



How Policy can drive plant breeding innovation

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Key plant breeding issues at the time of the 2024 election:

- Movement of seed
- Precision Breeding
- Government Plant Variety Strategy
- Ag Policy which recognizes and encourages breeding innovation and wider range of crops





The challenges the sector faces:

- Changing climate
- Agricultural policy change and uncertainty
- Global prices and market
- Expensive and challenging UK policy environment for breeders
- Value placed on seed and genetics?

We need plant breeding
as much as we ever have:

- Farm profitability and security
- Food security
- Environmental targets
- Industrial Strategy
- IPM



PBOs:

Primary Legislation



Secondary Legislation



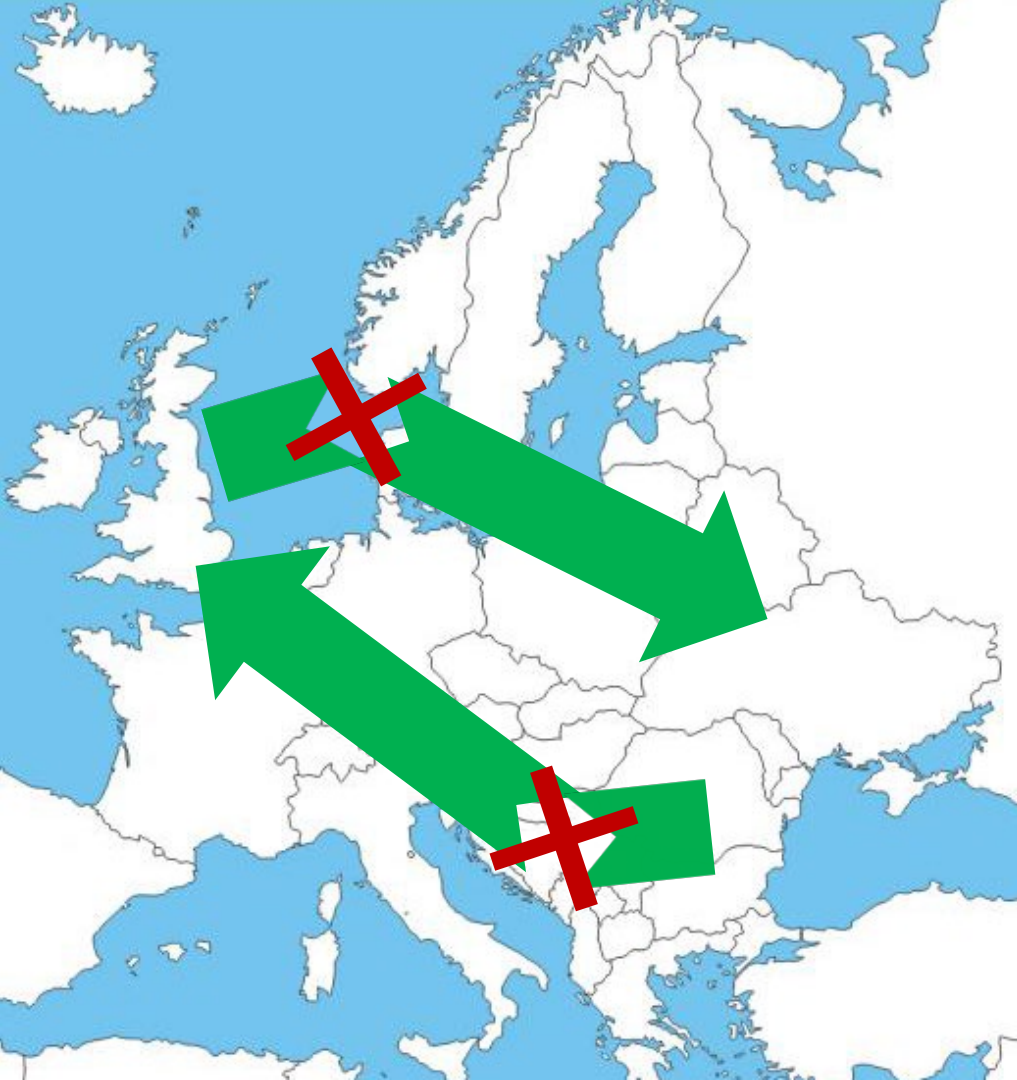
PVS Strategy for PBOs



FSA Marketing Authorisation



- EU Reset? UK internal market? Excessive caution? Lack of understanding?
- We must not allow the opportunity of PBOs for UK breeders, growers, supply chains, and economic growth be lost.



