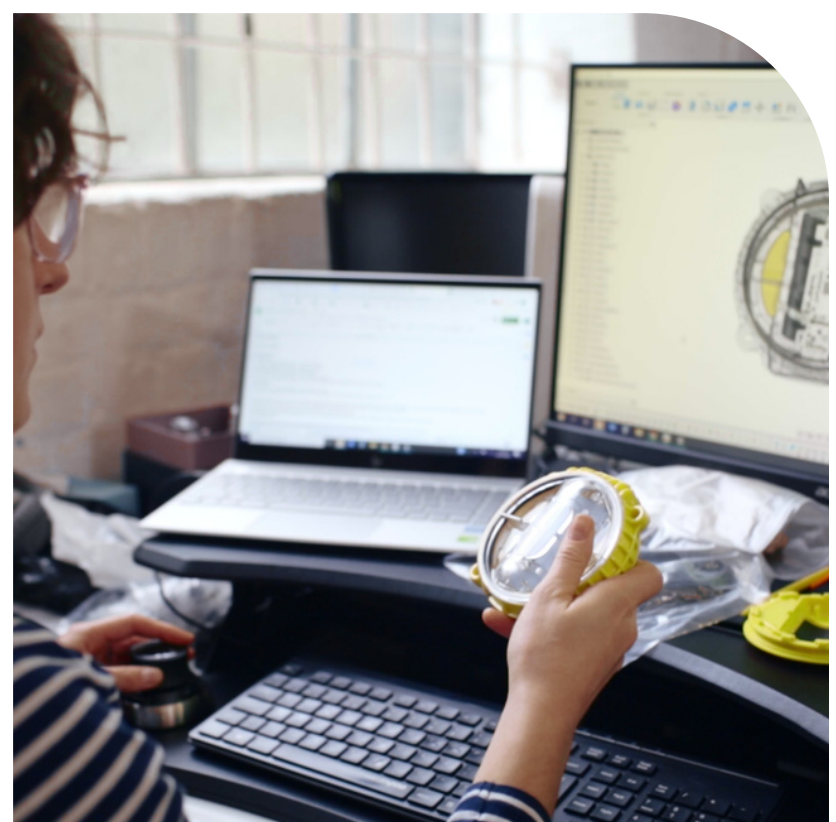
[Watch the series](#)



General tips when considering a career in the agrifood industry

Ask yourself the following questions when considering a career in the agrifood industry.

- What are you passionate about and why?
- What types of food system challenges do you want to help to solve?
- What type of job can you envision yourself doing?
- What knowledge and skills do you already have for a specific job?
- What knowledge and skills do you need to acquire to be able to pursue a specific job?
- Do you want a job which is academic or practical or both?
- Do you want a leadership role?
- How much money would you like to make? Is this achievable for the job that you would like?
- Do you want to work in a team environment?
- What are the individual steps you need to take get the job that you want?



Career Planning Template

This template allows you to write down your key interests, knowledge and skills to help you visualise and work towards a role in the agrifood industry.

Please complete the questions below:

What types of agrifood jobs interest you the most?

What knowledge and skills do you already have?

What skills and knowledge do you need to acquire/develop?

Would you prefer an academic route, vocational route or blended route to your chosen career? Is this feasible for the job you want?

What companies would you be interested in working for?

Jobs in the agrifood industry

Do you know what type of agri-food job you would like? Or are you still unsure?

Here are some examples of agrifood careers below that you may be interested in:

- Agricultural scientist
- Agronomist
- Animal nutritionist
- Baker
- Biochemist
- Brand manager
- Buyer
- Customer Insights Manager
- Development chef
- Ecologist
- Engineer
- Farm manager
- Health and safety manager
- Horticultural technician
- HR manager
- Manufacturing manager
- Marketing manager
- New product development manager
- Nutritionist
- Packaging designer
- Product engineer
- Production manager
- Public Relations Manager
- Quality assurance manager
- Retail manager
- Sales executive
- Soil scientist
- Supply chain manager
- Systems development manager
- Technical advisor
- Warehouse manager

Final words

Whether you know the job you would like or whether you're still unsure, it's important to remember that your career is not fixed for life. You can change careers if you find that you do not enjoy the industry you are working in.

It's a good idea to speak to people in the industry that you want to work in, as they can give you an accurate perspective into a particular job. The most important thing is to be proactive!

We wish you all the best in your career journey!



About EIT Food

EIT Food is the world's largest and most dynamic food innovation community. We accelerate innovation to build a future-fit food system that produces healthy and sustainable food for all.

Supported by the **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)**, a body of the European Union, we invest in projects, organisations and individuals that share our goals for a healthy and sustainable food system. We unlock innovation potential in businesses and universities, and create and scale agrifood startups to bring new technologies and products to market. We equip entrepreneurs and professionals with the skills needed to transform the food system and put consumers at the heart of our work, helping build trust by reconnecting them to the origins of their food.

We are one of nine innovation communities established by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), an independent EU body set up in 2008 to drive innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe.

Find out more at www.eitfood.eu or follow us via social media: [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#).

About EIT Food Education

EIT Food offers a mix of online learning and in-person courses; ranging from short-term courses, summer schools, online learning, PhD programmes, degree-awarding Master's programmes to certified professional education.

[Learn more here](#)