

Rediscovering the flax fibre industry in Scotland

Oxford Real Farming Conference
5th January 2023



What is a field lab?

- On-farm trials & research grant
- Support from a coordinator & researcher
- Events, webinars and farm walks
- Press and media; farmer & researcher content; open-source results



87%

Continued with the practices trialled, or intend to do so

80%

Improved their skills in on-farm data collection

90%

Improved confidence in experimenting or innovating on their farm

100%

Reported useful networking opportunities



The Fibre Flax Field Lab

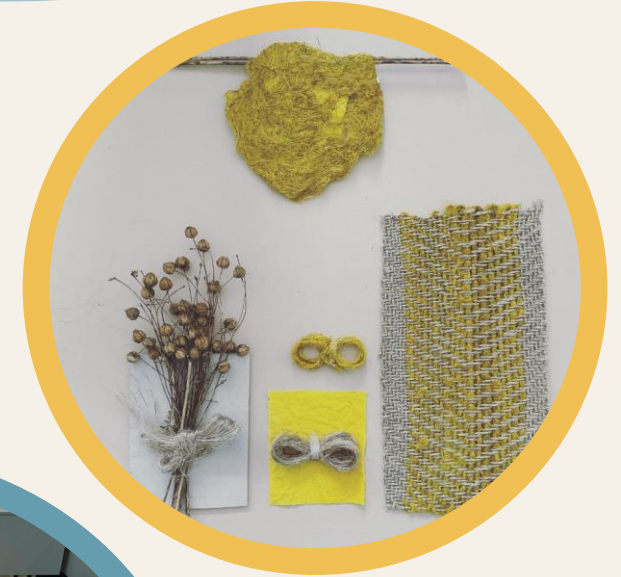
#FlaxScotland
#FlaxFieldLab
#RegenerativeTextiles



A Brief History...

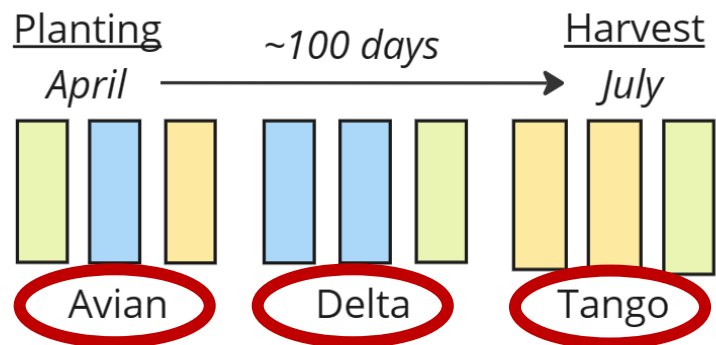


A new desire for regenerative Textiles





Trial Design



Seed rate

New table

Variety	TSW	Germination	Seed/m	Plot area	Amount/plot (g)
Avian	5.7	97	1600	10	98.97
Delta	5.5	97	1600	10	95.50
Tango	5.9	97	1600	10	102.44

Measurements

Yield

Crop weight @ harvest

Average weight of 3(?) x 1sqm per plot?

Seed weight?

Seed hub interested in seed yield (longer term)

Soil testing

Basic soil test (home kits?)

*Does IF use a standard kit or lab?

VESS

Soil type

Worm counts?

Establishment

Date/ days since planting

Photos

Establishment, growth rate, weeds

Visual comparison of standing crop?

What else?

