# Sustainable food system – setting up an EU framework

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

#### Introduction

#### Background

In the context of the "European Green Deal", the European Commission adopted a comprehensive Farm to Fork Strategy[1], which recognises the inextricable links between healthy people, healthy societies and a healthy planet and aims to address comprehensively the challenges of sustainable food systems.

During the last decades the EU has largely been spared from crises threatening food security. However, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the Covid-19 pandemic show that our food system can be exposed to such risks. The threats that the world is facing are severe and imminent, but so are the climate and biodiversity challenges that are here to stay.

Sustainability is fundamental to ensure long-term food security. Without a transition such as the one set out in the Farm to Fork Strategy, food security will be severely at risk in the long-term, with irreversible impacts globally. Natural resources, such as land, healthy soils, water and biodiversity, are key inputs into food production, and their growing scarcity in many parts of the world makes it imperative to use and manage them sustainably.

To drive the shift to a sustainable food system, the Farm to Fork Strategy has launched numerous actions, which should contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, preservation of biodiversity and rural livelihoods, reduction of pesticides use and risk and pressures on water, soil and air quality, and better consumer information and animal welfare, while strengthening the competitiveness of the entire food sector and preserving food security.

The Strategy recognises that these individual and sector-specific actions can neither alone, nor in combination with each other fully ensure policy coherence at EU and national level, mainstream sustainability in all food-related policies and strengthen the resilience of food systems. For this reason, the Farm to Fork Strategy announced an initiative for a horizontal framework law, to accelerate and facilitate the transition to sustainability and ensure that

foods placed on the EU market increasingly become sustainable. Such an EU level intervention aims to establish new foundations for future food policies by introducing sustainability objectives and principles based on an integrated food system approach. This initiative will also include, among others, provisions for a sustainable food-labelling framework to empower consumers to make sustainable food choices, and it will explore new governance systems for a more active involvement of citizens and stakeholders at all levels.

Further background can be found in the <u>Inception Impact Assessment on the Sustainable EU</u> food system Initiative, which was published by the Commission in 2021.

The aim of this public consultation is to gather opinions and evidence from the public and relevant stakeholders on the key issues the initiative aims to address, and on the main elements that may be used in the formulation of policy options to respond to those issues. At the same time, it should be noted that this questionnaire is not exhaustive in its scope. The policy design in the initiative for a Framework for a Sustainable EU Food System will draw on other processes which are ongoing in relation to specific aspects, such as for example the one on Imports of agricultural and food products – applying EU health and environmental standards (report) [2], or other initiatives mentioned on the F2F website.

Moreover, more targeted consultations are also planned to take place during this year for specific stakeholder categories.

#### Who should fill the questionnaire and how to fill it?

The questionnaire for citizens is accessible in all official EU languages. As there may be delays in translating replies submitted in some languages, contributions in English are welcome, as they will help to process the survey more swiftly.

You can pause at any time and continue later. Once you have submitted your answers, you will be able to download a copy of your completed questionnaire. Questions marked with an asterisk (\*) are compulsory. Those who are interested have the option to develop their responses in a more detailed manner.

Please note that in this questionnaire, we do not intend to obtain data relating to identifiable persons. Therefore, in case you will describe a particular experience or situation, please do it in a way that will not allow linking to a particular individual, whether it is you or somebody else.

Received contributions will be published on the Internet. It is important that you read the specific privacy statement attached to this consultation for information on how your personal data and contribution will be dealt with.

[1] Farm to Fork Strategy (europa.eu)

[2] The report, expected in June 2022, will assess the rationale and legal feasibility of applying EU health and environmental (including animal welfare) standards to imported agri-food products, and will identify the concrete initiatives to ensure better consistency in their application, in conformity with WTO rules. The report will not, however, propose any new initiatives.

#### Glossary/or explanation of terms used in the survey

The present questionnaire makes repeated reference to a number of concepts, for which it is useful to give indicative explanations upfront (I.e. working definitions for the purpose of this q u e s t i o n n a i r e):

Food system: the food system is understood to include all relevant actors, resources in a broad sense, and activities relevant for the production and consumption of food and beverages and their associated wastes, and their impact on the economy, environment and society (including health)[1]. It considers the processes, infrastructures and interactions involved in feeding a population.

Food system actors are therefore a very broad category, but for practical purposes (including of this questionnaire), we consider the most relevant to be food/feed business operators including primary producers of food/feed, manufacturers, retailers, distributors as well as inputs providers, traders, consumers, financial actors, international traders, advisors and  $p \ u \ b \ l \ i \ c$  a  $u \ t \ h \ o \ r \ i \ t \ i \ e \ s$ .

