

# The **Good Food Nation** Bill

ORFC 2018

**#GoodFoodNation**

**@NourishScotland**



# A bit about Nourish Scotland



- Nourish Scotland works for a fairer, healthier and more sustainable food system
- We take a **rights-based approach**, and work across poverty, health, food worker rights, access to land, and climate change
- We work alongside people in communities, other NGOs, scientists, farmers and trade unions



# What's the problem with **food** in Scotland?

- **Food poverty:** one child in 10 living with food insecurity
- **Health:** 2/3rds of Scots overweight, and 5% with Type 2 diabetes
- **Fairness:** many low paid, zero hours jobs in food. Supply chain dominated by a few companies
- **Environment:** 22% greenhouse gas emissions are from agriculture, of which a third are from Nr. Pesticide use is increasing and wildlife on farms has declined. Soil degradation in some catchments. Salmon industry under pressure. Food waste reduction targets but pace of change too slow. Tree planting targets missed
- **Economy:** Exports doing well, but many farms are just about managing, even with the CAP subsidy. Gaps in processing capacity. Major food businesses HQs not in Scotland.

# The Good Food Nation Bill



- Scheduled for stage 1 January 2019, government bill with cross-party support
- Will read across agriculture, social justice, human rights, health, environment, education, procurement and food waste
- Consultation process started
- Civil society working together: Scottish Food Coalition (Nourish, RSPB, CRUK, Unite, Unison, CIWF, Obesity Action Scotland, FRiED, Soil Association, allotments, community gardens, and many more)

# Current proposals

- A 'framework' law reading across consumption and production
- Linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the national performance framework
- Incorporating the right to food
- Statement of 'food rights and responsibilities'
- Maybe targets on the face of the bill – eg healthy weight
- New independent body to report on and chase progress
- New duties on public bodies and food businesses to publish and report on good food policies
- Specific measures

# Framework legislation



- Sets a direction of travel
- Statement of purpose/philosophy on the face of the Bill
- The 'spirit' of the Bill informs future challenges and interpretation in law
- Example: both Land Reform Acts (2003 and 2016), Climate Change Act 2009, Food Safety Act 1990
- Requires read-across of food issues into other policies/legislation – eg N budget and organic targets in climate bill, food environment powers in planning bill

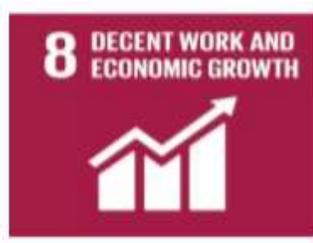


# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



- Scotland committed to the Goals in September 2015



# Rights-based approach



- The International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights sets out in Article 11 that food should be:
- **Accessible:** Both financially and geographically;
- **Adequate:** Meeting dietary need, being free from harmful chemicals, and being culturally appropriate – including in how we access it;
- **Available:** Through access to land and other resources, processing distribution and marketing, and the sustainability of the food system into the future

This places a duty on government to align policies on food, land and social security with progressive realisation of this right.

# Food rights & responsibilities statement



- Sets out expectations for individuals, public bodies, farmers, government and business
- Guides future policy
- Sits alongside the Bill
- A small number of key principles
- Like the Land Rights and Responsibilities statement

# Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement (Scottish Government 2017)



1. The overall framework of land rights, responsibilities and public policies **should promote, fulfil and respect relevant human rights in relation to land**, contribute to public interest and wellbeing, and balance public and private interests. The framework should support sustainable economic development, **protect and enhance the environment, help achieve social justice and build a fairer society**.
2. There should be a more diverse pattern of land ownership and tenure, with **more opportunities for citizens to own, lease and have access to land**.
3. More local communities should have the opportunity to **own, lease or use buildings and land which can contribute to their community's wellbeing and future development**.

# Duties & powers of statutory body



- Deliver an annual report to the Scottish Parliament, tracking progress against targets and principles
- Advise the Scottish Government on relevant policies and proposals
- Promote public engagement with food policy
- Develop codes of practice with stakeholders

# Possible programmatic measures



- Health: restrictions on promotion and advertising of unhealthy food: new levies in addition to sugar tax (eg multiple caterer/retailer levy)
- Waste: new duties for businesses to measure and report, remove rural exemption
- Food insecurity: duty of care on public bodies in relation to ensuring access to good food for vulnerable groups including children.
- Strengthen community food sector.
- Production: new approach to farm support
- Procurement: stronger focus on worker rights, targets for local/organic food
- Animal welfare (specific measures, wider anti-cruelty principle)

# Challenges...



- Genuinely reading across different policy areas, especially connecting consumption and production
- Engaging the mainstream farming community: what's in it for them?
- All the Brexit stuff, esp retaining devolved powers
- Interdepartmental policy tensions
- Lack of current political champion
- Mobilising wider public opinion beyond usual suspects



# Your ideas

Good Food Nation

Pete Ritchie

[pete@nourishscotland.org.uk](mailto:pete@nourishscotland.org.uk)

Summerhall,  
Edinburgh EH9 1PL  
0131 226 1497

[www.nourishscotland.org](http://www.nourishscotland.org)  
@NourishScotland