

# Research Councils UK Energy Programme

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For a Low Carbon Energy Future

### The Research Councils



Research Councils UK (RCUK) are responsible for investing public money in research in the UK to advance knowledge and generate new ideas which lead to a productive economy, healthy society and contribute to a sustainable world.











### **Our Mission**

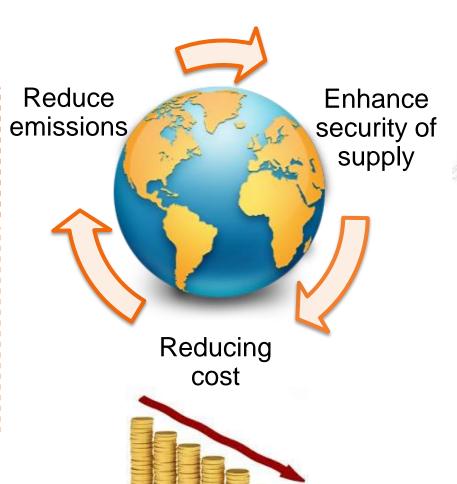


To support research and postgraduate training to tackle all elements of the energy 'trilemma'

80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050

15% of energy from renewable sources by 2020.

Increases in energy efficiency





# **RCUK Energy Programme**



Housing; being in a digital age; productivity; mental health; foundations of the macro economy

STFC End Use Energy Demand Unconventional Hydrocarbons

**BBSRC** 

Advanced biofuels and other low carbon fuels produced by biological processes.

Specific interests:
Biorefinery
Multipurpose crops

EPSRC

All aspects of engineering and the physical sciences that contribute to the energy trilema Targeted support is determined by research community.

Expected areas of interest:
Unconventional hydrocarbons,
CCS
Marine

Valuing natural capital
Oil and gas decommissioning
Sustainable gas futures

## Energy Programme Thematic Priorities: Energy



- Investment in high-quality, inter-disciplinary research to target the energy 'trilemma' of reducing carbon emissions, energy security and affordability
- Systems Approach: whole energy systems and integration within the energy system.
- Understanding Future Energy Options: Social, governmental environmental and economic implications.
- Reducing Energy Consumption and Demand: Development of behavioural, market and technological advances informed by a whole system understanding.
- Enabling Technologies: that underpin research across disciplines, e.g. energy storage, materials research; and cross cutting themes, e.g. heat, transport

Maintaining capacity

Accelerating deployment of technologies

Speculative research

Coordinated policy outputs

Strategic international collaboration

# **Opportunities for Energy Research**



- Multidisciplinary research
  - Systems level research
  - Cross cutting themes
  - ODA
  - Mission Innovation
  - ODA

- Innovation funders IUK,
   DECC, DFID, ES Catapult,
   ORE Catapult
  - Mining existing research

- Existing research portfolio
  - good base to start from,
  - Making connections and networking potential issue

- Maintaining critical mass
  - Connecting the community
  - Adventurous research, learning from other disciplines

Research Councils UK
Excellence
with impact

### Global Challenges Research Fund





## Global Challenges Research Fund

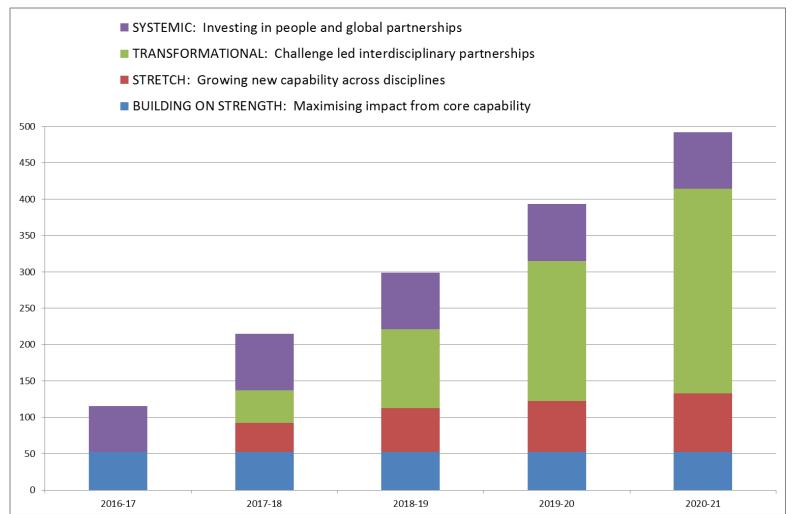


Cutting edge research which addresses the problems faced by developing countries

- Address global challenges through disciplinary and interdisciplinary research
- ☐ Strengthening capability for research and innovation, within both UK and developing countries
- Agile response to emergencies and opportunities



# Our Proposal to BIS Forward investment profile





### Strategy for future investment

### **SYSTEMIC**

investing in people to support the development of research capacity. Creating a legacy of global partnerships as the foundation for future opportunities, including renewal and growth through targeted early career investments, new entrants and supporting institutional development. Systemic activities will build and maintain capability across the areas below

### **TRANSFORMATIONAL**

All challenge topics can benefit from an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach. However, it is particularly suited to complex, multidimensional challenges seeking new insights or needing radical approaches. Potential outcomes include innovative ways of thinking and new disciplinary collaborations that help to help to tackle for instance, the consequences for developing countries of climate change, demographic shifts, economic development, rapid urbanisation and conflict.