EU Reset: Opportunities

- Easier movement of seed and breeding material
- Repair damaged plant breeding relationships
- Resilience for breeders, farmers and growers
- Investment opportunity

EU Reset: Risks

- Not just about trade, EU negotiating mandate covers:

‘Sanitary, phytosanitary, food safety, general consumer protection rules applicable to the production, distribution and consumption of agrifoods products and the regulation of live animals and pesticides, organic production and marketing standards on certain sectors or products’





EU Reset: Risks (continued)

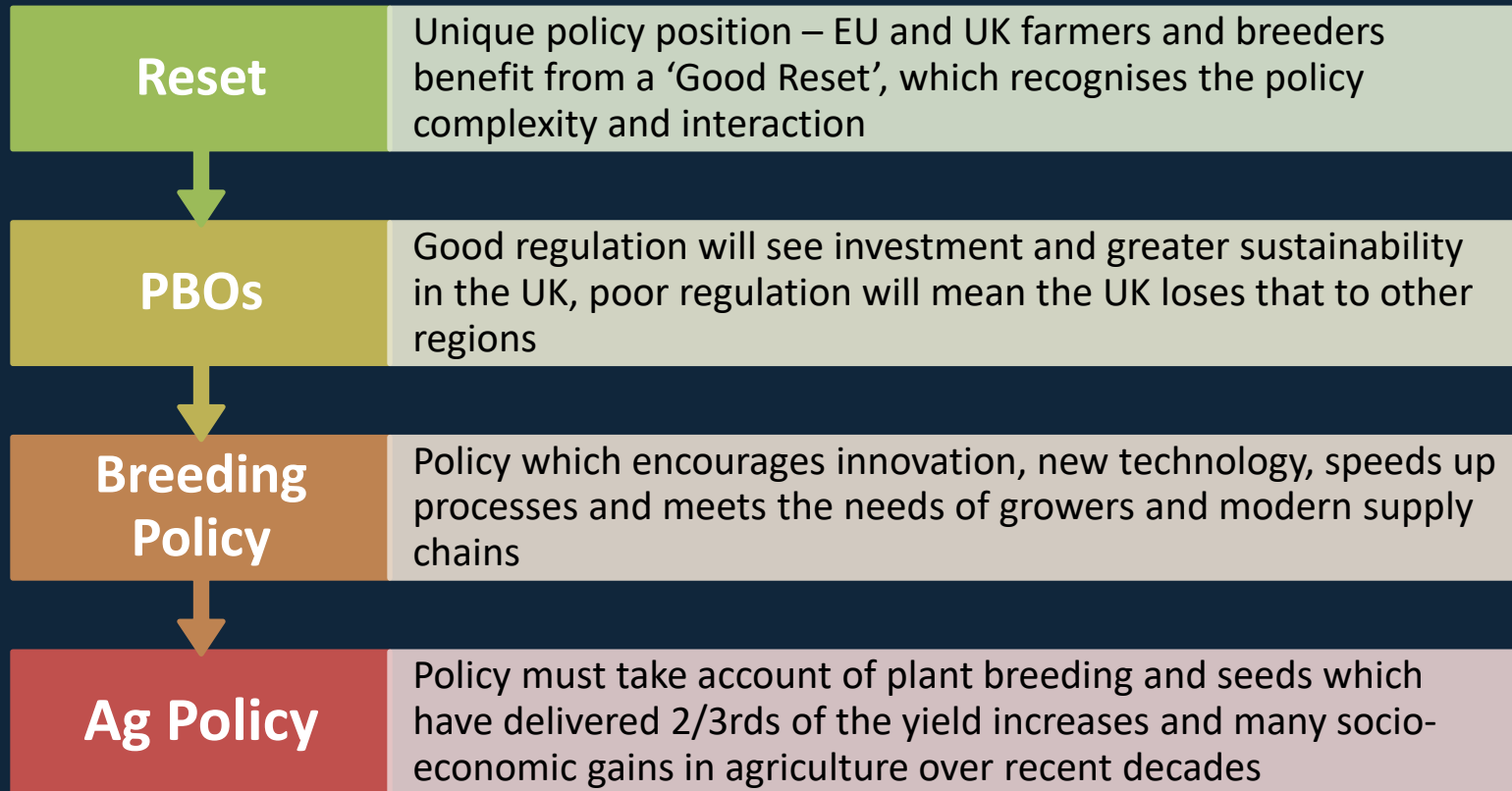
- Rule taker – no direct say in the policies and rules which govern us
- Still a third country – will it be a level playing field for other costs, regulations, and agricultural policy?
- Mutual recognition, or one way?
- EU still has direct support – how level will the playing field be?
- Policy must ensure there are reasons to invest here, or risk losing more of the EU – PBOs, innovation, policy that considers seeds
- Will Government work hard to influence for plant breeding interests?

Other policy areas:



- Modernise processes and regulation, embrace new technology and techniques?
- Adapt processes to modern supply chains
- Recognise the role of plant protection and crop nutrition in plant breeding
- Breeding is a long-term activity, policy and regulation should embrace this

British Society of Plant Breeders: Some key asks



A close-up photograph of a person's hands using silver tweezers to carefully harvest a small, green, developing seedling from a plant stem. The background is a solid blue color. A thick orange diagonal line runs from the top left towards the bottom right, separating the text area from the image.

Any questions?