crop height

Plants/sqm

% cover

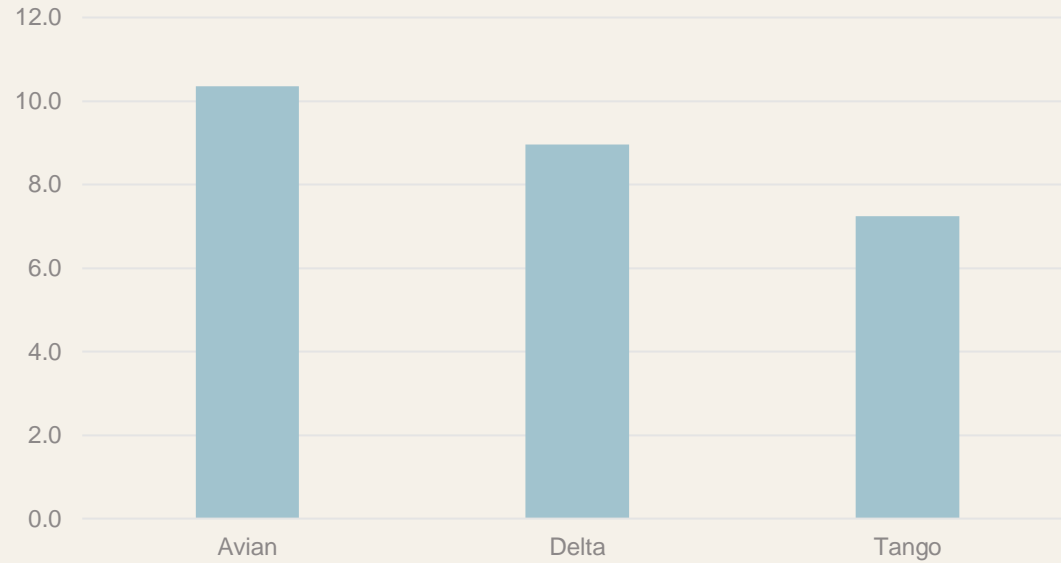
Comparing varieties



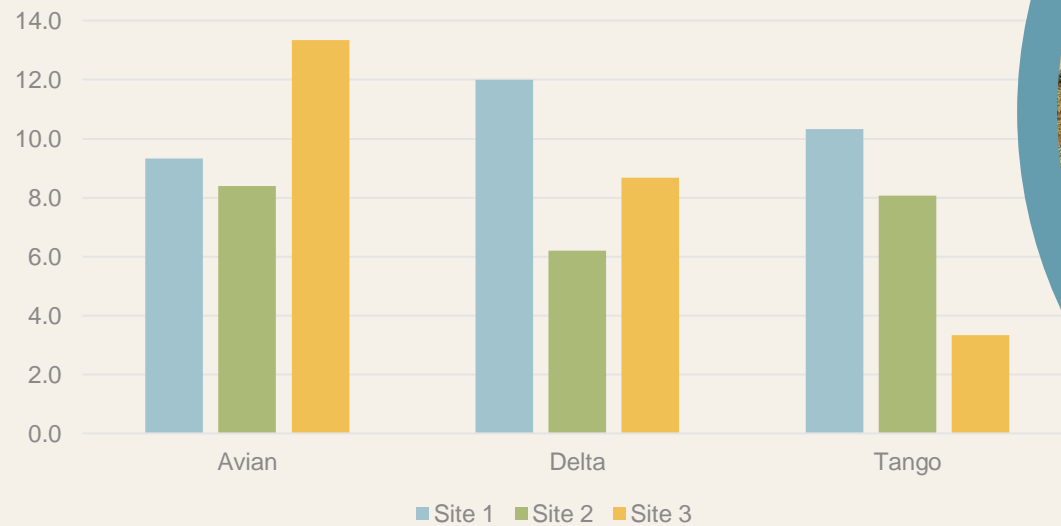
Yield



Average weight (t/ha)