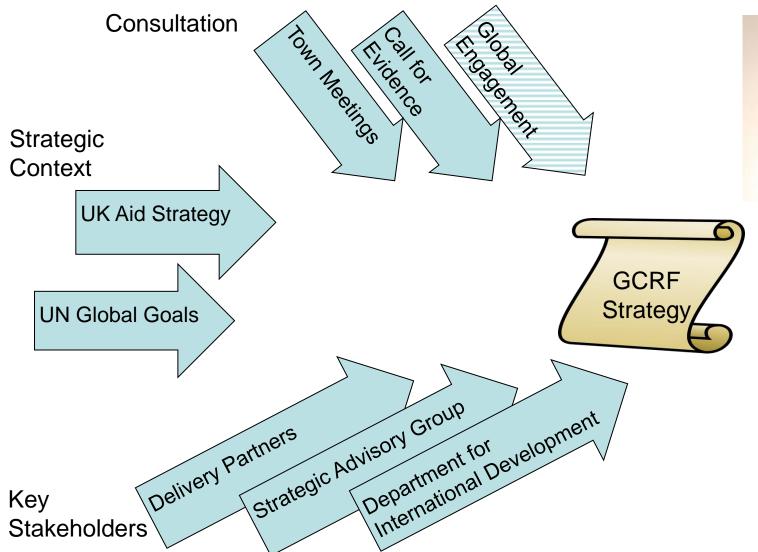
### **STRETCH**

Research areas with a strong research base, but not necessarily orientated to developing country contexts; examples include clean energy or industrial biotechnology where the opportunity for impact in developing countries is considerable but not yet fully realised.

### **BUILDING ON STRENGTHS**

Research areas with a strong UK research base, closely engaged with the challenges faced be developing countries, often actively engaged with UK and international partners and making a significant global contribution through research and innovation. Potential outcomes include developing existing work on infectious diseases, crops for developing countries and forced migration.

## GCRF Strategy development







### **Global Context**



















































### **UK Context**

### **UK Aid Strategy**

- ☐ Strengthening global peace, security and governance
- Strengthening resilience and response to crises
- □ Promoting global prosperity
- Tackling extreme poverty and helping the world's most vulnerable





#### UK aid:

tackling global challenges in the national interest

Cm 9163

November 2015



# Global Challenge Research Fund Strategic Advisory Group

Mike Aaronson University of Surrey (Chair)

Charles Godfray University of Oxford

Andy Haines London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Richard Jones University of Sheffield

Sally Macintyre University of Glasgow

Helen Sang University of Edinburgh

James Stirling Imperial College London

Jeff Waage London International Development Centre

Alan Wilson University College London

Alan Winters University of Sussex

Charlotte Watts DfID

Jenny Dibden BEIS



## Town Meeting Feedback

### Nexus research:

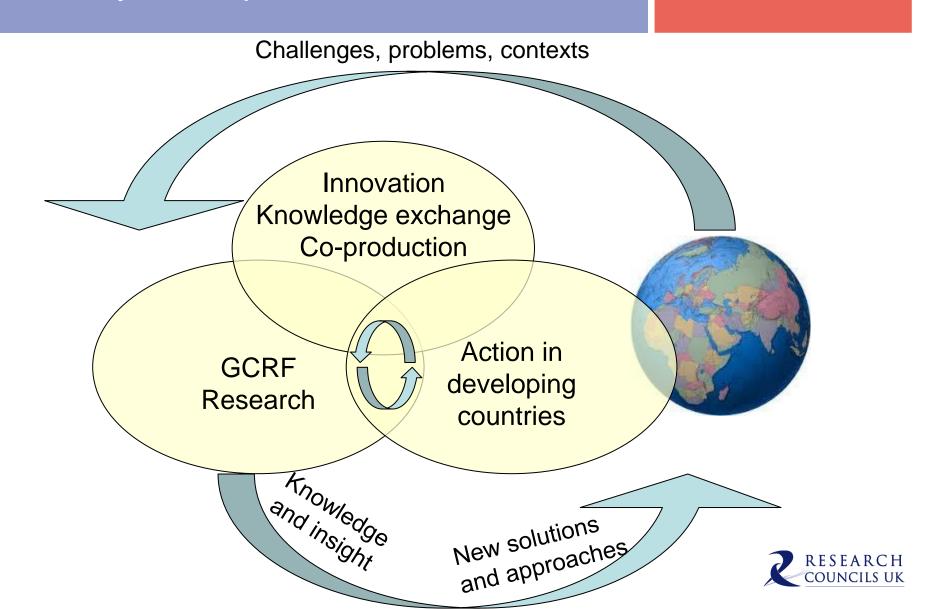
- Major opportunities at intersects between global challenge topics
- Trade-offs, causality
- Cross-cutting issues

