

# **Transdisciplinary Solutions to Meet the UK Food System Challenges**

**Inaugural Conference 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023**

**ProFSET**

**Professional Food Science,  
Engineering and Technology Group**

# Thanks to IOP for hosting us today



**82 registered delegates**

**Opened by John Bows**



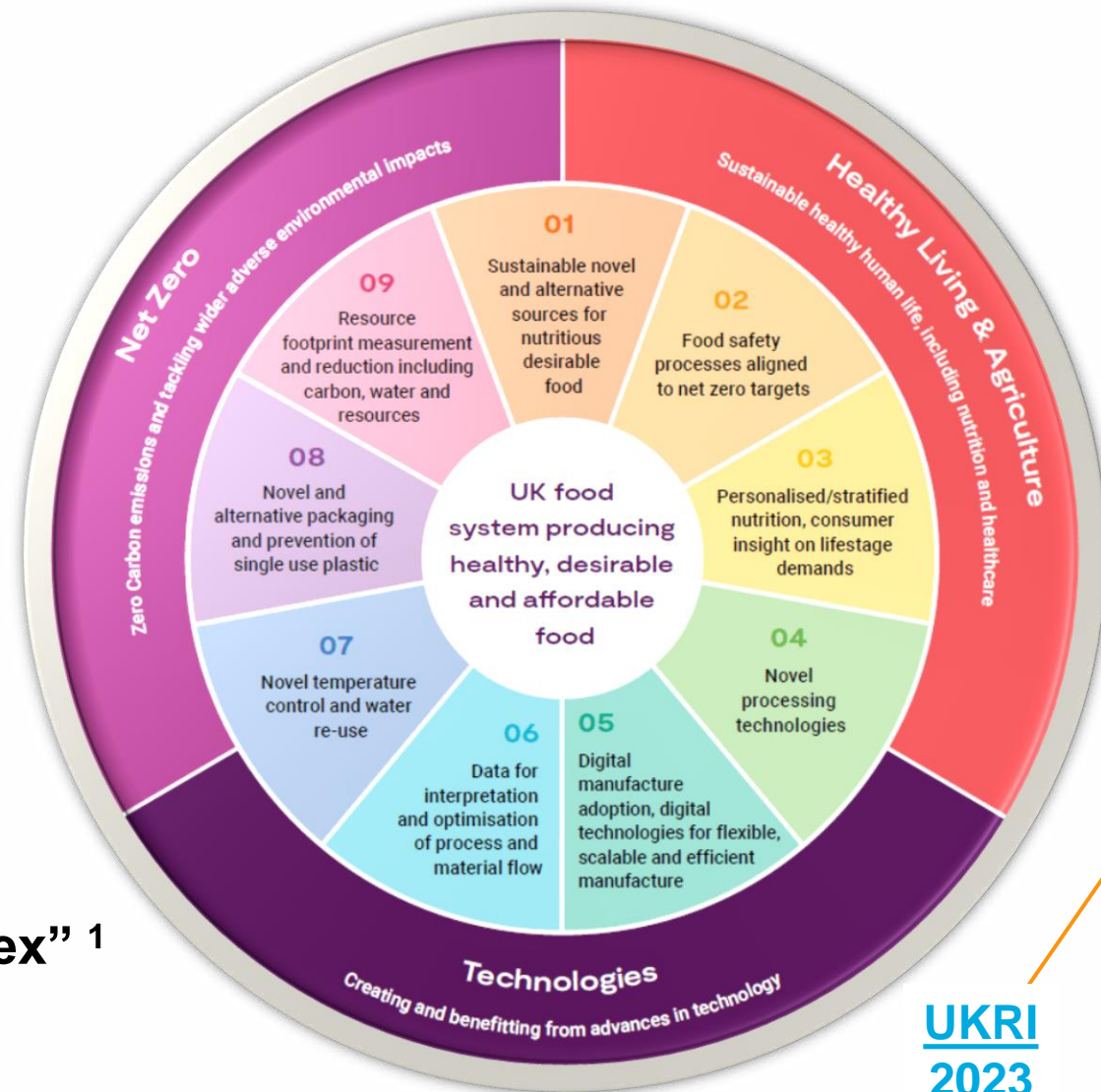
# Food sector needs an independent, scientific voice

Food Sector is #1 UK manufacturing sector

- One third of all food is wasted
- Major challenges and headwinds ...
- Only 2% of EPSRC 2024 iCASE Vouchers allocated to food companies <sup>2</sup>

But

- We know food industry needs & priorities
- UK ranked #1 globally “Citable documents H-index” <sup>1</sup>
- ProFSET has just launched to provide this Voice



**UKRI**  
**2023**

<sup>1</sup> [Global Innovation Index 2023 – H-index ... Journal & Scientists scientific productivity and scientific impact](#), <sup>2</sup> [UKRI.org](#)
















# 10 Food & Drink Groups represent >12,000 scientists, engineers & technologists



# **ProFSET was set-up to identify and propose actions in Science and Technology, to meet the future needs of an efficient UK Food Supply Chain in the rapidly changing global situation**

- 1. A single, informed voice to influence and support government, media and the public**
- 2. Providing opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing and cooperation across industry and academia**
- 3. Promoting the industry as an exciting career path and supporting the development, education and training of professionals**

# ProFSET Group

<p>John Bows IOP</p> 	<p>Martin Whitworth IOP</p> 	<p>Natasha Medhurst IFST</p> 	<p>Peter Lillford IFST</p> 	<p>Cassie Ellis Nutrition Society</p> 
<p>Craig Duckham SCI</p> 	<p>Daniel Hefft IAgrE</p> 	<p>Jane Parker RSC</p> 	<p>Tim Foster RSC</p> 	<p>Lucky Cullen App.Microbiology Int'l</p> 
<p>Judith Evans IMechE</p> 	<p>Stacie Tibos IMechE</p> 	<p>Seamus Higgins IChemE</p> 	<p>Laura Malhi IChemE</p> 	<p>Marian Pusey Soc. Dairy Tech.</p> 

# Transdisciplinary Solutions to Meet the UK Food System Challenges

## ProFSET Inaugural Conference 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

10:30 Welcome

10:40 **Keynote from Kate Halliwell, Chief Scientific Officer at Food and Drink Federation**

11:05 **Keynote from Prof Gideon Henderson, DEFRA Chief Scientific Adviser**

11:30 **Perspectives on Creating a Sustainable UK Food System from the 10 ProFSET groups**

12:30 Lunch

14:00 **Panel Discussion facilitated by Ian Noble**

15:00 Networking Buffet / 15:30 Close

# Two awesome keynote speakers

**Prof Gideon Henderson**



DEFRA Chief Scientific Adviser

**Kate Halliwell**



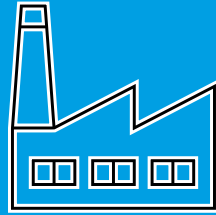
Food and Drink Federation's  
Chief Scientific Officer



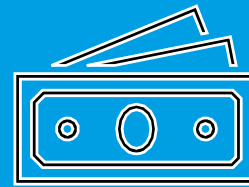
# UK food manufacturing – driving change in the food system

Kate Halliwell, Chief Scientific Officer – Food and Drink Federation

Food and drink is the **largest** manufacturing sector in the UK



The industry contributes over **£33bn** to the economy



The sector provides over **450,000 jobs** ...



... with **4 million more** across the farm-to-fork food supply chain

Food and drink exports were valued at a record **£25bn** in 2022



**fdf**

**FOOD &  
DRINK  
POWERS  
OUR  
NATION**

# Key issues

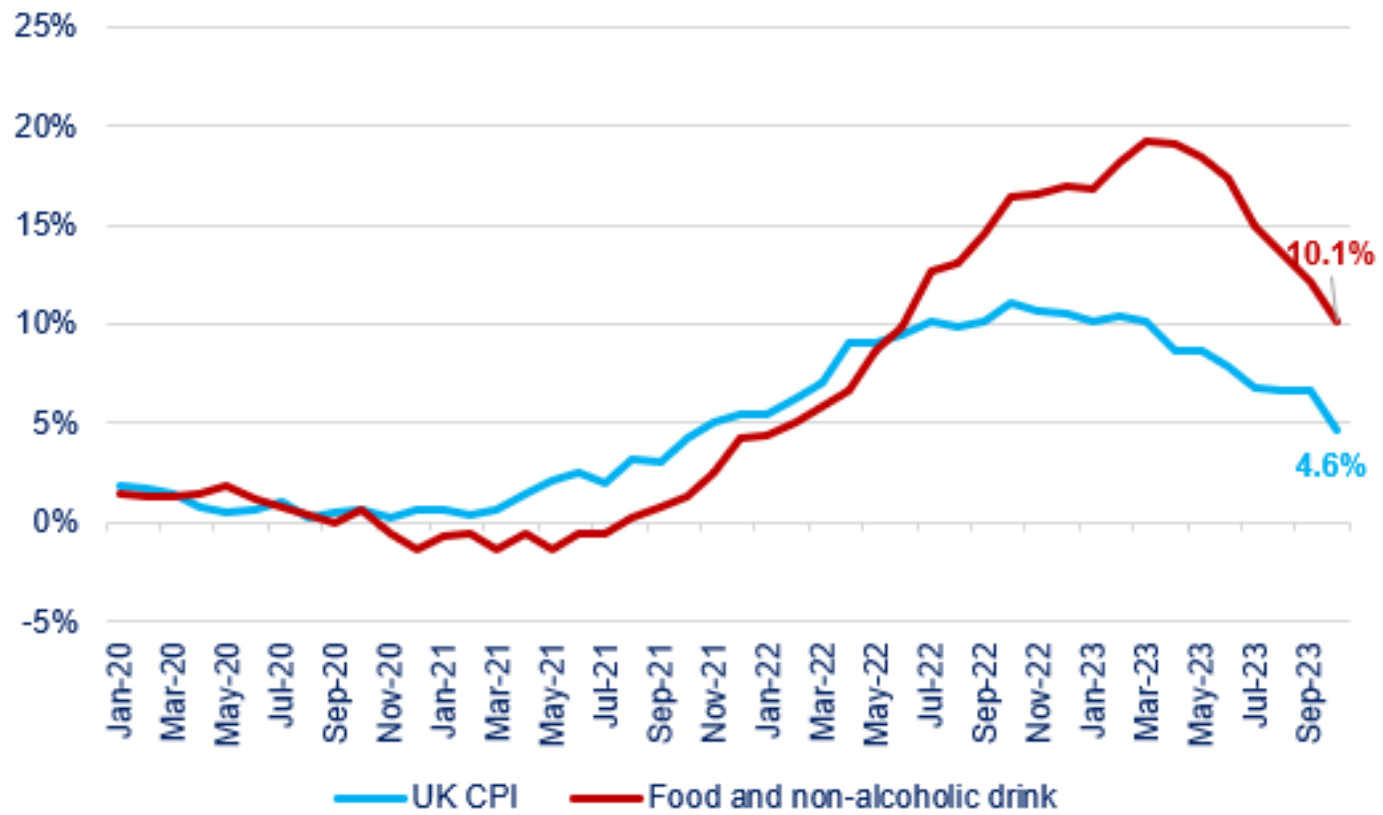
Huge number of drivers changing our food system...



