



FPC PRESS RELEASE

24 May 2010

FPC SETS SCENE FOR INDUSTRY DEBATE ON GM TECHNOLOGY

'Is UK horticulture ready and willing to use GM?', 'Would UK consumers accept GM produce?' and 'Is GM the solution for ensuring future food security and reducing pesticide use?'. These are some of the questions to be covered in an industry debate led by the Fresh Produce Consortium (FPC) on GM technology and its potential for horticulture on Tuesday 8 June at the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera), York.

Dr Julian Little, chair of the Agricultural Biotechnology Council will present the current situation regarding GM technology and its use globally. An alternative view will be given by John Clarke, member of the Soil Association.

"It's important for the fresh produce industry to be up to speed with developments in the use of GM technology overseas and for FPC to encourage a meaningful debate on the potential for GM in horticulture," said Nigel Jenney, Chief Executive of the FPC. "We're hoping to encourage an open and lively debate with contributions from across the industry."

The debate forms part of FPC's Technical Group meeting and will be followed by a guided tour of the state of the art facilities at Fera, covering plant and crop protection, food chain safety, environmental risk assessment and crisis response.

The event will take place on Tuesday 8 June at the Sand Hutton Suite, Lakeside Conference Centre, Fera, York YO41 1LZ, commencing at 10.00 am. Places must be reserved with FPC tel: 01733 405792 or email: sian@freshproduce.org.uk

Ends

Notes for editors:

1. The Fresh Produce Consortium (FPC) is the UK's fresh produce trade association and is based in Peterborough. The FPC has represented the fresh produce sector for many years and is recognized across the UK and EU as the voice of the industry.
2. Extensive membership covers the complete spectrum of industry businesses including growers, importers, wholesalers, retailers, distributors, processors, packers, food service companies and other allied organisations.
3. Anyone wishing to attend the event should contact sian@freshproduce.org.uk ; tel: 01733 405792.

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