



# **The path to sustainable food systems: key challenges, trade-offs and way forward**

*DG SANTE, MARE and AGRI*



In spring 2020, the Commission will present a **Farm to Fork Strategy** to:



make sure  
Europeans get  
affordable and  
sustainable food



tackle climate  
change



protect the  
environment



preserve  
biodiversity

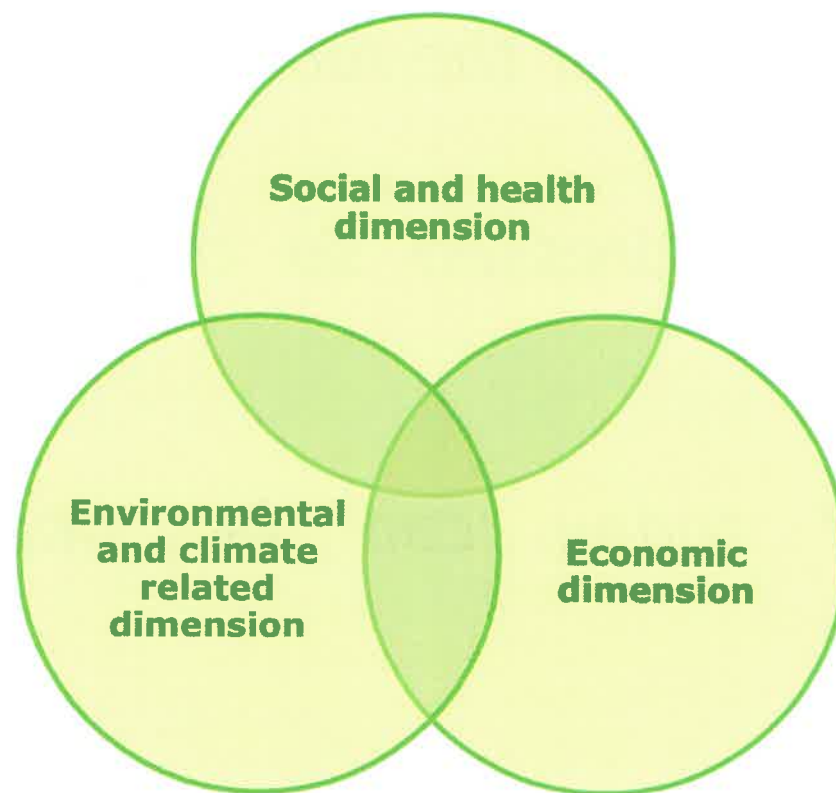


increase  
organic  
farming



European  
Commission

# THE THREE PILLARS OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS



Health and  
Food Safety

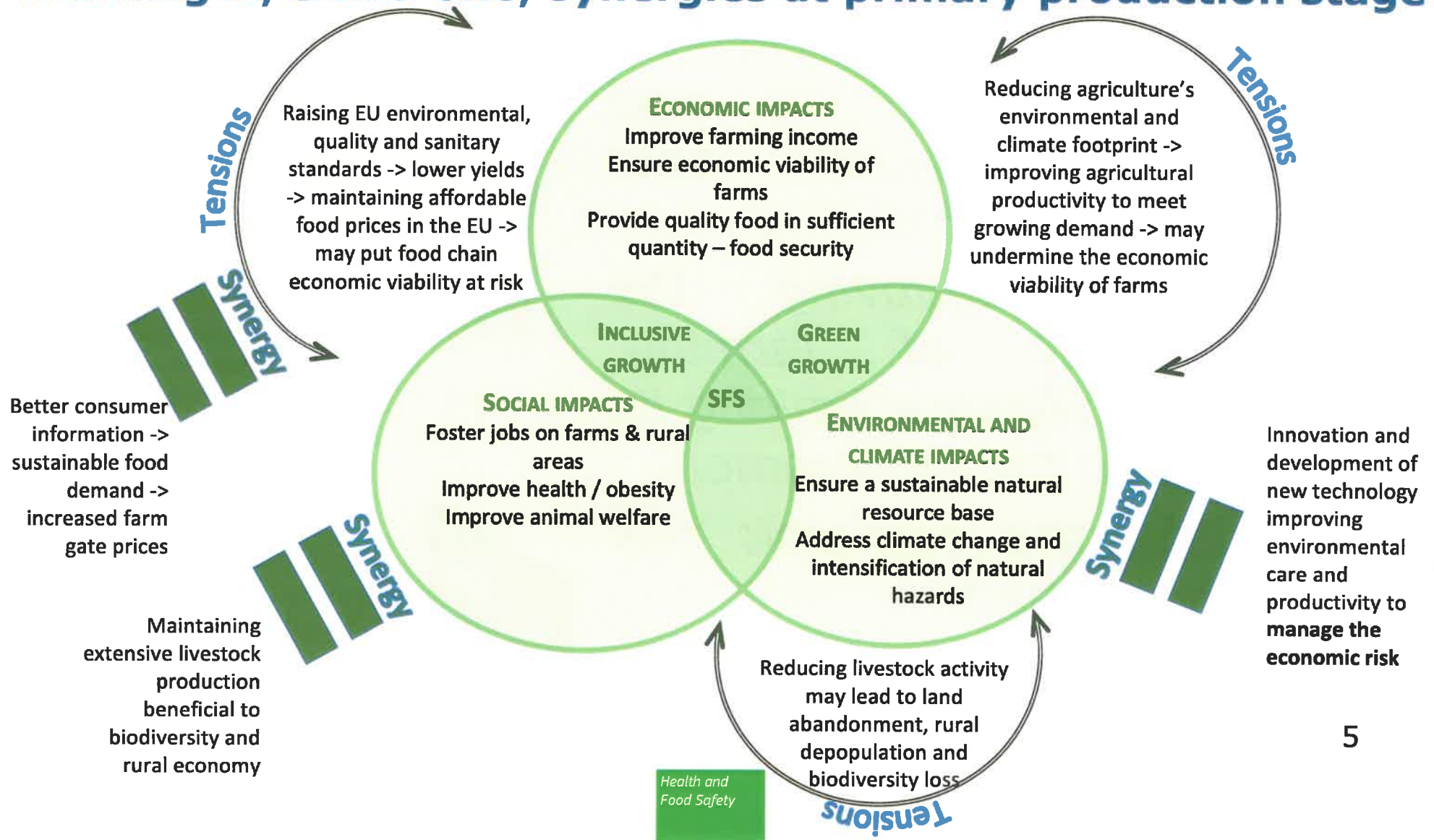
## Key challenges

- *Exist at all stages of the food supply chain*
- *Need to be addressed so that no one is left behind*
- *Barriers of today can be opportunities of tomorrow*



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# Challenges, trade-offs, synergies at primary production stage



## Example of synergies

- ***Innovation and development of new technologies***
  - *continue improving the productivity of farming, while significantly limiting its impact on the environment*
  - *manage the economic risk for the farmers*



## Key Challenges

**CFP has brought significant progress for the environmental sustainability of fisheries**

*(including fight against food waste – landing obligation)*



*In the Atlantic, North Sea and Baltic Sea, more than **99% of fish landed from EU waters are fished sustainably.***

