Field lab: Growing Flax for Regenerative Textiles

Final report: January 2026

Author: Colleen McCulloch

CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES & FIGURES

Summary

The project was coordinated by facilitator Colleen McCulloch in collaboration with the James Hutton Institute, with support from Fantasy Fibre Mill, Edinburgh College of Art at the University of Edinburgh and Heriot Watt University; and trial seeds provided by UK specialists Elsoms Seeds.

Take home messages [<80 words - 80]
Fibre flax (*Linum usitatissimum*) grows well in Scotland, and has the potential to become an attractive addition to arable, horticultural and mixed rotations. There is a growing demand for UK-produced fibre crops, driving interest in growing the crop commercially. Flax also grows well without chemical inputs and irrigation and is attractive to pollinators, so fits well in organic and low-input systems. Key barriers to scaling up production are a current lack of small scale harvesting equipment, and limited processing capacity.

Context [<80 words - 80]
Flax was once grown widely across the UK, before the advent of synthetic fibres and cheap overseas labour. A renewed appetite for more sustainable, natural textiles is driving a new wave of flax growing, to supply a sustainable and regenerative textile and fashion industry based on the principles of circularity and social and environmental responsibility. Since 80% of the world's flax is grown in Belgium, France, and the Netherlands, there is an opportunity to re-establish commercial production in the UK.

Trial design [<80 words - 80]
Over three growing seasons (2023, 2024, 2025), a total of eight Scottish farms trialled three Dutch fibre flax varieties - Avian, Delta and Tango – to compare straw height (cm) and yield (t/ha).

Each site grew 3 replicates of each variety in 10m^2 strips, sown in rows. The crop was hand-harvested before it was fully ripe to obtain the best fibre quality, at which point crop density, height, and weight were measured. The straw was then field-retted and dried for processing.

Findings [<150 words - 142]
All three varieties grew well across all sites and trial years, although yields were variable between years, between sites and even within sites. The biggest influences for this are likely to be weed pressure, differences in soil type and fertility, and weather (e.g. drought conditions immediately after planting in 2025). There was a correlation between weed burden and both height and yield – weedy plots performed less well. In all cases however, when yield was extrapolated to field scale, it was consistent with or exceeded average commercial yields.

Harvesting was labour-intensive and carried out by hand with help from volunteers, as there is currently no small-mid scale harvesting machinery available in the UK.

Fibre quality was tested for each variety by project partner Fantasy Fibre Mill, and it was found that the degree of retting had more of an impact on quality than variety.

Recommendations & next steps [<60 words - 46]
All three trial varieties grew well enough to be suitable for commercial flax production in Scotland/ the UK. The next steps to facilitate commercially viable production are to address the barriers mentioned above – developing or importing small scale harvesting equipment, and increasing regional farm-scale processing capacity.

Farmer comment [55 words]

Rosie Bristow, Flax grower and co-founder of Fantasy Fibre Mill

"The trial demonstrates that modern fibre flax varieties can grow well in Scotland, and we know there is growing appetite among farmers, crofters and growers to produce flax as a fibre crop.

The next step is to scale up the processing capacity to allow flax to be grown on a bigger scale and harvested mechanically".

Image 1: *Grower Rosie Bristow being interviewed by the BBC while inspecting flax at Phantassie Farm (2024)*

Useful resources [Up to 3 links to relevant resources, articles or papers]

1. Fantasy Fibre Mill – our farm-scale processing partner for the field lab, based in Southeast Scotland [*www.fantasyfibremill.com*]
2. Flaxland – information and courses on growing and processing flax, and supplier of Avian variety seed, based near Stroud [*www.flaxland.co.uk/*]

Main report

1 Field lab aims (up to 50 words - 53)

The trial's main aim was to compare the suitability and performance of 3 Dutch-bred flax varieties – Avian, Delta and Tango - in Scottish growing conditions.

There were two secondary objectives, which were to gain and share experience of the hand-harvesting and retting process, and to explore the practicalities of a farm-scale processing chain.

2 Background (up to 250 words - 249)

Flax was once grown widely across the UK, before the advent of synthetic fibres and cheap overseas labour pushed production overseas.

However, increasing awareness of the negative environmental (and human) impacts of 'fast fashion' has led the textile and fashion industries in Scotland to actively seek more sustainable alternatives, which embed agroecological production and circular economy principles.

An appetite for more sustainable, natural textiles is driving a new wave of flax growing, to supply a sustainable and regenerative textile and fashion industry based on the principles of circularity and social and environmental responsibility.

For farmers interested in diversifying their rotations with crops which benefit biodiversity, and which suit a regenerative or organic approach, fibre flax fits very well.

