

The Farm to Fork Strategy - State of Play

1 July, 2025

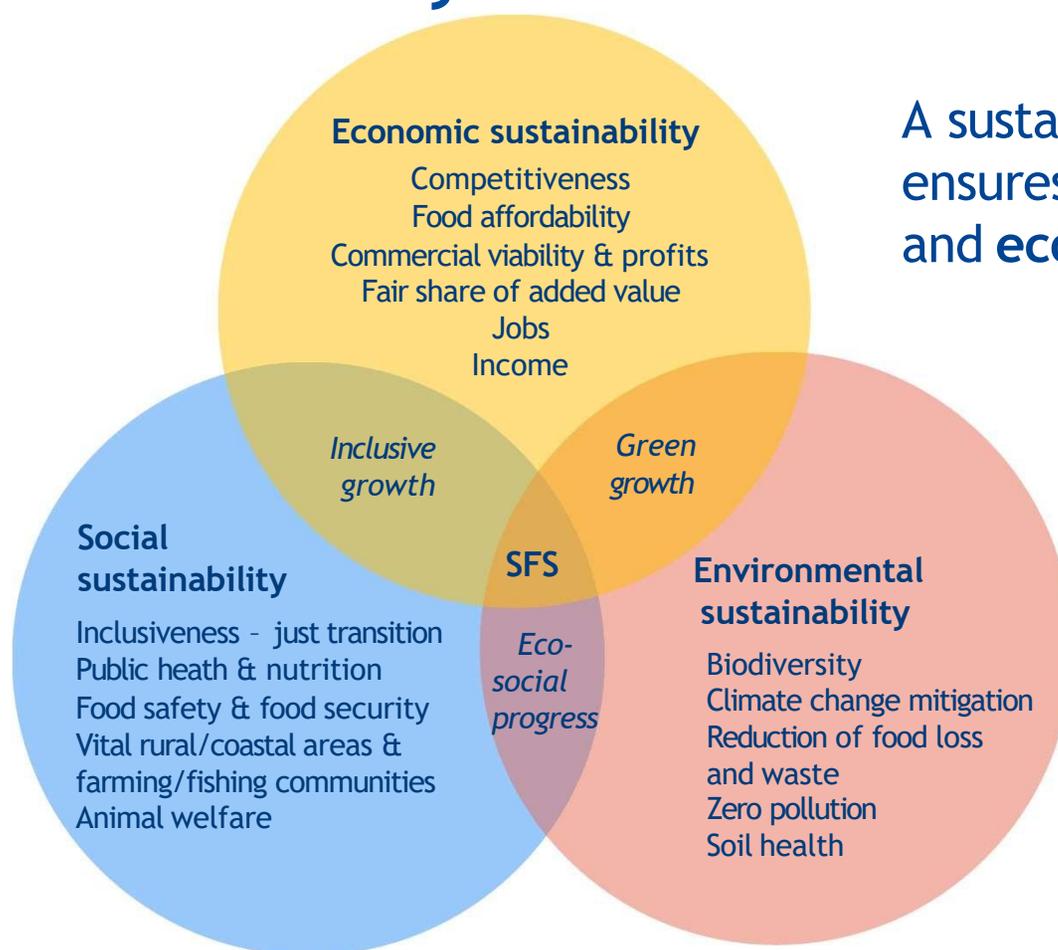
DG SANTE - Farm to Fork

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, 2025

Farm to Fork Strategy: overall goals



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

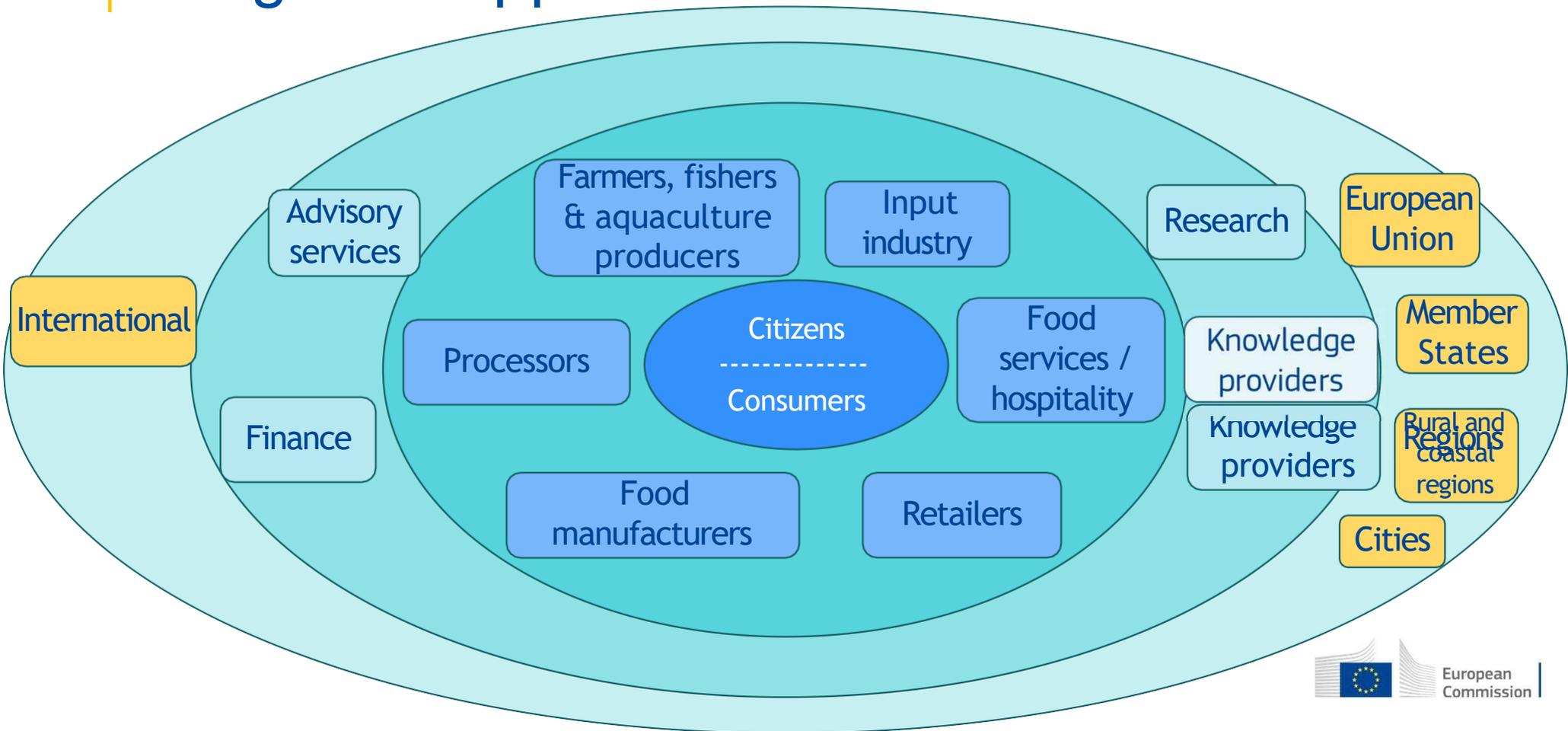


- **preserves the affordability of food**, while (a.o.):
 - generating fairer economic returns & fostering the competitiveness sector
 - promoting fair trade
 - safeguarding occupational health and safety
 - ensuring integrity of the single market



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 of
Current legislation

Revision of Current
legislation

Non legislative such
as Code of conduct,
action plans

The strategy has 27 concrete actions to transform the EU's food system by 2030, including:

- A reduction by 50% of the use and risk of pesticides
- A reduction by at least 20% of the use of fertilizers – including animal manure
- A reduction by 50% in sales of antimicrobials used for farmed animals and aquaculture
- Reaching 25% of agricultural land under organic farming, of which the current level is 8%
- Having a mandatory harmonized EU Front of Pack Labelling (FOPL) in 2 years, however, the strategy does not endorse a certain model. Moving forward, an impact assessment for FOPL and nutrient profile models will be launched to identify the best model.