...all of which can have consequences

# Food and drink inflation firmly in easing territory

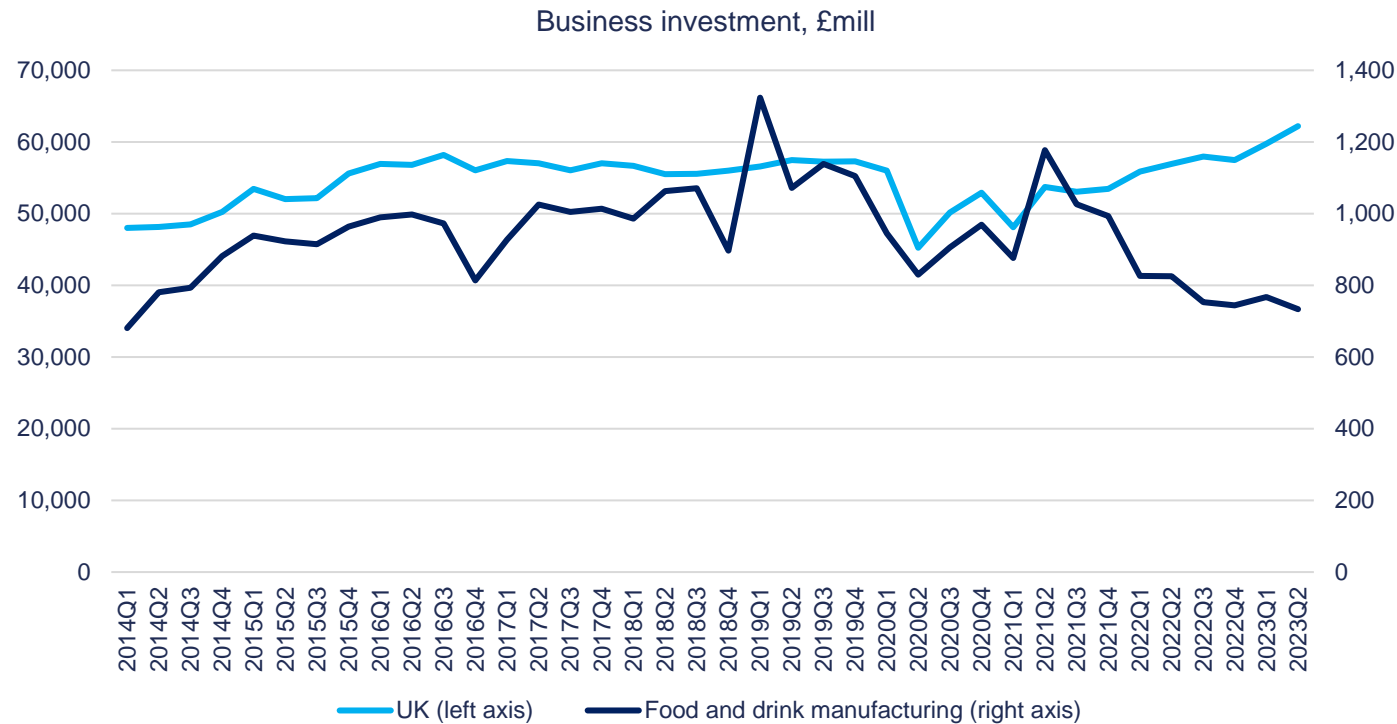
With annual inflation slowing for a seventh consecutive month in October



Source: ONS.

# Business investment lower than four years ago

In sharp contrast with business investment in the UK as a whole



## Growth

	Food and drink	UK
H1 2023 on H1 2019	-36%	7%
H1 2023 on H1 2016	-17%	6%

Source: ONS, Business investment, chain volume measures, NSA.

# Labour and skill shortages

Vacancy rate in UK, manufacturing and food and drink manufacturing (vacancies per 100 employees)

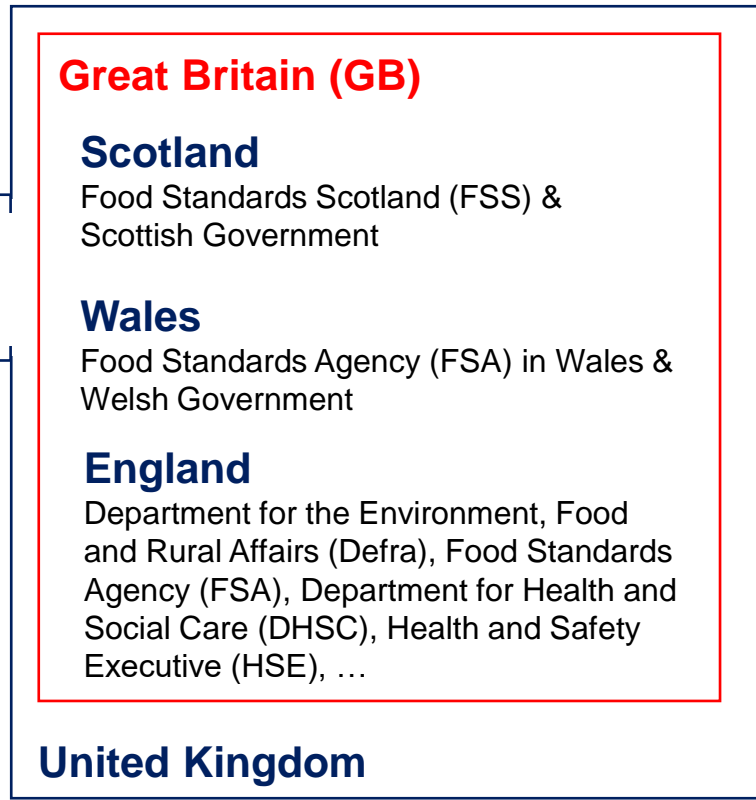


Source: FDF State of Industry Survey and ONS

- Vacancies across all types of roles and skills levels
- Shortages are holding back productivity improvements and growth in the sector.
- Employers are attracting and retaining talent by:
  - **Increasing wages**, average pay in the sector grew by 4.1% and is expected to rise by a further 5.4% over the next year.
  - **Introducing flexible working** such as shorter shift patterns and working from home.
  - Investing in **Apprenticeships**
  - Creating the **Food and Drink Careers Passport** – an industry-led pre-employment training programme to help people into the industry
- We support the recommendations of the [Independent Review in Labour Shortages in the Food Supply Chain](#), and are calling on the government to:
  - Reform the Apprenticeship Levy
  - Incentivise the adoption of automation



# Our (*complex*) regulatory landscape



- ✓ **Cross-regulator cooperation**
- ✓ **Strive for a 4 nation UK approach**



<b>Sustainability Theme</b>	<b>Scope</b>
<b>Net Zero</b>	2040 farm-to-fork ambition & emission reductions, scope 3 accounting, supply chain collaboration, reporting frameworks
<b>Nature restoration</b>	Contribution to Nature Positive by 2030: nature restoration and biodiversity, including water and regenerative agriculture
<b>Sustainable commodities</b>	Environmental foot printing, sustainable procurement, forest risk commodities
<b>Food waste</b>	Reducing food waste in manufacturing and across supply chain, in line with SDG 12.3
<b>Packaging</b>	Extended Producer Responsibility and Deposit Returns Scheme

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS



**Carbon offsets**  
Carbon offsets can compensate for unavoidable emissions in the value chain, once all feasible emissions reduction actions have been implemented. Companies should only use high-quality offsets certified by an independent scheme.



### Ingredients & imports\*

- ❑ Understand your ingredient emissions
- ❑ Procure lower carbon ingredients
- ❑ Reformulate products to reduce emissions



### Packaging

- ❑ Assign internal responsibility for packaging emissions
- ❑ Set company policy on packaging sustainability
- ❑ Engage packaging suppliers to find low carbon options



### Manufacturing

- ❑ Improve energy efficiency
- ❑ Decarbonise electricity
- ❑ Decarbonise process heat
- ❑ Shift to sustainable refrigerants



### Distribution & Storage

- ❑ Embed climate performance into logistics services
- ❑ Shift to electric vehicles for light goods vehicles
- ❑ Optimise your HGVs

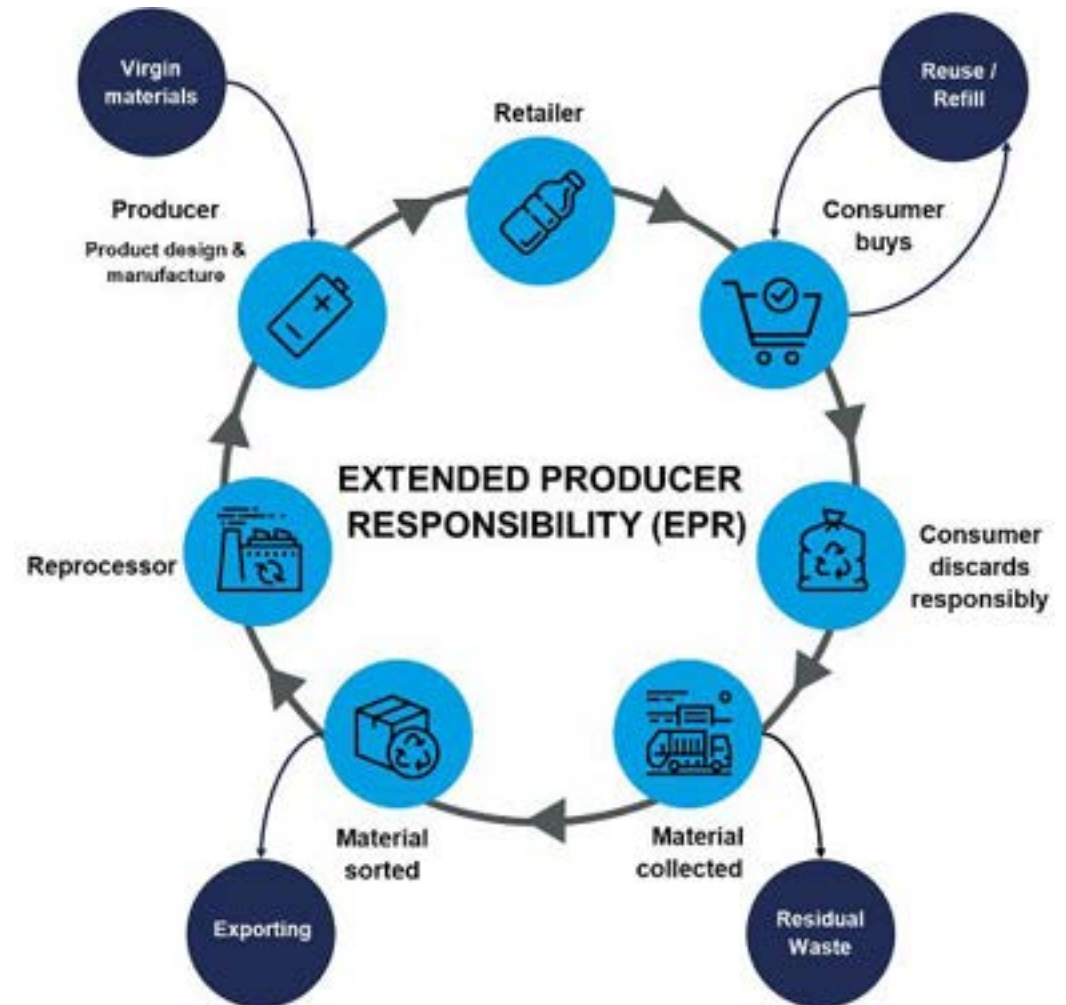


### Customers & Consumers

- ❑ Understand customer expectations on climate
- ❑ Capitalise on growing demand for lower carbon products
- ❑ Engage consumers on climate issues and waste reduction

