



# Working on protected cropping at three levels:

- **EU**

- member of IFOAM EU group's protected cropping taskforce
- position for IFOAM to take to the EU Commission when protected cropping is discussed in 2011

- **UK**

- Engaging with Defra who will make the UK contribution to the EU process

- **Soil Association**

- developing own standards
- first round of consultation is complete and we are in the process of drafting standards

# How are standards developed?

- Proposal received
- Standards Committee
- Standards Board
- Consultation
- Council approval
- Publishing
  
- Progress over time



# 'Growing Greener' Workshop, Royal Horticultural Halls, 3rd June

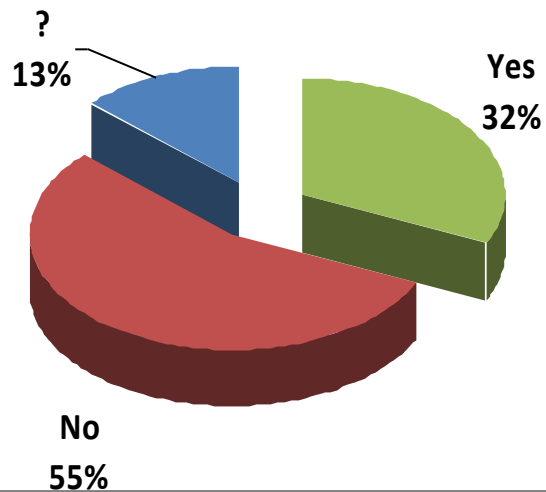
- Three workshop sessions on fertility, rotations and energy
- Key themes:
  - Preference for a non-prescriptive approach to rotations, but with measures to ensure soil and crop health
  - Concern about the long-term sustainability of reliance on off-farm inputs for fertility
  - An eagerness for the organic sector to move away from fossil fuels for heating and CO<sub>2</sub>, but gradual approach necessary
  - Strong support for growing in the soil instead of substrate

# Consultation responses

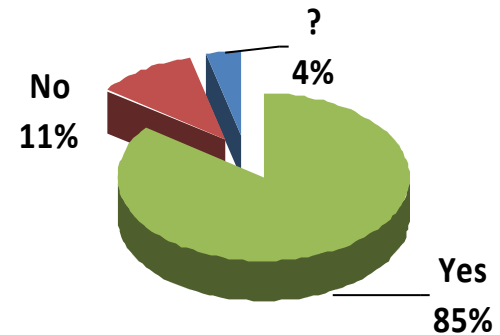
- **48 written responses received**
- **70% growers**
- consumers, industry groups, NGOs, advisors
- **Visits** - 18 visits to protected cropping operations, large and small, glass and polytunnels, in England, Scotland and Wales
- Responses provide clear steer for developing standards

# Rotations

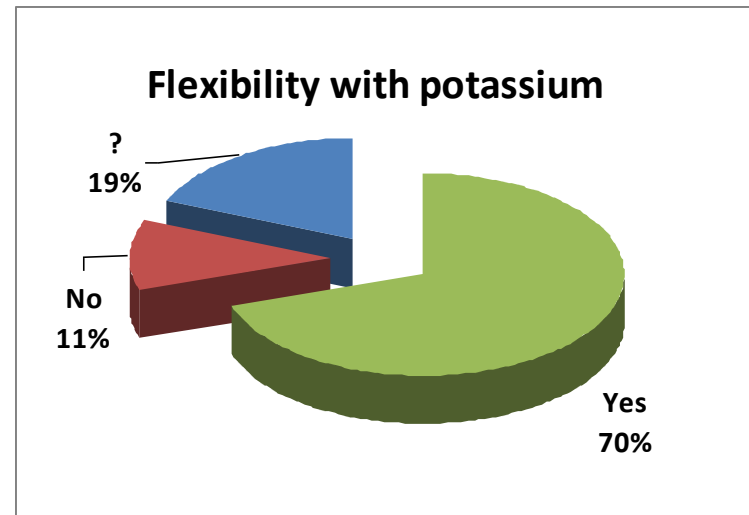
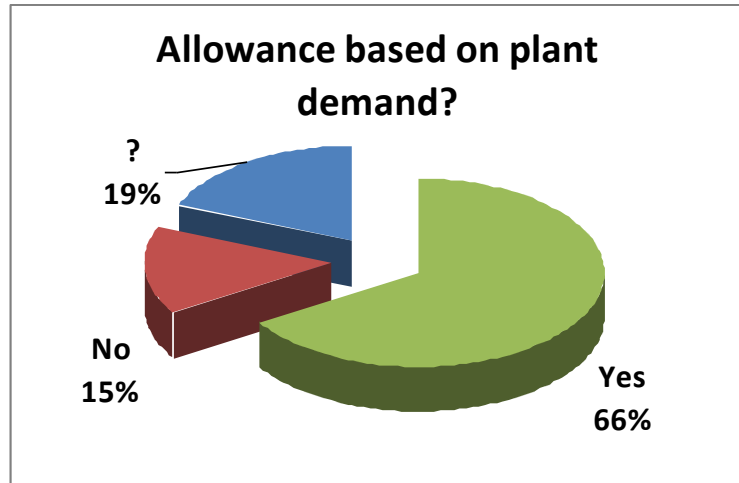
Rotation mandatory?



