Envisaging the future of global food and agricultural policy

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Presented to:
The future of globally sustainable, nutritious diets panel
Food Matters Live,
Overview

• Global policy space:
  – What are main global policy areas for food & agriculture? Who are the policy actors?
  – Types of policy: hard and soft

• Contemporary macro-trends impacting global food & agriculture policy

• Policy directions to the future of globally sustainable, nutritious diets.
Global policy space: main areas for food & agriculture

“states have come to act more and more in coordinated ways where they yield autonomy and pool sovereignty in order to achieve policy objectives” (Coleman et al 2004: 164).

• Networks stretch across:
  – international multi-lateral regimes
  – & international institutions
Global policy space: agriculture & food

TRADE

WTO

Committee on Agriculture

Committee on SPS

Agriculture Ministries

Trade Ministries

Industry/Business Ministries

TRIPS

WIPO

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

PUBLIC HEALTH: FOOD SAFETY & NUTRITION

Health Ministries

Committee on SPS

Committee on World Food Security

WHO

FAO

FOOD SECURITY

G8 G20

G7

Foreign Affairs’ Ministries

Climate Change Convention

SDGs

Convention Biological Diversity

Int. Treaty PGRs for Food & Ag.

Biosafety Protocol

Environment Ministries

ENVIRONMENT

Source: Barling (2016) adapted from Coleman et al. (2004)
Policies: hard and soft

• **Harder** = *legally binding obligations*
  – Multilateral international agreements: framework & protocols

• **Softer** = *information exchange, building common discourse*
  – **UN Agencies** role: FAO, WHO, UNEP, UNCTAD.
  – But can be **High** Diplomacy: e.g. G8 & G20
  – Business/Foundation led **Shadow** Forums: private-public elite discussions
    • e.g. World Economic Forum – Global Futures Council on Food
  – International **Scientific collaborations**: research & education.
  – Foreign Direct Investment (**FDI**)
  – **Private standards** setting: Business & NGOs
  – **Societal** discourses
Contemporary macro trends - 1

• Still global?
  – Still have economic globalisation in food economy
  
  – Via Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is still prominent in food manufacture & retail
  – = key indicator of globalisation
  
  – Market demand for foods & diets of affluence (meat protein & dairy)
  
  – Power of food & drink MultiNational Corporations (MNCs) in (new) markets
  
  – Bilateralism in trade agreements reinforces national economic & business access of dominant states and MNCs.
Contemporary macro trends -2

• Less global?
  – International food diplomacy = **Multi-polar**
  – Trade liberalisation in obeyance
    • WTO Trade agreements – becalmed e.g. Bali trade liberalisation v. national food security conflict
    • US led Regional agreements frozen e.g. TPP; TTIP
    • Nationalism rising: cultural & economic

• **Agricultural Policy:** state supports changing
  – more **public goods** focused = environment & land stewardship
  – will it reach **public health goals** (healthy crops)? e.g. US Farm Bill
The policy path to *sustainable, nutritious diets*

- **Policy discourse** developing over past decade or more

- **Bringing together environment & public health**
  - from *Sustainable consumption and production of food* with soft policy initiatives at national levels
  - to policy discourse around *sustainable diets*
# Sustainable food consumption and production: public advice by Government agencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Initiative</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>German Council for Sustainable Development</td>
<td>Sustainable Shopping Basket : inc food – lists labels and schemes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>LNV Ministry – Policy outline for achieving Sustainable Food</td>
<td>Sustainable food production &amp; consumer educ. campaigns</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>National Food Administration (&amp; Swedish EPA) – notification to EU</td>
<td>Environmentally friendly food choices</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>Council of Food Policy Advisors – Dept Environment Food Rural Affairs (Defra) &amp; Sustainable Development Commission</td>
<td>Recommend defining low impact (sustainable) healthy diet</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Health Council for Ministry Economic Affairs, Agriculture &amp; Innovation</td>
<td>Guidelines Healthy Diet: Ecological Perspective</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
International Institutions: FAO define Sustainable Diets

Sustainable diets are those diets with low environmental impacts which contribute to food and nutrition security and to healthy life for present and future generations. Sustainable diets are protective and respectful of biodiversity and ecosystems, culturally acceptable, accessible, economically fair and affordable; nutritionally adequate, safe and healthy; while optimizing natural and human resources.

FAO, 2010, Sustainable Diets and Biodiversity.
Private Sector: Barilla’s Double Pyramid
WWF’s Livewell plate 2020
= UK 25% carbon reduction from 2011 levels
Sustainable Development Goals

KEY RELEVANT GOALS:

But fail to explicitly link sustainable diets
Conclusions

• A policy **discourse is emerging** in softer forums & forms = framing process

• The global **policy** space is **fragmented** between different key policy nodes (and at national levels) = differing networks

• **Lack of integration hampers** policies for sustainable diets

• Need **hard policies** (taxes & supports) from states.