



UK Research
and Innovation

UKRI Programmes for International Research and Innovation

Professor Tim Wheeler,
UKRI International Director

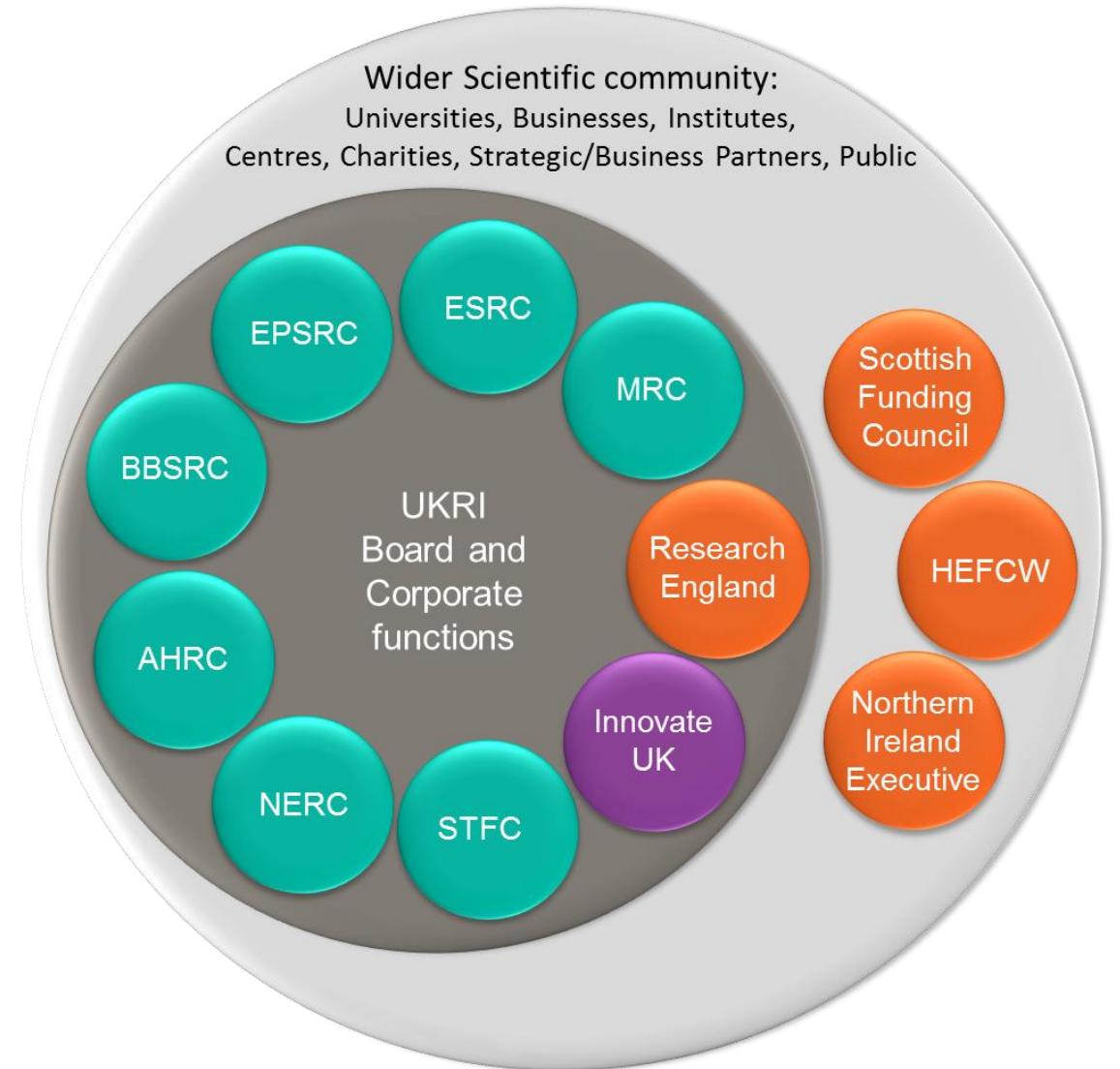
RIKEN Symposium, Dec 2019



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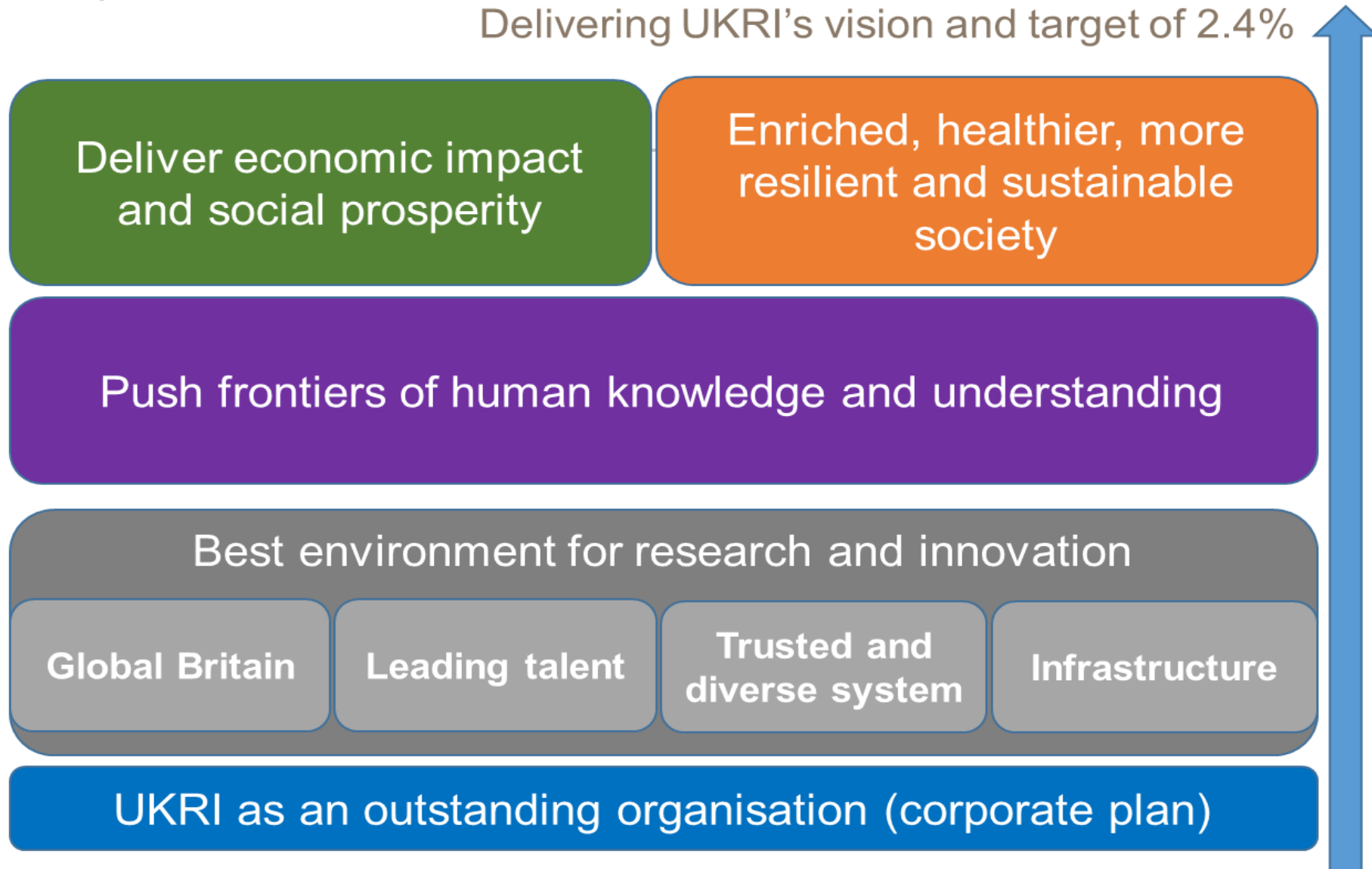
UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) works in partnership with universities, research organisations, businesses, charities and government to create the best possible environment for research and innovation to flourish.

UKRI brings together the 7 UK research councils, Innovate UK and Research England.



