

# OLD CROPS FEEDING THE BIOECONOMY

The practice of paludiculture goes back generations.

Plants such as reeds and bulrushes (Typha) have been traditionally used in roofing, but the fibres are now becoming highly valued for insulation, acoustic boards and many other uses.



- Niab supported 12 projects across Natural England's Paludiculture Exploration Fund (£5 million). UK farmers have explored new uses for willow, explored sphagnum as a crop, and mapped lowland peat landscapes to identify options for future management.
- The Paludiculture Exploration Fund included a series of integrated Typha projects in the UK from small research plots to operational, commercial-scale harvesting – an important milestone in demonstrating the real-world potential of paludiculture.

Niab is also exploring the potential of growing some food crops whilst actively managing water tables in peat soils to reduce carbon emissions.

For more information visit [paludiculture.org.uk](https://paludiculture.org.uk) or [paludiculture@niab.com](mailto:paludiculture@niab.com)