

# Living labs for invasive species management – a proposal

Katharina Dehnen-Schmutz, Adrian Evans, Tomos Jones, Zarah Pattison



UNIVERSITY of  
**STIRLING**



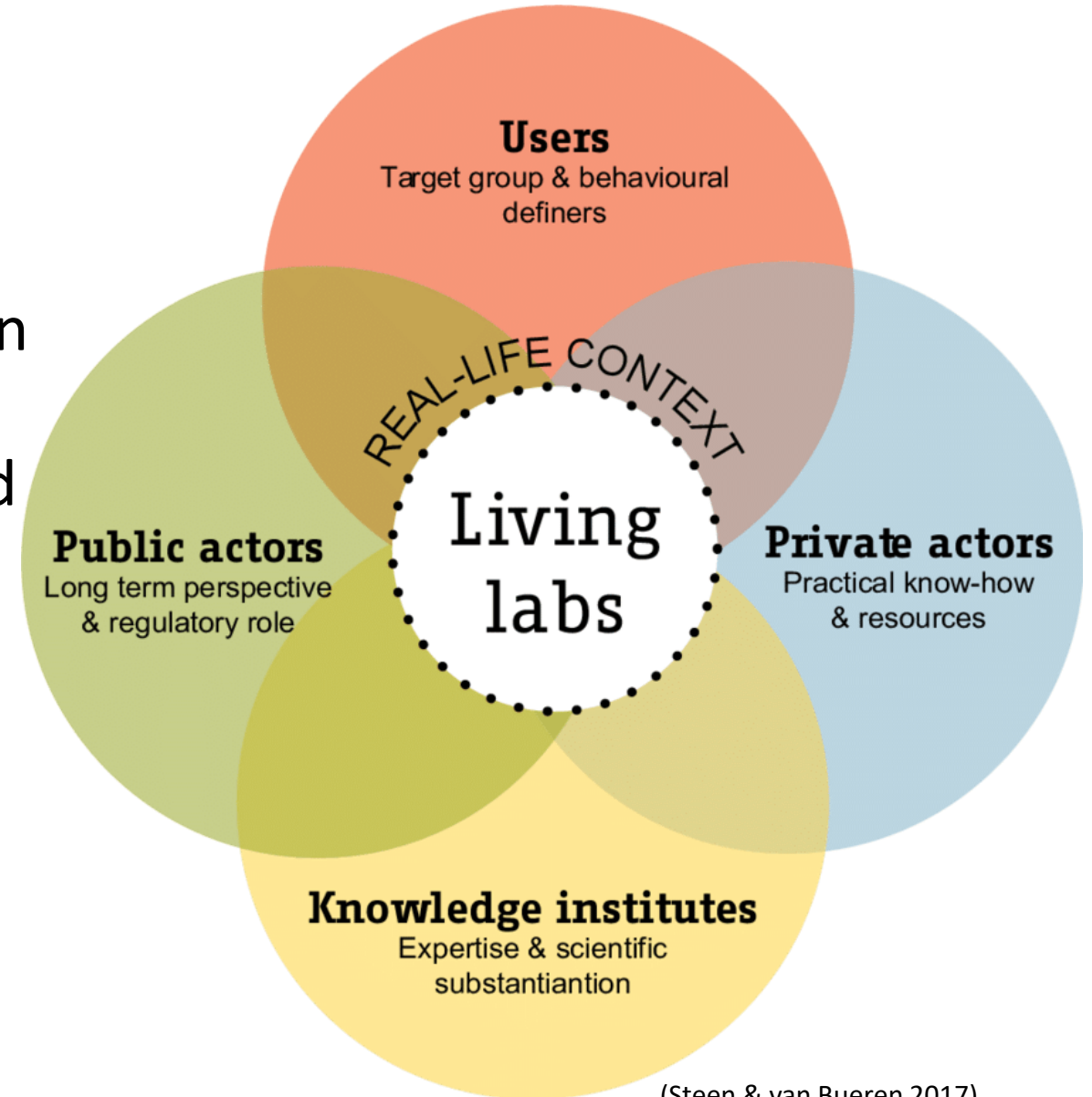
Ymddiriedolaeth Natur  
**Gogledd Cymru**  
**North Wales**  
Wildlife Trust



Natural  
Environment  
Research Council

# What are living labs?

- A real-life test and experimentation environment
- Actors are citizens, researchers and other stakeholders
- All actors are involved in the innovation process
- Iterative feedback loops



(Steen & van Bueren 2017)

# Living lab example



A network of farmers and growers running on-farm trials, on their own terms.