UKRI Objectives

Delivering UKRI's vision and target of 2.4%



Mission-oriented research in UKRI

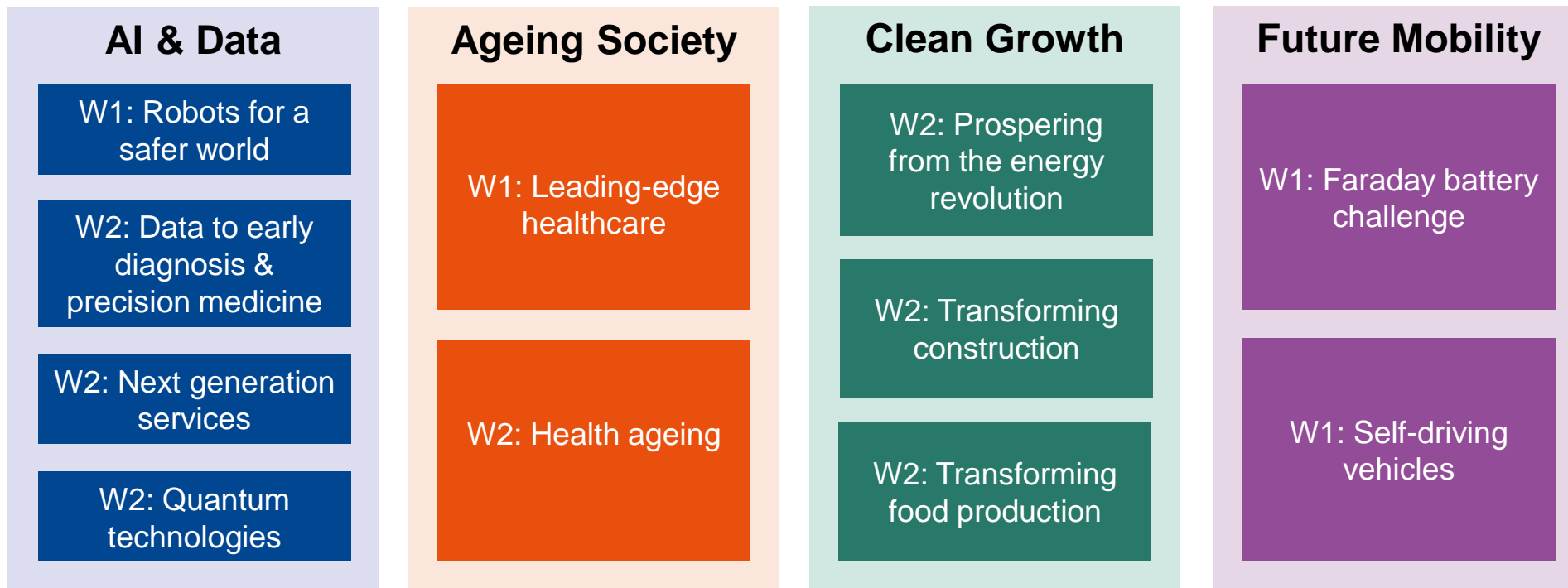
- Delivering societal impacts by drawing on R&I investments to deliver solutions
- Provide a framework around which researchers, innovators, policy makers, practitioners, stakeholders can coalesce to tackle a problem that is identified jointly, co-designed, co-produced with relevant stakeholders
- Potential to be transformative with the acceleration of results to impact
- A way of demonstrating and communicating to stakeholders and the public at large the benefits that can arise from research and innovation investments
- Opens opportunities to harness the capabilities and interest of the global research community and to move from national to international missions
- Adds value through national- and regional-level comparative advantages in particular research domains and allows engagement with regional- and country-level strategies

Domestic example

Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund



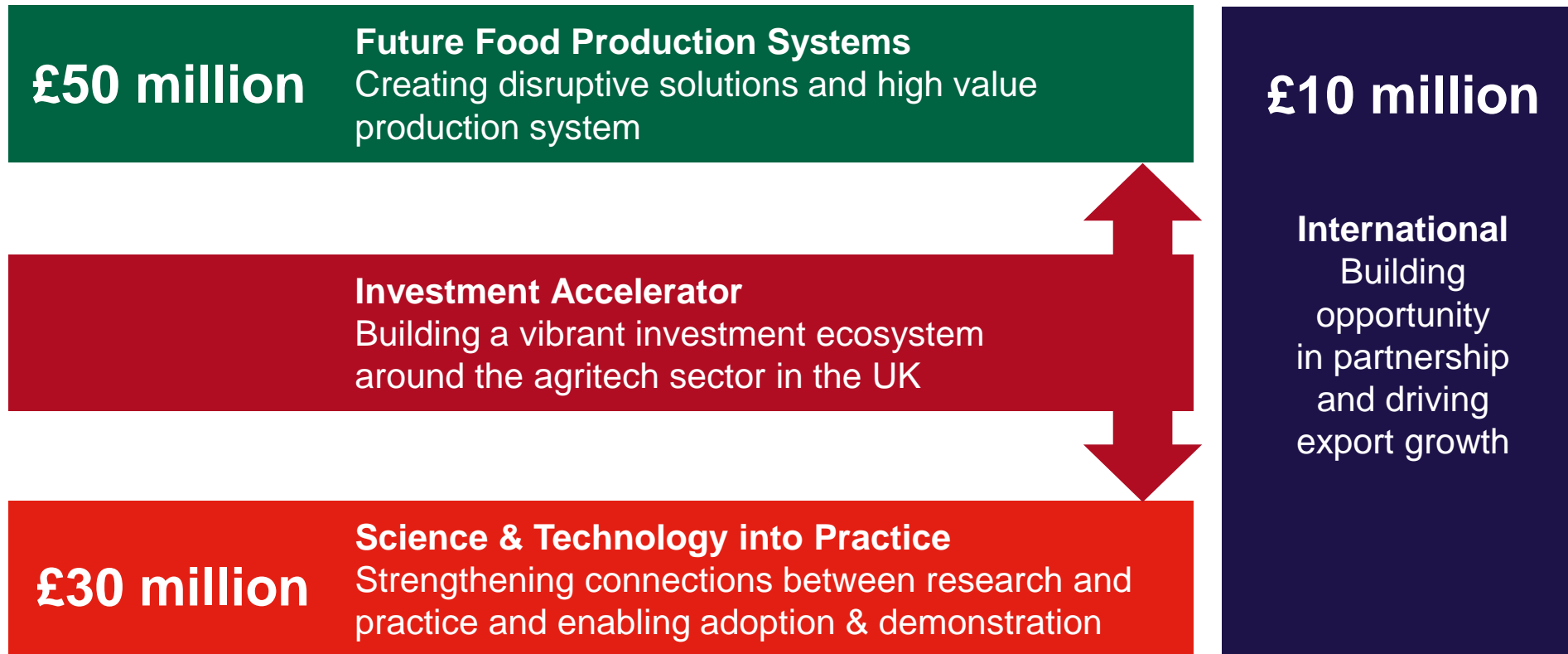
- Aims to bring together business with the UK's world-leading research base to meet the major industrial and societal challenges of our time
- Support the aims and objectives of the Grand Challenges in the UK Industrial Strategy



