

The ASSET programme

Be the best in your field



Our mission is to provide independent science-based research and information to support, develop and promote agriculture and horticulture; helping the industry to fulfil its potential in supplying food and renewable resources, while respecting the natural environment.

What is ASSET?

The Agricultural Science Student Education Training (ASSET) programme is run by NIAB TAG and provides a valuable point of exchange with undergraduate students studying agronomy modules and their tutors at four leading crop science universities: Reading; Harper Adams; Newcastle and Nottingham.

The scheme is a mechanism through which NIAB TAG is able to:

- Support one outstanding final year student at each partner university to the sum of £3,000
- Promote career opportunities in the arable sector, crop sciences arena and at NIAB TAG.
- Present the work carried out by NIAB TAG.
- Maintain communications with key individuals teaching agronomic science in the UK.

Who can apply to the scheme and how does it work?

In order to be considered for the ASSET Award students must be registered to complete a specific crop based module in their second year as defined by each partner university. NIAB TAG staff visit each university to allow students to find out more about the organisation and its ASSET programme. Students then register their interest in participating in the programme with their course tutor who puts forward candidates to NIAB TAG staff.

The assessment procedures for the Award are tailored to fit in with the

curriculum at each university, but essentially the winners are selected each year based on the quality of specific second year project work, recommendation from their tutors and an interview with NIAB TAG staff. The four winners are usually announced at the end of the summer term and the bursaries presented in the autumn term of the third year.

What are the benefits of participating in the programme?

Participation in the programme serves to encourage students in their studies. We hope it also helps to inspire individuals to understand better how they might aim to make a difference to the UK agricultural industry in their future careers.

All participants are offered the opportunity to receive the NIAB TAG quarterly technical journal free of charge in their final year and for one year after graduation. They can also join a priority distribution list towards the end of their degree to be notified of all job vacancies with NIAB TAG.

In addition, winners receive a £3,000 bursary which is presented at a ceremony associated with a key technical event. All expenses are covered and the event is selected to be informative and relevant to the students' final year studies.

Other opportunities for students to interact with NIAB TAG or make linkages to other initiatives of potential benefit may arise on an *ad hoc* basis.

Support

The ASSET Programme is funded by NIAB TAG in partnership with generous support from The NIAB Trust and The Morley Agricultural Foundation.



Encouraging the best current undergraduates into careers that will support applied research and knowledge transfer for the future benefit of the arable sector are key to the ASSET programme. We are therefore happy to consider engaging with impartial initiatives or organisations that could make a further positive contribution to the ongoing education or career development of ASSET programme participants.

Partners

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NIAB is a major international centre for plant science, crop evaluation and agronomy, with headquarters in Cambridge and regional offices across the country. NIAB spans the crop development pipeline, combining within a single resource the specialist knowledge, skills and facilities required to support the improvement of agricultural and horticultural crop varieties, to evaluate their performance and quality, and to ensure these advances are transferred into on-farm practice through efficient agronomy.

With an internationally recognised reputation for independence, innovation and integrity, NIAB is ideally placed to meet the industry's current and future research, information and knowledge transfer needs.

As NIAB TAG we conduct field crops research and provide impartial variety and crop husbandry information. The NIAB TAG knowledge base is drawn from extensive staff expertise, research data and field trials from over 20 locations in England. It is widely utilised by the agricultural community and through the NIAB TAG Network influences more than 20% of the UK's arable area.

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To find out more about the ASSET Programme please telephone our Morley Office on **01953 713200**, e-mail **asset@niab.com** or contact our partner universities directly.