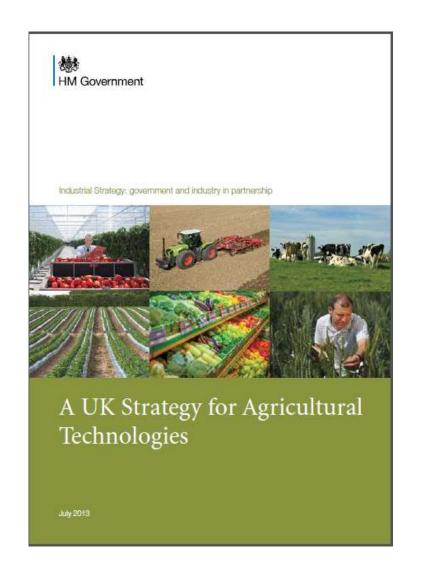


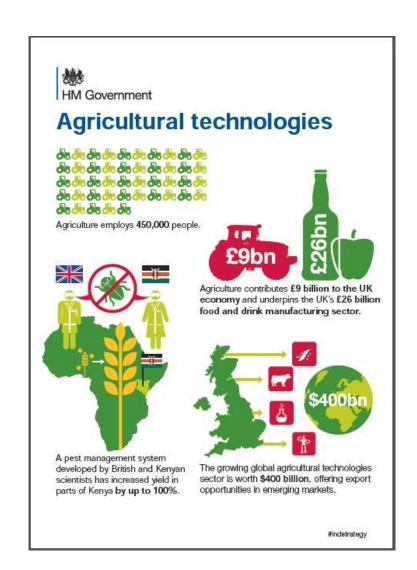
THE UK AGRI-TECH STRATEGY

Tina Barsby, Director, National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB)



A UK Strategy for Agricultural Technologies





Introduction

- One of 11 sector strategic partnerships developed under the Industrial Strategy
- Developed by BIS, Defra, DFID, and to be directed by the Leadership Council consisting of experts in the industry and research fields
- Published on 22 July 2013

The Vision

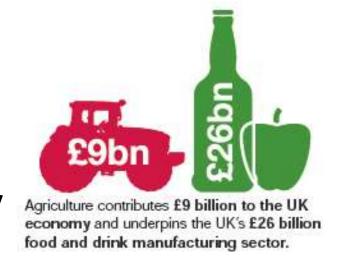
"That the UK becomes a world leader in agricultural technology, innovation and sustainability; exploits opportunities to develop and adopt new and existing technologies, products and services to increase productivity; and thereby contributes to global food security and international development"

A UK Strategy for Agricultural Technologies 22 July 2013

UK Agriculture Industry

- Agri-Food supply chain contributes £96 billion, or 7% of GVA, to the UK economy
- UK exported £18 billion of food, feed, and drink in 2012
- The UK is one of the top 12 food and drink exporters in the world
- 3.8 million employed in agriculture and fishing supply chains





Global Challenges

- Increasing pressure on <u>natural resources</u> from rising demand from lifestyle aspirations
- Global <u>population growth</u> from 7 to 9 billion by 2050
- Geopolitical instability around shortages of land, water and energy
- Environmental threats and resilience such as climate change and extreme weather patterns

UK Agri-Tech strengths

1. Science base

 We have institutes and university departments at the forefront of areas of scientific research vital to agriculture and related technologies

2. Food and farming supply chain

We have innovative and dynamic farmers, food manufacturers and retailers

3. Global markets

 We are well positioned to make an impact on global markets through exports of products, science and farming practices

What we will do

- Improve <u>translation</u> of research into practise through £70 million government investment in an Agri-Tech Catalyst
- £90 million of government <u>funding</u> for Centres for Agricultural Innovation
- Provide stronger <u>leadership</u> for the sector; the Agri-Tech Leadership Council
- Build a stronger <u>skills</u> base through industry-led actions
- Increase alignment of industry <u>research</u> funding
- Increase UK <u>exports</u> and inward <u>investment</u> performance

Where does Agro-ecology fit?

- The Strategy is about Innovation in the broadest sense
- Agro-ecology looks at productivity and sustainability in farming systems and should be technology neutral
- Metrics for sustainable efficient production
- Bringing people and ideas together: drop the labels!
- Organic and non-organic farming are learning from each other
- Genetic improvement is recognised as important to both
- Loss of agrochemicals means that non-organic farmers are looking to methods championed by organic farmers

InnovationFarm

•Developing an industry-wide resource, showcasing new technology and innovation in plant genetic development for the agriculture and horticulture sectors, on themes of:









Food security

Climate change

Sustainable resources

Health and nutrition

