



## All-Party Parliamentary Group on Science and Technology in Agriculture

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### **APPG chair welcomes UK sign-up to global sustainable food coalition**

Julian Sturdy MP, chair of the APPG on Science and Technology in Agriculture, has warmly welcomed yesterday's announcement by Defra that the UK has become a signatory to the US-led Sustainable Productivity Growth Coalition (SPG), a global initiative which aims to use technology and innovation to improve agricultural productivity in an environmentally sustainable way.

Julian first [wrote to the Prime Minister](#) on behalf of the All-Party Group in September 2021, urging the UK Government to join the coalition following its launch by US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. Secretary Vilsack described the initiative as a direct challenge to the notion that sustainable equals less productive by demonstrating that farmers can adopt environmentally friendly and climate-smart farming practices without sacrificing productivity.

In a [Westminster Hall debate](#) in February this year, Julian again urged the Government to join the coalition, calling for a more explicit policy focus on sustainable intensification – using science and innovation to optimise the balance between food production, resource use and environmental impact - as the most effective way to feed an increasingly hungry, warming planet.

Commenting, Julian Sturdy said:

“With its good soils, temperate climate, highly equipped and professional farming sector, and world-leading R&D, Britain is uniquely placed to optimise its own food production capacity, and to share technological solutions with others, while at the same time protecting natural ecosystems and tackling the climate crisis.

“The future for sustainable agriculture does not lie in turning back the clock, as some would have us believe, but in embracing high-tech solutions, applying scientific data and evidence, and combining innovation with established best practice and knowledge from a range of farming systems.

“The Sustainable Productivity Growth Coalition was established to demonstrate that agricultural technology and innovation can play a significant role in helping farmers to become more productive and more sustainable, and that biotechnology, gene editing, precision agriculture and data science are all strategies and techniques that can be used in that effort.

“I am delighted that the UK Government is now on board with the Coalition, sending a clear signal that Britain is keen to play its part in a global drive to use agriculture science and technology to forge a more sustainable food future for this and future generations”.

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editors**

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Science and Technology in Agriculture exists to promote debate among politicians and other stakeholders on the value and role of scientific innovation in UK agriculture. The Group works to ensure that the Government’s support for agri-science is maintained and strengthened, that the regulatory environment is evidence-based and enabling, and that the contribution of modern agriculture to our society, economy and environment is valued and understood as widely as possible.

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