The food environment concept in this questionnaire must be understood to include physical and digital dimensions. The physical food environment can be defined as the physical, economic, political and socio-cultural contexts in which people engage with the food system to make their decisions about acquiring, preparing and consuming food. The digital food environment refers to the online settings through which flows of services and information that influence people's food and nutrition choices and behaviour are directed. They encompass a range of elements, including social media, digital health promotion interventions, digital food marketing and online food retail.[2]

Sustainable food system: An indicative definition of sustainable food system could be considered the following: "A sustainable food system for the EU is one that: provides and promotes safe, nutritious and healthy food of low environmental impact for all current and future EU population in a manner that itself also protects and restores the natural environment and its ecosystem services, is robust and resilient, economically dynamic, just and fair, and socially acceptable and inclusive. It does so without compromising the availability of nutritious and healthy food for people living outside the EU, nor impairing their natural environment."[3]

[1] JRC: Bock, A., Bontoux, L. and Rudkin, J., Concepts for a sustainable EU food system, EUR 30894 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, ISBN 978-92-76-43727-7 (online), doi:10.2760/381319 (online), JRC126575.

[2] idem

[3] https://www.sapea.info/wp-content/uploads/sustainable-food-system-report.pdf

# About you

- \*Language of my contribution
  - Bulgarian
  - Croatian
  - Czech
  - Danish
  - Dutch
  - English
  - Estonian
  - Finnish
  - French
  - German
  - Greek
  - Hungarian
  - Irish
  - Italian
  - Latvian
  - Lithuanian
  - Maltese
  - Polish
  - Portuguese
  - Romanian
  - Slovak
  - Slovenian
  - Spanish
  - Swedish
- \* I am giving my contribution as
  - Academic/research institution

**Business association** 

- Company/business organisation
- Consumer organisation
- EU citizen
- Environmental organisation
- Non-EU citizen
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Public authority
- Trade union
- Other

#### \* First name

Lebo

#### \*Surname

Mofolo

### \* Email (this won't be published)

Imofolo@frucom.eu

#### \*Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

FRUCOM

#### \*Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more)

#### Transparency register number

#### 255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the <u>transparency register</u>. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

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# \*Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

Please add your country of orig	jin,	or that of your organisatio	on.		_	
Afghanistan	$\bigcirc$	Djibouti	$\odot$	Libya	$\odot$	Saint Martin
Åland Islands	0	Dominica	0	Liechtenstein	$\bigcirc$	Saint Pierre and
						Miquelon
Albania	0	Dominican	0	Lithuania	$\bigcirc$	Saint Vincent
		Republic				and the
						Grenadines
Algeria	0	Ecuador	0	Luxembourg	0	Samoa
American Samoa	0	Egypt	۲	Macau	0	San Marino
Andorra	0	El Salvador	۲	Madagascar	۲	São Tomé and
						Príncipe
Angola	$\bigcirc$	Equatorial Guinea	a	Malawi	$\bigcirc$	Saudi Arabia
Anguilla	$\bigcirc$	Eritrea	$\bigcirc$	Malaysia	$\bigcirc$	Senegal
Antarctica	$\bigcirc$	Estonia	$\bigcirc$	Maldives	$\bigcirc$	Serbia
Antigua and	$\bigcirc$	Eswatini	۲	Mali	$\bigcirc$	Seychelles
Barbuda						
Argentina	۲	Ethiopia	$\bigcirc$	Malta	$\bigcirc$	Sierra Leone
Armenia	۲	Falkland Islands	$\bigcirc$	Marshall Islands	$\bigcirc$	Singapore
Aruba	۲	Faroe Islands	$\bigcirc$	Martinique	$\bigcirc$	Sint Maarten
Australia	$\bigcirc$	Fiji	۲	Mauritania	$\bigcirc$	Slovakia
Austria	0	Finland	$\bigcirc$	Mauritius	$\bigcirc$	Slovenia
Azerbaijan	0	France	$\bigcirc$	Mayotte	$\bigcirc$	Solomon Islands
Bahamas	$\bigcirc$	French Guiana	$\bigcirc$	Mexico	$\bigcirc$	Somalia
Bahrain	۲	French Polynesia	$\bigcirc$	Micronesia	$\bigcirc$	South Africa
Bangladesh	$\bigcirc$	French Southern	$\bigcirc$	Moldova	$\bigcirc$	South Georgia
		and Antarctic				and the South
		Lands				Sandwich
						Islands
Barbados	0	Gabon	$\bigcirc$	Monaco	$\bigcirc$	South Korea
Belarus	$\bigcirc$	Georgia	$\bigcirc$	Mongolia	$\bigcirc$	South Sudan
Belgium	$\bigcirc$	Germany	$\bigcirc$	Montenegro	$\bigcirc$	Spain
Belize	۲	Ghana	$\bigcirc$	Montserrat	$\bigcirc$	Sri Lanka
Benin	۲	Gibraltar	$\bigcirc$	Morocco	$\bigcirc$	Sudan
Bermuda	۲	Greece	$\bigcirc$	Mozambique	$\bigcirc$	Suriname
$\odot$	۲		$\bigcirc$	•	$\bigcirc$	