# Collection and packaging reforms

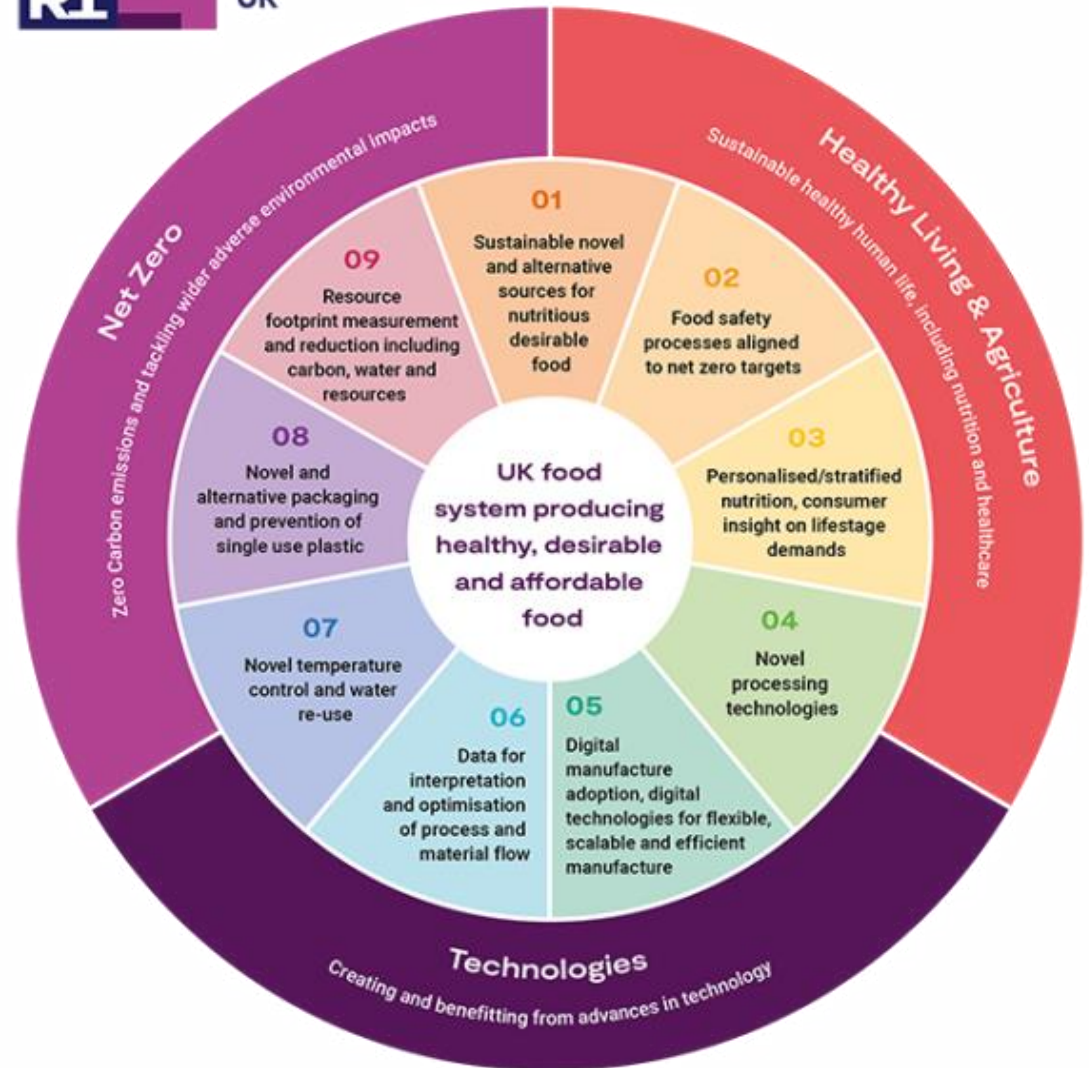
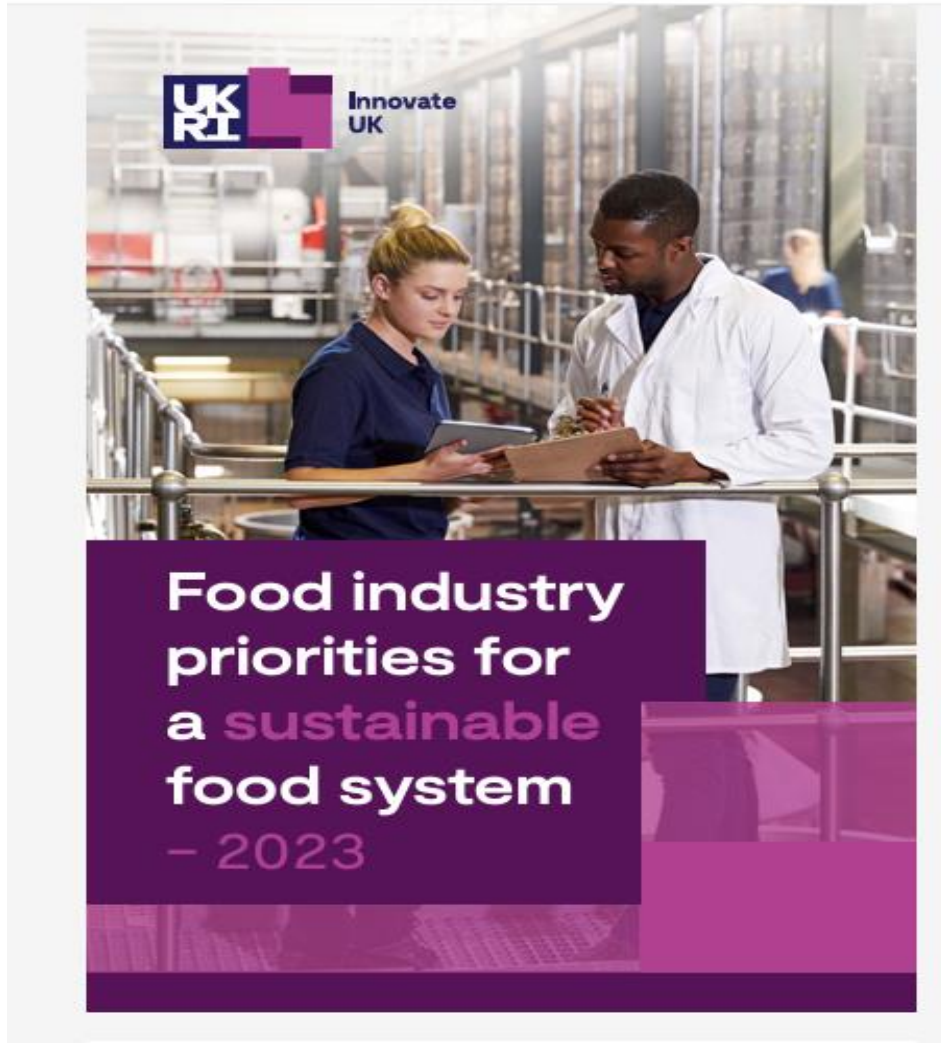
- Producers pay the full net costs of packaging waste they produce
- Reduce 'excessive' packaging
- Packaging recyclability increased
- More packaging gets recycled
- Increased quality of material for recycling
- Less packaging is littered



# High in Fat, Sugar or Salt (HFSS)



# Driving change in the food system



# Feeding a growing population affordably in the face of health, climate, and biodiversity challenge

Prof. Gideon Henderson

Chief Scientific Advisor, Defra

23-Nov-2023. ProFSET meeting.



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

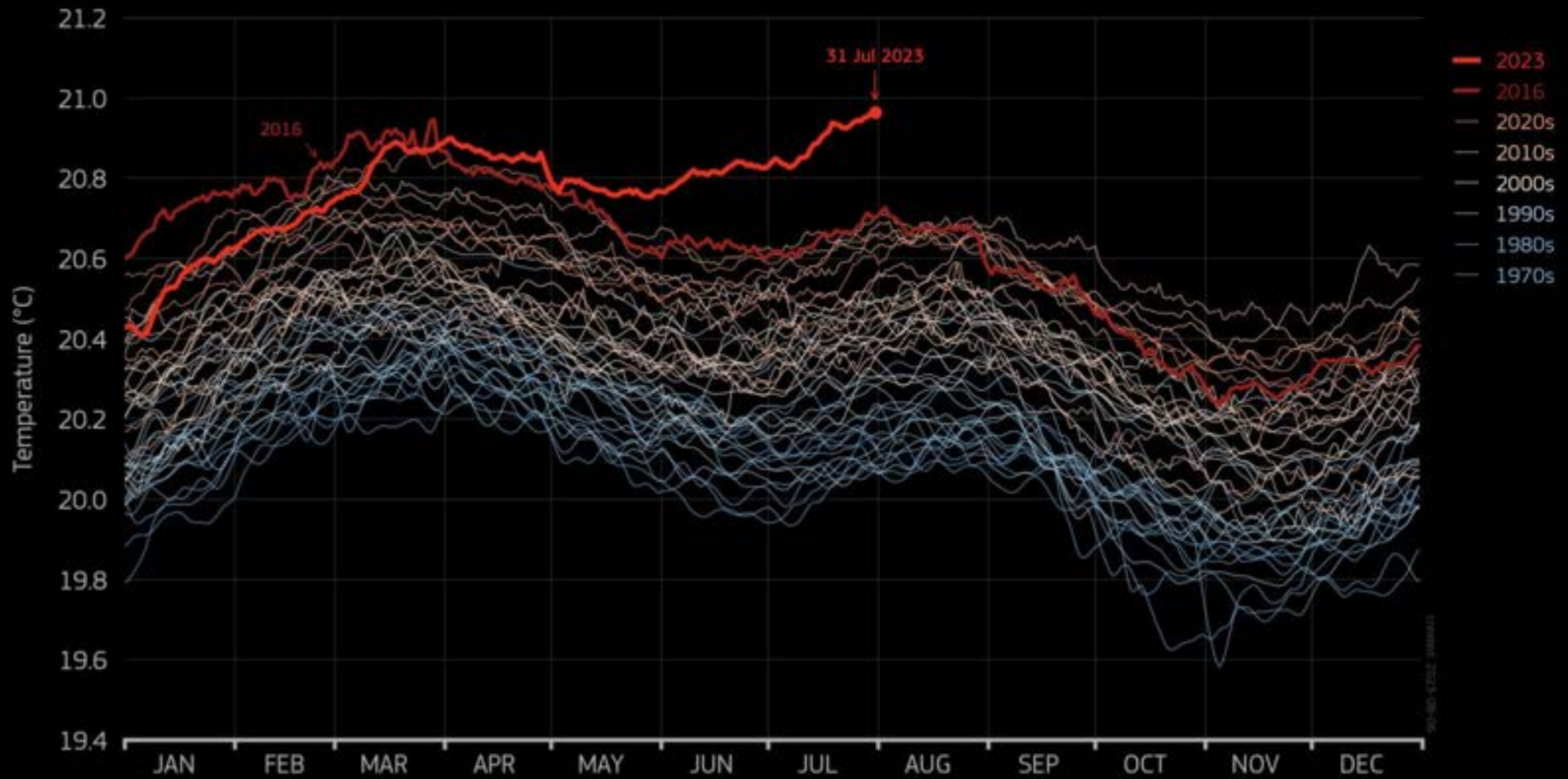
# DAILY SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE 60°S–60°N

Data: ERA5 1979–2023 • Credit: C3S/ECMWF



Climate  
Change Service

climate.copernicus.eu



PROGRAMME OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION

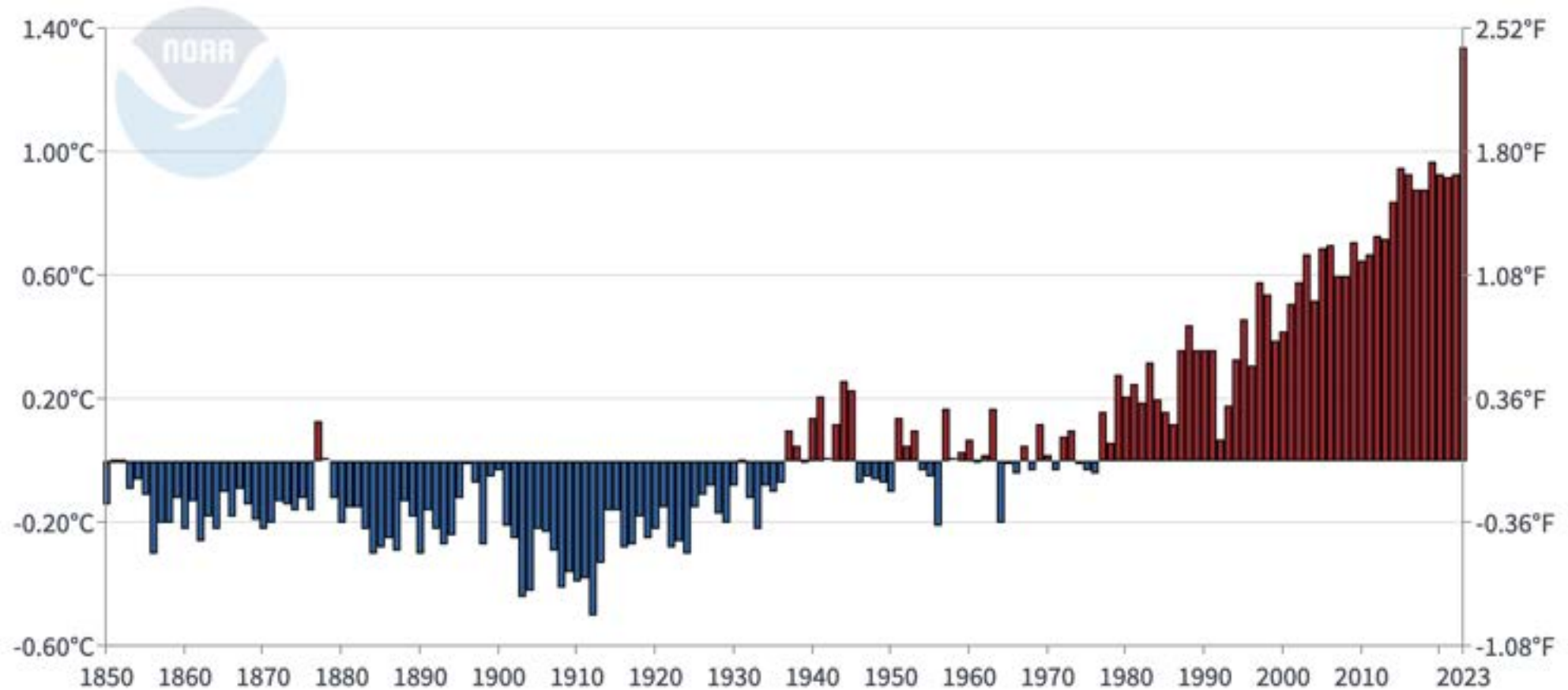


IMPLEMENTED BY  
ECMWF

# Global temperature - September

## Global Land and Ocean

August-October Temperature Anomalies



Plotted relative to 20<sup>th</sup> average (13.9°C) which is 0.2°C warmer than preindustrial  
<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/>



