



In 2014 UKPSF produced a report entitled '*Current Status and Future Challenges*' that evaluated the state of UK Plant Science.

This identified four areas that required detailed investigation by specific Working Groups. Those Working Groups have published reports on their findings that can be found at <http://goo.gl/jpMI7X>.

This is a summary of what they found:

Working Group on Regulation

- 1. Access and Sharing:** Encourage cross-member collaboration to provide a united response to current regulations.
- 2. Policies surrounding Genetic Modification:** Develop a central online resource that offers guidance about regulations. Develop UKPSF position statement on Advanced Breeding Technologies.
- 3. Plant Protection Products:** Encourage risk and evidence-based regulation with UKPSF to highlight difficulties in this area to the EU.
- 4. Invasive Species:** Highlight challenges of classification and promote regulation at the species level.

Working Group on Training and Skills

Proposed Actions:

1. Develop interactive online resource with toolkits for plant science training, education, careers and outreach.
2. Enhance communications between scientists and exam boards to encourage more plant science content in schools.
3. Develop the '*Young Plant Scientist Network*' that organises conference sessions and awards, aiming to increase the profile of Plant Science.

Working Group on Funding

Suggested Solutions:

1. Open up additional funding streams to Plant Scientists, break down barriers between RCs.
2. Encourage international collaboration with a greater number of joint-funding calls.
3. Prioritise development of a **Roadmap** for UK Plant Science for the next 25 years. Topics include:
 - Food Security
 - Healthier Eating
 - The Green Bioeconomy including SynBio
 - Climate Change
 - Protecting Biodiversity

Working Group on Translation

Key Actions:

1. Map the current technical and commercial capabilities available in the UK, to join-up existing services and identify knowledge gaps.
2. Develop a '*Pathfinder Service*' to build upon existing tools to facilitate the movement from idea to income.
3. Organise events to encourage both synergy between plant and social scientists and also to develop multi-disciplinary planning.