Bhutan	Greenland	Myanm	ar/Burma	Svalbard and Jan Mayen
Bolivia	Grenada	Namibia	a 💿	Sweden
Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba	© Guadeloupe	Nauru	0	Switzerland
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Guam	Nepal	۲	Syria
Botswana	Guatemala	Netherlage	ands 📃 🔍	Taiwan
Bouvet Island	Guernsey	New Ca	aledonia 🔍 🔍	Tajikistan
Brazil	Guinea	New Ze	aland 🔍 🔍	Tanzania
British Indian	Guinea-Bissau	Nicarag	jua 💿	Thailand
Ocean Territory				
British Virgin Islands	Guyana	Niger	0	The Gambia
Brunei	Haiti	Nigeria	0	Timor-Leste
Bulgaria	Heard Island and	d <sup>©</sup> Niue	0	Тодо
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Burundi	Hong Kong	Norther Mariana	n <sup>©</sup> a Islands	Tonga
Cambodia	Hungary	North K	orea 💿	Trinidad and Tobago
Cameroon	Iceland	North M	Iacedonia <sup>©</sup>	Tunisia
Canada	India	Norway	0	Turkey
Cape Verde	Indonesia	Oman	0	Turkmenistan
Cayman Islands	Iran	Pakista	n 🔍	Turks and
				Caicos Islands
Central African Republic	Iraq	Palau	0	Tuvalu
Chad	Ireland	Palestir	າຍ 💿	Uganda
Chile	Isle of Man	Panama	a 💿	Ukraine
China	Israel	Papua I	New 💿	United Arab
		Guinea		Emirates
Christmas Island	Italy	Paragu	ay 💿	United Kingdom
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Clipperton Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Jamaica <sup>©</sup> Japan	Peru United States <ul> <li>Philippines</li> <li>United States</li> <li>Minor Outlying</li> <li>Islands</li> </ul>
Colombia	Jersey	Pitcairn Islands Uruguay
Comoros	Jordan	Poland Output US Virgin Islands
Congo	Kazakhstan	Portugal Uzbekistan
Cook Islands	Kenya	Puerto Rico Vanuatu
Costa Rica	Kiribati	Qatar Vatican City
Côte d'Ivoire	Kosovo	Réunion Venezuela
Croatia	Kuwait	Romania Vietnam
Cuba	Kyrgyzstan	Russia Wallis and
		Futuna
Curaçao	Laos	Rwanda Western Sahara
Cyprus	Latvia	Saint Barthélemy Semen
Czechia	Lebanon	Saint Helena Zambia
		Ascension and
		Tristan da Cunha
Democratic	Lesotho	Saint Kitts and Zimbabwe
Republic of the		Nevis
Congo		
Denmark	Liberia	Saint Lucia

\*What type of organisation are you representing?

- Primary producers of food and feed
- Processors of food and feed
- Distribution of food and feed
- Retail of food and feed
- Restaurant/catering services
- Traders (including imports/exports) of food and feed
- Fertilisers
- Plant protection products
- Seeds and propagating material
- Veterinary medicinal products
- Animal by-products

۲

Food contact materials

- Other input providers
- Financial actors
- Knowledge providers
- Advisors
- Other business operator [please specify]

\* What is the geographic scope of your business / members' markets?

