

The Farm to Fork Strategy – State of Play

10 November 2022

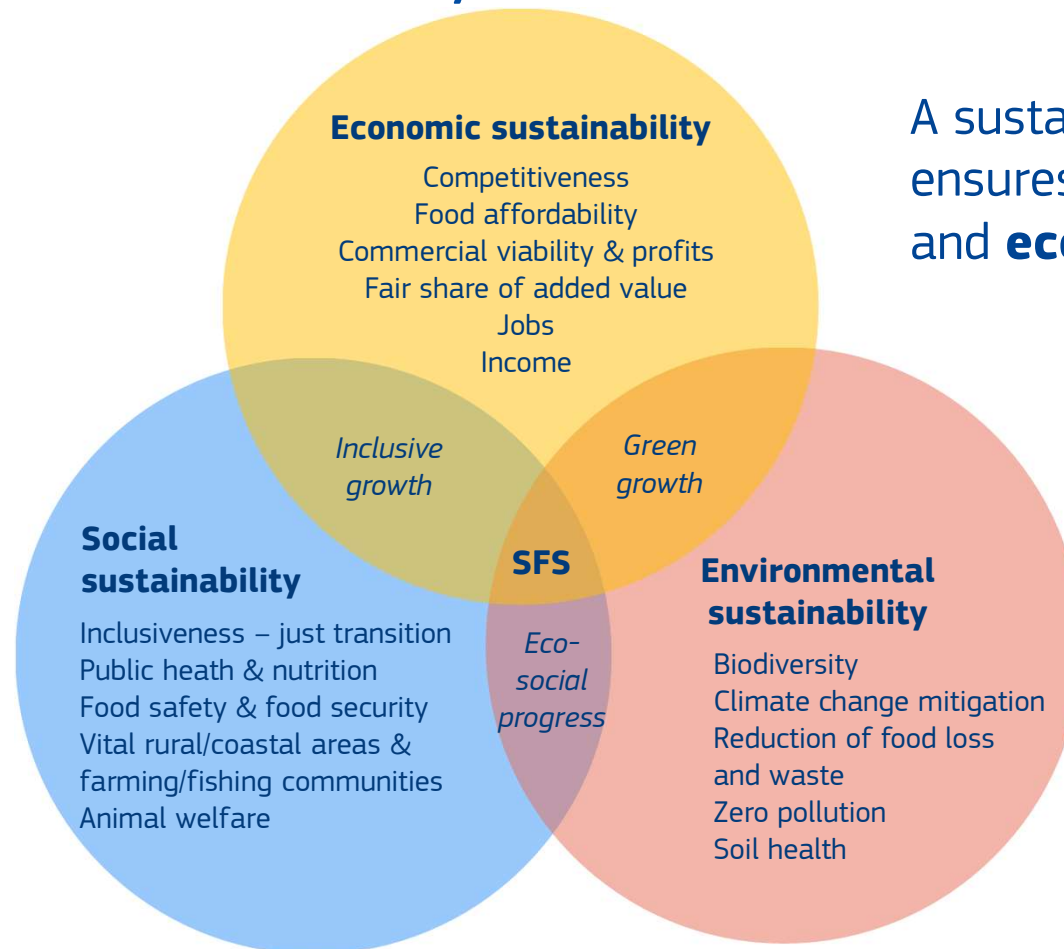
DG SANTE - Farm to Fork

European Union





Sustainable food systems for sustainable societies



A sustainable food system (SFS) ensures **environmental, social** and **economic sustainability**

Source: Adapted from FAO, 2014 and SAM, 2020

Farm to Fork Strategy: overall goals



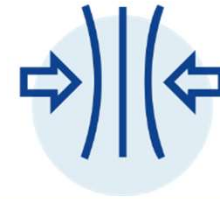
climate
footprint



global
transition



new
opportunities



resilience

Reduce the
**environmental
and climate
footprint** of the
food system

Lead a
global transition
towards competitive
sustainability from
farm to fork

Tap into
**new
opportunities**

Create a **robust
and resilient** food
system

Challenges to the EU food system

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY



Healthier diets
– reduce
overweight



Improve
animal
welfare



Social rights
workers in food
chain



Food
affordability

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



Tackle climate
change



Protect the
environment



Preserve
biodiversity



Reduce food
losses and waste



Circular bio-
based economy

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY



Fairer incomes for
farmers, fishers &
aquaculture producers



Just
transition



New business & job
opportunities

Establish a sustainable food system that:



