

FUNDING WORKSHOP
Challenges for Applied UK Plant Science

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The last ten years have seen a decline in fortunes for applied plant science research in the UK. This is set against a backdrop of recent international events which are placing plant-based production of biofuels and industrial feed-stocks as strategically important developments essential to sustain national economies. This means that agricultural production, plant biotechnology and allied basic and applied research into bio-renewables is on the agenda again as priorities for both government and industry.

Bioscience for Business (BfB) is a DTI funded body which has a brief of engaging the UK's internationally competitive plant science base in developing innovative science and technology to support new bio-based products for the manufacturing and energy sector. As such, BfB works with both national and international agencies to develop new funding opportunities to further these ideals.

At a time when as a community we are facing increased pressure from funding agencies to address applied problems, this presentation will outline the strategic economic drivers behind BfB and the formative and innovative role that UK plant science can make in delivering new science and technology for future sustainable production.

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