- Local/regional
- Single EU Member State/ EEA country
- Multiple Member States (including EEA countries) / Pan-EU
- International
- Not applicable

\* Which agricultural/food/beverage product groups is your business active in/ does your organisation represent? Please select all that apply

- Meat and meat products
- Fish, seafood and aquaculture products
- Fresh fruit and vegetable
- Fruit and vegetable preparations
- Oil/fats and spreadable fats
- Milk/dairy products
- Bread and bakery ware
- Cereal and cereal products including breakfast cereals
- Pasta
- Confectionary
- Ready meals, soups, sandwiches
- Vegetable protein-based products
- Soft drinks
- Other non-alcoholic beverages
- Wine or aromatised wines
- Beers
- Spirit drinks
- Other alcoholic beverages
- Food ingredients

Cellular agriculture

- Other food products
- Not applicable

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. Fo r the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association, 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published. Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

## Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

# Anonymous

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

# Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

I agree with the personal data protection provisions

# Questionnaire

# 1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Do not know	Do not take position
* The existing EU food system is not sustainable in the long term	0	0	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>There is a strong interplay and interdependence between the environmental, social (including health and nutrition) and economic dimensions of sustainability</li> </ul>	0	0	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Sustainability is fundamental for food security and for the resilience of the food system in the long term</li> </ul>	0	۲	0	0	0	0	0
<ul> <li>Consumers do not have sufficient information on the sustainability of foods</li> </ul>	0	۲	0	0	0	0	0
<ul> <li>The current food system is not ready to meet future challenges, e.</li> <li>g. climate change, preserving natural resources and reversing biodiversity loss</li> </ul>	0	0	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>In order to be successful, food systems sustainability must be ensured both in the EU and at global level</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲	0	0	۲

2. To foster the transition to sustainable food systems, how important (or impactful) are the actions of the actors listed below:

	Very important	Somewhat important	Neither important nor unimportant	Rather not important	Not important at all	Do not know	Do not take position
* Consumers	0	۲	O	0	0	0	0
<ul> <li>Primary producers of animal products (e.g. livestock farmers)</li> </ul>	O	0	©	O	0	0	۲
* Fishers	0	0	0	0	0	0	۲
* Aquaculture producers	0	0	O	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Primary producers of crops for food and feed (e. g. farmers)</li> </ul>	0	۲	©	0	O	۲	0
* Food/feed manufacturers	0	0	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Traders (of food commodities or food/feed) importing from 3rd countries</li> </ul>	©	0	۲	O	0	۲	0
<ul> <li>Traders (of food commodities or food/feed) exporting to 3rd countries</li> </ul>	O	0	۲	O	0	۲	0
* Retailers of food/feed	0	0	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Hospitality and food services, including restaurants and caterers</li> </ul>	0	0	©	0	O	۲	۲
<ul> <li>Business operators active in the area of plant protection products</li> </ul>	0	O	0	0	O	۲	۲
<ul> <li>Business operators active in the area of fertilizers</li> </ul>	0	0	©	0	O	۲	۲
*							

Business operators active in the area of seeds and plant propagating material						0	۲
* Business operators active in the area of food contact materials	0	0	0	0	O	0	۲
<ul> <li>Business operators active in the area of veterinary medicinal products</li> </ul>	0	0	0	0	O	0	۲
* Business operators active in biotechnology relating to the food system	0	0	0	0	O	0	۲
* EU institutions	0	0	0	0	0	0	۲
* National governments	0	0	0	0	0	0	۲
* Regional governments	0	۲	0	۲	۲	0	۲
* Cities, local authorities	0	0	0	0	0	$\odot$	۲
* Educational system	0	۲	0	۲	۲	0	۲
* Non-governmental organisations	0	۲	0	۲	0	0	۲
* Investors, banks or financial institutions	0	0	0	0	0	$\odot$	۲
* Knowledge providers, advisors, research and innovation	0	0	0	0	0	0	۲
* Other category: [please specify]	0	O	0	0	0	O	۲

3. How easy is it, in your assessment, for the following actors of the food system to make sustainable choices:

	Very difficult	Difficult	Relatively easy	Very easy	Do not know	Do not take position
* Consumers	0	0	0	0	۲	۲
<ul> <li>Primary producers of animal products (e.g. livestock farmers)</li> </ul>	0	۲	0	0	0	۲
* Fishers and aquaculture producers	0	0	0	0	۲	۲
<ul> <li>Primary producers of crops for food and feed (e.g. farmers)</li> </ul>	0	۲	O	0	0	0
* Food/feed manufacturers	0	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Traders (of agricultural commodities or food/feed) , including importers /exporters, wholesalers</li> </ul>	O	۲	0	0	0	0
* Retailers of food/feed	0	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Hospitality and food services, including restaurants and caterers</li> </ul>	O	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Business operators active in the area of plant protection products</li> </ul>	0	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Business operators active in the area of fertilizers</li> </ul>	O	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Business operators active in the area of seeds and plant propagating material</li> </ul>	O	O	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Business operators active in the area of food contact materials</li> </ul>	O	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Business operators active in the area of veterinary medicinal products</li> </ul>	0	O	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Business operators active in biotechnology relating to the food system</li> </ul>	O	O	0	0	0	۲
* EU institutions	0	0	0	0	0	۲
* National governments	0	0	0	0	0	۲
* Regional governments	0	0	0	0	0	۲