***Fish stocks have grown by 30% over the last 15 years.***



**How can we maintain the current supply, in view of:**

**Climate crisis?**

**Biodiversity crisis?**

**Increased competition for marine space (windfarms, aquaculture, MPAs?)**

**Food fraud (traceability)?**



**How can we maintain this progress and improve performance where progress is less evident?**

# Aquaculture



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## Challenges

Environmental impacts

World population growth and nutrition: role of aquaculture

Food security  
EU imports 2/3 of seafood.  
10% of consumption from  
EU aquaculture.



## Opportunities

### GROWING SECTOR

EU aquaculture production up by 11% in volume from 2008-2017

### INNOVATION POTENTIAL

On-land systems, Algae initiative, bio-economy, circularity

### ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS

of certain forms of aquaculture, e.g. nature/landscape preservation

JUST TRANSITION FOR ALL  
economic and social benefits for coastal and rural communities

Health and  
Food Safety

## Tools

Review Strategic Guidelines on Sustainable Development of EU Aquaculture in 2020

EMFF support  
National Action Plans by MS

Exchange of best practices  
Commission guidance ENV legislation





## Key Challenges

Sea food production (including wild capture) has a **lower carbon footprint** than other food products and are an important protein source



How can we encourage uptake of sustainably sourced seafood by consumers, in particular alternative and innovative products like Algae?



