

## **The challenges of change for arable farming: weather, markets, support, climate**

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### **Summary**

Recent developments in agricultural markets have highlighted the extent to which demographic developments, rising incomes, changing consumer preferences, climate change and evolving policy priorities are increasingly shaping the environment in which farmers operate. With land becoming increasingly important as a factor of production and market volatility on the rise, it becomes paramount for the farming community to react accordingly and adapt to these new circumstances. The increased use of risk management instruments can undoubtedly contribute to supply stability. In addition, investment decisions will be required to increasingly reflect the changing nature of agricultural markets and notably the need to improve efficiency, adapt to statutory and consumer requirements, improve the energy balance of agriculture and invest in product branding. In all these areas, policy developments should contribute to the adaptation process and reinforce the incentives to agricultural productivity, responsiveness to market conditions and environmental responsibility.