The field lab started as a one-year trial, but more farmers were keen to join and to collaborate with a growing network of businesses and organisations working to establish a commercially viable Scottish linen processing and supply chain in the longer term. Ssince the Delta and Tango varieties are not yet commercially available in the UK, the trial aimed to inform wider industry knowledge on their performance in Scottish soils and climate.

In 2023, a parallel citizen science project ran with more than 30 growers and groups across 25 community sites in Scotland, trialling the Avian variety to complement the growers' findings by broadening the range of growing conditions being tested. Sites ranged from Orkney to Lismore to the Borders, and comprised community growing projects, crofts, allotments, home gardens, and schools.

3 Methodology and data collection (up to 800 words - 900)

Three varieties of flax (*Linum usitatissimum*) were trialled – Avian, Delta, and Tango - bred by Dutch flax specialist Van Der Bilt, and supplied by UK seed specialist Elsoms Seeds. Only Avian was commercially available during the time of the trial, with Delta and Tango available for trial use but not yet for commercial sale.

A total of eight farms took part in the trial over three years. Three sites took part in 2023, seven in 2024, and three in 2025. Four of the sites took part in more than one year. Locations were spread across mainly East Central Scotland and Highland Perthshire [Fig. 1].

Figure 1: Trial site numbers and locations 2023 - 2025

In 2023 there were also 30 community-based trial plots across the country from Orkney to Lismore to the Borders, ranging from 1m^2 to 20m^2 in size, which grew only the Avian variety and recorded data on crop yield and height. This additional aspect of the trial is discussed in more detail in Section 4. In 2024, there were an additional two sites in SW England, whose data is not included in this report.

Plot Layout

Each site grew three replicates of each variety in 10m^2 plots, totalling 9 plots per site. To fit in with existing crop beds, plots were arranged in strips, with seed sown in rows 125mm apart (8 rows per metre width) at a rate of 12g/m^2 in Year 1 [Table 1], and 15g/m^2. Seed was sown either by hand or with a Jang-type seeder between mid-April and mid-May in each year, and harvested between mid-August and early September.

Variety	TSW	Germination	Seed/m	Plot area (m2)	Amount / Plot (g)
Avian	5.9	97	1200	10	76.83
Delta	5.9	97	1200	10	76.83
Tango	6.2	97	1200	10	80.74

Table 1: Sowing rates were recommended by Elsoms Seeds. TSW = Thousand Seed Weight (g)

Weed management

Weeding practices varied between sites. Sites 4 and 6 applied glyphosate to all plots at the pre-sowing stage, while all other sites used non-chemical methods. Some did not carry out any weeding after the initial pre-sowing cultivation; and two sites carried out mechanical weeding until the crop was established. The decision not to weed at site 7 in year 1 was deliberate, in order to assess how the crop would perform without intervention.

Soil testing

Soil type, texture (visual assessment using AHDB flow chart), structure (VESS scoring) and worm counts were recorded at each site at the time of harvest. Soil types across different sites varied between: clay loam, sandy clay loam, sandy loam, and clay. In 2023 and 2024, basic soil analysis was also carried out for each site, using composite samples taken from across the trial plots at sowing.

Harvesting

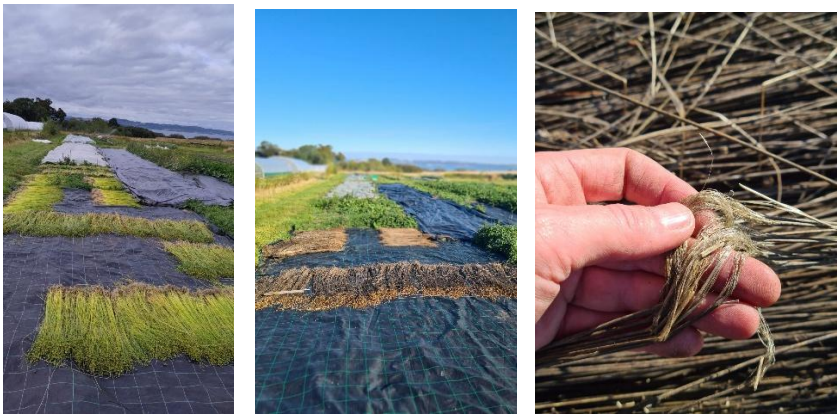
Fibre flax (which differs from shorter oilseed varieties in height and the amount of seed produced), is typically ready to pull after 100-120 days of growth, which is around 40 days after flowering; when the seed pods have changed from pale green to yellow/brown and the stem has started to yellow. Recommendations from other growers were to harvest at ~100 days; however, triallists found that the crop was not quite ready at this stage so waited an additional 10-17 days before harvesting. At this stage, the seed heads are not yet fully ripe, but the fibre in the stem is at its most flexible for processing into textile. If over-ripe, the inner fibres start to become brittle, break easily and become more difficult to process. Because there is no commercial flax industry in the UK, there is currently no specialist harvesting equipment available, so the crop was harvested by hand. Volunteer days were organised to harvest the crop at each site, which provided a valuable opportunity for knowledge and skills sharing, as well as wider engagement with the trial sites and the project.

