



Reflection by Life Science Universities on  
the need for further Strategic Dialogues on  
the future of EU Agriculture and Forestry  
- from the Agricultural and Food System  
perspective

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Q: Was this Dialogue well-conceived with the remit (the questions posed) and consultation, and those consulted?





The Dialogue's mandate was to reflect on four questions:

1. How can we give our **farmers**, and the **rural communities** they live in, a better perspective, including a **fair standard of living**?
2. How can we support agriculture within the **boundaries of our planet and its ecosystem**?
3. How can we make better use of the immense opportunities offered by **knowledge and technological innovation**?
4. How can we promote a **bright and thriving future** for Europe's food system in a competitive world?

# Members



1. Leo Alders (**Fertilizers** Europe)
2. Lili Balogh (**Agroecology** Europe)
3. Faustine Bas-Defossez (European **Environmental** Bureau)
4. Kristjan Bragason (European **Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions**)
5. Ariel Brunner (**Bird Life** Europe & Central Asia)
6. Marco Contiero (**Greenpeace** Europe)
7. Christel Delberghe (**Eurocommerce**)
8. Thierry de L'Escaille (European **Landowners'** Organization)
9. Michael Gohn (**Euroseeds**)
10. Monique Goyens (BEUC The European **Consumer** Organisation)
11. Thibaut Guignard (European **LEADER Association for Rural Development**)
12. Nelli Hajdu (European Liaison Committee for **Agricultural and Agri-Food Trade**)
13. Sjoukje Heimovaara (**Wageningen University** and Research)
14. Dirk Jacobs (**FoodDrinkEurope**)
15. Christiane Lambert (COPA Committee of **Professional Agricultural Organisations**)
16. Joseph Lechner (**Geopa-COPA** Employers' Group of Professional Agricultural Organisations)
17. Philip Lymbery (Eurogroup for **Animals**)
18. Peter Meedendorp (CEJA European Council of **Young Farmers**)
19. Marta Messa (**Slow Food**)
20. Lennart Nilsson (Cogeca General Confederation of **Agricultural Cooperatives**)
21. Spyros Papadatos (**Rural Youth** Europe)
22. Jan Plagge (**IFOAM Organics** Europe)
23. Rocco Renaldi (**FoodService**Europe)
24. Claire Skentelbery (Europa**Bio**)
25. Geneviève Savigny (European **Coordination Via Campensina**)
26. Nina Schindler (European Association of **Co-operative Banks**)
27. Uno Svedin (EURAGRI)
28. Jacques Vandenschrik (European Food **Banks Federation**)
29. Gelsomina Vigliotti (**European Investment Bank**)



# Stakeholders / Sectors engaged

- Horticulture, Crops, Fruit and Vegetable, Malt industry, Beverage, Spirits, Wine, Olive industry, Hemp, Honey, Starch, Carbohydrates, Coffee, Spices, Plant-based foods, Flour, Edible nuts, Snacks
- Dairy, Animal Health, Veterinarians, Food Safety, Animal breeders, Poultry, Eggs, Fish, Molluscs
- Organic
- Forestry, Wetlands
- Friends of the Earth, WWF, Compassion in World Farming, Rewilding, Bees, Butterflies, Water
- Public Health Nutrition, Heart Network, Supplements
- Pesticides, Chemical Society
- Machinery, Road transport, European transport, Eurocities, Media
- Rural tourism, Hospitality, Retail

