

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



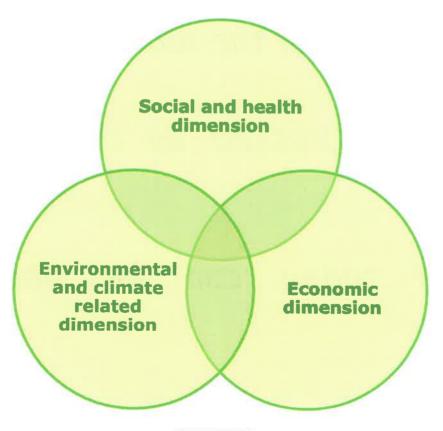
preserve biodiversity



increase organic farming



THE THREE PILLARS OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS







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





Challenges, trade-offs, synergies at primary production stage

Raising EU environmental, quality and sanitary standards -> lower yields -> maintaining affordable food prices in the EU -> may put food chain economic viability at risk

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Improve farming income
Ensure economic viability of
farms
Provide quality food in sufficient
quantity – food security

SFS

Reducing agriculture's environmental and climate footprint -> improving agricultural productivity to meet growing demand -> may undermine the economic viability of farms

Better consumer information -> sustainable food demand -> increased farm gate prices

Maintaining extensive livestock production beneficial to biodiversity and rural economy

Tensions

SOCIAL IMPACTS

INCLUSIVE

GROWTH

Foster jobs on farms & rural areas Improve health / obesity Improve animal welfare

GREEN GROWTH

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Ensure a sustainable natural resource base
Address climate change and intensification of natural hazards

Symensis

Innovation and development of new technology improving environmental care and productivity to manage the economic risk

Reducing livestock activity may lead to land abandonment, rural depopulation and biodiversity loss

Tensions 7

Health and Food Safety 5



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







Fisheries



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.





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



Challenges

Environmental impacts

World population growth and nutrition: role of aquaculture

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



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

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



Health and Food Safety

Seafood



Key Challenges

Sea food production (including wild capture) has a **lower carbon footprin**t 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?





Seafood



Key Challenges

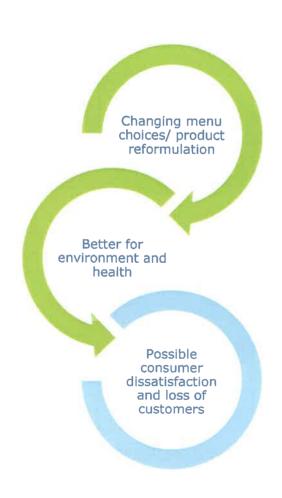
How to identify criteria for the definition and communication of product sustainability along the supply chain







Example of challenges faced by food services and food processing sector



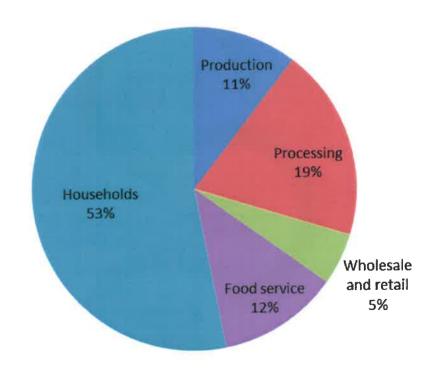






Over 50% of EU food waste is generated at household level

- 88 (± 14) million tonnes of food waste per year
- 143 billion euros
- ~ 304 Mt CO2 eq (6% of total EU GHG emissions)
- How to translate growing awareness into behavioural change?





Source: FUSIONS project, 2016 (based on 2012 data)



Example of challenges at global level

Stricter sustainability standards for EU producers



Lower standards of production in third countries

