



PART OF THE DUCHY FUTURE FARMING PROGRAMME

## Scotland Flax Group – Fibre Flax Variety Trial

### What is the project?

This new Innovative Farmers trial is growing fibre flax in replicated trials at three farm sites and 25 community sites across Scotland, to compare the performance and yield of three new varieties (Avian, Delta, Tango) developed in Holland. 70% of the world's fibre flax is grown in Europe, but there is increasing demand for sustainable textiles produced in the UK.

### Why grow flax?

- Flax fits well into low-input, regenerative and organic rotations. It can be direct drilled, doesn't need external inputs, is a food source for pollinators, and suits Scottish growing conditions (it was once widely grown across Scotland).
- Growing flax could meet a growing demand for UK-grown fibre crops to supply an emerging regenerative, sustainable UK textile economy.
- The longer-term aim is to collaborate across the sector to establish a sustainable UK flax processing and supply chain.



### Benefits

The project is:

- Rediscovering lost knowledge on a crop which was an important part of Scotland's agricultural heritage.
- Increasing interest in Scottish and UK-produced sustainable and regenerative textiles.
- Engaging communities across Scotland in growing a novel crop, and processing it for fibre.

This is the first small step in a longer-term goal to bring commercial flax production back to Scotland, with plans to scale up cropping volumes next year and collaborate to develop a sustainable processing and supply chain.

**We are looking for farmers for 2024 – please get in touch for more information or to register interest.**

### More information:

email [colleen@thelothianlass.scot](mailto:colleen@thelothianlass.scot)

<https://www.innovativefarmers.org/>

### Project Partners:

- JHI – Research support and data analysis
- The Seed-Ed Project, Edinburgh College of Art @ Edinburgh University – processing flax into linen
- Fantasy Fibre Mill/Heriot Watt University – developing medium scale processing capacity



Edinburgh College of Art