

21st October 2009

abc welcomes Royal Society report on science and the sustainable intensification of global agriculture

Welcoming the Royal Society report and the acknowledgement of the need to look for scientific solutions to help improve our global agricultural system, Dr Julian Little, Chairman of the Agricultural Biotechnology Council, said:

“Food security is one of the biggest challenges we currently face, and the solution is clear: we must find ways in which to produce more food while continuing to reduce the impact our agricultural practices have on the environment. The UK has a key role to play in helping to deliver this solution; however, as widely acknowledged, our current methods of production will not be sufficient in meeting the increasing demand.

“For this reason, and for UK farming to maintain its competitive edge, our farmers must be given access to all the *proven* tools available to help them produce more food in a more sustainable way. This should include advanced crop breeding using biotechnology and GM methods, which are already being used by more than 13 million farmers around the world and helping to deliver higher and more reliable crop yields while mitigating major threats to crop production, such as damaging effects of pests, diseases and droughts.

“If we are serious about allowing UK farmers to produce more food at a fair price to consumers while safeguarding our natural resources, they must be given the freedom to choose modern, efficient farming methods based on tried and tested science.”

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Notes to Editors

1. abc is the umbrella group for the agricultural biotechnology industry. The companies involved include BASF, Bayer CropScience Dow AgroSciences, Monsanto, Pioneer (DuPont) and Syngenta. Our goal is to provide factual information and education about the agricultural use of GM technology in the UK, based on respect for public interest, opinions and concerns.
2. The Royal Society will be publishing its report *Reaping the Benefits: science and the sustainable intensification of global agriculture*, at 00:01 on Wednesday 21st October 2009. www.royalsociety.org

Further Information

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