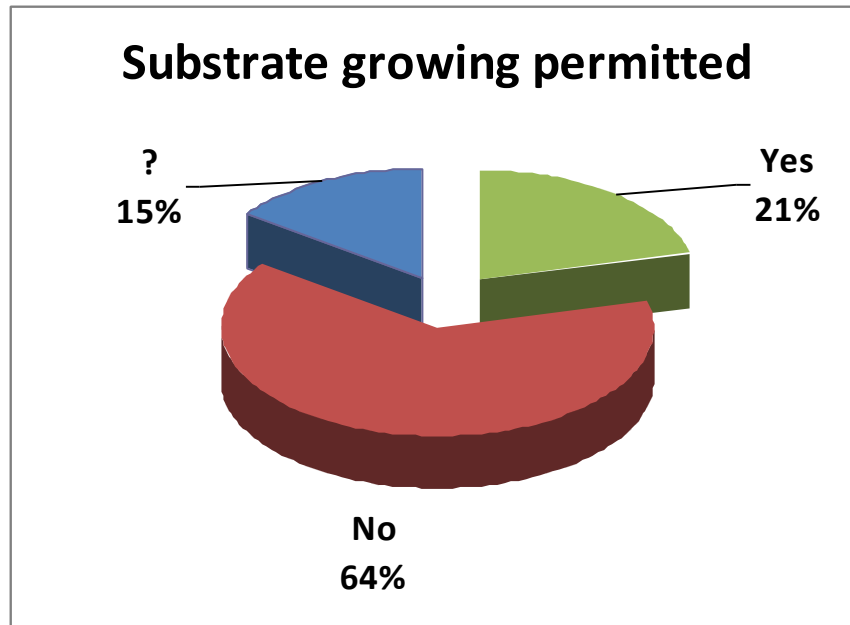
If not, should permission to not rotate be given only under certain conditions?



