



InCrops was a £5.2m, 7 year, project supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the East of England Development Agency (EEDA). The project was managed and delivered by the Adapt Low Carbon Group at the University of East Anglia. InCrops project staff worked with businesses and entrepreneurs across the region to increase low carbon economic growth by the development or adoption of bio-based products made from plants, algae, and agricultural food and waste.

Project support was principally delivered via a cohort of Business Innovation Managers who provided direct advisory and consultancy support for a minimum of 12 hours, connecting clients to the knowledge and expertise that resides in the 15 project partners (local (and EU) Universities, Research Institutions and industry experts).

The team of technical specialists covered all key areas within the biorenewables sectors: biopolymers, biocomposites, green built environment, functional food and health products, bioenergy and biofuels, biorefineries, biopharma and biopharmaceuticals, and agronomy and crop improvement.

The project was successful in delivering its ambitious and far reaching objectives, and effectively provided specialist business support across the East of England region and across the full range of biorenewable sectors.

Over its lifetime, the project helped 263 businesses create 101 jobs, including 33 female jobs. The project also assisted 23 business start-ups, and 87 of the firms supported have integrated new products, processes or services into their business.

The project has delivered an excellent response to SME needs, with the events programme and Business Innovation Manager support particularly well received.

InCrops created an estimated net additional GVA impact across the East of England of around £8.9 million.

'An independent evaluation of the ERDF InCrops Project' by The Insight Works Ltd