

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