Plants were pulled up by the root to ensure maximum fibre length, and to prevent the fibres deteriorating at the cut end. Pulled bundles were then laid out on bare soil or grass in rows, to begin the retting process.

Retting

The process of 'dew-retting' involves the pulled crop being lain flat on the soil in rows, with roots at one end and seed pods at the other, for ~3 weeks, and turned halfway through. This is the process by which rainwater and soil microbes in the damp ground break down the lignins and pectins in the woody stem, allowing the flexible fibres to be extracted more easily during processing. Once retting is complete, the crop is dried and stored for at least two months before it can be processed into yarn. It is also possible to rett the flax in tanks of water ('tank retting'), but the group decided against this method, as the resultant liquid would be difficult to dispose of safely without causing diffuse pollution.

We had planned to try to quantify the differences in fibre quality between varieties, however we learned that retting had such a significant impact on quality that teasing out variety differences was impossible at our scale.



Images 2, 3, 4: Before and after Retting at Site 7, 2025 (Credit: Jossie Ellis)

Measurements

Yield: Total straw weight was measured per plot at harvest using hanging scales, and totalled as kilos per plot. This was then converted after to kg/m^2 and extrapolated to t/ha.

Height: Straw height was measured before harvest, taking 6 heights (cm) per plot to calculate an average height per plot. This figure was then averaged across plots for each variety.

Density: This was measured by counting the number of plants in three separate 0.5m strips per plot and calculating plants per square metre for each plot.

4 Results and discussions (total 1,500 to 2,000 words not incl graphs, tables etc – 2442)

The two key parameters measured in this trial were straw yield (t/ha) and straw height (cm).

These parameters were selected because the price of commercial fibre flax is based on weight primarily, with fibre length and quality also influencing the price.

Both yield and height were variable between sites and within sites between years, with yield being more variable than straw height.

Yield: Yield data has been extrapolated and reported in t/ha, in order to compare with EU industry standard yields which are typically 11-13t/ha.

The lowest yield recorded in the trial was Tango at 6t/ha in 2023. The highest yield was for Delta, which reached 30t/ha in 2025. Yields in 2024 and 2025 were consistently higher than in 2023 [Fig. 2].