* Cities, local authorities	$\odot$	$\odot$	O	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	۲
Educational system	0	0	0	0	0	۲
* Non-governmental organisations	0	0	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Investors, banks or financial institutions</li> </ul>	0	O	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Knowledge providers, advisors, research and innovation</li> </ul>	O	O	0	0	0	۲
* Other category: [please specify]	0	0	0	0	0	۲

### Optional: please justify your answer briefly

1000 character(s) maximum

4. To what extent do the following factors prevent food system actors from making sustainable choices in the production/processing/distribution/consumption of food products:

	To a high extent	To some extent	To no extent	Do not know	Do not take position
<ul> <li>Long-term/real costs and impacts of food are not reflected in the price and cost of food</li> </ul>	۲	0	0	0	0
<ul> <li>Food system actors', including consumers', choices are based mainly on short-term costs</li> </ul>	۲	۲	۲	۲	۲
* Increasing competition on global markets	0	۲	0	0	0
<ul> <li>No systematic integration of sustainability in the operations of food system actors</li> </ul>	۲	۲	۲	۲	۲
<ul> <li>Lack of common understanding of sustainability among food system actors in the EU single market</li> </ul>	۲	۲	۲	۲	0
<ul> <li>Lack of common understanding among food system actors at global level in relation to sustainability</li> </ul>	0	۲	۲	۲	0
<ul> <li>Lack of transparency on/information about the sustainability of a product or its production /distribution process in the EU market</li> </ul>	O	۲	O	0	O
<ul> <li>Lack of transparency/information about the sustainability of a product or its production process at global level</li> </ul>	O	۲	O	0	O
<ul> <li>Marketing and advertising practices</li> </ul>	0	۲	0	0	0
<ul> <li>Unbalance of market power in the food system, weakening the ability of certain actors (e.g. farmers) to invest in more sustainable practices.</li> </ul>	O	۲	O	0	O

<ul> <li>* Behavioural biases and habits of food system actors, including consumers</li> </ul>	0	۲			
<ul> <li>Food environments which predispose to unsustainable choices by consumers</li> </ul>	0	0	۲	0	0
<ul> <li>The regulatory framework (lack of systematic sustainability objectives, definitions etc.)</li> </ul>	0	۲	0	0	0
<ul> <li>* Lack of targeted incentives to produce sustainable food (e.g. financial, R&amp;I)</li> </ul>	0	۲	0	0	0
<ul> <li>Insufficient availability of/accessibility to sustainable processes/products/services</li> </ul>	۲	0	0	0	0
* Existence of multiple private standards	0	۲	0	0	0
* Lack of international standards on sustainability	0	۲	0	0	0
<ul> <li>Lack of proper education, training, advisory services to assist food systems actors in the transition to sustainable food systems.</li> </ul>	۲	0	O	O	O
<ul> <li>Lack of investment in / knowledge/ access to innovation support measures</li> </ul>	۲	۲	0		۲
<ul> <li>Insufficient research on food systems interdependencies, co-benefits and trade-offs of possible actions</li> </ul>	۲	O	O	O	O
* Other (please specify):	0	0	0	0	۲

#### Optional: If you wish, please briefly justify your answer

1000 character(s) maximum

# \*5. In your direct experience, what are the most important obstacles in the transition to more sustainable practices?

4000 character(s) maximum

- Lack of comprehensive research (long-term), investment both within the EU and internationally, limited education, outreach and extension services that ensure there is a common understanding of sustainability from the producer all the way through the value chain.
- Lack of harmonised, practical framework for chains to adopt and utilise as part of the transition towards sustainability.
- Financial / economic sustainability not sufficiently factored in to existing approaches (particularly at producer level).
- Costs of transitioning towards compliance (EU methodology, etc) are currently onerous. SMEs in particular, face a significant burden in relation to bureaucracy / compliance.

