

## Respondent Information Form

**Please Note** this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy:  
<https://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual  
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Scottish Crofting Federation

Phone number

01599 530005

Address

26, Kyle Industrial Estate, Kyle of Lochalsh

Postcode

IV40 8AX

Email Address

susi@crofting.org

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name  
 Publish response only (without name)  
 Do not publish response

### Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- Yes  
 No

## Questionnaire

### Part A: Consultation on the national Good Food Nation Plan

#### Question 1

Does each individual Good Food Nation Outcome describe the kind of Scottish food system you would like to see?

**Outcome 1:** Everyone in Scotland eats well with reliable access to safe, nutritious, affordable, sustainable, and age and culturally appropriate food.

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Outcome 2:** Scotland's food system is sustainable<sup>1</sup> and contributes to a flourishing natural environment. It supports our net zero ambitions, and plays an important role in maintaining and improving animal welfare and in restoring and regenerating biodiversity.

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Outcome 3:** Scotland's food system encourages a physically and mentally healthy population, leading to a reduction in diet-related conditions.

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Outcome 4:** Our food and drink sector is prosperous, diverse, innovative, and vital to national and local economic and social wellbeing. It is key to making Scotland food secure and food resilient, and creates and sustains jobs and businesses underpinned by fair work standards.

---

<sup>1</sup> According to the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#) a "sustainable food system is one that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generation is not compromised."

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Outcome 5:** Scotland has a thriving food culture with a population who are interested in and educated about good and sustainable food.

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Outcome 6:** Scotland has a global reputation for high-quality food that we want to continue to grow. Decisions we make in Scotland contribute positively to local and global food systems transformation. We share and learn from best practice internationally.

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree

## **Question 2**

What, if anything, would you change about the Good Food Nation Outcomes and why?

OUTCOME 1:

We would like more emphasis on local food from short supply chains. We believe that this has the potential to delivery higher quality food (fresher and better tasting) than long supply chain, mass produced, generic food. This, along with appreciation of this provenance, is essential for delivering many aspects of the Good Food Nation outcomes. Good local food encourages people to eat healthier options (fruit, veg, well produced meat, and less processed foods) plus fosters “pride and pleasure” in food, leading to stronger food culture, more interest in food growing and preparation and a more thoughtful approach to eating. Local food also supports the economic and social wellbeing of rural areas, and can reduce the environmental impacts (both domestically and abroad) of our food system.

## OUTCOME 2:

The most important part of this outcome is the definition of a “sustainable food system”, being “one that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generation is not compromised”. We feel that the requirement for our food system to deliver food security, nutrition and support economic and social bases is lost behind the three explicitly stated goals of supporting net zero, maintaining and improving animal welfare and restoring and regenerating biodiversity. We agree with this outcome, but feel that the footnoted elements should be more heavily emphasised. Our food system must:

- Deliver food security, in terms of growing more of what we eat, and growing a more diverse range of food in areas that are considered marginal (such as our Highlands and Islands).
- Not compromise on the economic, social and environmental bases required to grow food in the future, by ensuring that small family farms and crofts can thrive, so this agricultural ground and all of the knowledge, culture and community that goes along with it is retained for future food production.

## OUTCOME 4:

The use of the term “food and drink sector” is problematic as it is usually used to refer to value-added, high-end, niche and/or export type products such as whisky or farmed salmon. While we recognise that this sector is important to Scotland’s economic wellbeing, we believe that being a Good Food Nation should be more about feeding all of our people well, rather than producing high end food for a small proportion of the population. We would like our entire agricultural and food sector to be prosperous, diverse and innovative, not just what is widely recognised as “the food and drink sector”.

