

Support and Collaboration

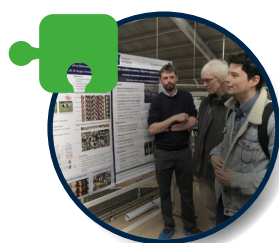
The Douglas Bomford Trust is the only UK charity committed primarily to supporting engineering for agriculture and related industries. The Trust provides around £150,000/year to fund relevant research and other activities, often in collaboration with other sponsors (charities and industry). This is achieved through income from a portfolio of investments, from the initial legacy from Douglas Bomford's Estate and other substantial donations (from the Howard Trust and on the closure of Silsoe Research Institute), as well as individual donations from ex-beneficiaries.

The Trust welcomes further donations from organisations or individuals to help maintain (and expand) the vital support needed to enable individuals to pursue:

Research and innovation - to apply science and technology to design, development, evaluation and construction of machines and systems to improve agriculture and related industries.



Education and training - to acquire new knowledge, skills, techniques and capabilities.



Travel - to attend national and international conferences and events to acquire or disseminate knowledge.



Personal development - maintenance and recognition of professional competencies and skills.



The Future – A New Strategy

A project commissioned to develop the Trust's Strategy, Vision, Mission Statement and Core Values will enable the Trust to be more proactive and effective by identifying and promoting priority areas for support and increase the impact of the Trust.

Leaflet kindly sponsored by



The DOUGLAS BOMFORD Trust

SUPPORTING AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Advancing knowledge, understanding, practice, and competence in the application of engineering and technology to achieve sustainable agricultural, food and biological systems for the benefit of the environment and mankind, since 1972.



Patron: Dr David Llewellyn CBE, DBA, FRAgS, FIAgrE

This leaflet has been produced to commemorate five decades of the Trust's activities but in our 'Jubilee' year the Board of Trustees have also been looking to the future too.



Douglas R Bomford - The inspiration for the Trust

The Trust was established in 1972 as an independent charity in Douglas' memory, by his widow Betty, supported by the directors and family shareholders of the well-known and innovative farm machinery manufacturers, Bomford & Evershed Ltd.

Douglas died in 1969, aged 75. Wounded twice while serving in France during WW1, he suffered a permanent disability which did not deter him. After the War, he returned to the family farm, which had helped to pioneer mechanisation of many basic farming operations, rather than return to his medical studies. He continued the family tradition with further pioneering work in engineering and mechanisation until he retired in 1967, securing many world-wide patents. He employed and encouraged the development of many young innovative engineers too - not least our Emeritus Trustee, John Fox, who as MD of the company was instrumental in setting up the Trust at its inception.

Douglas also played a leading role in professional and technical bodies. He was an Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE) having been President from 1955 to 1957. He was also closely associated with the establishment of the National College of Agricultural Engineering in 1962 (later Silsoe College and latterly Cranfield University), where many students received support from the Trust founded in his name.

Objectives

The Trust's original objective was "To advance education, training and research in the science and practice of agricultural engineering and mechanisation".

This epitomised Douglas' vision and commitment to the profession, but the scope was subsequently broadened to reflect the developments and wider application of engineering, and its vital contribution to sustainability of food and protection of the environment.

Management

The Board of Trustees includes a wide range of expertise and experience from across the sector. Trustees assess and approve applications for significant funding and mentor recipients. In recent years, the progress of technology in the sector has demanded a multi-disciplinary approach, and the Trust has supported a wider range of universities. Trustees hold one meeting each year on a campus to meet staff and students and view the latest research. A more proactive approach towards funding projects is being adopted, based on horizon scanning research and developing a method to identify priority topics.

Achievements and Outcomes

Over five decades the Trust has focused on supporting students in various ways and extent. Many have gone on to hold leading roles in agriculture and associated industries, worldwide, eg in research and education; design, production and marketing of machinery; conservation and environment, all contributing to the intellectual and innovation capability of agricultural engineering in the UK and internationally.

Most of our annual budget is allocated to research, in recent years typically co-sponsoring around ten PhD's at any time, often in partnership with other charities and manufacturers. This wide-ranging research has contributed significantly to improve output, quality and sustainability of food production and the environment over the decades and will be even more important in the future.

In addition, up to ten scholarships and other grants are awarded to 'promising' individuals each year, helping to enhance their studies and skills (eg through funding equipment, training or travel for projects, new IT, software or learning materials), in turn raising the profile of agricultural engineering and encouraging their commitment to the profession. Outstanding academic achievements are also recognised with annual prizes at several universities, and through the IAgrE for notable published papers. Four A-level students also receive Scholarships each year, through the Arkwright Scheme, to encourage them to consider agricultural engineering in further education and as a career too.

More widely, the Trust has contributed to raising the profile and membership of the IAgrE. The Trust sponsors the subscriptions of around 300 students in any year, introducing them to the wide range of learning opportunities, benefits of networking and continuing professional development.

Travel grants have also been awarded to many individuals and groups of students to attend national and international conferences and events, to improve and share their knowledge, gain experience of public speaking and be stimulated and motivated by seeing and discussing new developments, other work, systems and cultures.

The Trust also made a substantial contribution to the building of a new agricultural engineering facility at Harper Adams University, which is widely used for teaching and research. The Trust also supports other related organisations, to promote collaboration, including the Agri-Food Charities Partnership (AFCP).



Contact Us

To find out more about the Douglas Bomford Trust, how to apply for funding and how to donate, please see our website www.dbt.org.uk, contact the Secretary via enquiries@dbt.org.uk or write to **The Douglas Bomford Trust, The Bullock Building, University Way, Bedford, MK43 0GH.**