**Welcome to  
Innovative Farmers**

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

Running since 2012  
150 field labs launched  
750 farmers taking part  
£620,000 small grants to farmers



Eliminating peat from propagation using growing media blocks



Establishing potato cyst nematode trap crops



Establishment and management of productive diverse swards in Cumbria



Evaluating Bokashi Manure Treatment in housed cattle systems



Exploring the value of cocksfoot in grass and diverse leys



Farmyard manure and cover crops for soil improvement



Feeding willow to livestock agroforestry network



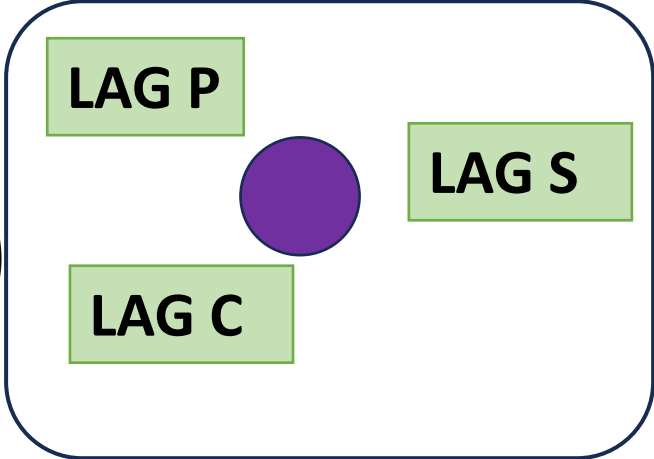
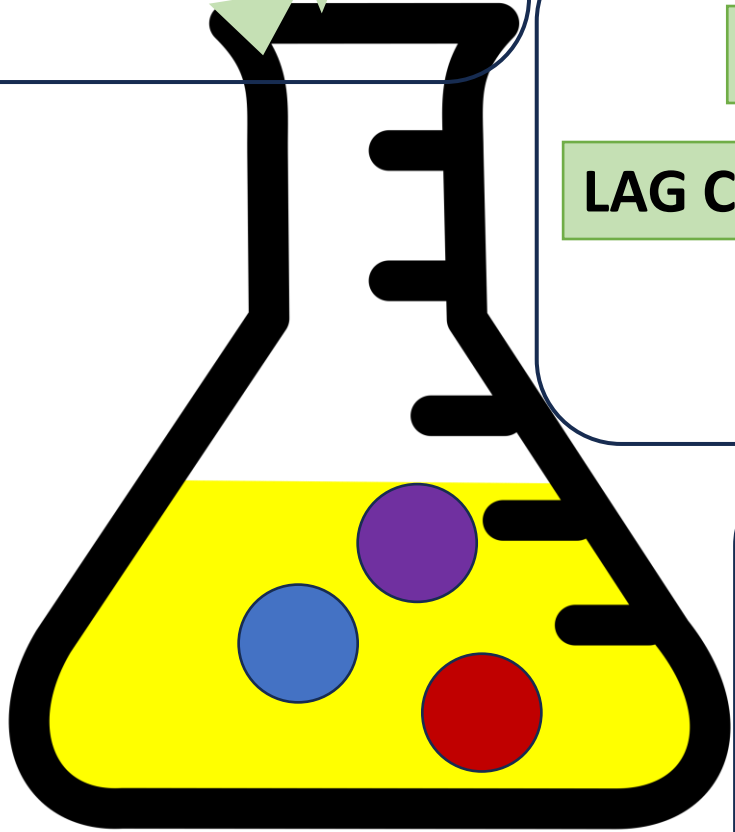
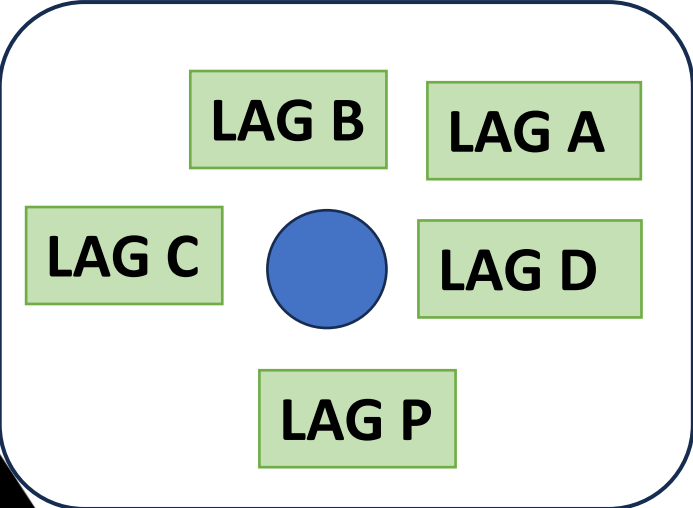
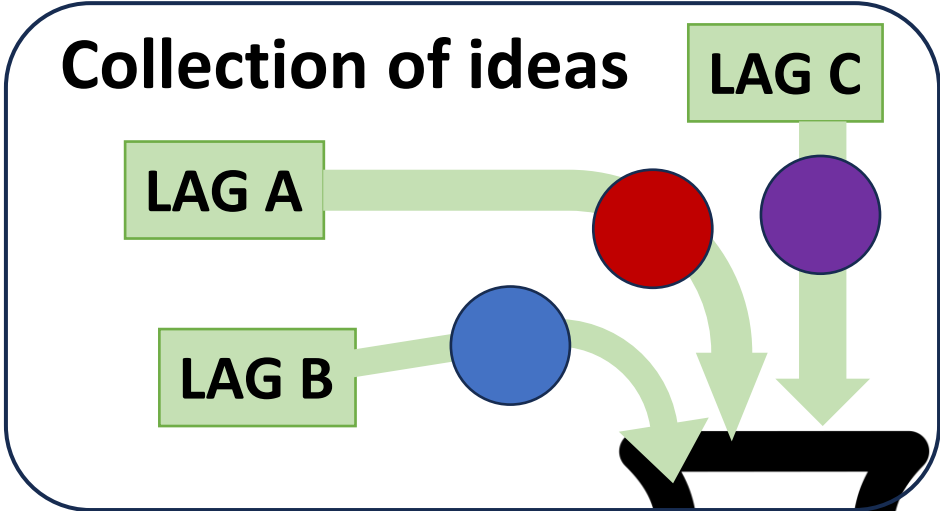
Flowering habitats for pest control

