

Going for Growth roundtable feedback

<p>What do you consider to be the desired outcomes of any strategy for agricultural technology?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increased investment in biotech, particularly in R&D, and in technology that will help farmers. ■ Education: more focus on plants and biotech on the syllabus at all levels. ■ Start of a public debate about the role of biotech. ■ Improved pipelines for innovation, and maximising the potential for research across the UK and the EU, and integrated with nutrition and ecosystem research. ■ The UK becoming a centre for training and support for the developing world – and research that supports this. ■ The development of national priorities that reflect long-term and short-term needs. ■ Agreement between all relevant Government departments, as well as the devolved nations as to a more cohesive science framework, and the way to achieve this.
<p>How would you measure these outcomes / success?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Financially – royalties, exports, sales, falling food prices ■ Increased yields, new products ■ New routes for researchers and a better integrated public and private research system ■ UK contributions to global research
<p>What are the barriers that currently prevent the UK achieving these outcomes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Regulatory barriers and political divisions at national and EU level ■ Availability of funding for investment and education ■ Lack of a joined-up strategy for biotech ■ The belief that the public are opposed to GM – only a vocal minority are ■ Perception of the industry ■ The structure of agriculture, which is made up of a large number of small farms looking at different sectors, which makes commercialisation difficult.
<p>What action should be taken, and by whom, to resolve this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improvements in the regulatory framework ▪ A clear strategy for biotech ▪ Incentives for investment ▪ A clear position to take to Europe ▪ Working with industry ▪ Developing a clear strategy that fits with other initiatives and projects across government ■ Research institutes, researchers and academia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better cooperation ▪ A clear response to anti-GM groups ▪ Better on the ground presence in Africa, perhaps by working with universities ■ Better cooperation between the private and public sector on research and development of technology.