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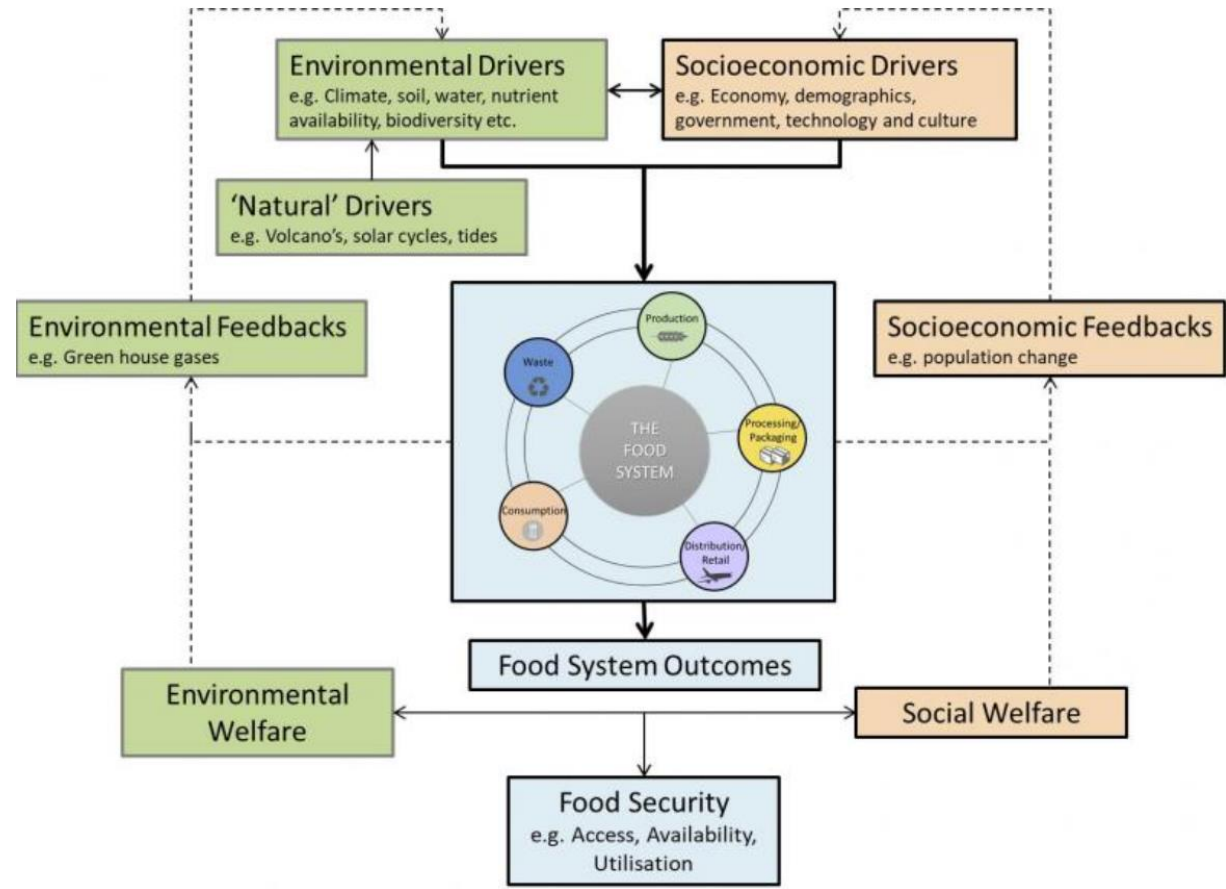


- Questions posed consider the 3 pillars of a sustainable food system together (economic, environmental, social)
- Farmers / rural communities pivotal
- Wide range of stakeholders consulted

Q: What is the added value that the report has brought / will bring to the discussion on the future policy for agriculture and food? Has it brought added value? Was the dialogue necessary?



The **food system** is a **complex web** of activities involving the **production, processing, transport, and consumption**. Issues concerning the food system include the **governance** and **economics** of food production, its **sustainability**, the degree to which we **waste food**, how food production affects the **natural environment** and the impact of food on **individual and population health**.



*The food system and its drivers. Adapted from Ericksen 2008*



# All the key terms are there?



Ecosystem services  
Soil health

Circular economy

Pollution

Biodiversity loss

Excessive regulation /  
bureaucracy / limit  
unnecessary  
administrative burdens

Climate change

Plant protein  
Animal protein

Planetary boundaries

Food security

Digitization

Rural depopulation

Generational renewal

Food waste

Just transition

Larger farms

Quantifiable outcomes  
/ measurement /  
robust indicators

Coherence within EU

# Aspirations / Actions?



“conduct a strategic mapping”

“ensure greater coherence”

“evaluate and revise”

“enter a dialogue”

“streamlining”

“accelerate”

Establish a European Board on Agri-Food (EBAF)

Establish a Agri-Food Just Transition Fund (AJTF)

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## Positives

- Holistic approach
- Consensus orientation
- It is an “accessible” document
- Focus on the food chain (through to the consumer) – the food system (new)
- Enhanced sustainable metrics (new)
- Recognition of “unintended consequences”
- Recognizes complex trade offs and compromises
- A framework for the new European Commission



But

- Aspirational
- It is “high level” - the hard questions still need to be addressed (e.g. recommendations will need a “priority weighting”)
- May be more heavily weighted to the “inner core” of Europe: “geographic periphery” of Europe may not be so well represented?

Q: Has there been in the past such an approach to consulting on future policy? Should such an approach be adopted in the future (for other different policy remits)? If so, how could universities be better represented / better engage in the process?





Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Food Vision 2030

# Food Vision 2030

A World Leader in Sustainable Food Systems



## Food Wise 2025



Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
An tAonam Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

LOCAL ROOTS GLOBAL REACH  
**Food Wise 2025**  
A 10-year vision for the Irish agri-food industry

An **Tionól Saoránach**  **The Citizens' Assembly**

Citizens' Assembly 2022

## Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss



Gov.ie

<https://www.gov.ie> > collection > ab894-cap-post-2020-... ⋮

**CAP Post 2020 Consultative Committee**

[CAP Consultative Committee Membership](#)



Q: Has there been in the past such an approach to consulting on future policy? Should such an approach be adopted in the future (for other different policy remits)? If so, how could universities be better represented / better engage in the process?

- Yes, at national level – see Irish Food Vision 2030, Food Wise 2025, Citizens’ Assembly on Biodiversity, CAP Consultative Committee
- Universities
  - could value the development of policy briefs (peer review publications valued more, currently)
  - should continue to engage with and influence national stakeholder consultations and influence policy makers
  - should communicate their work in a more accessible way



Go raibh maith agaibh!  
(thank you)