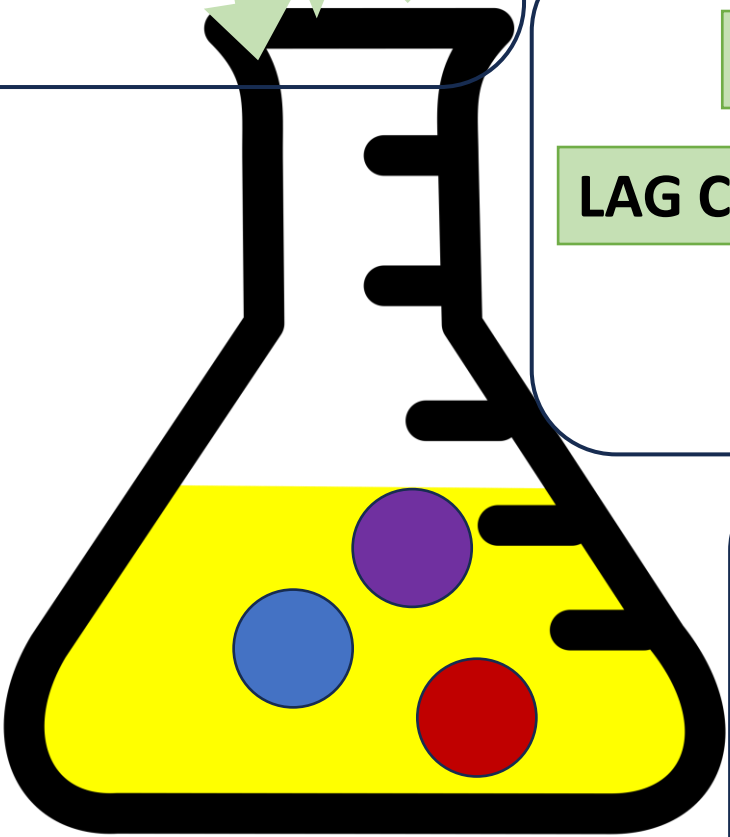
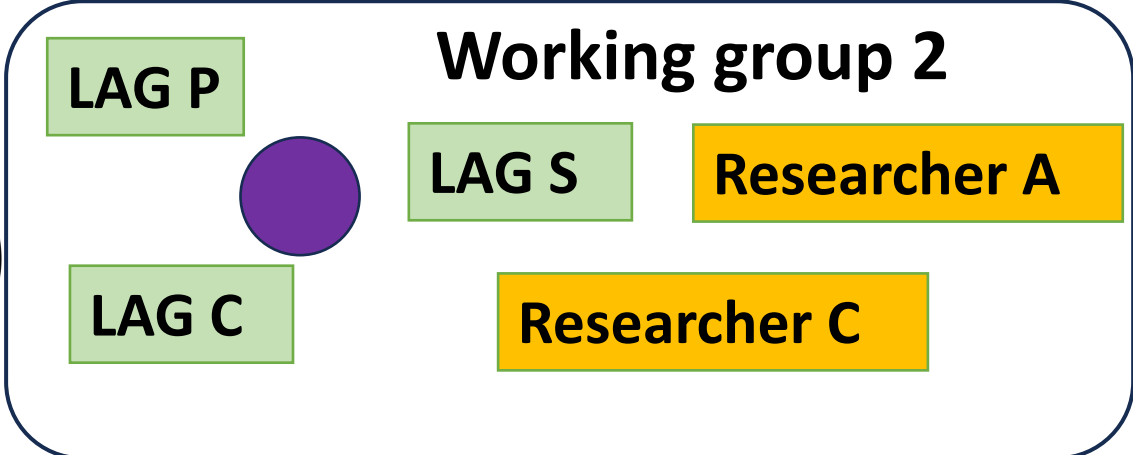