Transforming Food Production



The challenge: Towards net zero emissions in food production systems by 2040



International examples

To ensure UK science takes a leading role in addressing the problems faced by developing countries (and) harness the expertise of the UK research base to pioneer new ways of tackling global challenges, promoting global prosperity and tackling extreme poverty.

- Food (SDG2, SDG14, SDG15)
- Education (SDG4)
- Global Health (SDG3, SDG6)
- Cities (SDG11, SDG7)
- Resilience (SDG9, SDG13)
- Conflict and Forced Displacement (SDG16)



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



GCRF

Addressing Language Barriers for Syrian Refugees

Title: Using Technology in Science Tasks: Reducing Language Barriers for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

UK Lead: Dr Yasmine El Masri, University of Oxford

International Lead: Lebanese Alternative Learning (NGO)

Funder: Economic and Social Research Council

“Developing countries are often thirsty for capacity building opportunities. This GCRF grant is making a huge difference to Syrian refugee children and has exposed me to contexts that challenge out theoretical understanding. Interest in our work is extremely high and many more needs have been identified.”

Dr Yasmine El Masri, University of Oxford



Belmont Forum



The Belmont Challenge:

To deliver knowledge needed for action to mitigate and adapt to detrimental environmental change and extreme hazardous events.

- 17 Collaborative Research Actions
- More than 100 million Euros awarded to over 100 projects
- Partnering with more than 150 resource organisations
- Engaging more than 1000 participants in over 55 countries

Belmont Forum

Collaborative Research Actions:

- Coastal Vulnerability and Freshwater Security (NERC, ESRC)
- Food Security (NERC, BBSRC, ESRC)
- Climate Predictability & Interregional Linkages (NERC)
- SUGI-NEXUS (AHRC, ESRC, IUK)
- Transformations to Sustainability (ESRC)
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (GCRF)
- Climate, Environment and Health (NERC, MRC, ESRC)



Global Wheat Programmes



www.wheatinitiative.org

Wheat Initiative

- Supported by G20 MACS
- Aligns wheat research across 16 countries.
- Brings together 16 funding organisations, 2 research organisations and 9 industrial partners.



Research to Deliver Wheat for the Future

www.iwyp.org

International Wheat Yield Partnership

- \$100M global programme funding new research to increase wheat yield.
- **12 funders and 6 industrial partners** across 7 countries.
 - **Call 1:** 8 project funded (\$20M); UK components in 6 projects
 - **NIFA-IWYP Call:** 7 projects (\$15.4M); 2 UK-USA collaborative projects
 - **Call 2:** 6 projects (\$7.9M); UK component in 5 projects.
 - **BBSRC-AAFC IWYP Joint Call:** 3 projects (about £600k)

Conclusions

- Global challenges require global responses
- Research and innovation can be effectively brought to these challenges through a mission-led approach, through national and international partnerships
- Current strategic research and innovation activities could provide the basis for future missions-led approaches
- Funding organisations can be the catalyst for change, to enable the global community to address these challenges through international research and innovation missions





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Thank you



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