

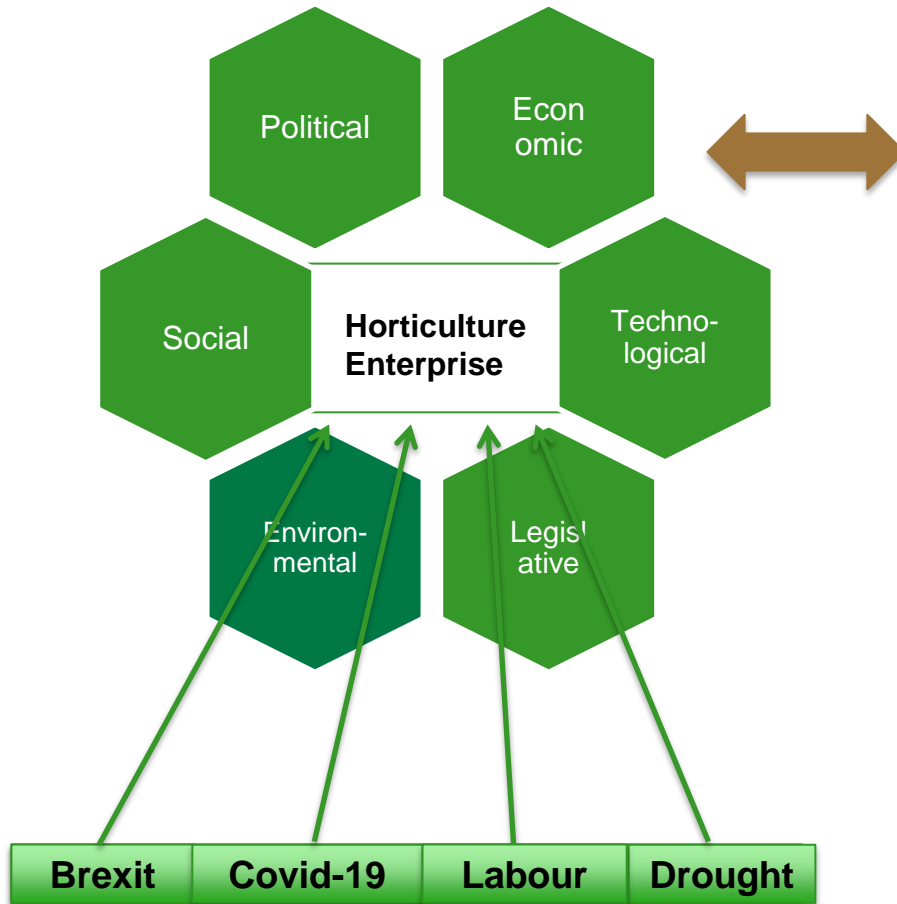


Discussing Sustainability in the horticulture sector & the EU Green Deal

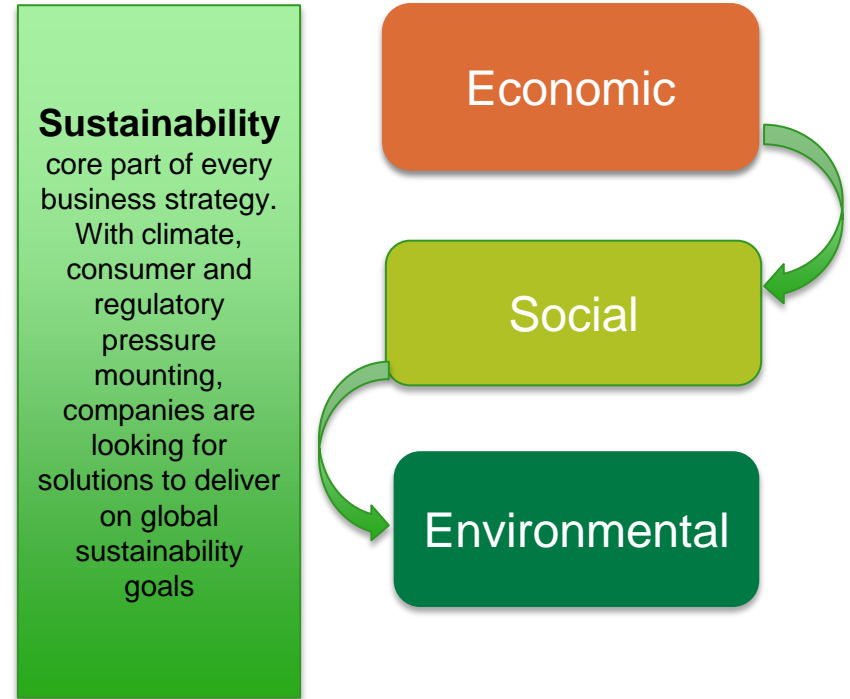
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Research Officer: Sustainable horticulture production
24 June 2020

Macro Environment of Horticulture Sector



Nursery stock segment



How could we innovate to create sustainable businesses?

Mobilising research & fostering innovation

Increasing the EU's Climate ambition for 2030 and 2050

A zero pollution ambition for toxic-free environment

Transforming the EU's economy for a sustainable future

Supplying clean, affordable and secure energy

Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity

Mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy

From Farm to Fork, fair healthy, environmentally friendly food system

Building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way

Accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility

European Union Green Deal

The EU as a Global Leader

Financing the transition

Leave no one behind (Just Transition)

A European Pact

EU's Green Deal

Final message: Imminent changes will be required within the horticulture sector to meet Green Deal targets. Research will need to help the sector adapt and innovate.

Farm to Fork Strategy

Targets:

- Reduce use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50%.
- Reduce nutrient losses by 50% and excess fertiliser use by 20%
- 25 % of total farmland under organic farming by 2030

Preserving and restoring ecosystems & biodiversity

Targets:

- Protected areas within 30% of land in Europe
- Stricter protection of remaining EU primary and old-growth forests
- Restore degraded ecosystems at land
- Halting and reversing the decline of pollinators
- Tackling invasive species, increasing biodiversity & Tree planting

Mobilising research & fostering innovation:

Sustainable Production Systems for the Future

Launching Sustainability Survey of horticulture growers – July 2020

- ID Opportunities
- Joint Challenges
- Indicators to gauge progress and change
- Foster research collaborations with horticulture firms

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024>

Conclusions

Successes in the nursery stock sector to build upon:

Sustainability Story

- Reduced use of peat in composts
- Diversification in plant and variety types
- Supports growing for health and wellbeing
- Reduced nutrient losses through slow release fertilisers use in containers.
- High plant health status on the island
- Growers are voluntarily moving to sustainable/ reduced plastic options due to costs of waste disposal
- Sustainable energy sources used in glass house heating
- Rain water harvesting is widely practiced
- IPM in particular vine weevil control has been adopted
- Mechanical weed control is developing support
- Wide selection of pollinator friendly plants already available in trade; some with greatly reduced levels of plant protection products

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

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