## Key Challenges

*How to identify **criteria** for the **definition** and **communication** of **product sustainability** along the **supply chain***



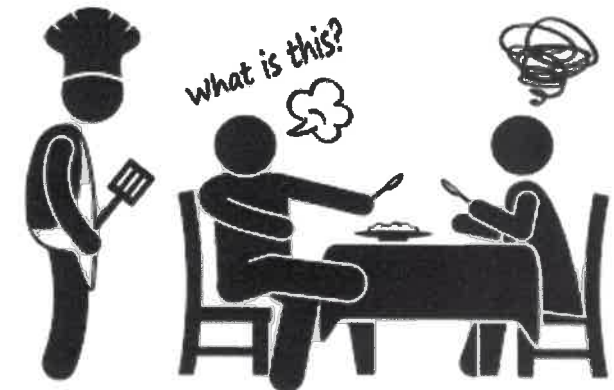
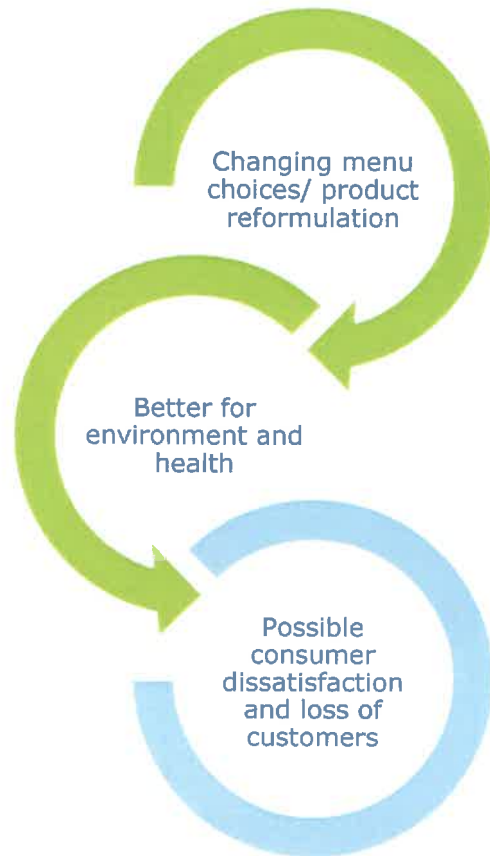
**Marketing Standards**





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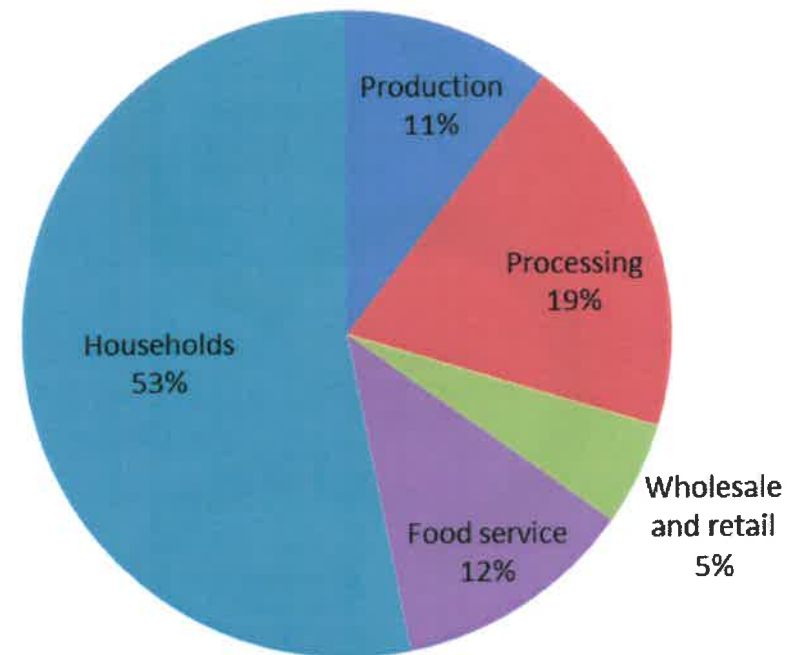
# Example of challenges faced by food services and food processing sector



Health and  
Food Safety

## Over 50% of EU food waste is generated at household level

- **88 ( $\pm$  14) million tonnes of food waste per year**
- **143 billion euros**
- **~ 304 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> eq (6% of total EU GHG emissions)**
- **How to translate growing awareness into *behavioural change*?**



## Example of challenges at global level

*Stricter  
sustainability  
standards for  
EU producers*

**VS**

*Lower  
standards of  
production in  
third countries*

