

NATIONAL FOOD STRATEGY

OVERVIEW & UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2021

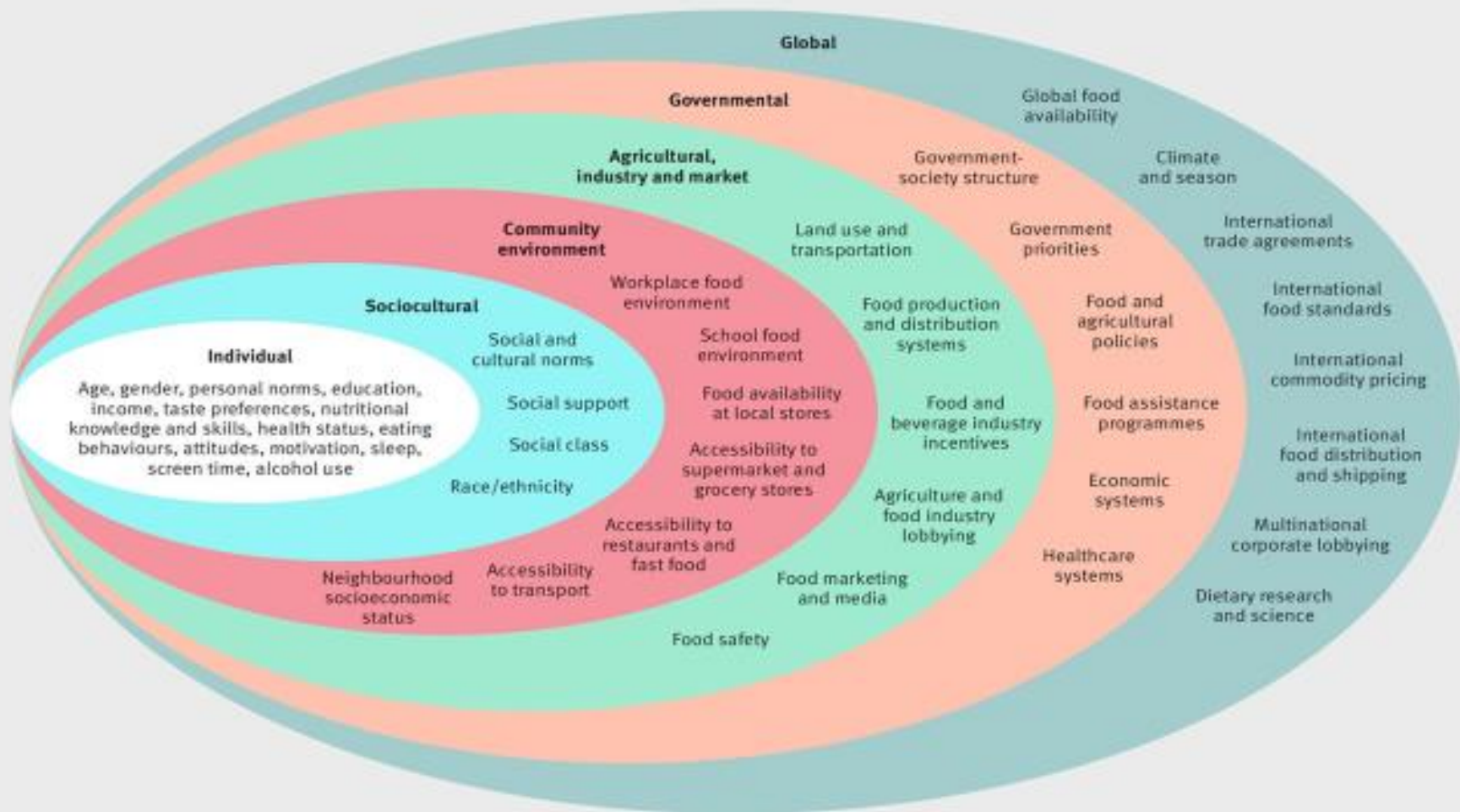
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What is a food strategy?

- The purpose a food strategy is to set out a vision for the kind of food system we should be building for the future, and a plan for how to achieve that vision.
- Whole system approach (Field to Bin):
 - production
 - marketing
 - processing
 - sale and purchase of food (for consumption in the home and out of it),
 - consumer practices, resources and institutions involved in these processes
 - How we manage waste and disposal of unused food.



National Food Strategy

- The purpose of the National Food Strategy is to build on the work underway in the Agriculture Bill, the Environment Bill, the Fisheries Bill, the Industrial Strategy and the Childhood Obesity Plan to create an overarching strategy for government, designed to ensure our food system:
- Delivers safe, healthy, affordable food; regardless of where they live or how much they earn;
- Is robust in the face of future shocks;
- Restores and enhances the natural environment for the next generation in this country;
- Is built upon a resilient, sustainable and humane agriculture sector; and
- Is a thriving contributor to our urban and rural economies, delivering well paid jobs and supporting innovative producers and manufacturers across the country;
- Does all of this in an efficient and cost-effective way.

'We have a moral, as well as practical, responsibility to consider the role and impact of the food system. The purpose of the National Food Strategy is to set out a vision for the kind of food system we should be building for the future, and a plan for how to achieve that vision.'

