

## The Growers' Better Levy Group

### 'A Vision for the Future of UK Horticulture'

GBLG members are passionate about the future of UK fresh produce and plant production and believe that this sector, on the back of its proud record of innovation, growth and productivity gains, can inspire the wider industry to meet the enormous challenges that lie ahead. This can be achieved through uniting behind a reformed Statutory Instrument\* which will deliver a system of co-operation for the benefit of all growers.

GBLG wishes to establish a world leading service which returns significant and measurable benefits to levy paying investors in the challenging and fast evolving horticultural sector.

The GBLG has identified 5 key points which require understanding and action:

- The GBLG believes there remains widespread grower support for a modernised levy
- A modernised levy should offer flexibility to match levy to the needs of individual crop groups thereby ensuring value for money and levy only where investment is required
- A new delivery mechanism is required for research and innovation programmes including business-critical work on plant protection products and services which all UK Horticultural businesses need.
- Any new delivery mechanism should be agile and grower-led, transparently governed, accountable to growers and deliver value for money through efficient provision of products and services augmented by clear co-funding mechanisms
- The GBLG is acutely aware that there could be a very damaging hiatus period when critical work that is urgently required will be delayed. A rapid solution is therefore urgently needed

UK growers know what support they need from this service and the GBLG is seeking rapid agreement for a modernised levy arrangement that will allow the whole industry to flourish.

The GBLG believes it has a clear role to play in the coming months:

- Provide independent strategic thought leadership to unite the industry
- Canvass fellow growers and other stakeholders (including crop associations, research providers and government bodies) to evaluate views and identify a consensus position
- Draw inspiration from the successful levy models established in Australia and New Zealand
- Harness the relentless passion for innovation and improvement growers achieve day in day out to deliver a sustainable and effective alternative research and innovation provision, with cross industry and government backing, which will enable rather than inhibit horticultural businesses
- Understand and communicate how this future model may also help UK horticulture meet the many other challenges it faces regarding global trade agreements, climate change and the environment, labour shortages and the rapidly evolving agri-tech revolution
- Inspire the whole of UK horticulture to shout about our many successes, the innovative nature of our industry and the quality yet affordable produce we offer not just to UK consumers but the rest of the world

\* Statutory Instrument: a government or executive order of subordinate legislation

#### The Growers' Better Levy Group:

- Philip Pearson, APS Produce Ltd (Protected Edibles)
- John Shropshire, Cambs Farms Growers Ltd (Field Vegetables)

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- Marion Regan, Hugh Lowe Farms (Soft fruit)
- Angus Davison, Haygrove Ltd (Soft fruit)
- Martin Emmett, Walberton Nursery LLP, Binsted Nursery LLP, Fleurie Nursery Limited (Ornamentals)
- James Broekhuizen, Cucumber Growers' Association / Anchor Nurseries Ltd (Protected Edibles)
- Sophie Bambridge, B & C Farming Ltd (Potatoes)
- James Harrison, EG Harrison & Co. (Potatoes)
- Tom Hulme, AC Hulme & Sons (Tree Fruit, Potatoes, Livestock, Combinable Crops)
- Martin Evans, Fresh Growers Ltd (Field Vegetables)
- Derek Wilkinson, Sandfields Farm Ltd (Field Vegetables)
- John Chinn, Cobrey Farms (Asparagus, Potatoes, Soft fruit, Combinable Crops, Wine)
- Philip Morley, British Tomato Growers' Association / APS Produce Ltd (Protected Edibles)