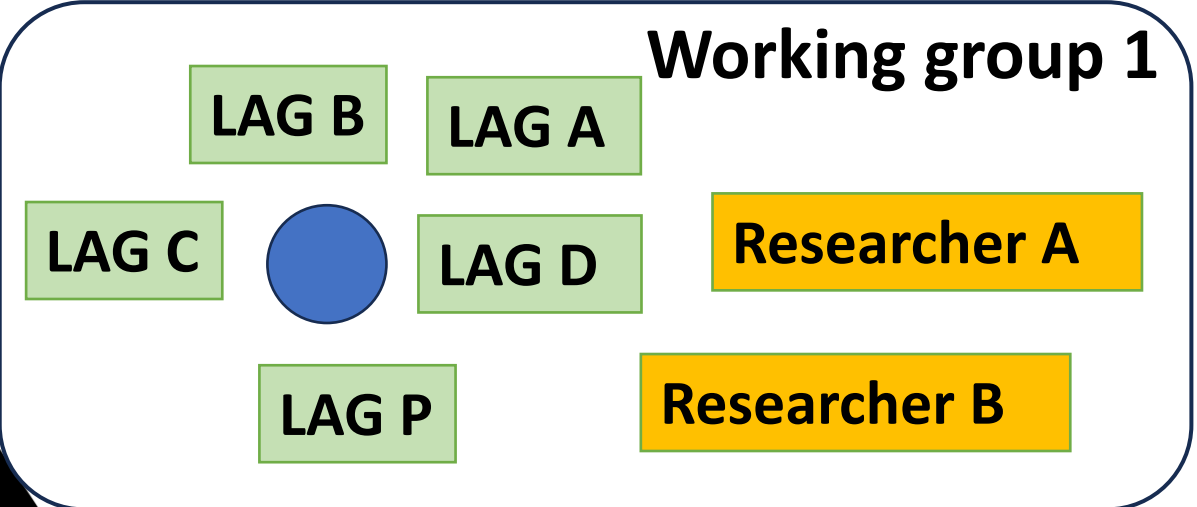
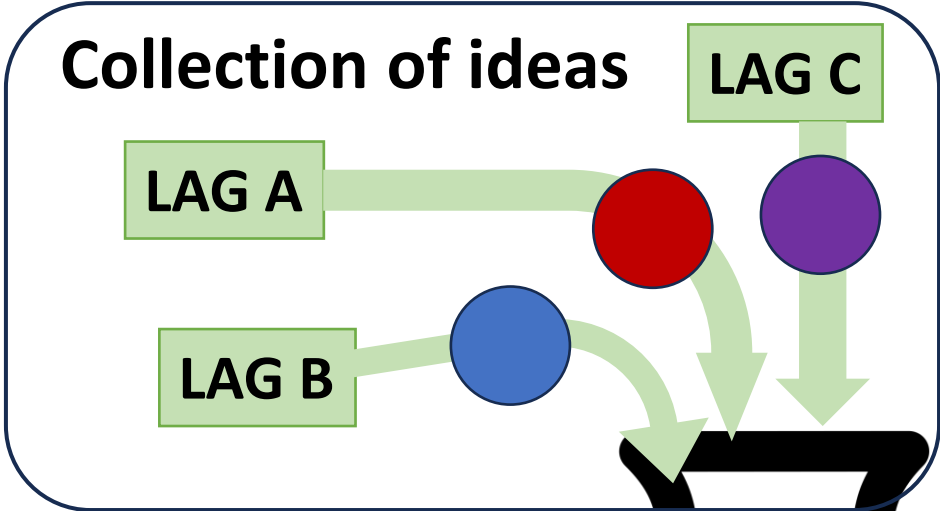