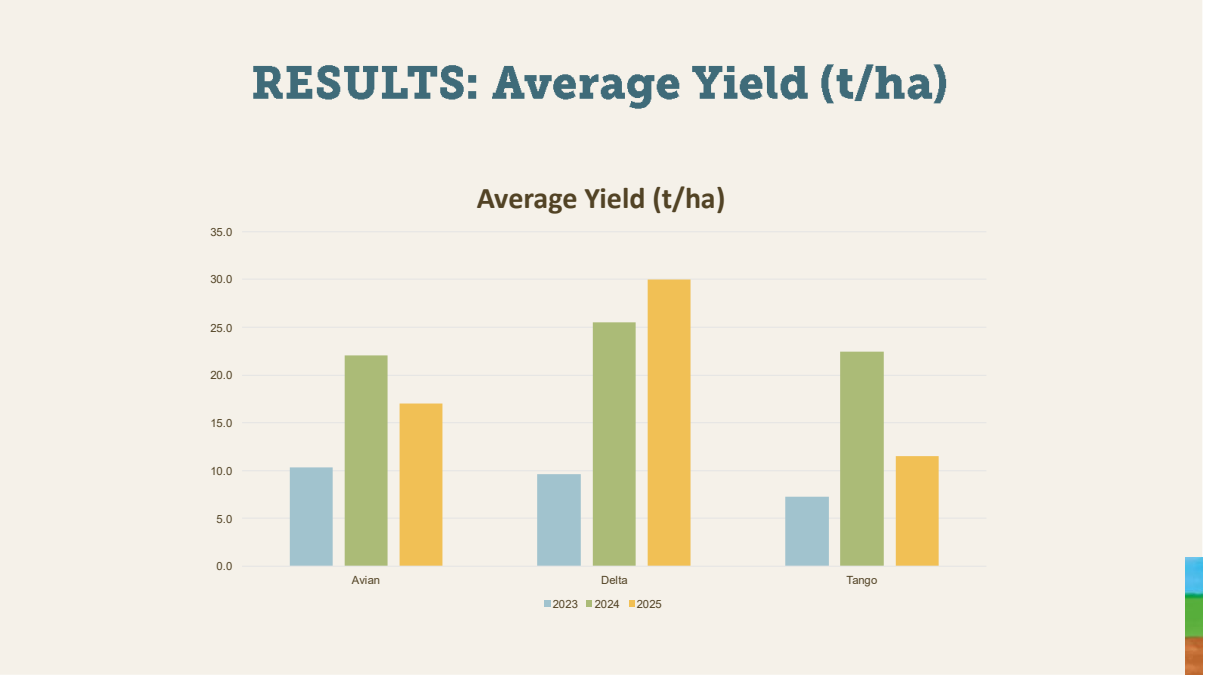


Figure 2: Average yield (t/ha) across all sites and all years

Yield was variable between sites and between years. Figure 3 below shows variability between five sites in 2024. Differences in weed cover accounts for some of this variation, as well as differences in soil type and fertility levels.

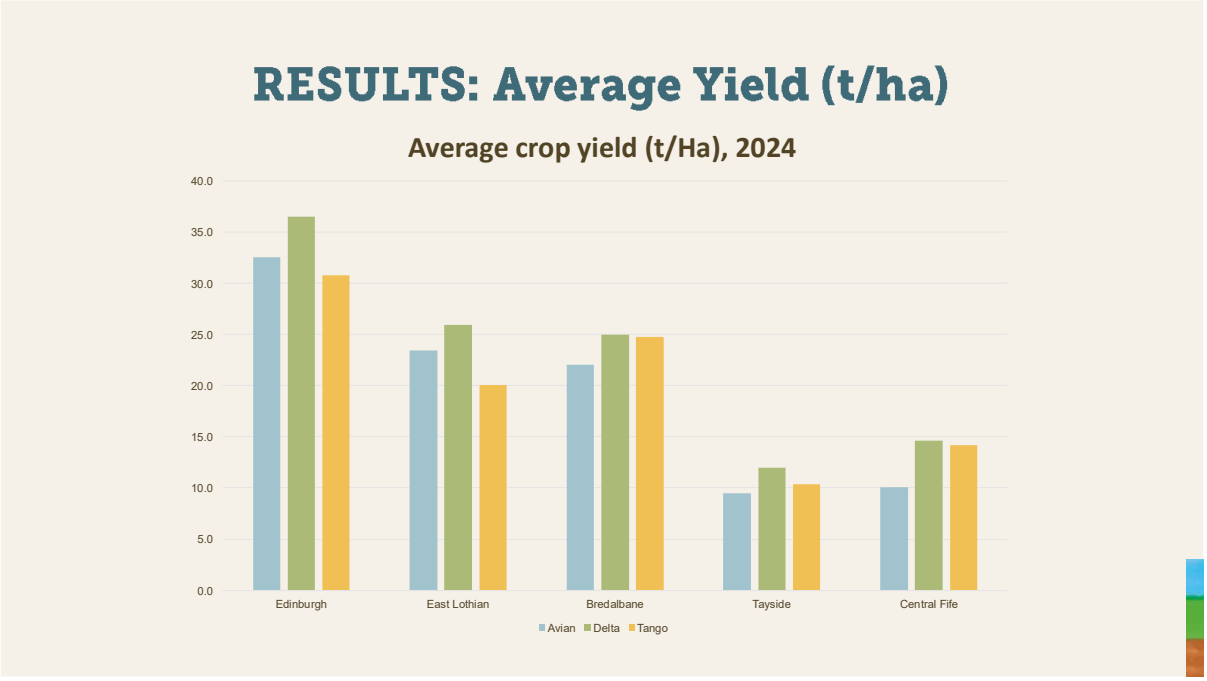


Figure 3: Average Yield (t/ha) between sites in 2024

Plant density: The biggest variation in yield occurred across all sites between Year 1 and Year 2 – this is in large part due to the seeding rate being increased in 2024 and 2025. The increased seeding rate also directly influenced plant density [Fig. 4], which in turn helped to reduce weed pressure.