- **has neutral or positive environmental impact** of food production:
 - preserving and restoring the land and sea-based resources;
 - mitigate climate change and adapt to its impact;
 - reversing the loss of biodiversity;



- **ensures food security and public health:**
 - Access for everyone to sufficient, nutritious, sustainable food;
 - high standards of safety and quality, plant health, animal health and welfare

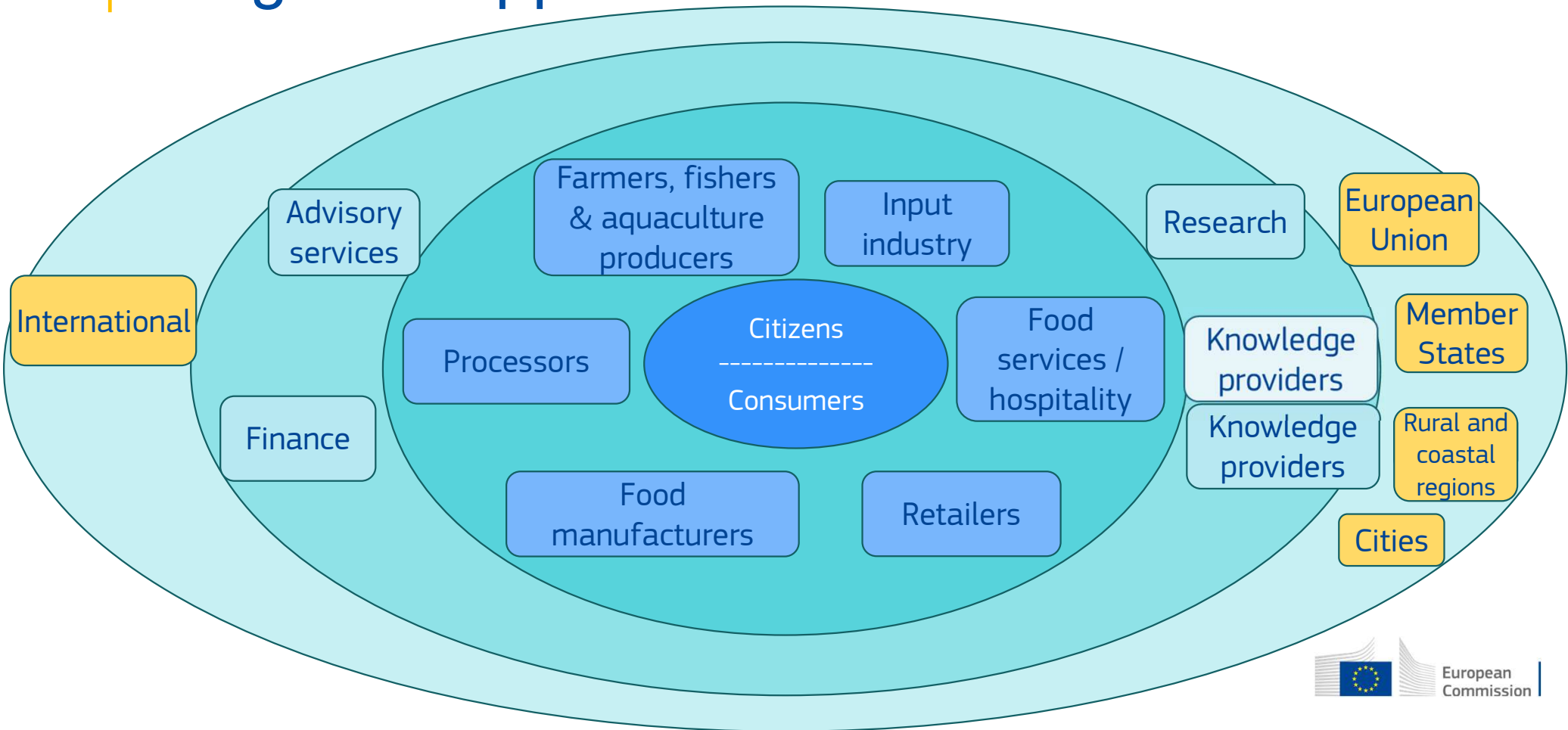


- **preserves the affordability of food**, while (a.o.):
 - generating fairer economic returns & fostering the competitiveness sector
 - promoting fair trade
 - safeguarding occupational health and safety
 - ensuring integrity of the single market



Food security and food safety are cornerstones of our food system, and will never be compromised

Integrated approach from farm to fork needed



Farm to Fork Strategy action plan: 27 actions

New legislative proposals

Revision of current legislation

Non legislative such as Code of conduct, action plans



Adopted initiatives/ Completed actions



Contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**
 - The plan aims to ensure a sufficient and varied supply of safe, nutritious, affordable and sustainable food to citizens at all times.
 - The Commission published its [Communication](#) on the plan on 12 November 2021. It outlines areas for improvement and principles that should be adhered to in times of crisis.
 - To implement those principles, the Commission established the European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism ([EFSCM](#)).
- **Where we are in the process and next steps:**
 - Since its first meeting in March 2022, the EFSCM met once in regular mode and three times in emergency mode (see also [expert group register](#))
 - It regularly gathers in subgroups to implement actions of the action plan (in annex to the [Communication](#))

Adopt recommendations to each Member State addressing the nine specific objectives of the CAP, before submission of CAP strategic plans

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**

- Provide each EU country with tailor-made recommendations, accompanied by a communication, to assist in the drafting of the national CAP Strategic Plans by identifying the key areas on which each EU country should focus.
- Based on an analysis of their agricultural sector and rural areas, to ensure:
 - The achievement of the ten specific CAP objectives