Further, value created should be spread in a more equitable way, which means: small businesses, rural areas and real people, instead of transnational corporations and their shareholders. The small nod to “vital to national and local economic and social wellbeing” is not strong enough on this point. A real good food nation would place local food systems and short supply chains front and centre. The sector will not automatically “thrive” and jobs will not appear out of nothing. We do agree that a thriving food sector is important, yet, the outcome needs to be more specific in order for this to happen. Therefore, we suggest to add a further qualification to this outcome: **Local food production is encouraged by providing adequate food supply chain infrastructure and enabling more access to land.**

Enabling local food systems requires that more people get access to land: More diversity in landholding, and more crofters and small-scale producers strengthen the diversity and resilience of rural food economies. Therefore, diversifying ownership of and control over land, and enabling access to land by creating new crofts is essential. Further, in order to meet any targets for local food supply chains and to better support smaller scale producers – who are at the mercy of market fluctuation – supply chain infrastructure like abattoirs needs to be supported. The objective should reflect these requirements.

## OUTCOME 5:

We would like to see this outcome more meaningfully worded. Early drafts mentioned a “pride and pleasure” in food, which is a lot more meaningful than “people are interested and educated about food”. Developing a strong food culture and a real pride and pleasure in food will be instrumental in achieving the other Good Food Nation outcomes, particularly around health and wellbeing. Having this pride and pleasure in food will lead to better choices in terms of healthy diets, a healthy lifestyle and more environmentally sustainable options.

We believe that local food and short supply chains are vital for a Good Food Nation, and an important part of strong local food systems is having a connection with where food comes from. Building connections helps grow local food systems, but having access to local food systems also helps to grow that connection, so it is a self-reinforcing cycle.

## OUTCOME 6:

We do not think this should be a standalone outcome. We aim to produce high quality food whether it is for our own population or for export, and certainly not just to earn international acclaim. Working with other countries (sharing our best practice with them and seeking to learn from best practice abroad) should be an integral part of how we operate, and an integral part of becoming a Good Food Nation, but not an outcome itself. It is part of the process, not the outcome. We agree that we should aim to contribute positively to global food system transformation, and especially that we should minimise any negative impacts of our food system on the wider global system (e.g. by not offshoring emissions, deforestation etc). This outcome reads like we are searching for acclaim and recognition from other countries. We should produce good food and become a Good Food Nation because that is the best thing to do for our nation, not because we want other countries to applaud us.

## General comment:

We are strongly disappointed that there is very little mention of local food production, or diversifying agricultural production to things that we actually eat, or a recognition that we need to move away from ultra processed food. We would like to see more focus on food and community resilience (through supporting local food production, including more local processing facilities and abattoirs, and more local procurement) and on short supply chains which help value stay within the region and can contribute positively to net zero AND a greater connection with food which helps build food culture and contributes to a healthier and more food-aware population.

## Question 3

Do you think that these targets will contribute to achieving the overall Good Food Nation Outcomes?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree

- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**Question 4**

Would achieving these targets contribute to making the kind of Scottish food system you would like to see?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**Question 5**

If you have other comments on the suggested Good Food Nation targets, please comment:

The targets are generally lazy and poorly thought through. They simply take things that can easily be measured, whether or not they are relevant to the Good Food Nation we want to see. They do not address most of the complexities or subtleties required.

**OUTCOME 1:**

As important as it is to reduce child poverty, this is not determined by whether we are a Good Food Nation or not. There are other factors which must be addressed to reduce child poverty. The Good Food Nation Plan should ensure that children in poverty still have access to nutritious, appropriate, tasty food, with dignity, but it cannot prevent children from being in poverty. (Half of the targets, 4/8, relate to child poverty and a 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> relate to a similar measure – that of households suffering food insecurity and accessing emergency food provision. This is also related to poverty, which is related to wider societal and economic issues more than whether we are a Good Food Nation.)

We would like to see measures relating to:

- The proportion of local food on local plates
- The quality (freshness, tastiness, nutrition) of food available, particularly in remote and rural areas (and low socioeconomic areas)
- The proportion of local food used in public procurement
- Household shopping habits such as where they purchase from (local supplier vs multinational), what types of products (UPF vs fresh), how far they have to travel, etc, particularly with a comparison between remote/rural areas or lower socio-economic areas and urban and/or higher socio-economic areas. It is important that this outcome really does apply to EVERYONE in Scotland.