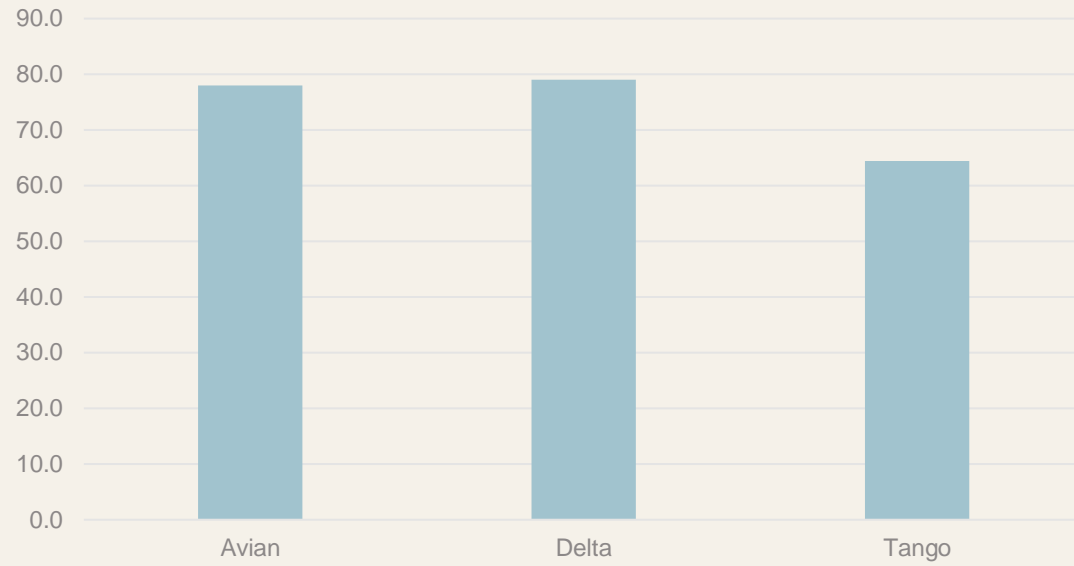


Crop Weight (t/ha)

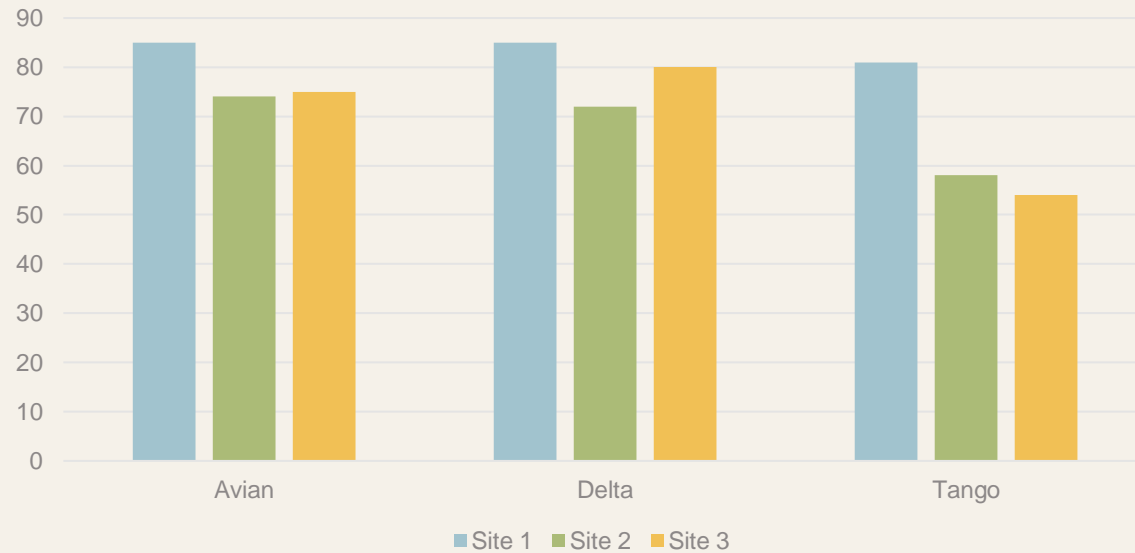


Height

Average height (cm)



Crop Height (cm)



Harvest & Retting



Community Plots



Processing



Next Steps...



Flax Field Lab

Report 2023 - Lauriston Farm



Sowing



Growing



Events



Harvesting



Retting & Drying



Processing

TBC!