 - The contribution to the Green Deal ambitions and more specifically six Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategy targets.
 - The Commission asked EU countries to determine specific national values for these targets and align their CAP Strategic Plans to them.

- **Where we are in the process:**

- Publication on 18 December 2020:
 - Umbrella communication **COM(2020) 846 + Annex 1 on Green Deal targets**
 - **27 Staff Working Documents (one for each Member State)**
- Assessment of the Member State draft CAP strategic plans (early 2022).

- **Next steps:**

- Approval and monitoring of CAP Strategic plans
- All CAP plans in the process of being formally adopted by the Commission before the end of 2022



EU Code of conduct on responsible food business and marketing practices

- Voluntary initiative that sets out the actions that the actors 'between the farm and the fork', such as food processors, food service operators and retailers, can voluntarily commit to undertake to tangibly improve and communicate their sustainability performance.
- Officially launched on 5 July 2021, with 65 signatories at the time.
- The Code has been steadily growing with **130 signatories today**.
- The first signatories' meeting (December 2021), identified the following priority areas: climate change (the way to net zero), circular economy and packaging, food security and balanced diets.
- Outreach activities are ongoing to attract SMEs.



Sustainable Use of plant protection products Regulation (SUR) proposal

- **Commission proposal adopted on 22 June 2022:**
 - Discussions on going with Ep and Council – co-decision process
- **Post-adoption public feedback on proposal**
 - Approximately 9,000 comments received and 650 supporting documents
 - A summary of the comments will be transmitted by European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council to be considered in the negotiations
 - Main concerns relate to proposed prohibition of all pesticides in sensitive areas, feasibility of reaching the 2030 50% pesticide use and risk reduction targets and administrative burden of new rules for pesticide users and competent authorities
 - NGOs and some citizens also expressed concerns on a lack of ambition in the proposal, highlighted the European Citizens' Initiative Save Bees and Farmers



Ongoing initiatives



Food labelling initiatives: FOPNL, nutrient profiles, origin indication, date marking, labelling of alcoholic beverages

