Viable plastic alternatives that are already in use or have the possibility of being adopted into an agricultural system and the social-economic factors that will impact farmers likelihood of adopting these alternatives

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# Abstract

There has been significant work done by the Scottish Government in recent years to try and tackle the issues around single-use plastics in agriculture, although there continues to be a distrust from the farming community. Alternatives are continuing to see promising development with the issue of micro-plastics beginning to amass global attention. Demands to move away from the damaging single-use plastic is gathering traction in other industries but the dependency on these products is still evident and is currently the best economic choice for many businesses. The financial impact of these plastic products cannot be said to be the sole reason for industries such as agriculture being reluctant to move towards alternatives. Social factors continue to play an important role in the uptake of new and groundbreaking technology. This is due to the many uncertainties that arise from such dramatic infrastructure shifts and the risk that is involved when dealing with individual’s livelihoods. If any positive change is to be expected, every factor influencing the adoption of new farming practices must be given appropriate attention and farmers must be listen to individually. This is a process that may take generations to fully integrate and adapt into farming practices. Numerous generations of farmers have spent time and money ensuring their farms run efficiently, with plastic often being a key wedge in these businesses, a period of adaption must be allowed for to ensure farmers future prosperity.