Fantasy Fibre Mill - East Linton, Scotland



“Under one roof” flax to linen yarn production



Mill renovation plans

Temperate Room

Weaving/Sewing
Storage
Distribution

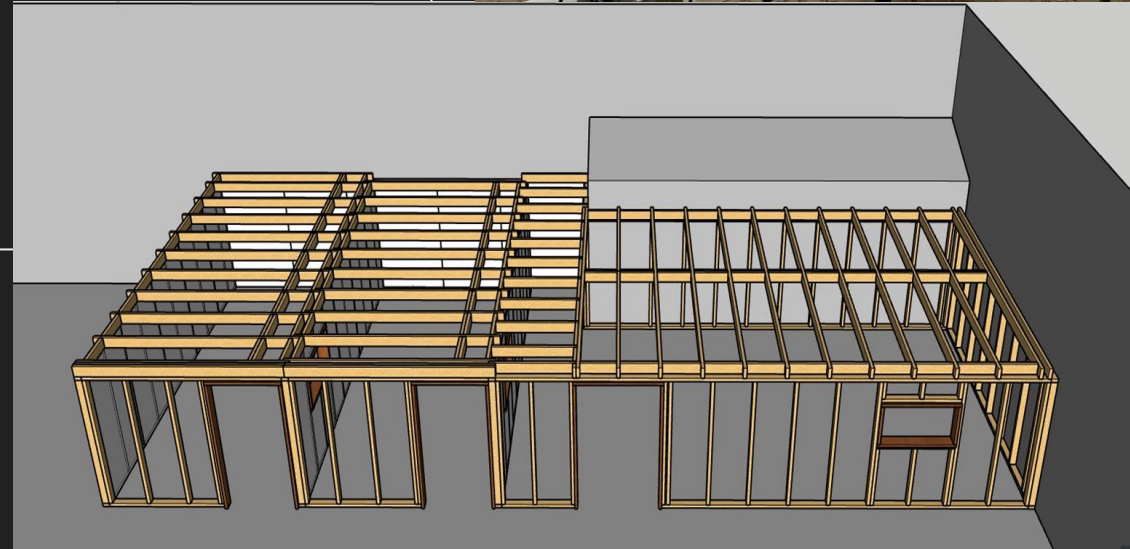
Rainforest Room

Drafting/Spinning
Dyeing

Desert Room

Breaking
Scutching/Hackling

Prototyping Workshop and
Storage Space



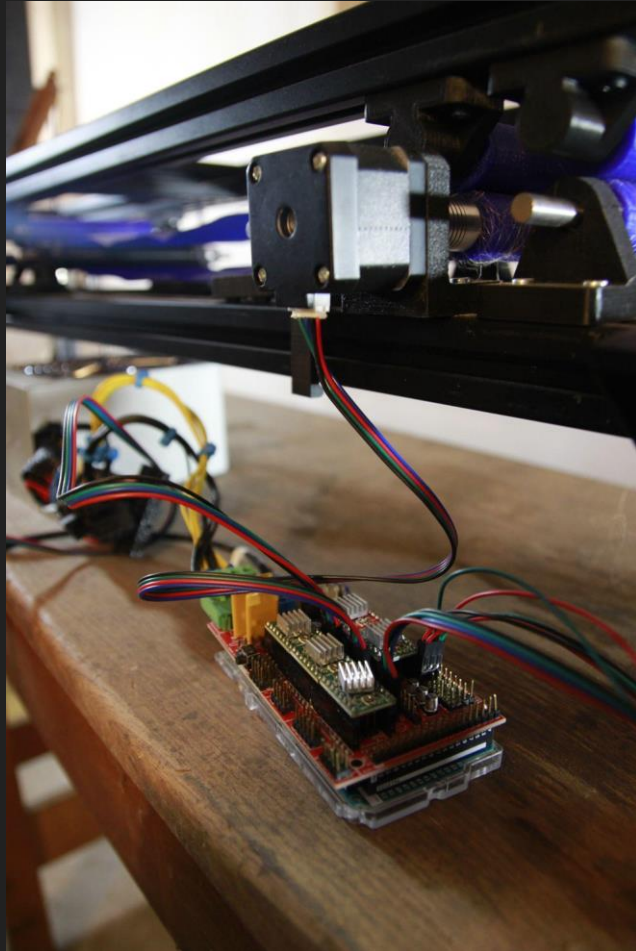
Workshop and storage space



Desert Room - Breaking, Heckling and Scutching



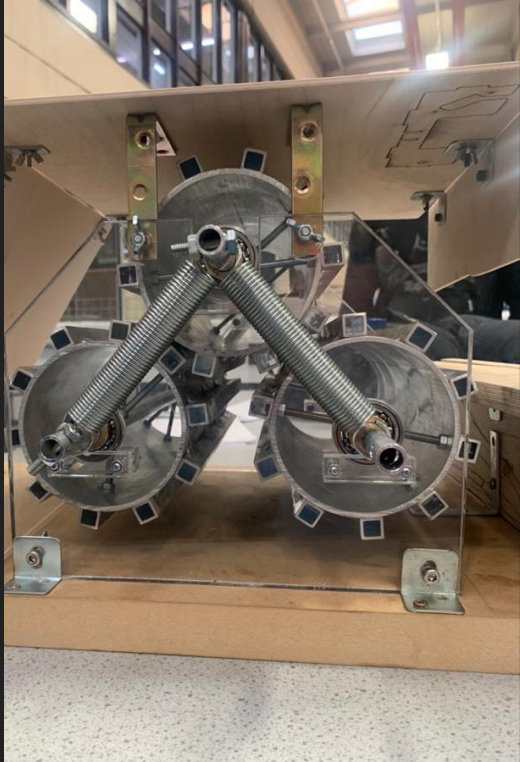
Rainforest Room - Spinning, drafting and Dying



