



National
Potato
Innovation
Centre



The James
Hutton
Institute



University
of Dundee

The National Potato Innovation Centre (NPIC)

Growing our economy. Safeguarding our food security.

A plan for capital investment.

Why potato science matters

Potatoes are the UK's **second most important staple food** after wheat.

The sector underpins a **£4.3 billion value chain** — from growers and breeders to processors and retailers.

Production has declined by **25% in the past decade**, threatening food security, rural jobs, and exports.

Climate change, pests and diseases and reduced chemical inputs put the industry at risk.

NPIC is a world class hub hosted at The James Hutton Institute in partnership with the University of Dundee and other academic and industry partners across the UK. It will:



Accelerate breeding of resilient, nutritious potato varieties.



Harness genetics and agri-tech to tackle pests, diseases, and climate pressures.



Develop new products — proteins, vaccines, biomolecules, biodegradable packaging.



Provide collaboration spaces for industry, researchers, and entrepreneurs.



The plan



New facilities:

micropropagation labs, high health glasshouses, trait discovery suites.



Cutting edge equipment:

large-scale leaf sampling, DNA extraction and liquid handling, root phenotyping and compound library screening.



People and skills: training programmes to build a skilled workforce in agritech and sustainable production.

Economic multipliers

Capital investment:

£46–56 million.

Benefit Cost Ratio: **4.4+** — exceptional value for money.

Safeguards a sector critical to food security and rural economies.

Unlocks new commercial opportunities and inward investment.

Key dates

2026–27 Construction and mobilisation.

2027–28 Built and operational.

2030+ UK leads globally in potato science and innovation.

Find out more



Visit: www.hutton.ac.uk/NPIC



Contact: ian.toth@hutton.ac.uk