# Fertility

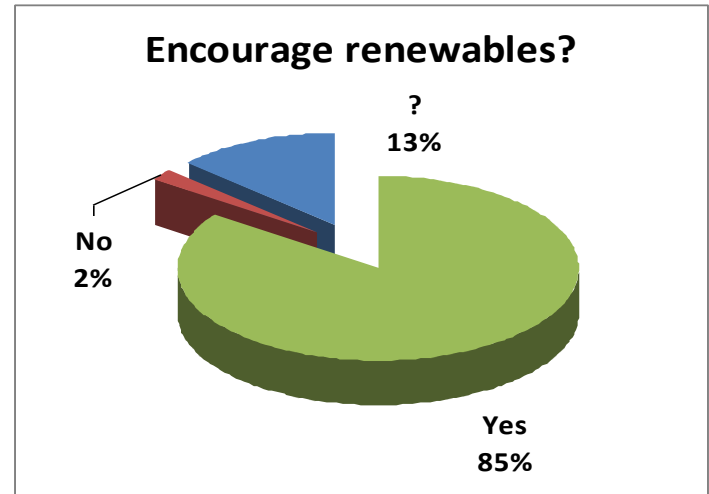
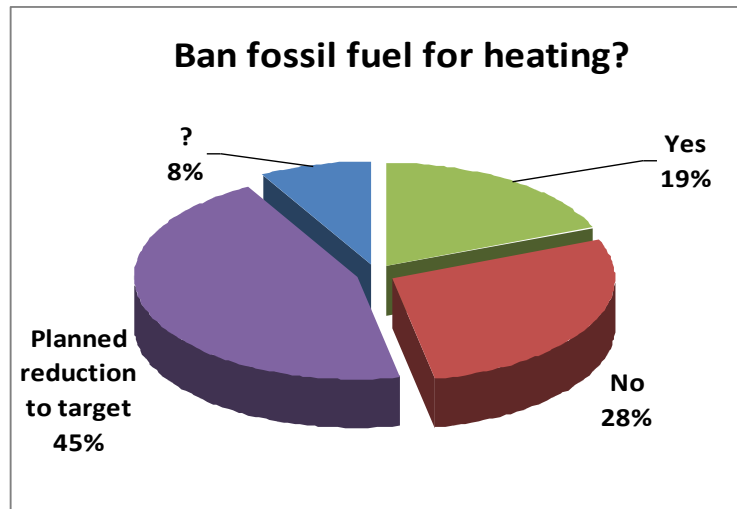
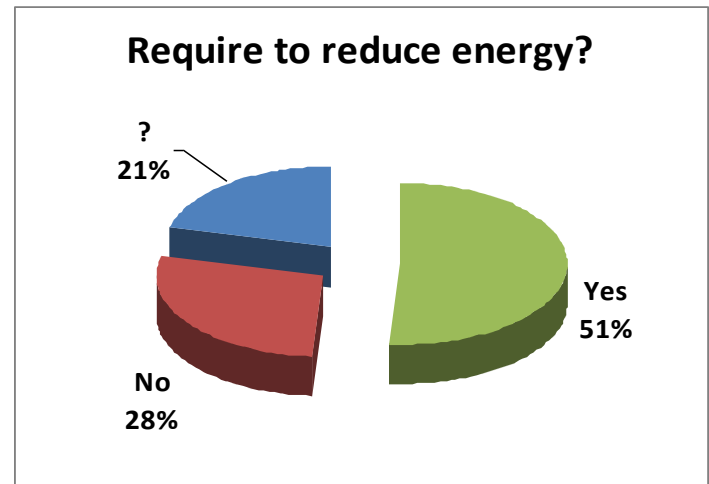
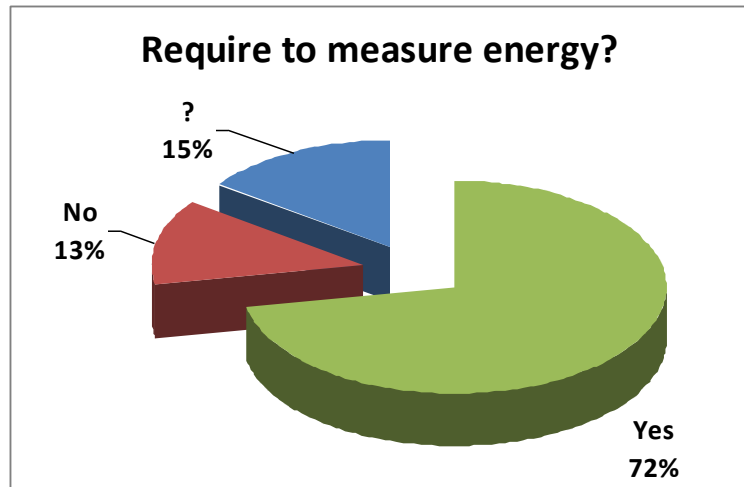