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

Initiative	Status as of Mid-2025	Next Steps
FOPNL (Nutri-Score etc.)	No legally binding proposal yet; Commission indecisive	Finalize proposal → Co-decision
Nutrient Profiles	Delayed; planned with FOPNL	Published alongside FOPNL
Origin Indication	Under consultation, waiting FIC revision	Adopt under FIC Regulation
Date Marking	Consultation done; proposal awaited	Include with FIC overhaul
Alcohol Labelling	Impact assessed; proposal pending	Add to FIC draft; enforce post-adoption

EU-level targets for food waste reduction



➤ Initiative in a Nutshell:

- As part of the **Revision of the Waste Framework Directive**, the EU is introducing **legally binding national targets** aligned with UN SDG 12.3:
- **10 % food waste reduction in processing and manufacturing**
- **30 % per capita reduction in retail, restaurants, food services, households**
- Baseline measurement based on the **2021–2023** average Targets are geared to **prevent waste**, encourage **reuse/donation**, and drive innovation in **measurement and reporting**.

➤ Where we are in the process:

- **Council General Approach (June 2024)** reached consensus on the original Commission targets
- **Provisional agreement (20 February 2025)** between Parliament and Council endorses binding targets: 10 % & 30 % by end-2030
- **Final negotiations** including legal-linguistic review underway; formal adoption expected soon

➤ Next steps:

- **Formal endorsement** by Parliament & Council, followed by publication in the **Official Journal**.
- **Member States** will have up to **20 months** to transpose rules into national laws (target ~late 2026–early 2027)

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

➤ The initiative in a nutshell:

- **Fitness Check (2020–2022):** Evaluated existing legislation; findings published October 2022
- **Transport & pets proposals (Dec 2023):**
- New transport regulation: shorter journeys, rest breaks, vehicle standards, digital enforcement
- Regulation for welfare and traceability of dogs and cats

➤ Where we are in the process:

- Major reforms still pending: bans on cages, slaughter practices, welfare labeling, and farming conditions for kept and farmed animals
 - Legislative timing unclear; postponed for strategic dialogue and stakeholders' consultation
 - In December 2024 and February 2025, NGOs reiterated expectation that full revision and cage ban proposals arrive in 2026.
- **Next steps:**
 - Publish proposals in 2026 as part of Food & Agriculture Vision, aligning with scientific evidence and stakeholders' consultation
 - Developing alongside other legislative pieces; timeline tied to broader revision. Likely introduced post-2026
 - Strategic dialogue to conclude in mid-2025; its output will shape proposals. National and NGO pressures may drive faster action.

New framework legislation on a Union sustainable food system

OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE:

- **Mainstream sustainability** in all food-related policies—production, processing, distribution, retail, consumption, trade, and public procurement
- Ensure **environmental neutrality or positive impact**, fostering climate mitigation, biodiversity restoration, soil and water protection, and animal welfare .
- Promote **food security**, high nutrition standards, affordability, and fair economic returns from farm to fork
- Strengthen **resilience and coherence** of EU policies at both Union and national levels

OVERARCHING SCOPE:

- **Sustainability Labelling**- Mandates **eco-labels and sustainability labels** that empower consumers to make informed choices
- **Sustainable Public Procurement Criteria**-Defines **minimum mandatory criteria** for public food procurement—e.g., in schools or public institutions—to favour sustainable, nutritious, and organic foods

