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Translation of Research Into Use

**Update from Current UK Projects and
House of Lords EU Innovation Inquiry**

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Common Views of the Problem

- **Global agricultural production needs to respond to increasing world-wide demand**
- **EU focus needs to be on raising productivity while supporting environmental sustainability**
- **Translation of research is vital but also complex in agri-food industry**
- **One size does not fit all – no single solution for translation across diverse agri-food sectors**
- **Translation and knowledge exchange a two way process; around concept of ‘push’ and ‘pull’**
- **Incentives, either financial or professional, required for those involved in the generation of new knowledge**

HoL Inquiry on Innovation in EU Agriculture



- **Encouraging innovation in EU agriculture in the context of new challenges (climate change, water scarcity and ‘sustainable intensification’)**
- **Innovation central to the background of the EU’s new Strategy for Growth and Jobs, Europe 2020**
- **The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) should play its part in delivering that strategy (agreed by the European Council on 17 June 2010)**

Key Points from the HoL Report

- **Government to do more on applied research and encouraging knowledge exchange and best practice**
- **EU member states should improve advice to agriculture e.g. CAP Farm Advisory System stimulating innovative practice**
- **Regulation should help, not hinder innovation - politicians and society accepting properly tested technologies**
- **Only collaborative working (scientists, farmers, retailers and consumers) will enable agriculture to meet future challenges**

Food Research Partnership Report on Translation of Research in Agri-Food



- **Responsibility across the whole agri-food supply chain for translating research into innovation**
- **Sectors need to organise and incentivise themselves – additional support e.g. Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board may be necessary in some cases**
- **Multidisciplinary contributions (natural, engineering, environmental and social sciences) are critical for knowledge exchange**
- **Providing advice crucial role for translators but information must be accessible, trusted and synthesised according to user needs**

Food Research Partnership Report



- **The input of those close to the consumer is valuable e.g. processors & retailers**
- **One-to-one exchange remains highly valued; also group exchange and field demonstrations**
- **Role of IT is still underdeveloped**
- **Greater emphasis on skills and entrepreneurship catalysing innovation ‘pull’**

Recommendations

- **Continuity of science base and greater need for applied research**
- **Partnership required (different sectors and public investment) using main existing structures**
- **Supportive environment and recognition for those in conducting applied research and translation**
- **Involvement of all users of innovation in research at an early stage (farmers/producers/retailers)**
- **Skills and ethos of enterprise and innovation, required across the supply chain**