# Out-of-soil growing

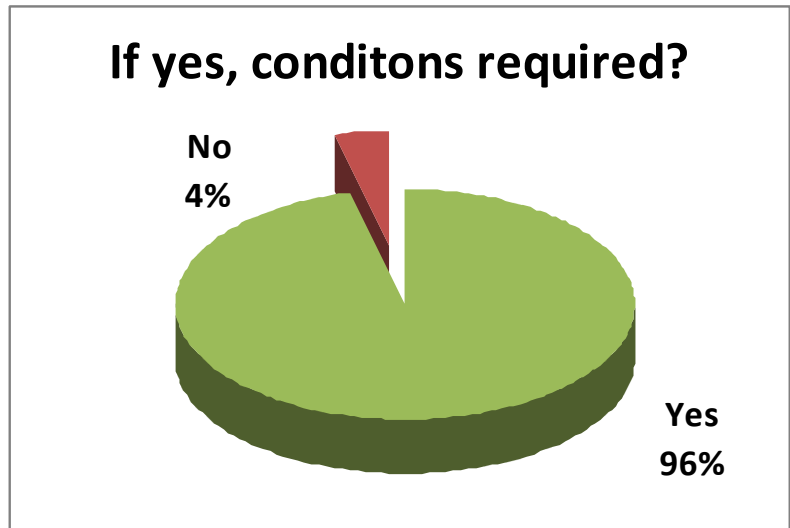
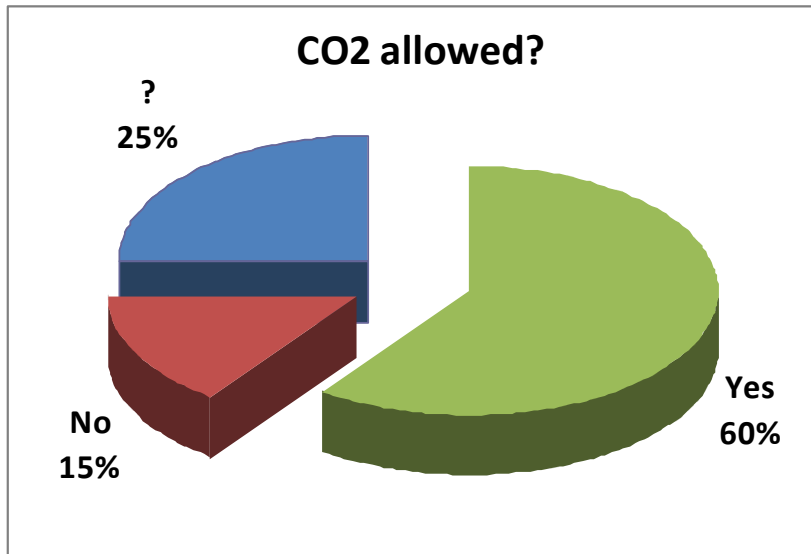




# Energy use

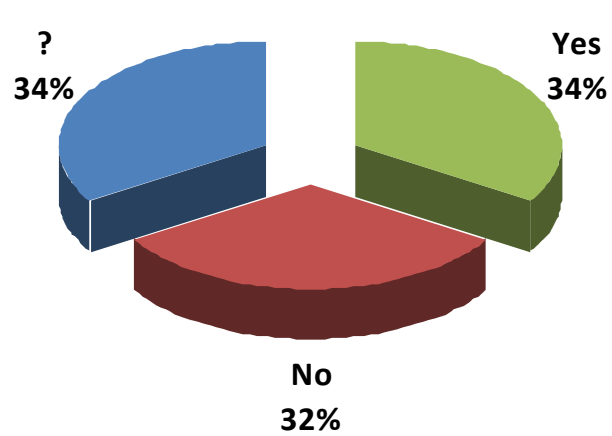


# CO<sub>2</sub> use

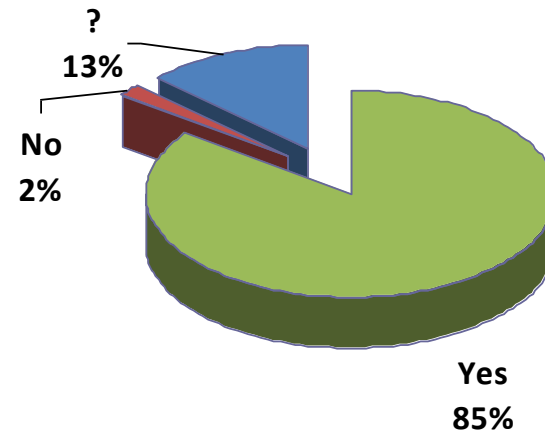


# Water use

Water collection required?