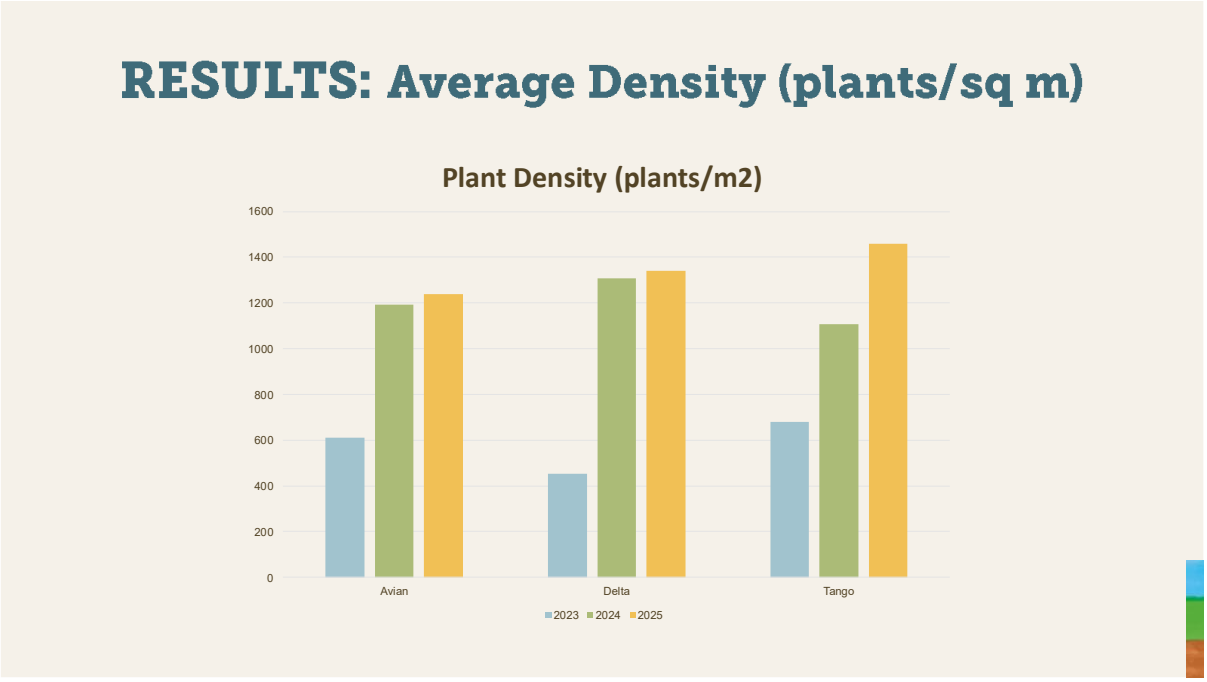


Figure 4: Average plant density (plants/m2) across all sites, between years

Straw height: Most of the flax grown in the trial reached or exceeded the target height of >80cm. The taller the straw, the longer the fibre that can be processed from it. Straw height was less variable between sites than yield, and ranged between 65cm for Tango in 2023, and 118cm for Delta in 2024 [Fig. 5]. 2023 had the lowest average height across all sites and varieties, which we think was impacted by high weed burden at 2/3 of trial sites, and potentially also trial plots having come straight out of grass without the addition of inputs such as compost or green manures.