Temperate Room - Weaving, sewing, yarn storage



Open source fibre processing machines development



Breaker



Scutcher/Heckler

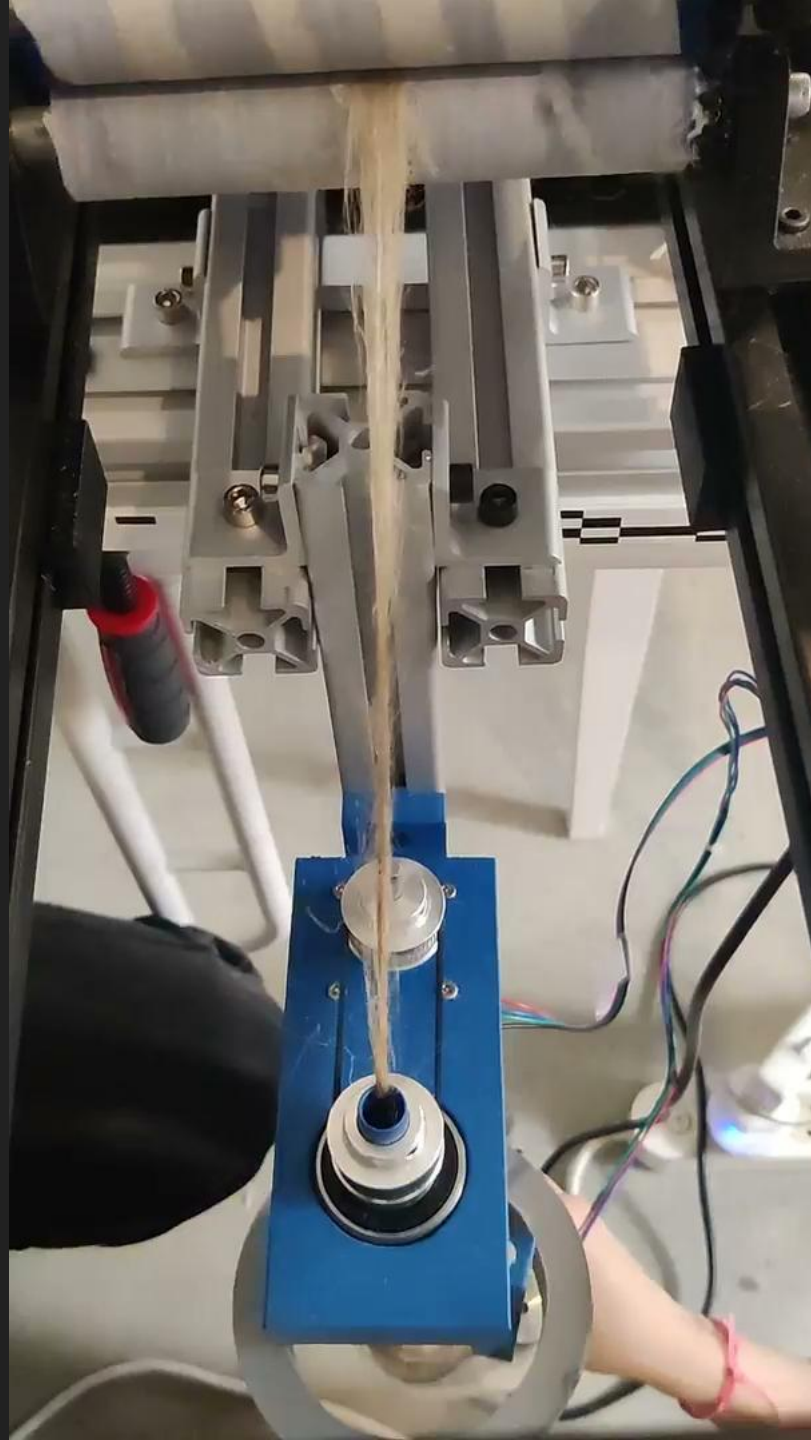


Drafting/Spinning



Our first yarn!

Drafting / Spinning





Thank you!



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