## OUTCOME 2:

There are very few new targets that Scotland is not already committed to. Most of these targets have no stated baseline and the target date is likely to be too soon by the time this plan is put in place.

While organic farming is desirable, achieving organic status is extremely difficult and uneconomic for most crofters. Further, the mere reference to an area does not say anything meaningful about effective food production. We believe it is more important to encourage all farmers and crofters to operate more sustainably rather than focussing on a small number becoming organic. Setting a target on organic farming runs the risk of focusing funding and efforts on a small number of farmers at the expense of all of the others.

The emissions targets need to be more specific and targeted. Are all farmers and crofters expected to decrease their emissions by 75%? Ideally, targets would be reflective of the fact that those emitting more – for example because they rely on high inputs – have more scope to achieve greater reductions (and indeed should be required to do so).

We would like to see more measures around the definition of a sustainable food system, particularly food security and maintaining economic, social and environmental bases:

- The proportion of agricultural produce that is nutritious food for our population
- The proportion of Scotland's food that we produce ourselves (and ideally, the proportion of food in each region produced in that region)
- The amount of food produced by small farmers and crofters (which directly contributes to maintaining a sustainable farming base)
- The quality of habitats (including biodiversity) on managed agricultural ground (e.g. common grazings)
- The number of small agricultural businesses and the availability and affordability of rural land for small-scale production
- The number of new productive crofts created

## OUTCOME 4:

The document referenced does not clearly define targets, and highlights our concerns regarding the term "food and drink sector".

We would like to see targets around how our whole agricultural and food sector is thriving:

- Economic contribution of agriculture, including capturing short supply chain, local food (current measures focus on large scale, supermarkets, exports and procurement).
- Diversity of product (e.g. an increase in the variety of agricultural produce in a region)
- Better returns for agricultural production (e.g. more people able to make a full time wage from crofting)
- The amount of value from our food system that stays in local economies (vs going into large transnational company profits)

- The availability and accessibility of local processing facilities, especially local abattoirs

### Question 6

Do you think these indicators will be useful for measuring progress towards the Good Food Nation Outcomes?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

Why or why not?

#### OUTCOME 1:

Indicators are too heavily based on food insecurity and poverty. Indicators around the level of local and fresh food vs ultra processed food consumed by households, particularly comparing remote/rural or low socioeconomic status with urban/higher socioeconomic status would be useful in measuring progress towards this outcome. Also, the level of local food available at an affordable price.

#### OUTCOME 2:

We need more indicators around the definition of “sustainable”, such as the percentage of food consumed locally that is grown locally, the continuity of farming/crofting (i.e. family farms being passed down, the amount of agricultural land kept in or returned to agricultural use), soil health, biodiversity levels.

#### OUTCOME 4:

These indicators are too heavily focused on the “food and drink sector”. We need more indicators around local food, short supply chains, the range of products grown in an area, and the value from food and drink that is retained in an area.

The number of registered crofts is an irrelevant indicator. In order to be meaningful, it would need to refer to crofts that are in active, productive use, while excluding vacant, misused and derelict crofts.

#### OUTCOME 5:



Indicators could include the number of local food and drink festivals or events held, the amount of local and/or seasonal food eaten, the amount of time spent eating together, the strengthening or revival of traditional agricultural practices.

### **Question 7**

What other indicators, if any, would you like to see included?

