

IAIN FERGUSON'S SPEECH: FDF'S ONE YEAR ON EVENT

Secretary of State, my Lords, ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to FDF's Five-fold Environmental Ambition One-Year-on-Event.

It is hard to believe that just over a year ago we were in this very room launching FDF's Five-fold Environmental Ambition. We were supported then by the Secretary of State, whom, I am pleased, has returned today to give us further support and encouragement. Now those of you who have been around long enough will know that having a Secretary of State attend an event two years running is a rare sight. So we are truly grateful to him for giving us so much of his time. But before we hear from him and, indeed, our own Fiona Dawson, I would like to say a few words about FDF and the food and drink industry that it represents.

As many of you will know FDF is a premier trade body which brings together a wide range of interests across the UK food and drink sector, the largest manufacturing industry in the UK.

Our industry creates jobs. In fact we employ over 440,000 people in the UK. Our industry creates wealth - and is responsible for about £21 billion of Gross Value Added to the UK food chain each year.

Our industry, as purchaser of over two-thirds of all domestic agricultural produce, also creates market outlets for UK farmers. Moreover, we provide a valuable service to our customers and consumers upon whom we ultimately depend.

In short our industry is economically and socially significant in so many ways. And this makes it all the more important that we behave sustainably too. Our customers, consumers and other stakeholders expect nothing less.

Therefore last October, FDF decided to be **bold** about making a real difference to the environment. On behalf of our members, FDF made a **public commitment** to make a significant contribution to improve the environment by targeting priorities where members can **collectively** make the biggest difference. No other trade body in the food sector had previously taken this approach.

Working collectively, our Five-fold Environmental Ambition in summary is:

- i. to significantly reduce our CO₂ emissions;
- ii. to send zero food and packaging waste to landfill;
- iii. to significantly reduce the packaging that we send to consumers;
- iv. to significantly reduce our water use;
- v. to achieve fewer and friendlier food transport miles.

To start delivering our goals, we have over the past year embarked on an incredible journey for a sector body. Step by step FDF has built on the good start that members had been making individually and developed a coherent and co-ordinated programme of action capable of making a significant and collective difference to the environment.

The substantial programme of work, entailing members, Government best practice bodies and others collaborating in the development, spread and adoption of environmental best practice, is captured in FDF's Five-fold Environmental Ambition 2008 Progress Report being launched today. The

investments being made by our members are a win win for the environment and for business which, in the current economic climate, is good news as it means we remain confident that the commitment to this agenda will continue.

It is with great pleasure, therefore, that I invite Fiona Dawson, Managing Director of Mars UK and Chair of FDF's Sustainability and Competiveness Steering Group, to present the report to you.