National Food Strategy Review – Part one (July 2020)

- Our Most Disadvantaged Children
 - Expand eligibility for the Free School Meal scheme
 - Extend the Holiday Activity and Food Programme to all areas in England
 - Increase the value of Healthy Start vouchers to £4.25 per week, and expand the scheme
 - Extend the work of the Food to the Vulnerable Ministerial Task Force
- Sovereignty, Standards, Scrutiny
 - The Government should only agree to cut tariffs in new trade deals on products which meet our core standards.
 - The Government should adopt a statutory responsibility to commission and publish an independent report on any proposed trade agreements.
 - The Government should adopt a statutory duty to give Parliament the time and opportunity to properly scrutinise any new trade deal.

National Food Strategy Review – Part Two (July 2021)

- Huge report
- Good resource - recommend having a look through
- Four main objectives:
 - Escape the junk food cycle
 - Reduce diet-related inequality
 - Make the best use of our land
 - Create a long-term shift in our food culture

1. Escape the junk food cycle and protect the NHS

- Recommendation 1 - Introduce a Sugar and Salt Reformulation Tax. Use some of the revenue to help get fresh fruit and vegetables to low-income families.
- Recommendation 2 - Introduce mandatory reporting for large food companies.
- Recommendation 3 - Launch a new “Eat and Learn” initiative for schools.

2. Reduce diet-related inequality

- Recommendation 4 - Extend eligibility for free school meals.
- Recommendation 5 - Fund the Holiday Activities and Food programme for the next three years.
- Recommendation 6 - Expand the Healthy Start scheme.
- Recommendation 7 - Trial a “Community Eatwell” Programme, supporting those on low incomes to improve their diets.

3. Make best use of our land

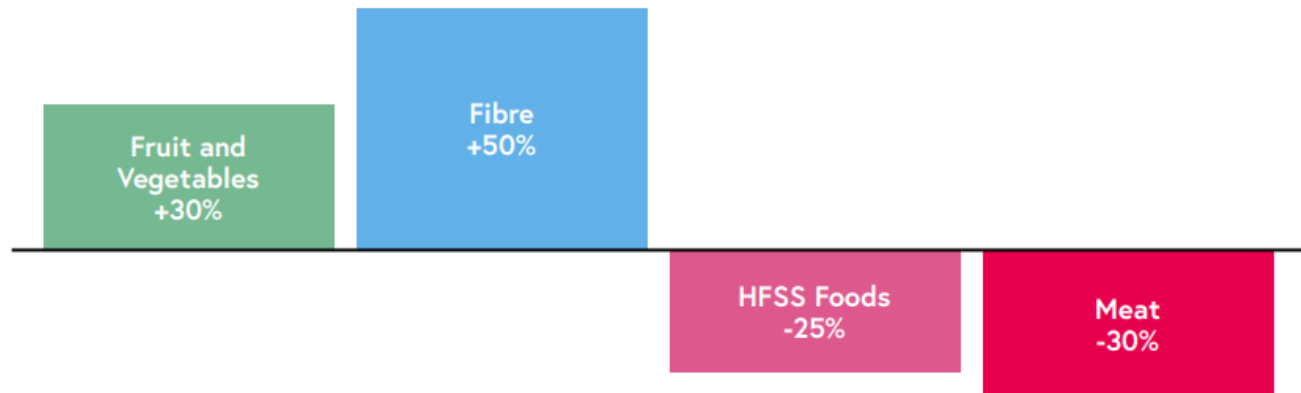
- Recommendation 8 - Guarantee the budget for agricultural payments until at least 2029 to help farmers transition to more sustainable land use.
- Recommendation 9 - Create a Rural Land Use Framework based on the three compartment model.
- Recommendation 10 - Define minimum standards for trade, and a mechanism for protecting them.

4. Create a long-term shift in our food culture

- Recommendation 11 - Invest £1 billion in innovation to create a better food system.
- Recommendation 12 - Create a National Food System Data programme.
- Recommendation 13 - Strengthen Government procurement rules to ensure that taxpayer money is spent on healthy and sustainable food.
- Recommendation 14 - Set clear targets and bring in legislation for long-term change.

Figure 16.1

Changes needed to the national diet by 2032 (compared to 2019) to meet health, climate and nature commitments[†]



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[†] Three of the diet-related targets are based on advice from the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition. A 30% increase in fruit and vegetables would bring us in line with the Eatwell recommendation to eat five pieces of fruit and vegetables per day; a 50% increase in fibre would bring us in line with the SACN recommended 30g/day; a 25% reduction in consumption of HFSS foods will take us towards the required 60% reduction in salt, 20% reduction in saturated fat; and 50% reduction in free sugars. A 30% reduction in meat is required to achieve the 5th Carbon budget and the 30x30 nature commitment – this represents the creation and maintenance of at least 410,000 hectares of woodland, maintaining and restoring 325,000 hectares of peatlands, and managing 200,000 hectares mainly for nature (for example, healthland and species-rich grassland some of which would be managed through conservation grazing).

Recommended legislation

- Finance Bill – Levy to apply a tax to sugar and salt
- Good Food Bill
 - Health targets, Action plan and independent reports, other duties.
 - Statutory responsibilities for:
 - Government
 - FSA
 - OEP
 - OHID
 - CCC
 - All public sector organisations
 - Large food businesses
 - Local Authorities in England
 - **Local Authorities in England - *Develop food strategies, developed with reference to national targets and in partnership with the communities they serve.***

What happens
next?

- **Government to issue White Paper in response to review – 6 months (12?)**
- **Will recommendations be reflected in White Paper?**
 - No 10 has already distanced itself from Sugar/Salt levy
 - Public support widely viewed as key factor in government reaction
 - Recommended new roles for FSA, DfE, Ofsted, OHID, etc. – close eyes on how these will be handled

THANK YOU.

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