



# FPC PRESS RELEASE

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## **GREENING HORTICULTURE CAN MEET CHALLENGE OF GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY**

The fresh produce industry is well placed to play a vital role in greening our economy to meet the challenges of global food security and contribute towards sustainable development, says the Fresh Produce Consortium. The United Nations Environment Programme's report 'Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication' demonstrates that, with just a two per cent investment of global GDP, a green economy can deliver wealth creation and employment opportunities and is not just a luxury for developed countries.

"We welcome this report which debunks many myths and recognises the ethical dimension of trade in fresh produce between developing countries and the UK," said Nigel Jenney, Chief Executive of FPC. "The fresh produce industry is meeting the challenges of sustainable development by introducing integrated crop management techniques, reducing waste and inefficiency throughout the supply chain."

FPC has worked to highlight the complexities of the food supply chain and its social, political and economic repercussions, and to capture the true impact of food production and consumption.

The UK is more than 74 per cent self-sufficient in agricultural produce yet we cannot produce all our fruit and vegetables in the UK. Around 60% of fruit and vegetables are

imported into the UK, mostly from within the EU, providing us with produce outside the UK season as well as varieties which simply cannot be grown in the UK.

Research shows that some imported fruit and vegetables are grown in less greenhouse gas intensive ways than the same products in the UK, with savings from greater efficiency outweighing the potential negative impacts of additional transport. The consumption of fruit and vegetables accounts for only 2.5 per cent of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions in total.

"Ill-founded concerns about the impact of transportation of fresh produce from developing countries must be put in perspective, and balanced against the need to achieve a healthy diet, as well as assisting the development of local economies in Africa. To encourage the UK consumer to eat 5-day we need a wide variety of fresh produce regardless of origin or means of transport," added Nigel Jenney.

Agricultural growth is essential to economic growth in Africa; imports to the UK from Kenya alone are worth £100 million, with trade providing direct employment for 135,000 people. There is no evidence that fewer aircraft would fly if less imported fruit and vegetables were eaten, as at least 60% of air freighted fresh produce is brought to the UK in the bellyhold of passenger aircraft. Total air freighted imports of fruit and vegetables account for 0.2% of total UK greenhouse gas emissions.

**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 recognised 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. UNEP 2011 Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication, United Nations Environment Programme. For more information visit: <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/v2/GreenEconomyReport/tabid/29846/Default.aspx>

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