Grazing sheep on lucerne

# Living labs for invasive species management

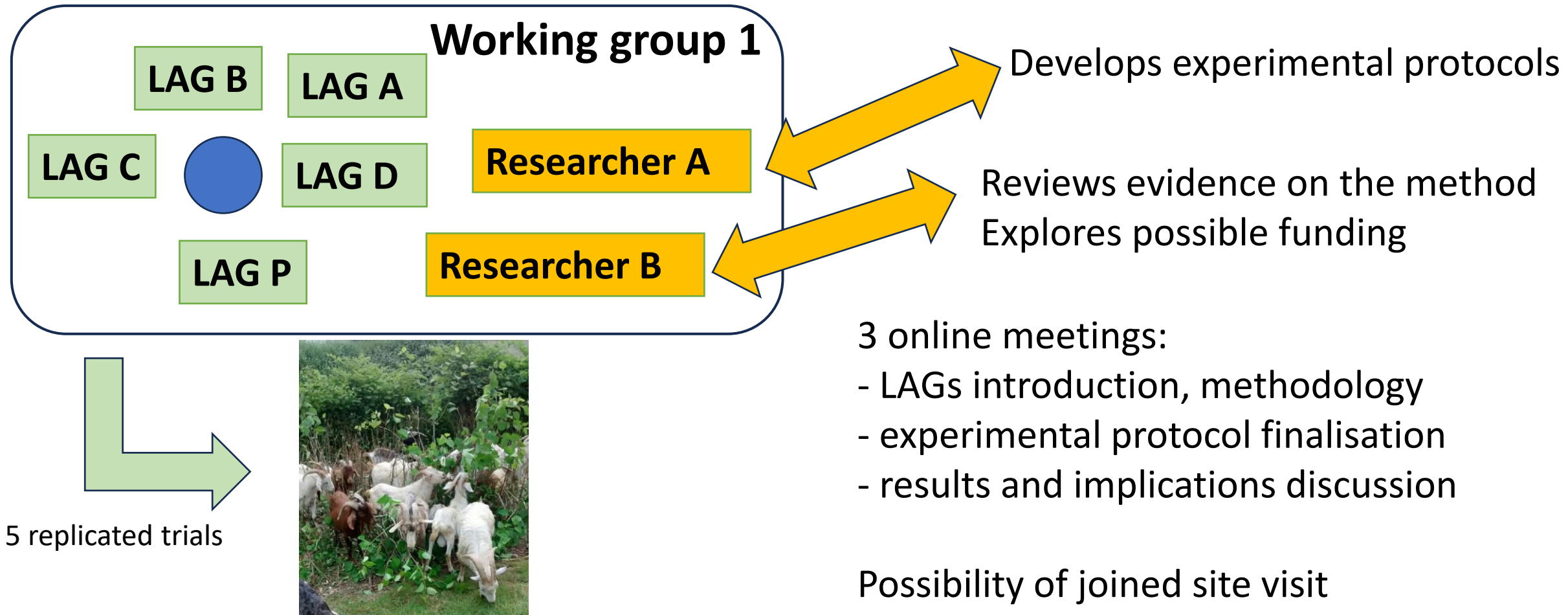
- Bring together local action groups, conservation organisations, researchers and other stakeholders
- Collect innovative approaches for invasive species management across LAGs, regions and species
- Test approaches in a systematic way
- Feedback results to all participants and beyond

