



## ***ENTRY CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES***

### **26. RUSHLIGHT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & BIODIVERSITY AWARD**

#### **Award**

Awarded to the product, service, process, technique, activity or other innovation which has made or has the most potential to make the most impressive positive impact on the environment in the fields of agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, ecology and natural capital.

#### **Background**

Land use is responsible for more than 30% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, but has the potential to sequester a quarter of the world's carbon emissions, as soil is the third largest carbon sink on the planet. UK agriculture and forestry currently accounts for seven per cent of total UK greenhouse gas emissions, including 66 per cent of the UK's nitrous oxide emissions and 46 per cent of UK methane emissions. Positive measures include enriching soil carbon through minimising tillage, using less fertiliser and adding biochar to increase its carbon-storage capacity; farming with perennials; adopting a more climate-friendly approach to livestock production, including a reduction in numbers and rotational grazing; protecting natural habitats by minimising the effects of forest and grass fires, and limiting deforestation and land clearances; and restoring degraded watersheds and rangelands. Good forest management can lead to the optimization of a natural carbon sink and the provision of reliable, high quality carbon neutral fuel in the form of arboreal arisings from sound forest maintenance. In addition, agriculture, forestry and commerce have a key role to play in the support and continued promotion of biodiversity throughout the environment. These all form part of the overarching principle that is the responsible management of our natural capital.

#### **Entrants**

This category is designed to include any practice, product, service, process or innovation that results in a net positive enhancement for the environment in the context of agriculture, forestry, biodiversity and natural capital. This category is not designed to include bioenergy, powered transport or responsible product or services innovations that are addressed in other categories.

### **Purpose of the award**

The award is designed to celebrate and publicise the significant achievements of manufacturers, industry, farmers and the supply chain in enhancing the environmental impact of agriculture and forestry and improving biodiversity. It can inform society generally about what is happening, encourage best practice and promote products, systems and procedures that are attractive to an increasingly aware supply chain, end customer and concerned society.

### **Specific criteria**

The key criteria that the judges will be focusing on are:

1. The importance and novelty of the innovation in addressing a specific issue ( /20)
2. The “cleverness” of the innovation, which may include either its simplicity or its complexity ( /20)
3. The evaluation of the innovation: the bigger the problem that has been solved or the greater the technology advancement that has been made the better ( /15)
4. Whether and how the innovation can be replicated, sold or multiplied to increase the beneficial effect for society ( /15)
5. Evidence of the efficacy or effect of the innovation ( /10)
6. The holistic impact of the innovation on the environment. ( /20)

### **Entry form**

The Entry Form has the following sections to be completed:

- **Summary:** This is where you set out a synopsis of what the process or technology is and does. This summary will be used as the descriptor should you be shortlisted
- **Project status:** This is where you explain the stage that the project, innovation or technology has reached.
- **Description:** Please set out under this heading as much detail as you can to make the technology development, innovation or process understood. You can include confidential and commercially sensitive information here and it will be treated as such, provided you mark it as being sensitive.
- **Innovative aspect:** This is where you explain the really clever bit. How have you addressed the problem or avoided the issue or organized the process? Again, please mark “commercially sensitive” or “confidential information” accordingly.
- **Benefits:** This is where the evaluation of the concept will be made. Please include in here as much evaluated detail of the benefits as possible. Examples include some sense of financial benefit, cost savings, price adjustments, expected or achieved sales effects, greenhouse gas emission reductions or other directly attributable benefits of the process or technology. Third party verified data is especially valuable.
- **IP ownership:** Set out here who owns what patents associated with the technology and clarify precisely the development that has been achieved by the applicant organization(s).
- **Additional information:** No form can cater for all eventualities and so this provides space for further explanation or details.

Lastly, if the form does not provide enough space or the questions are not directly relevant, then please send further material as an attachment to your entry email. Up to two attachments can be sent, each one no more than 5Mb in size.