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**

- The revision of the Food Information to Consumers (FIC) Regulation aims to
 - (i) enable consumers to make **informed** and **health-conscious food choices**,
 - (ii) avoid a situation where **nutrition and health claims** would mask the overall nutritional status of a food, which could mislead consumers when trying to make healthy choices,
 - (iii) allow consumers to better identify the **origin of food** and facilitate consumers' informed food choices,
 - (iv) prevent consumers from unnecessarily discarding foods past their 'best before' date by tackling the misunderstanding and misuse of **date marking** (the 'use by' and 'best before' dates), and
 - (v) increase the level of consumer awareness of the content and nutritional composition of **alcoholic beverages**.

- **Where we are in the process:**

- External study launched in August 2021 (9 months)
- Consultation activities:
 - Open Public Consultation : 13 December 2021 to 7 March 2022: 3225 contributions. Factual summary report published [here](#)
 - Targeted survey 14 February 2022 to 18 March 2022: 200 contributions
- Publication of four **JRC reports** on 9 September 2022: https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/jrc-news/evidence-food-information-empowering-consumers-make-healthy-and-sustainable-choices-2022-09-09_en

- **Next steps:**

- Preparation of the legislative proposal and adoption in the coming months.
- Co-decision process to start in 2023 after adoption.

EU-level targets for food waste reduction



- **The initiative in a nutshell:**
 - Strongly involve Member States in food waste prevention
 - Accelerate EU progress towards SDGs 12.3
- **Where we are in the process:**
 - Open public consultation (24 May to 26 August 2022): 731 answers received
 - Targeted surveys and interviews: August and September 2022
 - Baseline data reported by 30 June 2022 ⇒ under validation by EUROSTAT
- **Next steps:**
 - Legislative proposal expected in 2023

Revision of the animal welfare legislation to broaden its scope and ensure a higher level of animal welfare

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**

- Ensure a higher level of animal welfare by aligning the current rules with the latest scientific evidence, broadening their scope and making them easier to enforce, as well as to contribute to the achievement of a more sustainable food system

- **Where we are in the process:**

- Literature review and field study
- Public Consultation : 15th October 2021 to 21st January 2022: ≈ 60 000 contributions. Factual summary report [published](#)
- Evaluation (“fitness check”) of the current legislation concluded in September 2022: results published on the DG SANTE [website](#) on 5 October 2022.

- **Next steps:**

- External studies to be finalised,
- Scientific advice provided by EFSA (on animal transport, pigs, poultry, calves and dairy cows)
- Adoption of legislative proposals in the second half of 2023.

New framework legislation on a Union sustainable food system

OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE:

- *Set the foundations for the **systemic changes** that are needed by all actors of the food system, including policy makers, business operators and consumers to **accelerate the transition to a sustainable EU food system.***

OVERARCHING SCOPE:

- *The FSFS will target the entire EU food system and will address issues relating to sustainability of operations*

