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Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

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Plant Varieties and Seeds Strategy - Call for Ideas

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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

Defra-Plant-Varieties-and-Seeds@defra.gov.uk.

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Background

The policy area of Plant Varieties and Seeds (PVS) covers Plant Variety Rights (intellectual property rights of plant breeders), plant variety registration (national listing), setting standards for marketing and certification of seed and other plant propagating material and ensuring that these standards are upheld.

Defra, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and DAERA are working together to develop a UK PVS Strategy spanning five years. This will be the first strategy in the PVS area and developing it will be an opportunity to engage with industry and other stakeholders to set out a shared vision, priorities, and actions to achieve these.

We intend the strategy to be a means of setting direction and providing an overall framework to support prioritisation and provide clarity.

Inviting your views

We are keen to invite ideas from across industry at an early stage to feed into our strategy. This call for ideas seeks to gather initial input and we plan to continue engagement throughout the process.

This document outlines a proposed vision for the PVS policy area and the outcomes we would like to see. We welcome your views on these as well as on ideas for actions that can help achieve them. You can respond online [here](#) or send written responses to Defra-Plant-Varieties-and-Seeds@defra.gov.uk.

The call for ideas will be open from 26th September until 19th December. The feedback gathered from this call for ideas will be used to draft the first Plant Varieties and Seeds strategy. Stakeholder engagement will continue throughout the strategy development process and a consultation will be conducted when an initial draft is ready.

Proposed Vision

To enable a thriving and dynamic plant breeding sector capable of meeting the challenges and opportunities of a changing world.

To uphold proportionate quality and marketing standards for seed and other propagating material to ensure a well-functioning internal market.

To maintain and enhance the UK's global reputation in plant breeding and marketing standards.

Proposed Outcomes

1. A system which supports each of the UK governments' current and future objectives including on environment, climate change and food security.
2. International standards and schemes reflect UK shared priorities.

3. The UK is perceived as an attractive and stable option to develop and bring to market new plant varieties.
4. A transparent and accessible regulatory regime that reflects the need for market intervention in different sectors.
5. A responsive delivery system, capable of adapting to new initiatives in plant breeding and trade, providing efficient and value for money services.
6. Working in partnership with stakeholders on the development and delivery of policies and optimising opportunities for responsibility sharing.

Questions

Introduction

All information gathered will be treated as outlined in the [Defra Personal Information Charter](#), please ensure you have read and understood this before you respond.

1. **Would you like your response to be confidential? If you answered Yes to this question, please give your reason (further information is provided in Annex I).**
2. **What is your name?**
3. **What is your email address?**
4. **What is your organisation?**
5. **Are you happy to be contacted about your responses?**

Proposed vision

To enable a thriving and dynamic plant breeding sector capable of meeting the challenges and opportunities of a changing world.

To uphold proportionate quality and marketing standards for seed and other propagating material to ensure a well-functioning internal market.

To maintain and enhance the UK's global reputation in plant breeding and marketing standards.

6. **In your opinion, does the vision cover the right set of priority functions for the PVS policy area?**

Proposed outcomes

A system which supports each of the UK governments' current and future objectives including environment, climate change and food security.

International standards and schemes reflecting UK shared priorities.

The UK is perceived as an attractive and stable option to develop and bring to market new plant varieties.

A transparent and accessible regulatory regime that reflects the need for market intervention in different sectors.

A responsive delivery system, capable of adapting to new initiatives in plant breeding and trade, providing efficient and value for money services.

Working in partnership with stakeholders on the development and delivery of policies and optimising opportunities for responsibility sharing.

7. In your opinion, is there anything important missing from the proposed outcomes?

8. Should these outcomes be priority areas of focus for the UK?

9. For each outcome, please provide ideas for actions that may achieve it.

10. Do you have any other comments on the outcomes?

General questions

11. What is working well in the PVS area that should be built on (in UK governments)?

12. What is working well in the PVS area that should be built on (in industry)?

13. What could be improved in the PVS area (in UK governments)?

14. What could be improved in the PVS area (in industry)?

15. How would you prefer to engage with the strategy development process?

- a. Written responses
- b. Wider stakeholder group meetings
- c. Other (please provide detail)
- d. I would prefer not to be contacted

16. As part of day-to-day delivery of PVS policies which require stakeholder input, how would you prefer to be engaged?

- b. Written responses
- c. Wider stakeholder group meetings
- d. Other (please provide detail)
- e. I would prefer not to be contacted

17. How do you think UK governments should communicate the strategy to businesses and the wider industry?

International and industry initiatives

This section refers to the EU Plant and forest reproductive material (revised rules) initiative, details of this can be found [here](#).

18. Are there proposals in the EU Plant and forest reproductive material (revised rules) initiative that you would like to see in the UK?

19. Are there any other international or industry initiatives in the PVS area that you would like us to be aware of?

Value of PVS

Information provided here may be used in the introductory section of the strategy to illustrate the value of PVS.

20. Please signpost any interesting or useful data on the economic, social, or environmental value of the PVS area. You can provide a link or email documents to Defra-Plant-Varieties-and-Seeds@defra.gov.uk.

Annex I Confidentiality and data protection information

1. A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on the Government website at: www.gov.uk/defra. An annex to the consultation summary will list all organisations that responded but will not include personal names, addresses or other contact details.

1.1 Defra may publish the content of your response to this call for ideas to make it available to the public without your personal name and private contact details (for example home address, email address, etc).

1.2 If you click on 'Yes' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, you are asked to state clearly what information you would like to be kept as confidential and explain your reasons for confidentiality. The reason for this is that information in responses to this consultation may be subject to release to the public or other parties in accordance with the access to information law (these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances. In view of this, your explanation of your reasons for requesting confidentiality for all or part of your response would help us balance these obligations for disclosure against any obligation of confidentiality. If we receive a request for the information that you have provided in your response to this consultation, we will take full account of your reasons for requesting confidentiality of your response, but we cannot guarantee that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

1.3 If you click on 'No' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, we will be able to release the content of your response to the public, but we won't make your personal name and private contact details publicly available.

1.4 There may be occasions when Defra will share the information you provide in response to the consultation, including any personal data with external analysts. This is for the purposes of consultation response analysis and provision of a report of the summary of responses only.

1.5 This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office "Consultation Principles" and be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>.

1.6 Please find our latest privacy notice uploaded as a related document alongside our consultation document.

1.7 If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:

Plant Varieties and Seeds Strategy Call for Ideas
Consultation Coordinator, Defra
2nd Floor, Foss House, Kings Pool,
1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX
Or email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk