

# UK space skills support sustainable development

Satellite technology and data can improve how we tackle global issues such as deforestation, sustainable food production and disaster response, new analysis shows.

Three new reports, published during World Space Week, which runs from 4 to 10 October, show that space-based solutions are:

- 12 times more cost effective at delivering sustainable forestry
- 7 times more cost effective in supporting agriculture
- Twice as cost effective for ensuring disaster resilience

As well as bringing down the cost of tackling these issues and underpinning better responses for the benefit of developing countries, the UK Space Agency's International Partnership Programme (IPP) has generated £279 million in GVA (Gross Value Added) for the UK economy and supports 3,300 jobs. In total the UK gets more than £2 of benefit back for every £1 invested in these projects.

International Development Secretary Alok Sharma said:

UK aid is central to delivering innovative satellite technology which, in partnership with the UK Space Agency, is helping us achieve the Global Goals and improve the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people.

We are already seeing the work that this partnership is helping to achieve from mapping outbreaks of cholera across Yemen to predicating droughts.

Dr Graham Turnock, Chief Executive of the UK Space Agency, said:

The aim of IPP is to make a positive, practical impact on the lives of those living in developing countries.

While the UK space sector is a success story at home, generating billions of pounds for our economy and providing 42,000 jobs, these reports show it is also tackling challenges and having a positive impact on the lives of people all over the world.

IPP, a £30 million a year programme, has now funded 33 projects in 44 countries and built partnerships between 120 space-enabled data organisations and 147 international partners in developing countries. These projects tackle UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) such as support for precision

agriculture, early warning systems for disasters prediction and disease detection.

Over 2,000 people in 186 organisations have been trained to use IPP-funded solutions. Based on current trends, over 4,000 individuals in developing countries are expected to receive training via IPP by 2021.

IPP focuses on using UK space data service strengths in research and innovation to underpin a sustainable economic or societal benefit to developing economies around the world. It is part of and is funded from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's (BEIS) Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF): a £1.5 billion fund announced by the UK Government, which supports cutting-edge research and innovation on global issues affecting developing countries.

[World Space Week](#) is a United Nations celebration of space and science, featuring thousands of events all over the world that bring people together to inspire an interest in space.