# NEWS

Home | Israel-Gaza war | Cost of Living | War in Ukraine | Climate | UK | World | Business | Politics | Culture

Science & Environment

## Climate change: Rise in Google searches around 'anxiety'

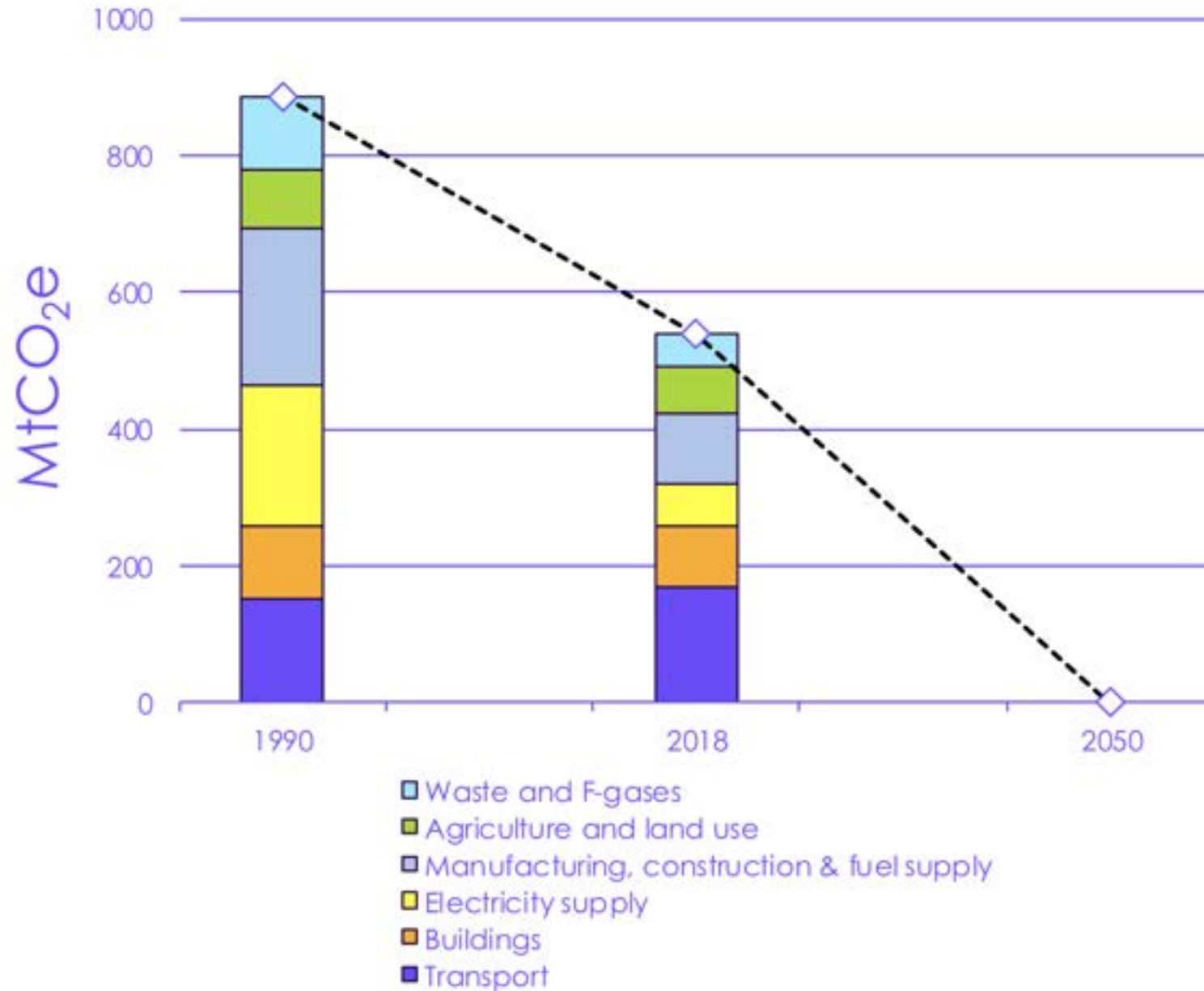
21 hours ago

 Climate



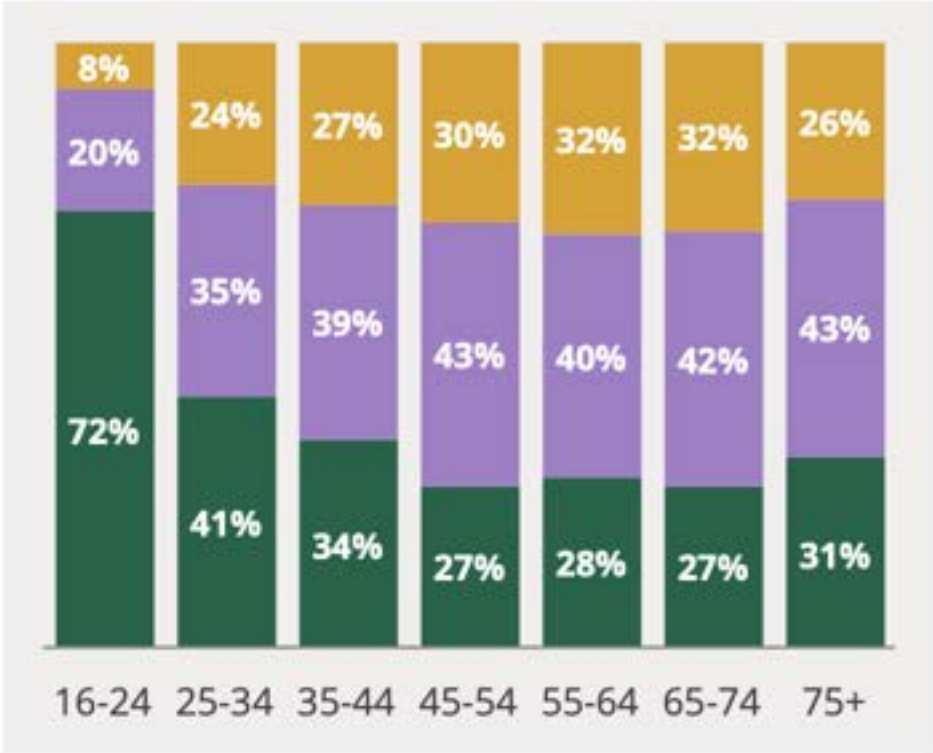
Climate anxiety is a term that describes distress at the impact of climate change on the planet and human existence

# The scale of the net zero challenge

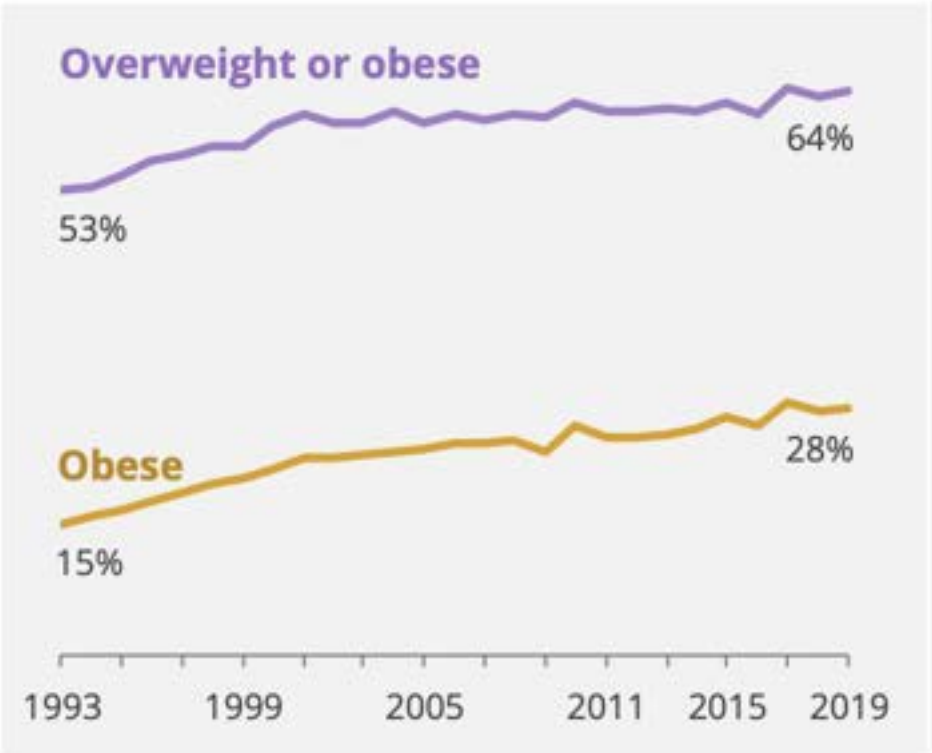


# We are eating too much food

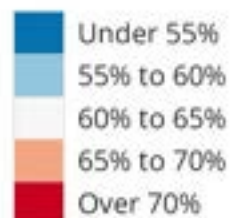
Around three quarters of those aged 45-74 are **overweight** or **obese**



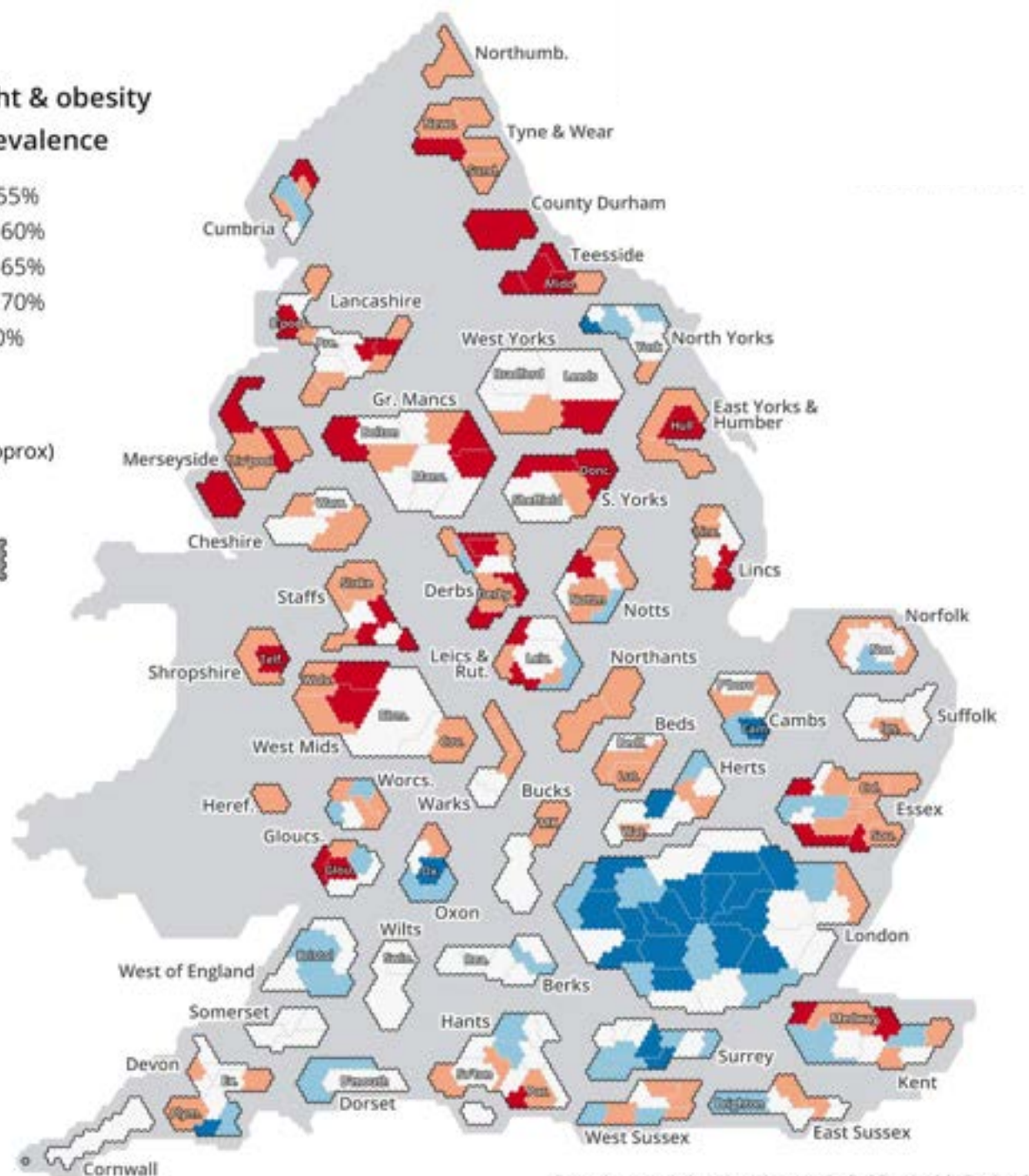
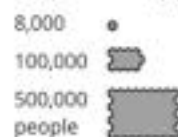
Obesity levels increased from 15% in 1993 to 28% in 2019.