6. To what extent do you consider that the following levels of government promote sustainable

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food systems in their policies?
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	Not at all	Insufficiently	Sufficiently	Too much	Do not know
* EU	0	0	۲	0	0
* National	0	0	0	0	۲
* Regional	0	0	0	0	۲
* Local	0	0	0	0	۲

7. Which level of government can best accelerate the transition to a sustainable food system?

(tick all that apply)

	No role	Limited role	Important role
* Global (international organisations)	0	0	۲
* EU	0	۲	0
* National	0	۲	0
* Regional	0	۲	0
* Local	0	۲	0

8. To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Do not know	Do not take position
* To encourage and accelerate the transition to a sustainable EU food system, it is necessary to establish EU-wide general objectives, principles and definitions relevant for the sustainability of the food system	۲	0	O	0	O	0	O
<ul> <li>At EU and national level competent authorities should ensure that sustainability is mainstreamed in all food related policies</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲	0	0	0
* EU trade policy, in particular, should be consistent with the objectives of the transition to a sustainable EU food system	0	0	۲	0	0	0	0
* Business operators active in the food system should have mechanisms in place to ensure that operations/processes and/or products within the businesses under their control satisfy any sustainability-related requirements of EU law	0	0	۲	0	0	0	0
* Sustainability objectives for the EU food system should be translated into specific requirements by sector where not available	0	0	0	۲	0	۲	0
* A sustainability analysis in the form of a global analysis of the sustainability profile of a product or operations is needed to accelerate the transition to sustainable food systems forward	0	0	0	۲	0	0	O
<ul> <li>Business operators of different sizes should have different levels of responsibility</li> </ul>	۲	0	0	۲	0	0	0
* Best practices contributing to achieving a sustainable EU food system should be shared across the EU and nationally	O	۲	۲	O	O	۲	0

# Optional: If you wish, please briefly justify your answer

1000 character(s) maximum

- All definitions, objectives, etc must be clear, logical, and convincing.

- Targets must not be unrealistic – at the very minimum, a feasibility evaluation must be carried out for any legally binding targets.

- The cost of mechanisms for compliance with EU legislations (where there is no op-out) must be factored and accounted for.

- There should be recognition of regional differences in relation to the sustainability of products as well as production methods (e.g. almonds produced in California, compared to Australia, and compared to Spain)

- More clarity is needed on how the sharing of best practices can work and will be supported.

9. How important would you consider that the activity of a food system actor (to be considered as covering their internal operations /processes and/or products, within their businesses and under their control) should not significantly harm the following aspects:

	Very important	Important	Not very important	Not at all important	Do not know	Do not take position
* Climate change mitigation (e.g. reduction of greenhouse gas emission)	0	۲	۲	0	۲	0
<ul> <li>Climate change adaptation (e.g. improvement of irrigation efficiency)</li> </ul>	0	۲	۲	0	۲	0
<ul> <li>The sustainable use and protection of land</li> </ul>	0	۲	۲	0	۲	0
* The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources	0	0	0	۲	۲	0
<ul> <li>The transition to a circular economy ("reduce, reuse, recycle")</li> </ul>	0	0	0	0	۲	0
<ul> <li>Pollution prevention and control of air, water and soil</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲	۲	0
<ul> <li>Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems</li> </ul>	0	۲	0	۲	۲	0
* Environmental protection (Minimise or improve all environmental aspects linked to the food system in a holistic way)	0	O	O	O	۲	$\bigcirc$
<ul> <li>Prevention of slavery and forced labour</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲	۲	0
<ul> <li>Fair and just working conditions</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲	۲	0
<ul> <li>Fair and just remuneration of primary producers (farmers and fishers)</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲	۲	۲
<ul> <li>Prevention of child labour and protection of young people at work</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲	۲	0
<ul> <li>Food safety and risks to human health</li> </ul>	0	0	0	0	۲	۲
<ul> <li>Availability of food supplies</li> </ul>	0	0	0	0	۲	0
<ul> <li>Affordability of sustainable food</li> </ul>	0	0	0	0	۲	0

* Accessibility of sustainable food	$\odot$	O	0		۲	$\odot$
Cultural/culinary habits	0	0	0	0	۲	0
* Quality nutrition, to promote human health	0	0	0	0	۲	0
* Animal welfare	0	0	0	0	۲	0
* Animal and plant health	0	0	0	0	۲	0
* Impact on developing countries	0	0	0	0	۲	0
* Other [ please specify ]	0	0	0	0	۲	0

10. At what level does the transition to sustainable food systems need to take place? (tick all that apply)

	Very important	Important	Not very important	Not at all important	Do not know	Do not take position
* Global	O	0	0	0	0	۲
* EU	O	0	0	0	0	۲
* National	0	0	0	0	0	۲
* Regional	0	0	0	0	0	۲
* Local	0	0	0	0	0	۲

#### \*11. How do you see your role in the transition to sustainable food system?

#### 1000 character(s) maximum

FRUCOM and its members are participating and supporting the transition to a sustainable food system in various ways.