### Examples

- Energy-food-water
- Mental health conflict



### Pathways to Impact



# Research agenda for change (1) Leave no one behind

# Draft

Our vision is to create new knowledge and drive innovation that helps to ensure that <u>everyone</u> across the globe has access to:

- Secure and resilient food systems supported by sustainable marine resources and agriculture
- Sustainable health and well being
- Inclusive and equitable quality education
- Clean air, water and sanitation
- Affordable, reliable, sustainable energy



# Research agenda for change (2) Sustainable economies and societies

# Draft

Our ambition is to identify new responses to the challenges arising from changes in population, technology, consumption and pressure on the environment:

- Sustainable livelihoods supported by strong foundations for inclusive economic growth and innovation
- Resilience and action on short-term environmental shocks and long-term environmental change
- Sustainable cities and communities
- Sustainable production and consumption, e.g. materials and other resources



# Research agenda for change (3) Support peace and justice

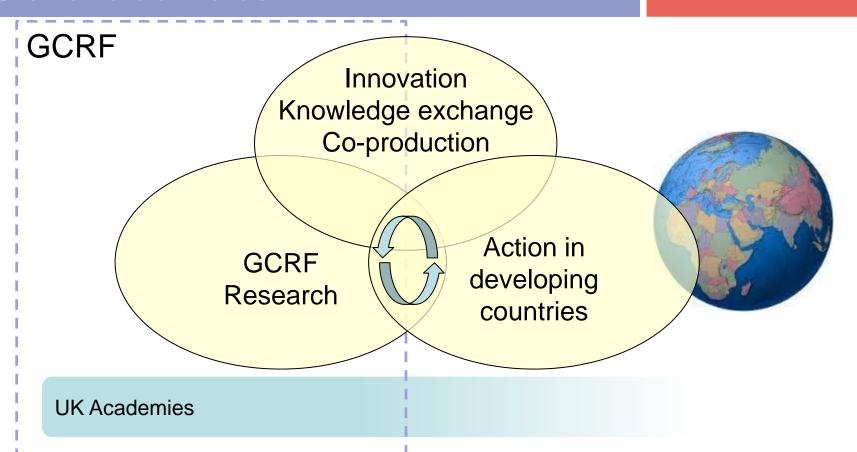
# Draft

Our goal is to understand how to strengthen the institutions that underpin peaceful societies, good governance and respect for human rights and the rule of law. We need new insights to help:

- Understand and effectively respond to forced displacement and multiple refugee crises
- Reduce conflict and promote peace, justice and humanitarian action
- Reduce poverty and inequality, including gender inequalities



# Pathways to Impact Stakeholder roles

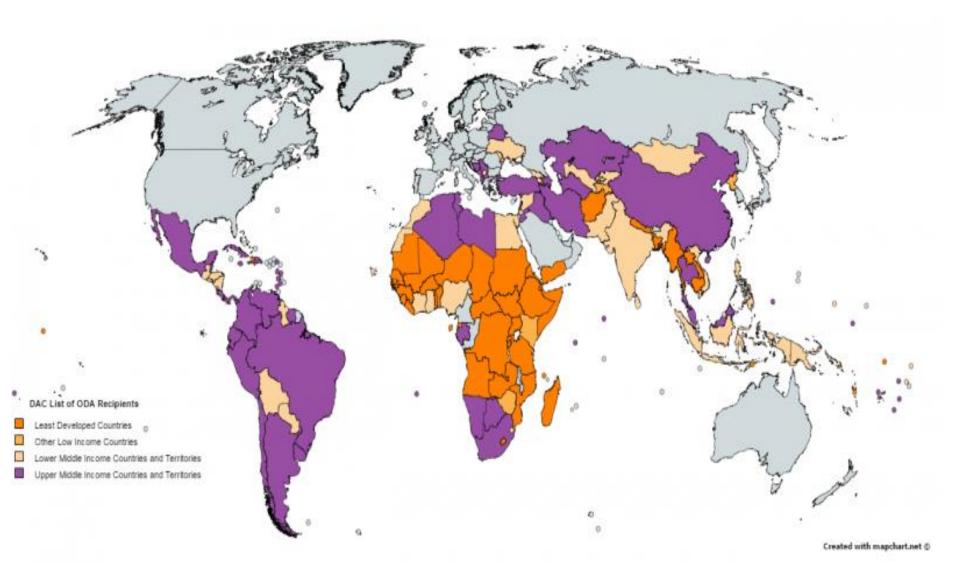


UK Stakeholders (Government, Charities, Business)

International Stakeholders (Universities, Charities, UN, NGO, Overseas Governments)



# OECD DAC Country List



# Pathway to impact Official Development Assistance





"Research directly and primarily relevant to the problems of developing countries may be counted as ODA. The costs may still be counted as ODA if the research is carried out in a developed country."