## Overweight & obesity survey prevalence



### Map scale (approx)

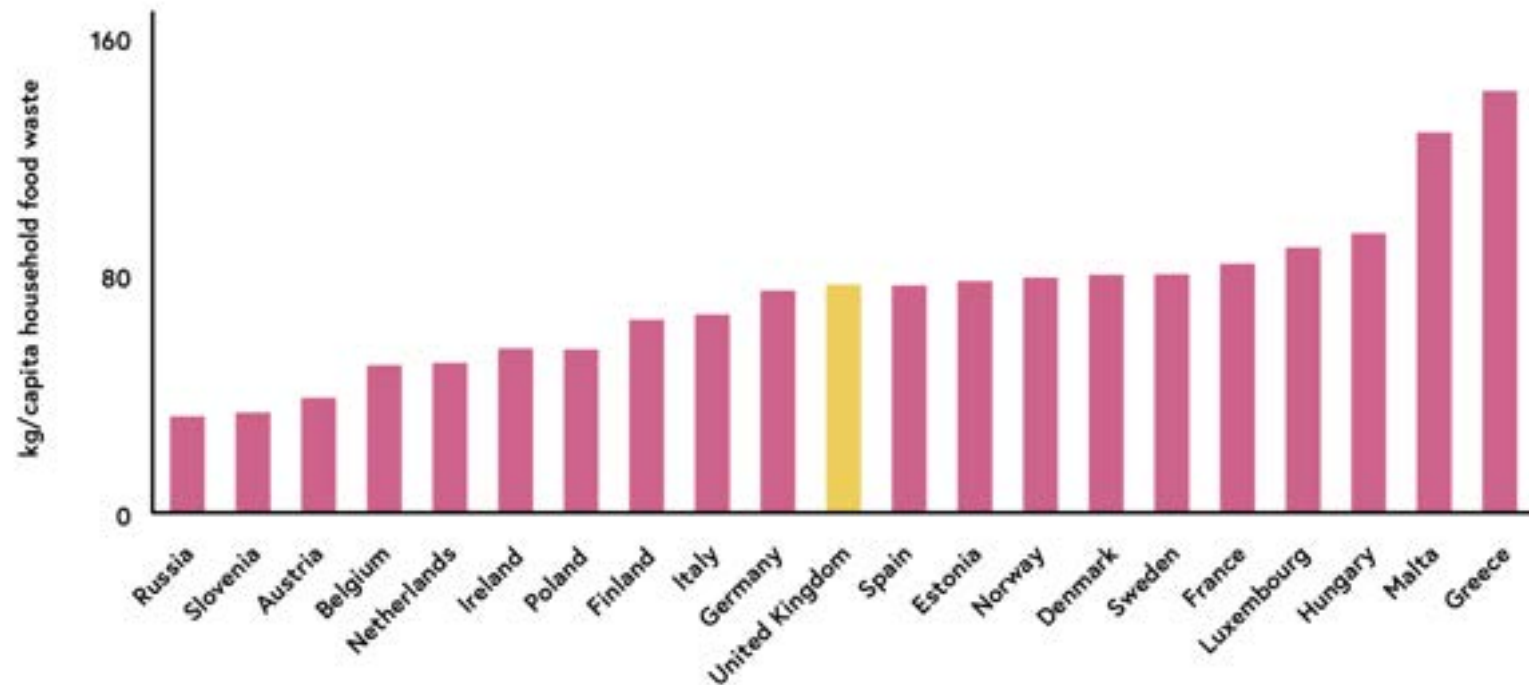


Data source: Active Lives Survey via Public Health England

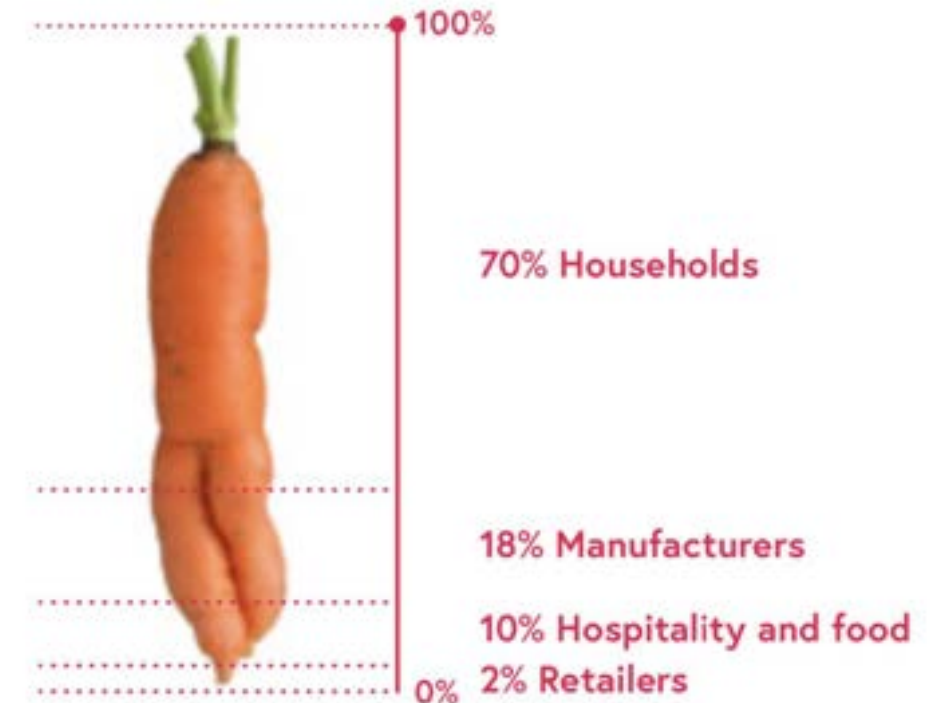
# We throw too much food away

9.5 million tonnes of food wasted in the UK per year (WRAP)  
= 16% of food purchased by households is wasted

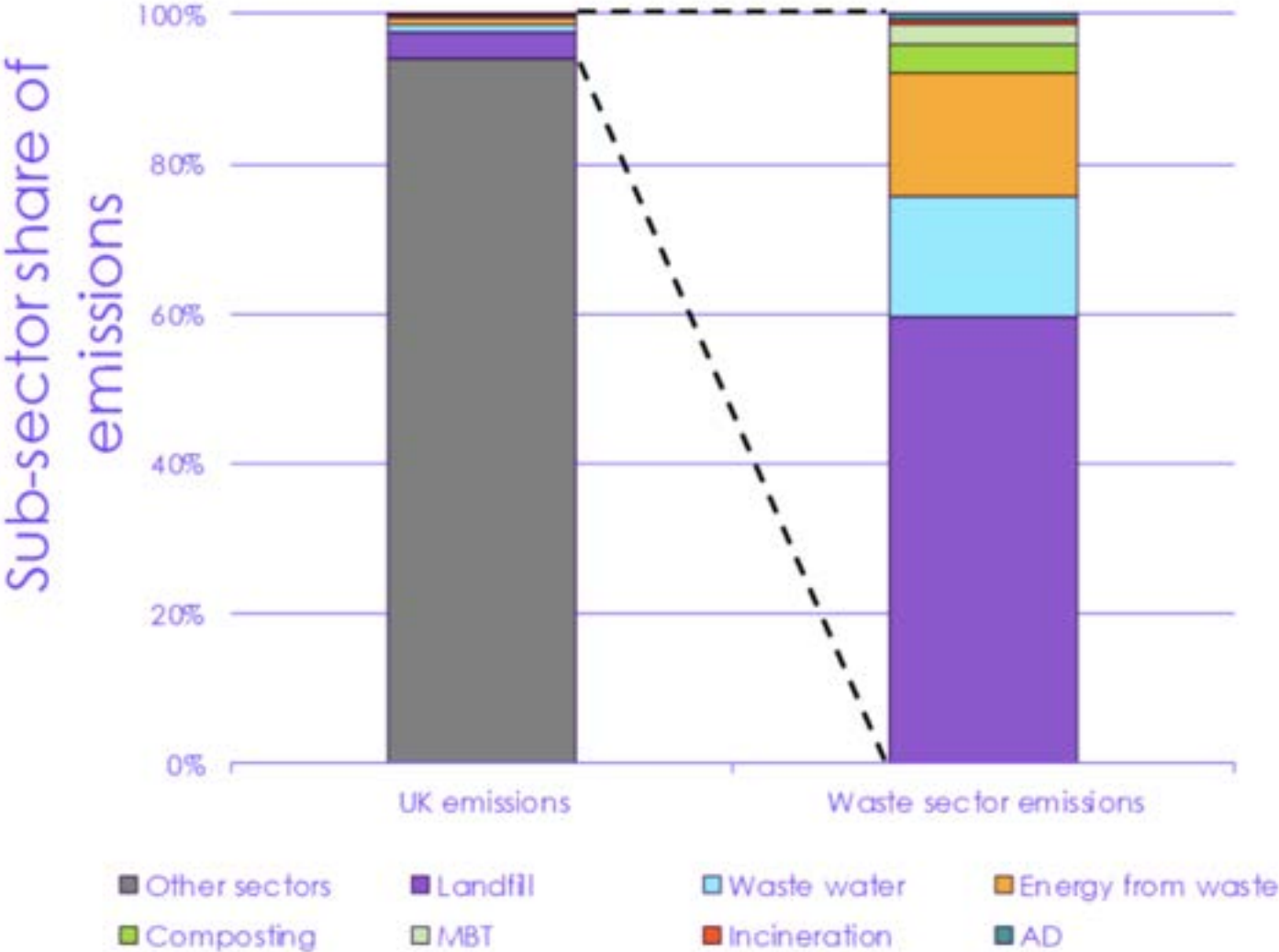
Value of £19bn per year. Associated with 25 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions per year