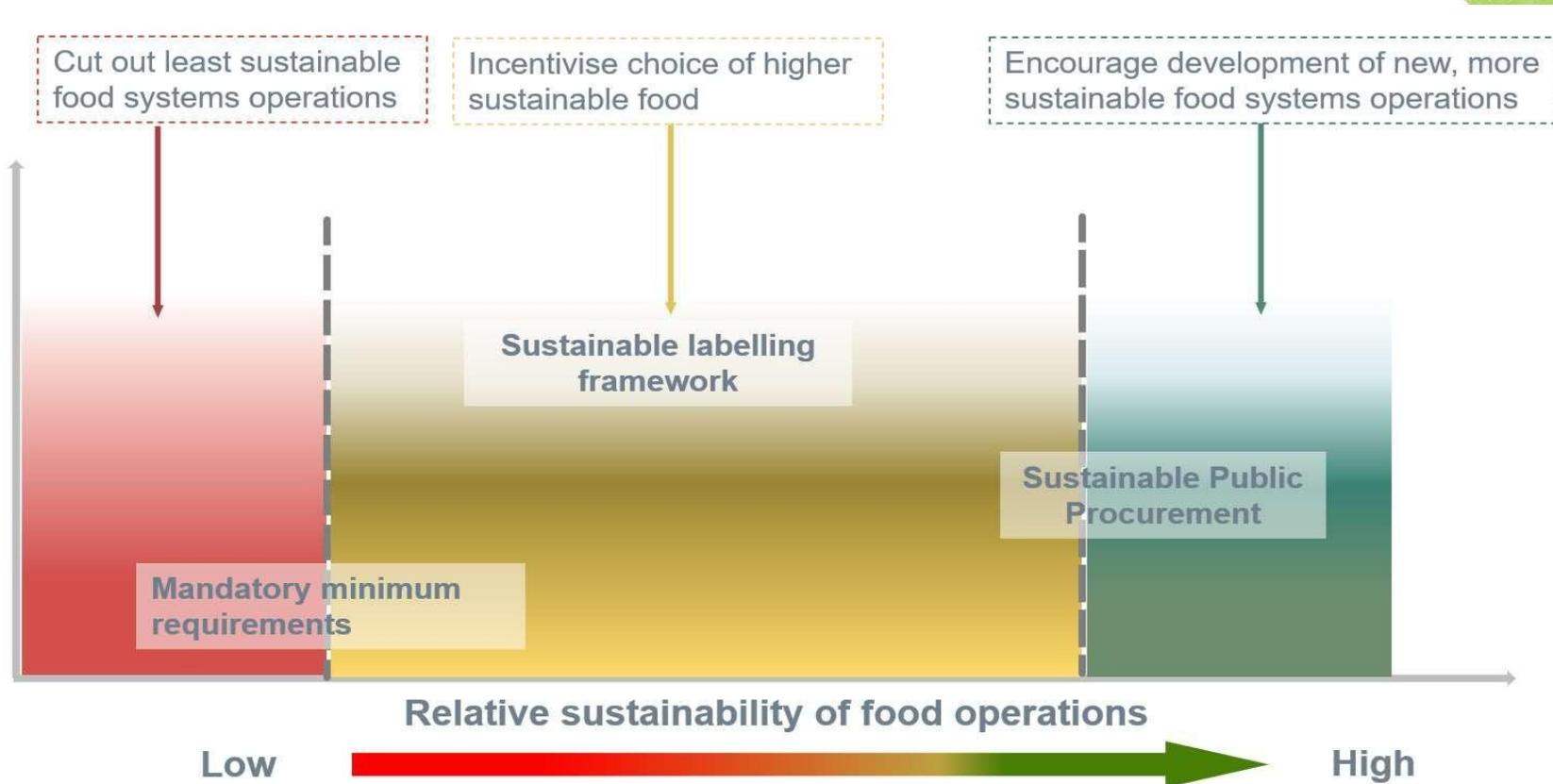


Elements of the legislative initiative

- **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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