



# FPC PRESS RELEASE

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## **FPC WELCOMES PUBLIC DEBATE ON GM AS POTENTIAL TOOL FOR HORTICULTURE**

The Fresh Produce Consortium welcomes a constructive debate on the potential use of GM technology following Professor John Beddington's remarks on how to meet the challenges of food security and the announcement of a forthcoming public consultation on GM food by the Food Standards Agency.

"The horticulture industry faces significant challenges in supplying good quality affordable produce in a safe sustainable manner, with an increasing world population, competing pressures on agricultural land and the impact of climate change. With rising obesity levels across Europe it is essential that we encourage people to eat more fresh fruit and vegetables," said Nigel Jenney, Chief Executive of the Fresh Produce Consortium.

"The UK horticulture industry already leads in the adoption of integrated pest management systems and the Fresh Produce Consortium will continue to press the UK Government and others to ensure that the industry has the necessary tools to provide a sustainable supply of fresh produce. Within this context we believe that it is important that new technologies including genetically modified (GM) products should be considered based on sound science, case by case, and that informed decisions are taken after full consultation between Government, the industry and consumers," added Nigel Jenney.

**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. Eat in Colour campaign [www.eatincolour.com](http://www.eatincolour.com)
4. Professor John Beddington, Chief Scientific Advisor, speaking at a global food summit held by Cabi.

**Ends**