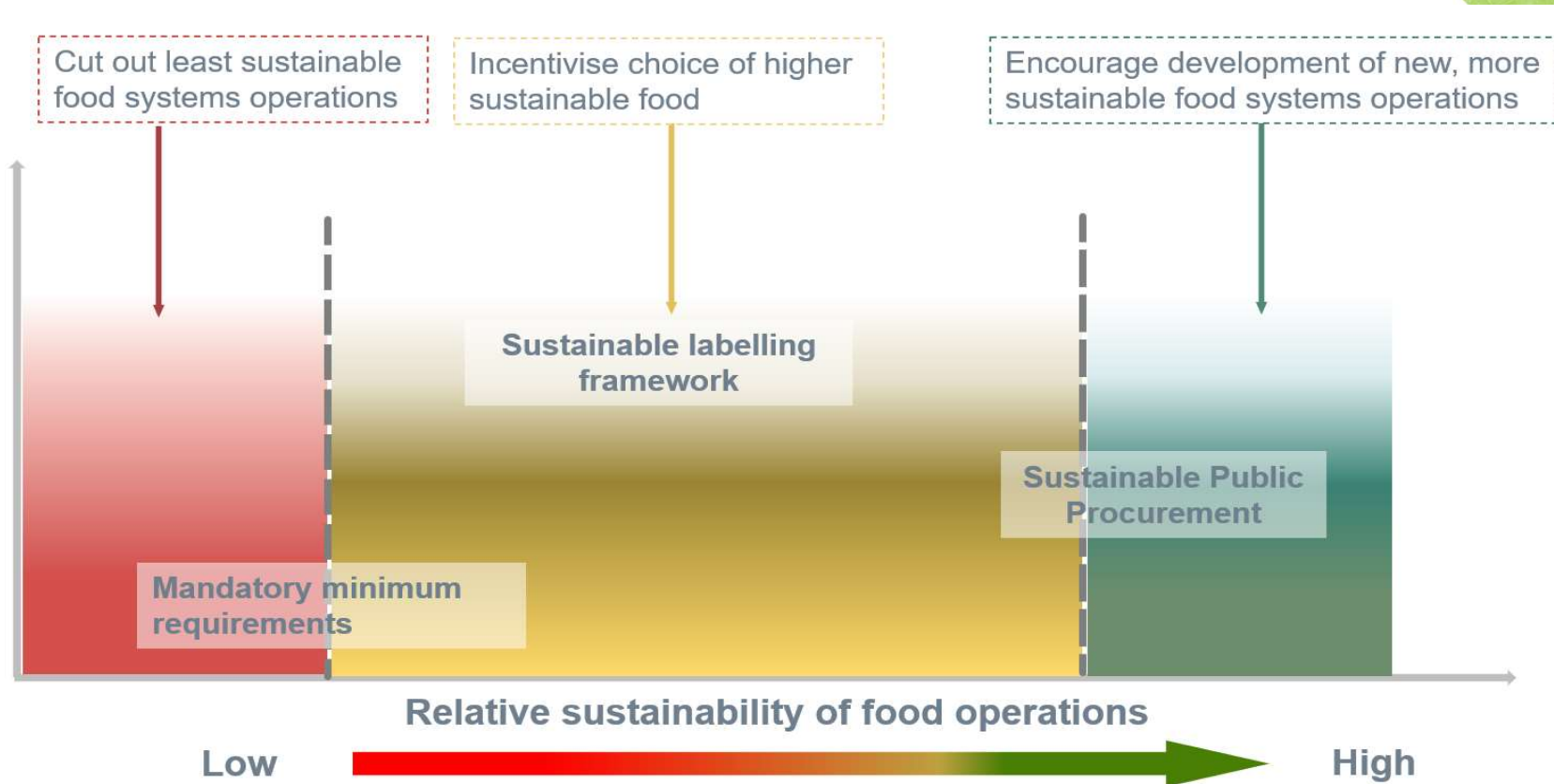


Elements of the legislative initiative

- **Common definitions:** e.g. (food system/ sustainable food system/ food environment/food system actors/sustainable diets)
 - **General objectives** to be pursued vis-à-vis sustainability of the food system in all future Union and national law, anchoring in law the objectives of the F2F communication;
 - **General principles** targeting policy makers: future and existing legislation will be aligned/adapted where relevant to those principles.
 - **Governance** provisions to frame and encourage multilevel engagement
 - 'Favourable **food environment**' provisions
 - **Enforcement** provisions
- The above provisions are necessary to ensure the progressive '**paradigm shift**' to a sustainable food system.



Push and pull measures to be analysed in the IA



Consultation activities for the FSFS

➤ OPEN PUBLIC CONSULTATION:

- 12 weeks of consultation in all EU languages from 28 April 2022 to 21 July 2022
- Total of 2670 responses

➤ WORKSHOPS with EP, EESC, CoR, relevant EU agencies:

- End of May/June and October 2022

➤ TARGETED STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS:

- Organized by SANTE external contractor (Ecorys):
 - Interviews – July/August/September 2022
 - Targeted surveys – July/August/September 2022
 - Stakeholder workshops – September/October 2022
- SME survey running from 31 August to 30 October 2022



Thank you



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