



# THE HORTICULTURE INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP Newsletter

## Welcome to the HIP's first newsletter

Welcome to the HIP's first newsletter. Following the launch of the Horticulture Innovation Partnership (HIP) 9 months ago, great strides have been made towards its vision to 'Stimulate innovation in the UK horticulture and potato supply chain to enable a sustainable, profitable and expanding industry through collaboration in research, development and knowledge exchange.' New technology emanates from publicly-funded 'cutting edge' research, but this primary science requires a continuum of further steps of enquiry and experimentation before it reaches industry for practical application.

Reductions in funding and gaps in the knowledge pipeline have led to blockages in this 'pathway' and HIP's role is to address this fundamental issue and drive through a more efficient delivery of research and knowledge translation for industry growth. We are delighted to be able to update you on the HIP's progress and achievements in getting horticulture and potatoes on the research funding agenda.

■ Mary Bosley, Chair  
Mark Tatchell, Executive Director

## Research engagement and brokering partnerships

The HIP's newly formed Research Funders Group brings together key bodies (BBSRC, NERC, Scottish Government, Defra, BIS, TSB, HDC, PCL, East Malling Trust and AgriFood Charities) to share expertise and facilitate the flow of innovation. This joined up approach will have real impact on industry through a mutually improved understanding. The HIP has worked closely with this group to analyse and map the funding platform to identify gaps and opportunities. This will result in guidance for the HIP community to more effectively access research funding.

### HIP and HAPI

The HIP has won the competitive tender to become Co-ordinator for the BBSRC Horticulture and Potatoes Initiative (HAPI). This is a significant step in establishing the HIP's credentials and ensuring the integration of HAPI within the sector. This partnership will help steer the science community to focus on industry relevant research and hasten the translation of results into practice. See [www.hip.org.uk](http://www.hip.org.uk) for more details.

HAPI Coordinator David Cole recently met with researchers and industry representatives at the biannual Potato event, BP2013, to discuss their ideas on the next round of HAPI funding. David said ' HAPI provides an opportunity to capitalise

on emerging knowledge, tools and resources in a way which industry can share in risk and embark on longer term productive relationships with the science base."

### HIP assist new collaborations

The HIP ran a successful research funding brokering event with the Environmental Sustainability Knowledge Transfer Network to facilitate applications to the Technology Strategy Board Sustainable Agriculture and Food Innovation Platform on 'Engineering for primary production and processing'. New partnerships and collaborations were established as a result of this meeting.

### The HIP has

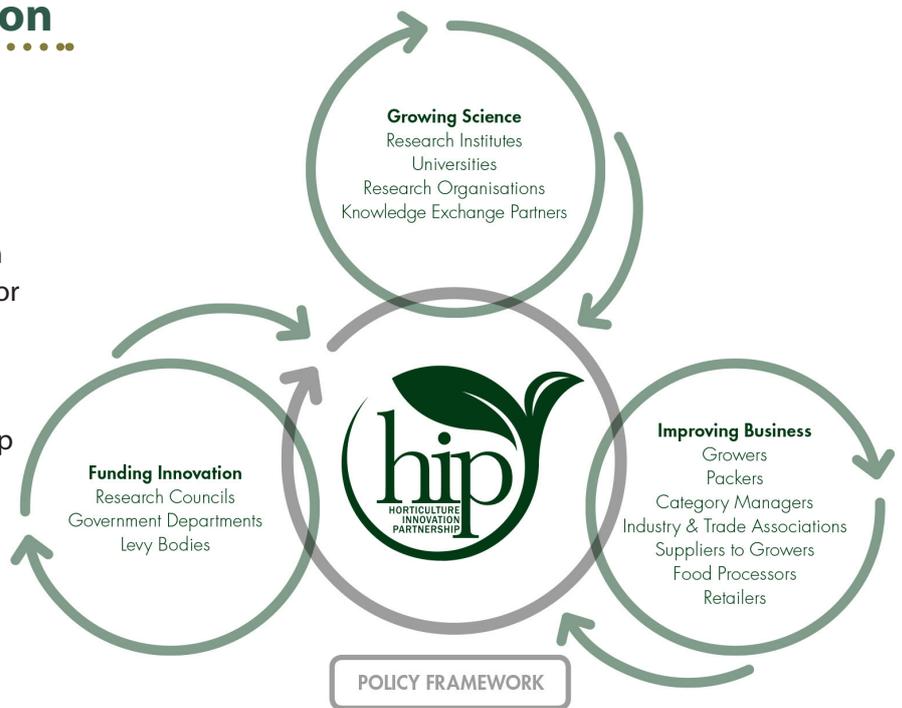
Actively participated in the workshop run by the Food Research Partnership on 20 September entitled "Innovation in Crop Protection: Developing a UK Strategy."

Joined the Biosciences KTN Plant Sector Group - an important group advising the Technology Strategy Board Sustainable Agriculture and Food Innovation Platform on the scope of research calls. This partnership helps to ensure the relevance of new calls to horticulture and potatoes.

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[www.hip.org.uk](http://www.hip.org.uk)

## A 'growing' reputation

The HIP has positioned itself as an independent voice sitting at the very core of industry conversation and increasingly recognised as a 'go to' organisation for dialogue on research funding for horticulture and potatoes. This comprehensive approach has resulted in valuable associations with the Food Research Partnership (FRP) and the Agriculture Action Group of the UK Water Research and Innovation Partnership (UKWRIP).



## Agri-Tech for horticulture and potatoes

The UK Government Agri-Tech Strategy has emerged as a new opportunity for horticulture since the HIP was formed. To make Agri-Tech work for industry, the HIP is participating in stakeholder events and liaising with the Leadership Council. BIS and Defra officials recognise the HIP as a key independent, industry led organisation to contribute to the implementation of the Strategy.

The HIP is leading an initiative to establish an Innovation Centre embracing the whole HIP community and is currently preparing for an industry consultation to ensure that horticulture and potatoes are well positioned to participate and benefit from the emerging opportunities.

## Recognising ornamental value

The political and policy agenda focusses heavily on food security and primary food production. The HIP will pay particular attention to the ornamental industry in coming months to identify strategic and applied research opportunities. The HIP's new Ornamental Group will develop an ornamental strategy with emphasis on how the sector can deliver an improved environment, safeguard plant health, climate change mitigation and flood management.

The HIP has contributed to the debate to ensure that projects addressing key issues within the ornamental sector are eligible for funding within the new Agri-Tech Catalyst fund.

### The HIP has

Contributed to the report on 'The Future of Europe's Horticulture Sector - Strategies for Growth' prepared by Anthea McIntyre MEP for the European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

### The HIP is

- An industry partnership working for industry.
- Focussed on maximising the contributions UK horticultural production can make.
- The platform where all industry can work together to develop a joined up, clear strategic vision.

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