

In 2014, having secured generous funding from the BBSRC Advanced Training Partnership I elected to study for a PhD AgriFood at The University of Nottingham. The course runs in conjunction with Cranfield University, Harper Adams University and Rothamsted Research working in partnership to develop and deliver this innovative programme in order to develop work-based learning and research skills.

My commitment is to study part-time for up to six years and to date I have completed Part 1 and am about to move onto my research (Parts 2 & 3) which will focus on the sustainability of fresh produce supply chains

Part 1 taught component

The objective of the taught component is to provide students with the theoretical, practical and transferable skills for a continuing career in the Agrifood and allied industries, in a part-time format that will fulfil the requirements for Continued Professional Development (CPD). I have studied for 120 credits including courses in:

- Principles of Sustainability
- Evaluating Sustainability
- Fresh Produce Production
- Financial and Economic Appraisal for Environmental Management
- Natural Resource Economics
- Genetic Improvement of Crop Plants
- Statistics and Experimental Design
- Soil Plant Environment Science
- Resource Capture by Crops
- Evaluation of Farm Business Resilience

Parts 2 and 3

Original research in the field and thereby contribute to the growing body of knowledge and technology in the AgriFood industries.

Part 2: Literature review and research plan

This requires students to write a literature review for the general research area proposed, in consultation with a University project supervisor(s). The literature review will be a critical review of the current research relevant to the project and provide a focussed account of the previous work leading up to the current state of knowledge on the questions to be investigated.

The research plan will include a clear statement of the problem to be investigated (the overall aim), the resources available and the rationale behind the design of the study.

Part 2 also includes a compulsory presentation at the annual AATP symposium.

Part 3: Research and thesis phase

Part 3 requires candidates, in consultation with their project supervisors, to undertake original research in an approved topic in a relevant field and complete a 50,000-60,000 word thesis.