## Sources of post-farm-gate food waste



# Emissions from waste

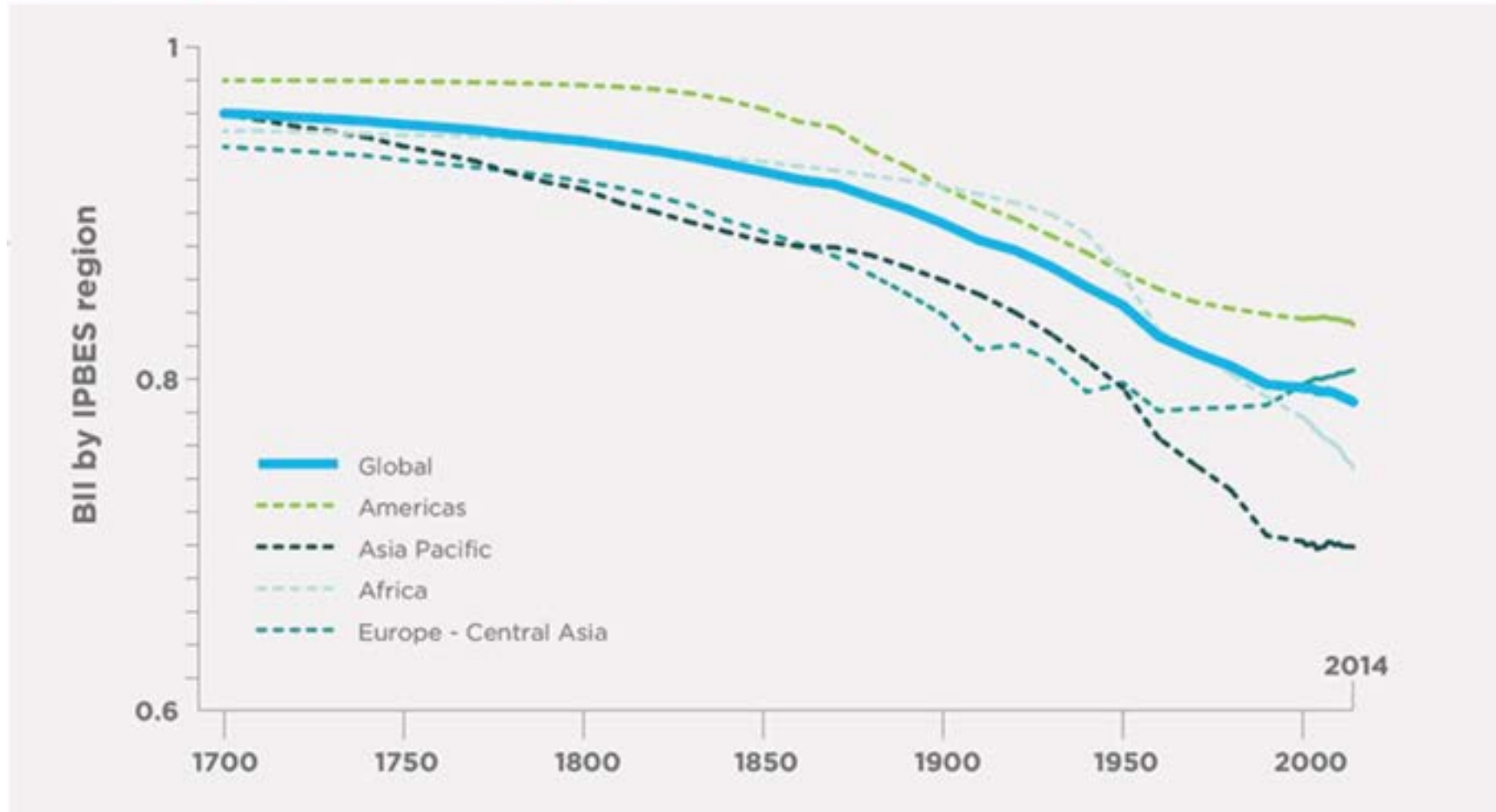


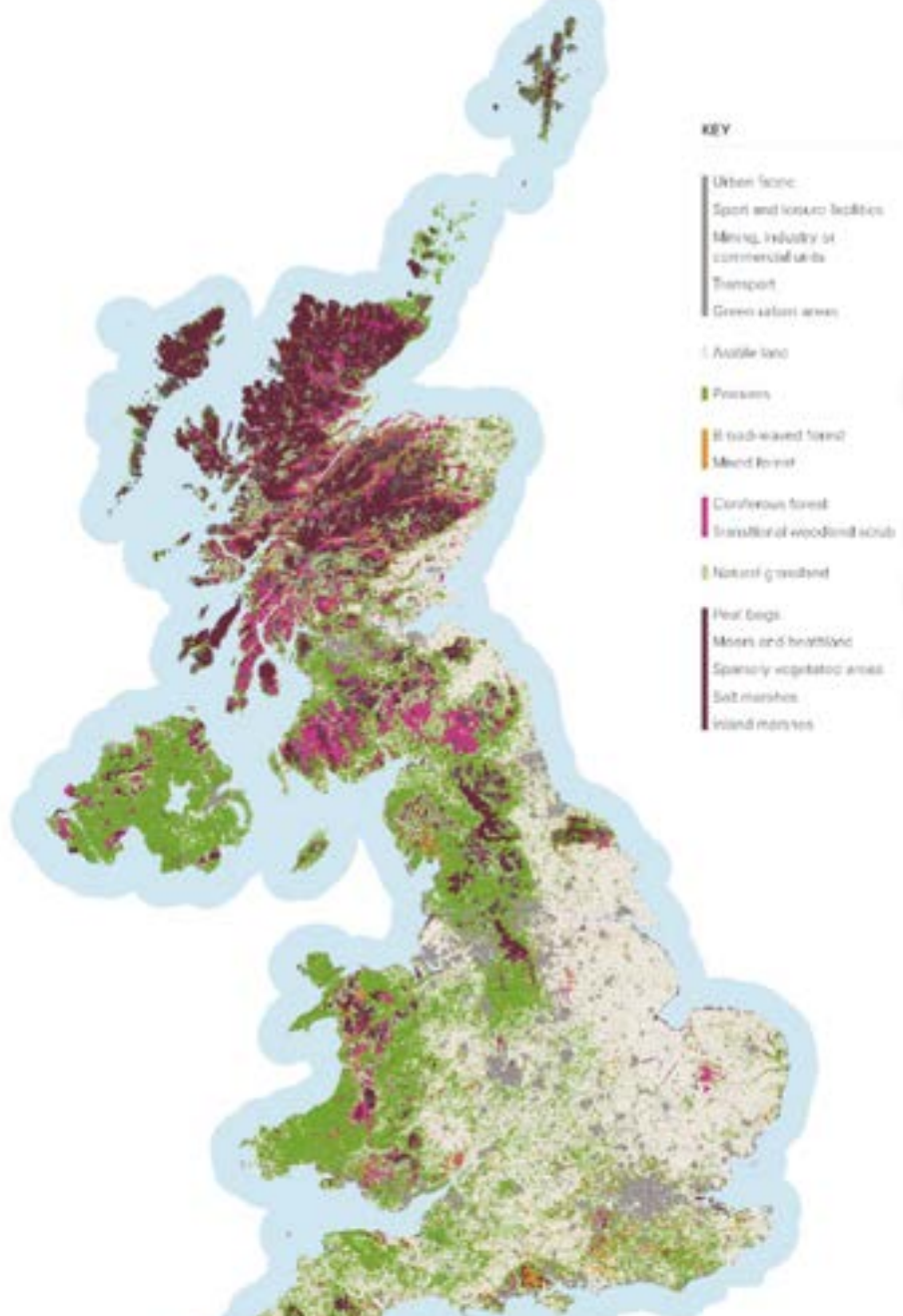
“...we are bringing forward £295m... allow local authorities in England to prepare to implement free separate food waste collections for all households from 2025”

*Net Zero Strategy*

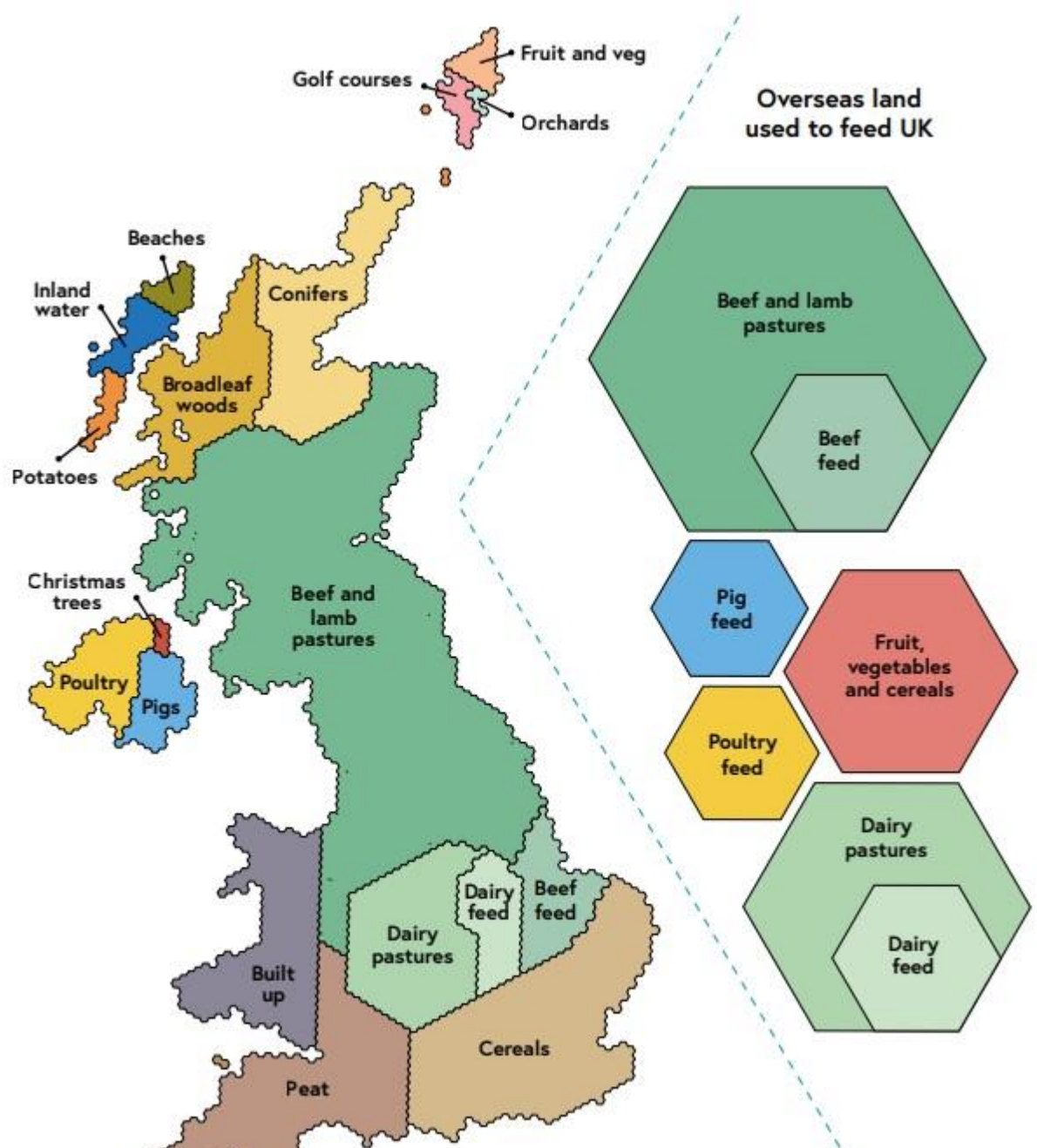
# Agriculture is the single biggest cause of biodiversity loss