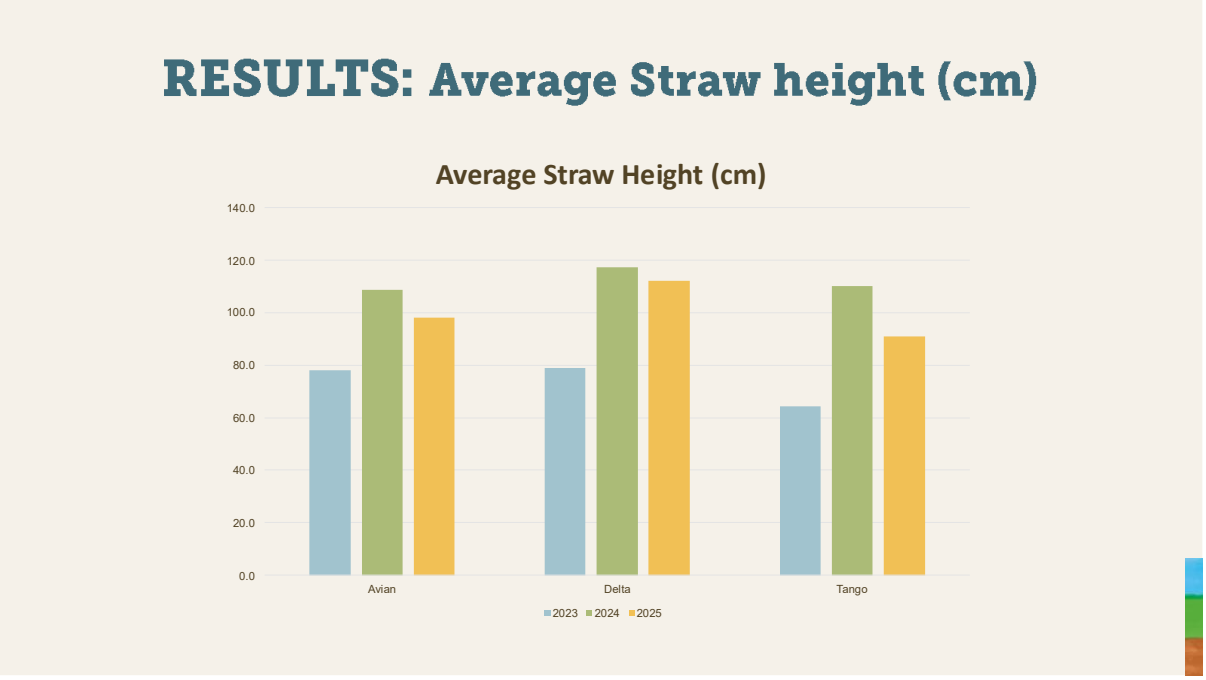


Figure 5: Average straw height (cm) across sites between years

Individual site findings

Table 2 below shows harvest data for all sites, with yield shown as kg/m^2 rather than extrapolated up to field scale.

Although each year had multiple sites taking part, some were not able to harvest their crop (marked as '0' in the table) due to livestock trampling or eating, and in 2025 there are 2 sites with incomplete data (marked as blank). The Tayside dataset includes additional data on their clover undersowing trial and will be reported separately in 2026.

AVIAN	Yield (kg/m2)			Height (cm)		
Site	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Argyll & Bute	1.3	x	x	75	x	x
Highland Perthshire*	x	0	x	x	0	x
Bredalbane	x	2.2	x	x	123	x
West Fife*	x	0	x	x	0	x
Central Fife	x	1		x	103	
Tayside	0.93			85		
Edinburgh	0.84	3.3	1.7	74	115	98
East Lothian*	x	2.3	0	x	99	0
AVERAGE	**1.0**	**2.2**	**1.7**	**78**	**110**	**98**

DELTA	Yield (kg/m2)			Height (cm)		
Site	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Argyll & Bute	0.87	x	x	80	x	x
Highland Perthshire*	x	0	x	x	0	x
Bredalbane	x	2.5	x	x	133	x
West Fife*	x	0	x	x	0	x
Central Fife	x	1.5		x	111	
Tayside	1.2			85		
Edinburgh	0.82	3.7	3.1	72	116	112
East Lothian*	x	2.6	0	x	108	0
AVERAGE	**1.0**	**2.6**	**3.1**	**79**	**117**	**112**

TANGO	Yield (kg/m2)			Height (cm)		
Site	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Argyll & Bute	0.3	x	x	54	x	x
Highland Perthshire*	x	0	x	x	0	x
Bredalbane	x	2.5	x	x	120	x
West Fife*	x	0	x	x	0	x
Central Fife	x	1.4		x	114	
Tayside	1			81		
Edinburgh	0.8	3.1	1.2	58	105	91
East Lothian*	x	2	0	x	97	0
AVERAGE	**0.7**	**2.3**	**1.2**	**64**	**109**	**91**

Table 2: Harvest data from all sites across all years

**Sites marked with an asterisk suffered losses from livestock or wildlife, and were not able to gather meaningful data at harvest. Crops were variously eaten by sheep, trampled by livestock, or eaten/ trampled by deer. These instances have been marked as '0' in the table.*

Discussion

Yield variability

There was a high level of yield variability in the trial, which we attributed to several factors. Without the ability to do further analysis, the group observed that weed pressure has been the biggest factor in this variability, followed by soil type and fertility (plots which had manure added pre-sowing experienced a higher yield compared to the previous year in the same site), and weather. In 2024 Site 7 experienced an extended period of drought immediately after sowing, which hampered establishment.

Yield variability is common even in a commercial European setting.However,typical yields in Europe are 11-13t/ha raw/wet straw, which translates to a dry (retted) straw weight of 5-5.5t/ha, which translates to 1-1.3t/ha of long fibre post-scutching [1].

There are 5 stages of processing raw flax straw into linen fabric:

- ***retting**, where the lignins and pectins in the straw are broken down by bacteria;*
- ***breaking** and **scutching**, where the woody stem (called shiv) is broken up and removed;*
- ***heckling** or hackling, which involves combing the fibres through progressively finer combs to prepare it for spinning;*
- ***spinning** into yarn; and finally*
- ***weaving** the yarn into finished cloth.*
- *After this stage the cloth is often **bleached** (this used to be done by laying it out in sunlight), after which it can be **dyed**.*

Weeds

Weed control practices varied between sites, and subsequent weed burden varied between sites, within sites between plots, and within sites between years. In plots which had a heavy weed burden, crop height and yield were slightly lower than other plots with fewer weeds at the same site. The biggest impact of weed presence however was the impact on harvesting time. Short weeds were less of an issue and did not seem to affect crop height or yield; however, taller weeds such as redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*) grew through the crop and were time-consuming to separate from the flax during the hand-pulling process.