Most are mentioned above. We would like to see more indicators about:

- Local food / short supply chains
- The amount of processing facilities at a local level (e.g. abattoirs, packing/washing facilities etc) for short supply chains and local food.
- Small producers (esp. providing local food)
- Proportion of local/Scottish food in public procurement
- Waste reduction
- Eating local and seasonal
- Household diets and eating habits (relating to availability of good food in all areas, and relating to culture around food cooking and eating)
- Food related education in school
- Time spent cooking and eating (esp. in schools/ early learning)
- The type of agricultural production we have (how much of it contributes to a domestic healthy diet)
- The number of young people going into food related training and the number/range of opportunities available for them.
- The availability and affordability of land for crofting and small-scale agriculture

### **Question 8**

If you have other comments on the suggested Good Food Nation indicators, please comment:

The indicators seem to be picked randomly according to the data available and reflect the general lack of ambition. Thought should be given on what exactly we want to measure and why. Otherwise, this becomes a mere tick-box exercise that is not of any use in our journey towards being a Good Food Nation.

### **Question 9**

#### **Snapshot Box: As a child in a Good Food Nation**

- I have access to healthy and nutritious food that is appropriate for my age and developmental stage
- Eating and enjoying a healthy diet is the norm for me
- I have the opportunity to participate in a variety of food-related educational experiences on a regular basis
- I will never experience hunger

Does this reflect what you think life should look like for a child in Scotland as a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

### Question 10

#### Snapshot Box: As a parent/carer in a Good Food Nation

- I am knowledgeable about how to prepare healthy and nutritious meals for those in my care and empowered to do so
- I know where to go for support should I experience difficulties that prevent me from purchasing food or preparing hot food at home
- I am confident that childcare settings and schools are providing healthy, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and that they are educating children about the food system
- If I am pregnant I know where to go for support and can make fully informed choices on how to feed myself and my baby

Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a parent/carer in a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

### Question 11

#### Snapshot Box: As an adult in a Good Food Nation

- I can easily access food that I enjoy and that keeps me healthy and well
- I know where to go if I experience financial difficulties, and the response is fast, coordinated and meets my needs with dignity and respect
- Healthy and sustainable options are easy to find wherever I eat and buy food
- I can easily access information about the environmental, social, and nutritional impacts of my food and its provenance that helps me to make informed decisions

Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as an adult in a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

### Question 12

#### **Snapshot Box: As a public caterer in a Good Food Nation**

- I procure healthy, fresh, in-season, and nutritious food to meet the needs of the people using my services
- I recognise the role that food can play in strengthening community ties. I promote and provide healthy, enjoyable, and sustainable options as the norm on my menus
- My procurement choices help to support a variety of producers
- I have reduced avoidable food waste as much as possible, and I ensure that unavoidable food waste is disposed of in a sustainable manner

Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a public caterer in a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

### Question 13

#### **Snapshot Box: As a retailer in a Good Food Nation**

- As an employer, I meet Fair Work First criteria. I ensure that all procurement contracts I enter into are fair and equitable for producers
- I create a store environment that makes healthy and nutritious options affordable and appealing for everyone. I help consumers to better understand the nutritional quality and provenance of the food I sell
- Decisions I make in store and through procurement help Scotland to achieve its net zero ambitions, for example by minimising food waste.

- I play an important role in supporting a stronger local food economy and increasing food security in Scotland

Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a retailer in a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

#### Question 14

##### **Snapshot Box: As a restaurant owner in a Good Food Nation**

- I celebrate fresh, seasonal produce and integrate it into my menu. I have an active role in supporting my local food economy
- I share my passion for good food with my customers so that they become more informed about its provenance, how it's prepared and its nutritional value
- As an employer, I meet Fair Work First criteria. I create a rewarding work environment for my employees
- I am creative with my menu. This can help me to minimise food waste for the benefit of my business, people, and the environment

Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a restaurant owner in a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

#### Question 15

##### **Snapshot Box: As a farmer/crofter in a Good Food Nation**

- I feel that my work is respected and that I am able to get a fair price for my produce. I can easily sell my produce locally should I wish to do so