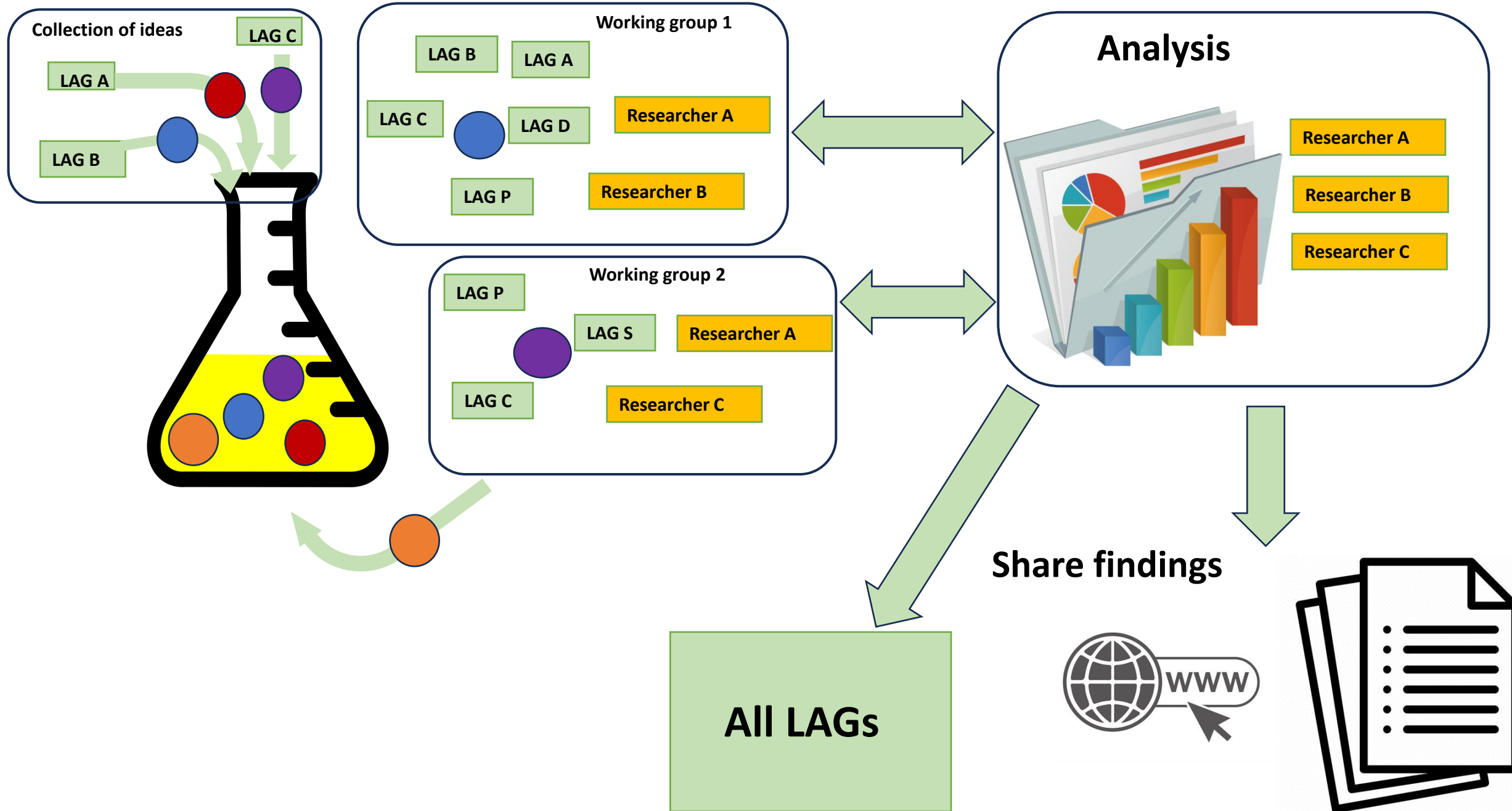




# Working group example

- What is the best timing for grazing of Japanese Knotweed?