Biodiversity Intactness Index by IPBES





Royal Society Multifunctional Landscapes 2021

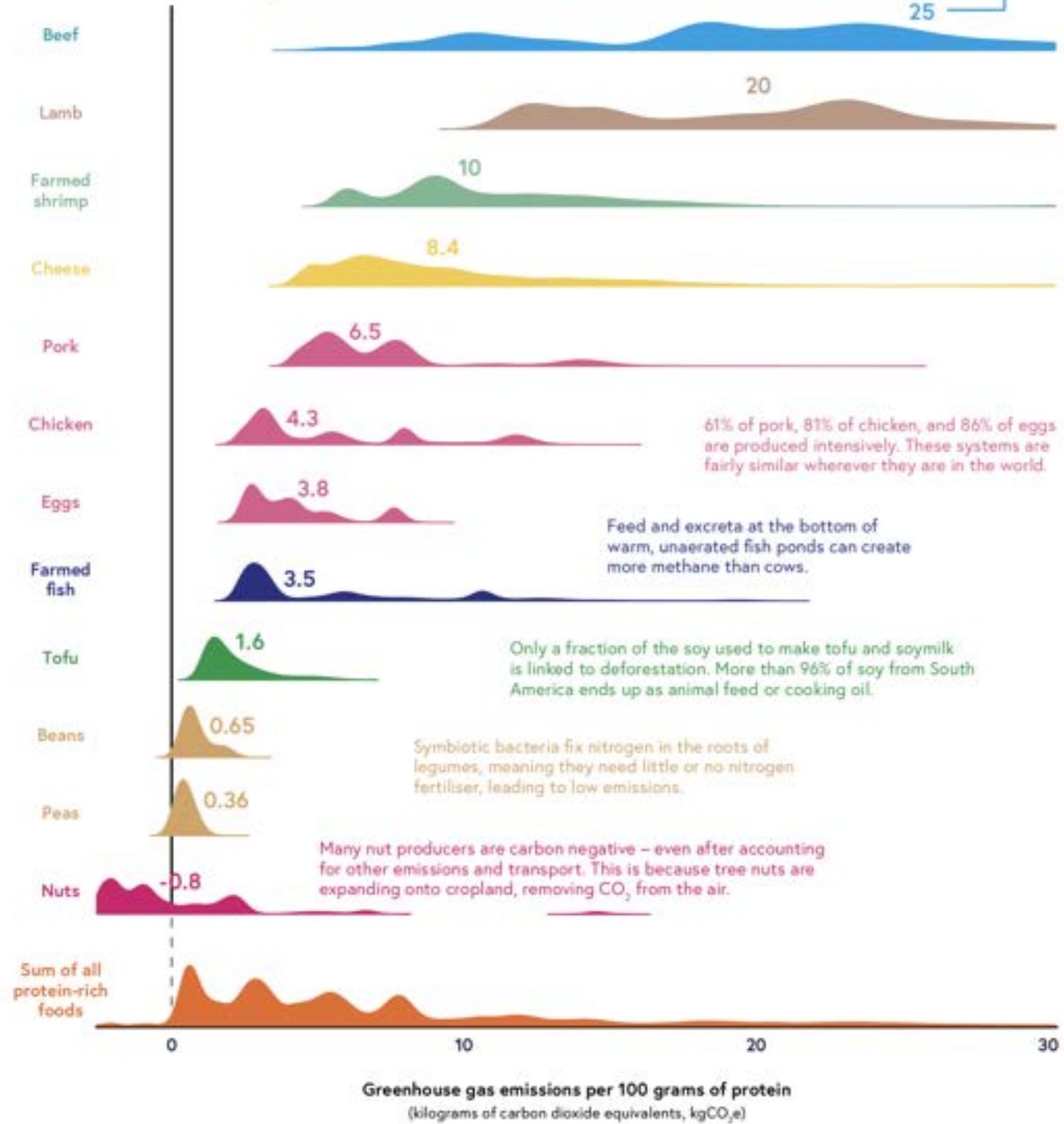


Dimbleby Review 2021



# Sustainable proteins

## Emissions by protein source





# New environments; new crops

Paludiculture:  
bilberry, celery,  
cranberry, nettle, sedge  
grains, sweet grass  
grains, watercress, and  
fibre crops (e.g. for  
thatch)

£5m Defra fund for  
'Paludiculture  
Exploration' launched in  
Sept 2022

## Could growing celery in rewetted peatland help fight climate change?

A trial is farming crops that can tolerate high water levels on bogland, and prevent carbon being released



📷 Celery plants in a wet farming trial in Greater Manchester. Photograph: Lancashire Wildlife Trust



ould celery help fight climate change? Peatlands in lowland Britain have been drained for agriculture and releasing carbon for years,

Millets: A focus in India



## Broader range of protein sources



# Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act

The Precision Breeding Act is a major step in unlocking growth and innovation in technologies like gene editing. It supports Defra's efforts to reinforce food security in the face of climate change and ensure England becomes a world-leader in agri-food innovation.

- Jan 2021: Launched consultation
- Sept 2021: Gov response to consultation
- May 2022: First reading in the Commons
- June 2022: Committee stage
- October 2022: Passed third reading in Commons
- Nov 2022: First reading in Lords
- Dec 2022: Committee stage
- March 2023: Programme motion and consideration of amendments
- March 2023: Royal Assent

The screenshot shows the official website for the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act 2023. The page is titled "Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act 2023" and is part of the UK Public General Acts for 2023. The page includes a search bar at the top, a navigation menu, and a table of contents. The table of contents lists the following sections:

- Introductory Text
- Part 1 Precision breeding: definitions
  - 1. Precision bred organism
  - 2. Meaning of "plant" and "animal"
- Part 2 Precision bred organisms: release, marketing and risk assessments
  - Release
    - 3. Restrictions on release of precision bred organism in England
    - 4. Release of precision bred organism: notification requirements
  - Marketing
    - 5. Restrictions on marketing of precision bred organism in England
  - Precision bred confirmation
    - 6. Application for precision bred confirmation
    - 7. Report by advisory committee
    - 8. Issue of precision bred confirmation
    - 9. Revocation of precision bred confirmation

# Some examples of precision breeding

## **Disease resistance and reduced agro-chemical use**

**Powdery Mildew resistance in tomato (Sainsbury Lab)**

**Panama Disease resistance in banana (Tropic Bioscience)**

## **Climate and food security**

**High yielding heat-resilient wheat (John Innes Centre)**

**Enhanced nitrogen use in wheat (NIAB)**

**Drought tolerant soybean (approved for use in US, Argentina, and Brazil)**

## **Public health**

**Low acrylamide wheat (Rothampsted)**

**Tomatoes biofortified with vitamin D (John Innes Centre)**

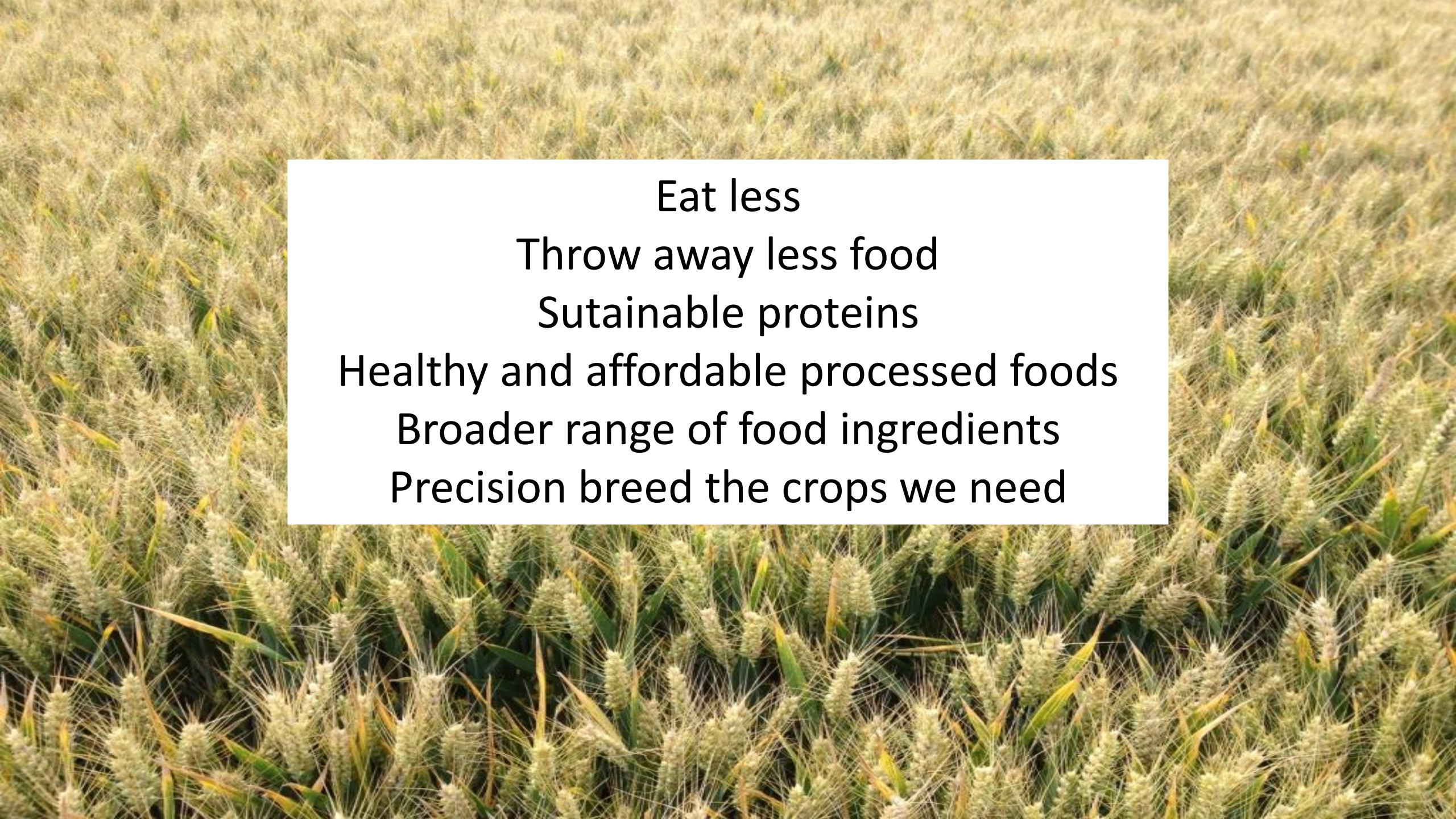
**Coeliac-safe wheat (NIAB and Wageningen)**

**Less bitter mustard greens (Pairwise; on sale in USA from May 2023)**

# Climate resilience?



German spruce under threat from drought and bark beetle



Eat less  
Throw away less food  
Sustainable proteins  
Healthy and affordable processed foods  
Broader range of food ingredients  
Precision breed the crops we need





Ian Gordon

# SDT Purpose

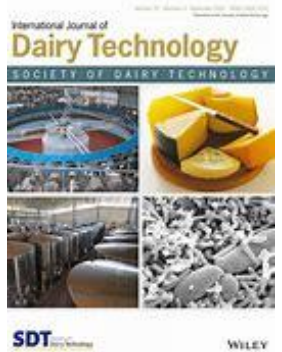


To advance professional development and recognition through knowledge transfer and networking.

# The Society of Dairy Technology

- Founded in 1943
- 500 + members from the dairy industry and related industries
- Recognised professional body fostering scientific and technological developments in the dairy industry

# The Society of Dairy Technology



- Journal : *International Journal of Dairy Technology*, (Wiley), publishes peer reviewed, original papers. The leading dairy processing journal published worldwide with an Impact Factor of 4.286
- 2022, 89 papers from 62 countries
- Top 5 India, Turkey, China, Iran and Brazil

# Other SDT Outputs



- Regional and National Conferences
- Networking and Mentoring opportunities
- E-learning training modules
- Dairy Technology Technical book series
- Site visits, regular Newsletters

# Dairy, Agriculture and Healthy Living

- The Society arose from the Milk Marketing Board and the desire to improve all aspects of Dairy in mid war
- The changes have been enormous since 1943

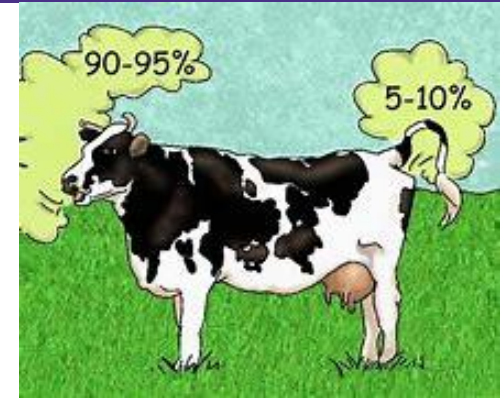


# Agriculture, England and Wales



- 1943 Cows/farm UK average **16**
- 2022 Cows/farm average **200+**
- 1943 Milk output for sale/cow **3kl**
- 2022 Milk output for sale/cow **8kl**
- 1943 share of TT herds **7%**
- 1960 share of TT herds **98%**
- Deaths England Bovine Tuberculosis, 1923 **1100**,  
1960 **none**

# Dairy and Environmental Issues



- Cows and Methane: 35% fewer cows produce twice as much milk (1943-2022)
- Effluent, managed by careful processing, even used as feedstock for biogas generation
- Silage feed and self service systems reduce damage to grass crops
- High level of sterility through during processing means much less product spoilage



# Cow Milk Production

- 1943: Milk worldwide largely consumed as is, or converted into SMP or other medium/long lasting fractions, refrigeration very limited
- 1943: UK production 6 mioT, 87% liquid
- 2022: UK production 14.2 mioT, 43% liquid