FRUCOM has for the last few years through its Sustainability Working Group organised many meetings with academic and scientific experts, industry representatives, and regulators and international bodies, on various sustainability related topics such as the PEF, water and carbon footprints, due diligence, the Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy, among others. These meetings serve to sensitise members to the critical developments and knowledge for each issue, and foster exchanges of views and best practices. A similar working group in Nutrition has also been established.

Additionally, FRUCOM has carried out risk assessments on the key products of its members, which look at the social, political and environmental risks of each product, the best practices in the industry to address these risks and the specific actions of FRUCOM members in counteracting these risks.

\* 12. Are you involved in any platform/dialogue group/initiative that aims to contribute to sustainable food systems?

- Yes
- No
- 13. If yes: at what level is it active?
  - International
  - 🔽 EU
  - National
  - Regional
  - Local

Optional: Please elaborate on its activity and your role in it

1000 character(s) maximum

FRUCOM is a member, and initiated the establishment of the Sustainability Agri-food chain Roundtable

14. What role do you see for platforms/dialogue groups/initiatives in the transition to and governance of a sustainable food system?

2500 character(s) maximum

For the purpose of questions 15, 16 and 17 of this questionnaire, sustainability information to consumers (or sustainability labelling) covers, as specified in the Farm to Fork Strategy, information on the nutritional, climate/environmental and social aspects of food products. Social aspects include amongst others animal welfare and socio-economic aspects.

\*15. On which of the below aspects of sustainability, should consumers receive information to empower them to make sustainable food choices

(please select and rank in order of importance, the first being the most important and the last being the less important)

Use drag&drop or the up/down buttons to change the order or accept the initial order.

	Environment
#	Climate
	Animal welfare
	Fair and just remuneration of producers
	Fair and just working conditions
	Nutrition
	Other aspects (please specify)

#### If "other aspects", please specify

# 16. To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Do not know	Do not take position
* Consumers pay more and more attention to the sustainability of the food they buy	0	۲	0	O	0	۲	۲
<ul> <li>Sustainability information currently provided to consumers on food products is reliable</li> </ul>	0	O	۲	O	0		۲
<ul> <li>Sustainability information currently provided to consumers on food products is clear and easy to understand</li> </ul>	0	0	۲	0	0	0	0
<ul> <li>Sustainability information currently provided on food products allows consumers to choose sustainable food products</li> </ul>	0	۲	0	0	0	0	0
<ul> <li>The multiplicity of sustainability labels on food products are confusing for consumers</li> </ul>	0	۲	0	۲	0	0	0
* Providing information to consumers about the sustainability of the food they buy is a useful tool and it will accelerate the transition to a sustainable food system	0	0	۲	0	0	0	O
<ul> <li>Reliable and evidence-based sustainability labelling of food products would also help incentivising operators to supply more sustainable products</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>Food businesses should be subject to the same rules on sustainability information to consumers across the entire EU</li> </ul>	۲	O	O	O	O	O	0
<ul> <li>A dedicated sustainability label which allows comparing the sustainability of food products would help consumers to make sustainable food choices</li> </ul>	0	©	۲	ø	0	O	O

- \* 17. If an EU sustainability label was established:
- (please select only one answer)
  - Such a label should be a voluntary label identifying only sustainable food products
  - Such a label should be a voluntary label- identifying sustainable and nonsustainable food products
  - Such a label should be a mandatory label informing on the sustainability of all EU food products
  - Such a label should be a mandatory label informing on the sustainability of all EU and imported food products
  - A EU sustainability label is not necessary / desirable
  - Don't know
  - Other (please specify)

If "other", please specify:

Such a label should be a voluntary label, with transparent and specific information on the methodology or methodologies used.

\* 18. To what extent should schools and public institutions consider sustainability when purchasing food?

- None
- Limited
- Moderate
- Great
- Do not know
- No opinion

19. If "moderate" or "great", how important do you think such an action would be for the transition to sustainable food system..?

