Yes we can! Scaling up UK horticultural production
Agroecological Horticulture

• High value and labor intensive, so benefits for local economies are highest
• Least reliant on subsidies, so low government risk
• Fast moving and degradable meaning refrigeration, packaging and transport have high energy and carbon costs and so possibilities to cut carbon are high.
• Sector that a high % of new entrants are setting up
New Entrants

- **Diversity** - Tend to be from a wider demographic than traditional farming sector
- **Innovation** – bring skills and ideas from other sectors, and often pioneer new approaches to production and marketing
- **Entrepreneurship** – Rarely access Basic Payments and often start with limited capital. As a result they tend to run innovative and resilient, market exposed businesses
- **Sustainability** – Often committed to sustainable farming and pioneering ecological approaches
- **Community resilience and public access** – Focus on local sales and community businesses keeps money in the local economy and keeps people in touch with farming
- **Employment** – Focus on agroecological farming tends to lead to higher employment
Secure access to land and planning barriers

Stop the sale of county farms and reinvest in the estate
Support local authorities to make land available for horticulture
Low interest government loans for land trusts and new entrants
Planning system reform
Stronger Agricultural Ties
Green belt planning designations
No class Q – to stop the inflation of plots with infrastructure
One Planet Development or similar in UK
Capital and start up costs

- 10k – 100k start up grant, for capital and/or revenue / with low interest loan option for further investment
- Some match funding by new entrant but with means testing mechanism to stop it benefiting those with most wealth or excluding others
- Tied to mentoring and monitoring and contingent on business and land management plans.
Training and exchange

Traineeships scheme – To improve quality, availability and coherency
Mentoring – For all levels of experience
Farmer-to-Farmer – Local exchange groups
Farm Start – Business incubation opportunities with protected access to land / training / markets
Accredited Training in Agroecological Farming – At levels 2 - 4
Markets and Distribution

**Increase tariffs** - To support production of in season fruit and veg

**Free trade deals** – oppose agreements that will reduce farm gate prices

**Short supply chain infrastructure** – Farm shops, Crop storage, Packing sheds etc

**Planning designation** – In town supermarkets or farmers markets and cooperative shops.

**Direct sales innovation** – Farmer to farmer exchange and innovation sessions, case studies, direct support with business models