In order to reduce weed cover and time spent manually or mechanically weeding plots, two sites trialled the use of micro-clover, undersowing it between the rows of flax. The results of this additional aspect of the trial suggests that the presence of clover did help to suppress weeds, and it is unclear whether the presence of clover impacted yield or straw height one way or the other. It would be useful to carry out further trials in this area. As a result of our triallists' interest in this area, our research partners, the James Hutton Institute, have conducted a more extensive trial comparing plots with clover undersown and plots without. The final replicate of this trial will conclude in 2026, with data published in early 2027 after analysis of the full dataset.

Image 5: Avian flax undersown with microclover at Site 5, spring 2025 (Credit: Cheryl Stewart)

Image 6: Mature flax with undersown clover in Devon, summer 2025 (Credit: Vicky Putler)

Soil fertility varied slightly between sites, while within sites, plots which had fertility boosted in the form of pre-sowing application of compost, manure or green manure produced a higher yield. There has since been discussion however, that boosting yield in this way may not produce the

highest quality of straw for processing, as stems that grow thicker as a result of higher fertility, may be too thick for the best quality fibre requirement which requires long, fine fibres.

Sowing took place from mid-April to mid-May, later than March which is recommended in England. Ripening also took 10-17 days longer than the recommended 100 days.

Biodiversity

Although we did not record invertebrate species, all sites reported anecdotal evidence of high pollinator numbers and invertebrate species richness within the flax plots during the flowering period, compared with the area surrounding the plots. Below-ground biodiversity also benefits from the fine, deep (as much as 30cm) root system which remains in the soil once the crop is pulled, which will provide fuel and nutrients for the soil food web through autumn and into winter, build soil organic matter and improve soil structure.

Image 7: Hoverfly on a flax flower, 2024

Harvesting

The lack of access to mechanical harvesting equipment is arguably the biggest barrier to scaling up fibre flax production in the UK, because harvest volume is restricted to what can be hand-harvested. As a non-commercial trial, we were able to involve volunteers in our harvests at each site, however in a large-scale commercial context this is unlikely to be feasible.

For the purposes of our trial however, we found that the harvest volunteer days were a great way to give more people an opportunity to be involved in the trial, to share knowledge and skills, and for us to demonstrate the next stages of processing. Our project partners Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) at the University of Edinburgh attended a number of harvest volunteer days and provided participatory hand-processing workshops for participants.

The field lab also attracted a significant amount of press coverage, including several magazine and radio interviews, and three of the harvest events being filmed by the BBC in 2023 and 2024 for BBC Scotland News, Landward, and Sunday Morning Live.

In 2023, interest in the field lab was significant but many of the enquiries were from growers rather than commercial farms. We were glad to be able to add a community grower element to the field lab, which comprised 30 smaller trial plots across the country, mainly in Scotland. Plots in this group ranged from $1m^2$ to $20m^2$ in size, and grew only the Avian variety.

We invited growers to follow the same sowing set-up as the main trial – i.e. sowing in 8 rows per metre – and to collect yield (kg/m^2) and height (cm) data. Online sessions were held to share guidance on sowing, harvesting and data collection, as well as information about individual-scale processing.

The data collected from this part of the trial is not included in this report, however it was an excellent way to engage with a wider group of growers and exchange a broader range of knowledge about regenerative textiles, and what that can look like across a range of scales and contexts. Some of the larger sites such as community allotments and growing projects, hosted processing workshops delivered by the ECA Textiles team.






Images 8-13: Volunteer harvest days (Credit: Colleen McCulloch, Charlotte Linton)

Retting

The retting process sounds simple in theory, but we learned quickly that there are many variables which influence the speed and evenness of the process, including rainfall, temperature, sunshine, whether it is retting over bare soil or grass - it is an art in itself. As a group we learned a lot, and learned how much knowledge we didn't have. Triallists who were involved in multiple years said it was useful to have multi-year experience of the process, to get a better sense of when it was ready to turn, how well-retted it was, when it was ready to dry. More work is needed in this area to be able to maximise fibre quality, as we realised through our triallist and processing partner Fantasy Fibre Mill, that retting has a much bigger impact on fibre quality than the variety. Rosie Bristow of FFM is currently undertaking PhD research with Heriot Watt University,looking at the influence of multiple variables of the retting process in more detail.

Seed supply is the other key factor which needs further development in order to scale up UK flax production. Due to the lack of domestic flax seed production we had to import seed from Holland, however seed was in very limited supply in two of the trial years due to poor seed harvests caused by extreme weather in Holland and Belgium. Because the seed is patented, we were also not allowed to save or reuse any of the seed, which is not in line with the closed-loop principles of regenerative and organic systems. Some members of the group including Fantasy Fibre Mill are now working collaboratively to develop a UK-based small scale seed supply based on heritage varieties, which would not be patented and therefore suitable for seed saving.