- Very important/impactful
- Moderately important/impactful
- Neutral
- Only with a limited importance impact
- Not important/impactful at all
- I do not know

۲

I do not take position

20. In relation to **public procurement of food served in schools and public institutions**, to what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Do not know	Do not take position
* The meals should be enjoyable and tasty	۲	0	0	0	0	0	0
* The meals should be accessible to all, at an affordable price	۲	0	0	0	۲	0	0
* Plant based alternatives should be offered more frequently	۲	۲	0	0	۲	0	0
* Food produced locally should be offered more frequently	0	0	۲	0	۲	0	0
<ul> <li>Nutritionally well balanced meals (e.g. alternatives lower in sugars and fats) should be offered more frequently</li> </ul>	۲	O	O	O	0	۲	۲
<ul> <li>More fruits and vegetables should be offered</li> </ul>	۲	0	0	0	0	0	0
<ul> <li>Food produced from traditional and locally adapted varieties, in particular for fruit and vegetables, should be offered more frequently</li> </ul>	0	©	۲	0	0	0	O
<ul> <li>Production of food of animal origin should respect high animal welfare standards</li> </ul>	0	۲	O	O	O	۲	۲
* Organic meals/ingredients should be offered more frequently	0	۲	0	0	0	0	0
<ul> <li>The social impact of the meals offered (e.g. human rights , workers rights) should be taken into account in procurement</li> </ul>	0	۲	O	O	O	۲	۲
<ul> <li>The environmental impact of the meals offered should be taken into account in procurement</li> </ul>	0	۲	O	O	O	۲	۲
<ul> <li>The nutritional quality of meals offered should be taken into account in procurement</li> </ul>	۲	O	O	O	O	۲	۲

* Food services companies that respect social values beyond the sectoral collective agreements should be favoured in procurement	0	۲	0	0	0	0	0
* The school has an educational role to play concerning the sustainability of food	۲	0	0	0	0	0	0
<ul> <li>Information about the nutritional composition, of the meals served should be provided in the canteens of public institutions</li> </ul>	۲	0	0	0	0	0	0
<ul> <li>Information about the environmental impact of the meals served should be provided in the canteens of public institutions</li> </ul>	O	۲	0	0	0	0	O
<ul> <li>Information about the social impact of the meals served should be provided in the canteens of public institutions.</li> </ul>	O	۲	0	0	0	0	0
<ul> <li>Information about the animal welfare standards respected should be provided in the canteens of public institutions</li> </ul>	0	۲	0	۲	0	0	0

# 21. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Do not know	Do not take position
* Food composition targets for sugars, salt, and saturated fat for all food categories should be set	0	0	۲	O	0	0	0
* Targets for added sugars, salt and saturated fat for processed and ultra-processed foods and meals should be set	0	0	۲	0	0	0	O
* When designing policies that impact food prices (such as subsidy schemes and taxation), competent authorities should consider how these policies can encourage a higher consumption of whole grain cereals, vegetables, fruits,legumes and nuts, and a lower consumption of red meat and foods high in sugars, salt, and saturated fat	©	0	۲	0	©	0	0

# 22. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Do not know	Do not take position
* The marketing, advertising and sales promotion, including online, of foods high in saturated fat, salt or sugars to children should be restricted	0	0	۲	0	0	0	©
* Marketing techniques should be restricted unless the products they relate to are of high nutritional standard (e.g. low in saturated fat, salt or sugars)	0	0	۲	0	0	0	0
<ul> <li>* Sponsorship activities that result in advertising during big events (e. g. sports events) should be restricted for products high in saturated fat, salt or sugars</li> </ul>	0	0	۲	0	0	0	۲
* The merchandising of foods (i.e. the way food products are presented in retail outlets) should promote healthier food choices	0	0	۲	0	0	0	O

23. What incentives would be most effective in stimulating sustainable production/processing /distribution/consumption methods and techniques?

1000 character(s) maximum

Please refer to the position paper.

\* 24. Do food system actors have sufficient knowledge and skills for the transition to sustainable food systems?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know
- I do not take position

\* 25. Are there food system actors that are better prepared for the transition than others?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know
- I do not take position

Thank you very much for taking the time to respond to this questionnaire!

# Document upload

Please feel free to upload a concise document, such as a position paper.

The uploaded document will be published alongside your response to the questionnaire which is the essential input to this public consultation. The document is optional and serves as additional background reading to better understand your position.

#### Please upload your file

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