

More horticulture (outdoor and protected) on the R & D agenda

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Our initiative wants to significantly strengthen the horticultural research and development agenda in the EU. There are many reasons why this is important as major global mega-trends are shaping society and markets.

There is higher consumption and demand of fresh vegetables and fruit (including out of season demand) and this is triggered by trends like, urbanisation, growing middle classes, diet changes (e.g. vegan, vegetarians, low meat diets) and health issues (e.g. adult and childhood obesity, heart diseases, stress, chronic abdominal discomfort).

With global urbanisation, urban horticulture is also on the rise and its multiple outputs can include efficient use of land and resources, but also biodiversity and social benefits like community building and poverty alleviation.

The main items on the EU's and TP Organics' R & D agenda for horticulture should be the following:

- **Robust crops:** Breeding, crop diversity, fertility crops and induced resistance
- **Robust integrated systems:** Sustainable soil and crop health management, nutrient recycling, water efficiency, renewable resource use, carbon neutral production
- **Food safety:** production systems and products including waste recycling
- **Quality:** fresh, tasty, image ("*fun food*") and minimising **food waste** in the supply chain
- **Socio-economics:** Role in **human health and wellbeing** and role in **community building and poverty alleviation**