Cost analysis

As of early 2026, the average commercial price for scutched (processed) long flax fibre in Western Europe is approximately **€5.60/kg (£4.84/kg)**. Prices for raw or retted flax straw vary widely based on region, quality, and specific fibre length, with market pressures heavily influenced by supply levels. [1, 2].

Image 14: Sowing flax seed with a Jang seeder (Credit: Jossie Ellis)

Site 7 recently carried out a cost analysis on the flax crop – factoring in seed and labour costs for planting and harvesting, and found that due to the people-hours involved in manual harvesting (particularly of a weedy crop) and retting, that even with a good yield, at the current (at time of trial) price for flax straw, the crop would not be likely to make a profit for the farm. They did however note that if they factored in income from community/ educational activities (e.g. workshops on hand-processing flax into fibre or yarn), that this could help cover the labour cost of harvesting and retting. If small-medium scale harvesting equipment can be developed, and be available on a co-operatively-owned or rental basis, this would significantly reduce the cost of harvesting and make the flax crop more cost-effective to include in a crop rotation.

5 Conclusions (up to 500 words - 498)

The fact that flax grows well in Scotland/UK, fits well into low-input and organic systems, adds physical and financial diversity to arable, mixed and horticultural rotations, is attractive to pollinators and produces a fibre crop that is in growing demand from small-scale processers and makers, should make it an attractive crop for Scottish farmers and growers, particularly those on a small scale. This field lab has shown that there is a lot of interest,particularly from small and medium sized farms to grow flax commercially, as well as an appetite to collaborate to develop localised short processing and supply chains and tap into direct sales and in some cases workshop delivery.

The project has also highlighted a growing appetite among artisan makers for sustainable UK-produced textiles with short/ transparent supply chains. This sits alongside increasing awareness and interest in sustainable fashion and regenerative textiles in consumers, as well as many people wanting to learn how to process the fibre at the individual or community scale. This fits very well with the work being done by the ECA Textiles team and others, to centre sustainability as a key pillar of fashion, textiles and design courses.

Small-medium scale processing and supply chains are therefore a key element which should be developed alongside the expansion of UK production.

There are several barriers to fibre production on a bigger scale – namely a lack of harvesting equipment, current limited processing capacity, and an unreliable supply of seed. If these barriers can be addressed however, fibre production could well become an attractive diversification prospect for larger-scale farms. An alternative option for interested farmers in the meantime might be to grow flax for industrial uses such as sustainable building insulation, as this has simpler processing requirements and can be cut with a combine harvester like other arable crops.

Happily, there is a growing network across the UK of people from many different sectors, interested in flax and its uses. There are several projects looking at these same barriers and actively working to address them. Members of our group are collaborating with others to build regional farm-scale processing capacity, and to develop a UK supply of non-patented flax seed. Having a supply of non-patented seed means that growers can save seed from their own crop to plant the following year, thereby improving sustainability and resilience.

Image 15: Flax from Site 6 arriving at Fantasy Fibre Mill to be retted and dried for processing into yarn, 2024

Our trial has been small scale and quite simple, but has shown that good straw yields can be achieved even when impacted by challenges such as tall weeds and poor weather. A very valuable, but unplanned aspect of the project is the learning network and community that has developed around the trial itself, as these are where the opportunities have come from to share knowledge and skills, and collaborate to tackle the barriers holding us back. What started as a very simple and short trial, has blossomed into something bigger and been woven into the wider movement to develop a localised, commons-based sustainable textile economy in the UK.

7 Further reading

3. Fantasy Fibre Mill – our farm-scale processing partner for the field lab, based in Southeast Scotland [*www.fantasyfibremill.com*]
4. Flaxland – information and courses on growing and processing flax, and supplier of Avian variety seed, based near Stroud [*www.flaxland.co.uk/*]
5. Seeds of Scotland – Scottish supplier of heritage fibre flax variety 'Northern Princess' [*www.seedsofscotland.com*]
6. Flax Project CIC – community flax project and project participant in Devon [*https://southwestenglandfibreshed.co.uk/producers/flax-project-cic/*]

References

1. https://allianceflaxlinenhemp.eu/en/flax-linen-hemp-economic-observatory, accessed March 2026
2. https://allianceflaxlinenhemp.eu/en/flax-linen-hemp-economic-observatory/2024-flax-hemp-market-figures, accessed March 2026

We would like to thank all of our project participants, partners and collaborators.

Innovative Farmers is part of the Duchy Future Farming Programme, funded by The Prince of Wales's Charitable Fund through the sales of Waitrose Duchy Organic products. The network is backed by a team from LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming), Innovation for Agriculture, the Organic Research Centre and the Soil Association