# Living lab proposal development phase

**UK Research and Innovation** [Apply for funding](#) [Manage my account](#)

[Funding finder](#) [How we make decisions](#)

**Funding opportunity**

## Engaged Environment

<b>Opportunity status:</b>	Open
<b>Funders:</b>	<a href="#">Natural Environment Research Council</a>
<b>Funding type:</b>	Grant
<b>Total fund:</b>	£2,400,000
<b>Maximum award:</b>	£1,000,000
<b>Publication date:</b>	10 October 2023

**Opening date:** 22 November 2023 9:00am UK time

**Closing date:** 30 April 2024 4:00pm UK time

[Start application ▶](#)

Invited applications to apply for funding to deliver exemplar projects that demonstrate excellence in engaged environmental science research through equitable public partnerships.

We welcome:

- environmental science research responding to both scientific and public needs
- equitable public partnerships
- leaders in engaged research

The full economic cost (FEC) can be up to £1,000,000. We will fund 80% of the FEC, with exceptions.

The award is up to four years.

You can only apply for this funding opportunity if we have invited you following a successful outline application.

**30 April 2024 4:00pm**  
Full application closing date

**June 2024**  
Panel meeting

**July 2024**  
Decisions communicated

**1 October 2024**  
Latest date for grants to commence

[Print this guidance or save as PDF](#)

**Guidance on good research**  
[Good research resource hub](#)

# How you can help and what we need from you

- Tell us if you would like to be involved if the project gets funded.
- Please fill in survey coming soon – this is important evidence to be included in the proposal (also independent of the proposal).
- Any ideas for working group topics that could be explored.

This page shows the live summary of invasive plants that have been reported from around the country. Results usually may be more delayed for records that we need to check.

## Frequent plants

1	34	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> "Himalayan Balsam"
2	31	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i> "Japanese Knotweed"
3	25	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i> "Green Alkanet"
4	23	<i>Leycesteria formosa</i> "Himalayan Honeysuckle"
5	17	<i>Anemone x hybrida</i> "Japanese Anemone"
6	16	<i>Allium triquetrum</i> "Three-cornered Garlic"
7	15	<i>Houttuynia cordata</i> "Fish-plant"
	15	<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i> "Fox-and-cubs"
9	11	<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> subsp. <i>argentatum</i>
10	9	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> "Snowberry"
	9	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> "Procumbent Yellow-sorrel"
	9	<i>Carex pendula</i> "Pendulous Sedge"
	9	<i>Centranthus ruber</i> "Red Valerian"
14	8	<i>Verbena bonariensis</i> "Argentinian Vervain"
	8	<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i> "Mexican Fleabane"
	8	<i>Soleirolia soleirolii</i> "Mind-your-own-business"

501 surveys have been received

287 species have been recorded

815 unique records have been sent



### How will the results be used?

All records of reported plants can be accessed on the webpage. At least once a year we will publish a summary of all records received on the webpage and in the BSBI News. Data collected will be used in risk assessments of species as well as to provide gardeners and nurseries with advice on which plants could also become difficult to manage in gardens.

### How to use Plant Alert

Plant Alert is a permanent reporting tool to use whenever you notice a potentially invasive ornamental plant. The webpage is designed to work well on mobile phones also offline, so you can take pictures and report plants directly from your garden. Please also encourage other gardeners to use Plant Alert.

See the [plantalert.org](http://plantalert.org) webpage for further information on plant invasions.

You can also follow us on twitter @Plant\_Alert You can contact us at [support@plantalert.org](mailto:support@plantalert.org)

### Why report invasive garden plants?

Invasive non-native plants are causing major problems for native biodiversity, ecosystems, infrastructure, the built environment and human health. Most of our invasive plants were introduced as ornamental garden plants but then escaped into the wider environment.

To prevent more species becoming invasive, gardeners can contribute by reporting early signs of invasiveness of ornamental plants in gardens.








## Reporting potentially invasive ornamental garden plants

[www.plantalert.org](http://www.plantalert.org)