- My farming and land management practices reduce my environmental impact, increase biodiversity and ensure high animal welfare standards on my farm or croft
- I benefit from a variety of support, including training and advice, to help me run a successful and sustainable farm or croft
- I help to build resilient supply chains and contribute to food security in Scotland

Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a farmer/crofter in a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

We don't think that there ever will be general agreement on what is "a fair price". What seems to be a fair price for diced mutton, for example, does not reflect the work that crofters have to put in to produce that piece of mutton (while ensuring high animal welfare, increasing biodiversity, supporting the local community etc). Hence, the work put in needs to be funded or compensated otherwise. The disproportion is even worse for horticulture. The amount and quality crofters can produce (at much more work and risk) will never compare to better agricultural areas. So how will we ever achieve a fair price for the work we put in - fair to us, and fair to our consumers? If crofters can't get a "fair price", then the difference has to be made up from somewhere. However, there seems little political appetite to compensate crofters for lower output for more work. The agriculture bill presently debated in the Scottish parliament is not promising in this respect and it is unlikely that crofters and small producers get anywhere near appropriately rewarded for their work.

## Question 16

### Snapshot Box: As a fisher in a Good Food Nation

- I feel that my work is respected and that I am able to get a fair price for my catch
- I support the marine environment and ecosystem with sustainable fishing practices
- I benefit from and enable a fair and safe working environment
- I seek opportunities to bring my product to a wider market in Scotland, and to promote its contribution to a healthy diet
- I can access a variety of support to help me to run a sustainable fishing business

Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a fisher in a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree

- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

### Question 17

#### Snapshot Box: As a food processor in a Good Food Nation

- I work with producers, wholesalers, retailers and out of home food providers to ensure resilience along the whole supply chain while meeting demand and minimising waste
- I make my products healthier and more sustainable, using fresh, seasonal ingredients where possible, and can access support to do this.
- I invest in and develop my workforce, ensuring they can enjoy opportunities to enhance their skills whilst benefiting from a safe working environment
- I contribute to the important role that the food and drink sector has in Scotland's economy

Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a food processor in a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

### Question 18

If you have any further comments on the national Good Food Nation Plan, please comment here

In general, it is disappointing to see how little is coming out of something that has been heralded as a game-changer in food security for Scotland before the Bill was introduced in autumn 2021. Instead of strengthening food security and resilience and the production of healthy and nutritious local food for local people, the plan is mainly a patronising prompt that people should just know better what they eat.

We are disappointed that scant attention is given to the important role red meat plays in a balanced diet, given that it is the main foodstuff that can be produced in large parts of the

country. While lamb and beef production are often attacked from the rewilding, net-zero and health perspectives, they are an important source of protein that can be produced sustainably in ways contributing to positive environmental outcomes, if done rightly. As such, red meat does have its place in a Good Food Nation, and this should be explicitly acknowledged.

The plan is blatantly insufficient to honour the present efforts of Scottish producers to feed the country, let alone to achieve the wider transformation required. We would urge to send this back to the drawing board to enable a real plan focusing on strengthening Scottish producers and short supply chains through providing the funds and the infrastructure required, and through granting access to land for more people to contribute to environmentally and socially sustainable food production. We acknowledge that this is only possible if the agricultural support system provides the right incentives and we strongly urge that a joint-up approach is sought, linking future agricultural policy under the new agriculture bill to the aspirations of becoming a real Good Food Nation.

## **Part B: Consultation on specified functions for the national Good Food Nation Plan**

### **Question 19**

Please let us know if we have missed any function falling within a specified description or relevant specified functions in the list.

### **OUTCOME 2:**

The proposal omits land reform law and policy which is an integral part of our pathway to a Good Food Nation. We therefore urge to include the consideration of impacts and opportunities of land reform acts and policies.

### **Question 20**

Why do you think this specified function/function falling within a specified description should be added?

At present, too many big estates occupy large swathes of land reserved for sporting. These spaces could be used to create more crofts, which would encourage more local food production and foster resilience.