

# Latest News

## **UK report on the “*Future of Farming*” confirms need for innovation and technology to feed the world and protect the environment and urges “sustainable intensification” of agriculture**

According to a report entitled ‘*Future of Food & Farming*’, decisive action is required if the food demands of a growing population are to be met. Whilst major expansion of agricultural land is considered “unwise” as emissions are released through land conversion, scientists favour a sustainable intensification of agriculture by combining biotechnological, agronomic and agro-ecological approaches.

The study, led by Sir John Beddington, Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK Government, sets out priorities to ensure that a rapidly expanding population can be fed in a healthy and sustainable way and without the use of substantially more land. The report singles out investment in technology as essential in view of the magnitude of the challenges for food security in the coming decades. In addition, efficiency of water use is highlighted as a major priority as well as the reduction of waste all along the food chain.

The report also stresses that food production should be made a central element in development projects with hunger reduction as a primary goal.

Garlich v. Essen, Secretary General of ESA European Seed Association welcomed the report and its outspoken support for more investment in science, technology and innovation: “The findings of the report confirm some of our own central messages. Improved plant genetics are one of the key drivers of a resource-efficient intensification of agricultural production. if we do not want to convert more forests or natural habitats into arable land, we must assure that we get more and not less from the area currently cultivated. And we have to do so in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner.” The seed industry specifically welcomes the report’s messages on the use of new technologies including genetic modification as supplying additional options to achieve these goals. “There is no magic bullet, no ONE technology that will resolve all our problems.” von Essen is convinced, “But you cannot address new challenges and win the future with yesterday’s knowledge and technologies. We need more science, more research and more innovation – and we have to use all the tools they provide if we want to be successful”.

***To access the full report, click:***

**[esa\\_11.0093](#)**

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