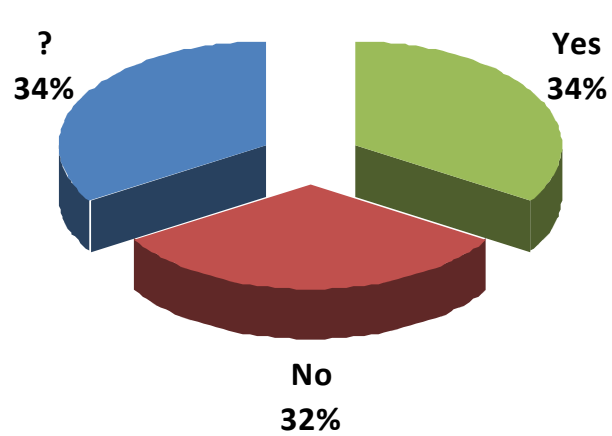


Water collection encouraged?

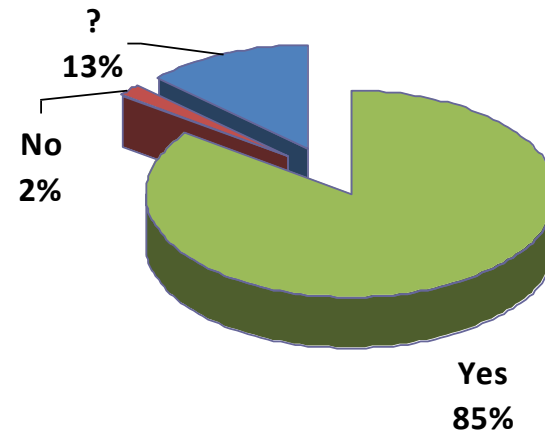


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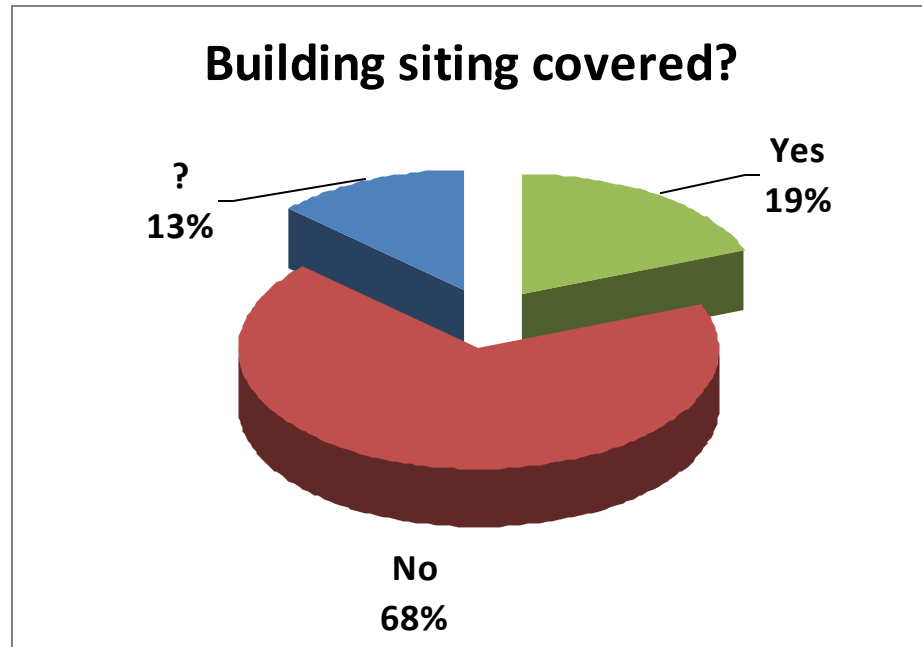
Water collection required?



Water collection encouraged?



# Siting of buildings



# Next steps

- Draft standards proposals are currently being refined by the Horticulture Standards Committee's Protected Cropping working group
- Standards proposals will be put out for 30 days consultation
- Review by committee
- Put to Standards Board for approval
- Release date may be subject to European process
- New standards will be a useful tool to influence this