# Milk and Healthy Living

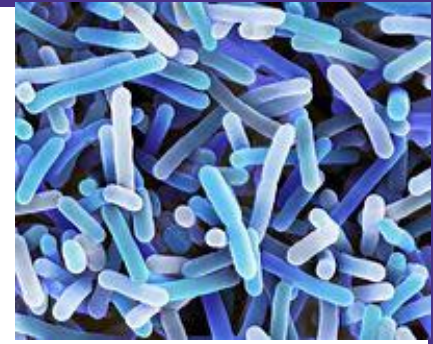
- Milk and milk fractions
- Yogurt and similar fermented products
- Cheeses
- Whey and whey fractions

Not further considered today:

- Other milks (sheep , goat, camel, buffalo, horse..)
- Cream and Butter



# Yogurt and Healthy Living



- Yogurt (or Yoghurt) has been long recognised as a safe milk derivative with medium term shelf life, world consumption ca 70 million tonnes 2022
- The fermenting organisms have many health claims – especially probiotics fermented with *L acidophilus* and Bifidobacteria
- Claims already in Japan in 1929

# Cheeses and Healthy Living



- High nutrient density, long shelf life without refrigeration
- UK production 1943 25kT, demand 250kT
- UK production 2022 512kT, demand 740kT, value c. £15bio

# Milk Protein Concentrates 42/85 and Healthy Living

- MPC 42/85 2022 in Europe, value €0.5bio, demand 20kT
- Use 80% in food
- 20% Sports, Infant and Adult nutrition
- World 280kT, \$2.7bio

Source: Giract: Global markets for Milk Proteins 2022-2027

# Milk Protein Concentrates 85+ and Healthy Living

- MPC 85+ 2022 in Europe, value EUR 0.4bio, demand 35kt
- 95+% Sports, Infant and Adult nutrition
- World 75kt \$0.8bio

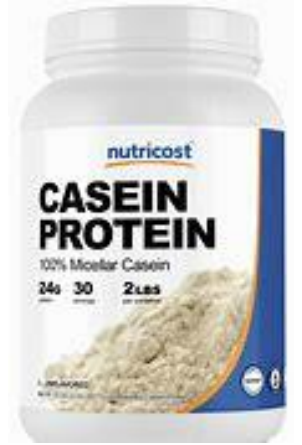
Source: Giraact: Global markets for Milk Proteins 2022-2027



**SDT** Society of Dairy Technology  
Passion for Dairy

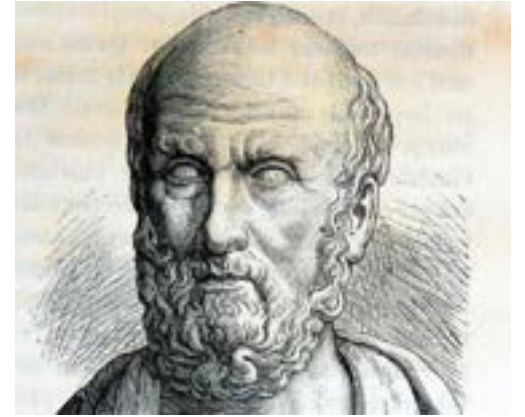
# Casein/Caseinate and Healthy Living

- Casein/Caseinate 2022 in Europe, value €1.5bio, consumption 103kT
- Use 75% in food
- Sports, Infant and Adult nutrition 25%
- World, 330kT, \$2.6bio



Source: Giraact Global markets for Milk  
Proteins 2022-2027

# Whey and Healthy Living



- Hippocrates 2400 years ago prescribed it!
- Uses include, humanised baby formulae, sports and adult nutrition
- Whey 1943 virtually all as by-product to pigfeed
- Whey powder world production 2022 1.9bioT
- 2022 WPC's valued high level protein ingredients, and isolates also sought after



# Demineralised Whey Powder

- Europe 2022, value €0.6bio, demand 220kT
- Use 25% in food
- 75% Infant nutrition “humanising” cow milk
- World 520kT \$0.8bio

Source: Giraact: Global markets for Whey  
Proteins/Lactose 2021-2026

# Whey Protein Concentrates <90% Europe

- WPC 35-49% largely in standard foods and calf feeds c.100kT
- WPC 50-89% demand 110kT, value €0.8bio
- 40% Sports nutrition
- 45% Infant and Adult nutrition

Source: Giraact: Global markets for Whey Proteins/Lactose 2021-2026

# Whey Protein Isolate and Fractions Europe

- WPI demand 2022, 35kT €0.4bio
- 15% Sports nutrition
- 85% Infant and Adult nutrition
- World 75kT \$0.8bio



Source: Giraact Global markets for Whey Proteins/Lactose 2021-2026

# Basic Dairy Products and Nutrition

## RDA%



Nutrient	2% Fat Milk	Cheddar Cheese	Yogurt
Calcium	31	28	26
Phosphorus	28	22	26
Protein	14	15	13

One serving about  $\frac{1}{4}$  RDA Ca and P

# Dairy and Healthy Living

In conclusion:

- Milk and many milk fractions may be seen to contribute to Healthy Living, notably in infant, adult and sports nutrition
- Thank you for your Attention  
(Sources: SDT archive, Giract, Dairy UK, ADHB, Statista, FAO)

The background features a collage of three hexagonal images. The top hexagon shows a plate of food with various dishes. The middle hexagon shows a laboratory setting with a person working at a bench. The bottom hexagon shows a tractor in a field.

# Microbial Synergy for Sustainable Agriculture and Health

**Diane Purchase**

**Professor of Environmental Biotechnology**

**Middlesex University**

**ProFSET**

Professional Food Science,  
Engineering and Technology Group

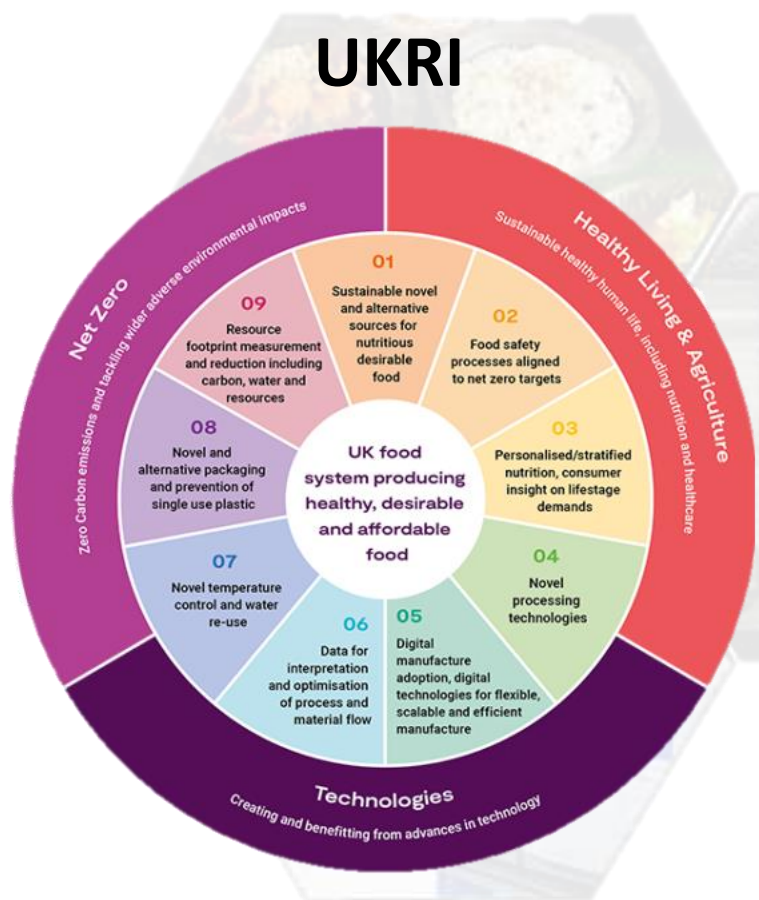
Applied  
Microbiology  
International

# About Applied Microbiology International

- Formerly the Society for Applied Microbiology
- The oldest microbiology society in the UK founded in 1931
- Solving the world's greatest challenges by bringing the applied microbiology community together, across borders and disciplines, to enable meaningful collaboration that delivers scientific impact
- AMI Advisory Groups. E.g.,



# Healthy food, people and planet



### European Green Deal





# Microbial Synergy

- Co-operative interaction between different microorganisms (e.g., bacteria and fungi) where they collaborate to create a synergistic environment that achieves greater benefit for the consortium
- E.g., compost microbial community



# Microbial Synergy in Sustainable Agriculture

## Biofertilisers

## Biocontrol agents

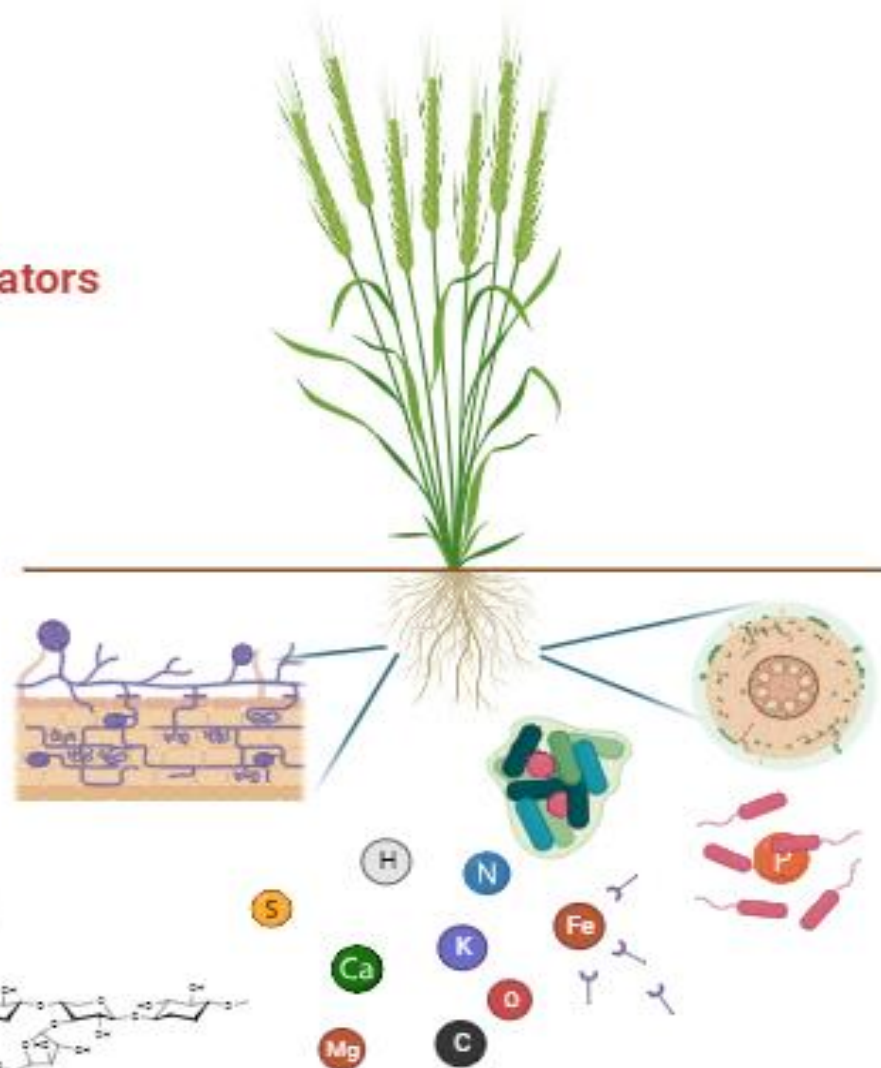
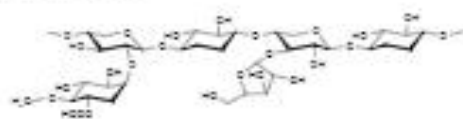
## Abiotic stress mediators

## Phytohormone-like compounds production

- auxin
- gibberellins
- ethylene

## Volatile & other phytostimulators

- allelopathic effect
- hormone regulation
- phytostimulators



## Abiotic stress:

- redox regulation
- drought tolerance
- hormone regulation
- detoxification

## Pathogen protection:

- antibiotics
- quorum quenching
- ISR

## Enhanced nutrient uptake

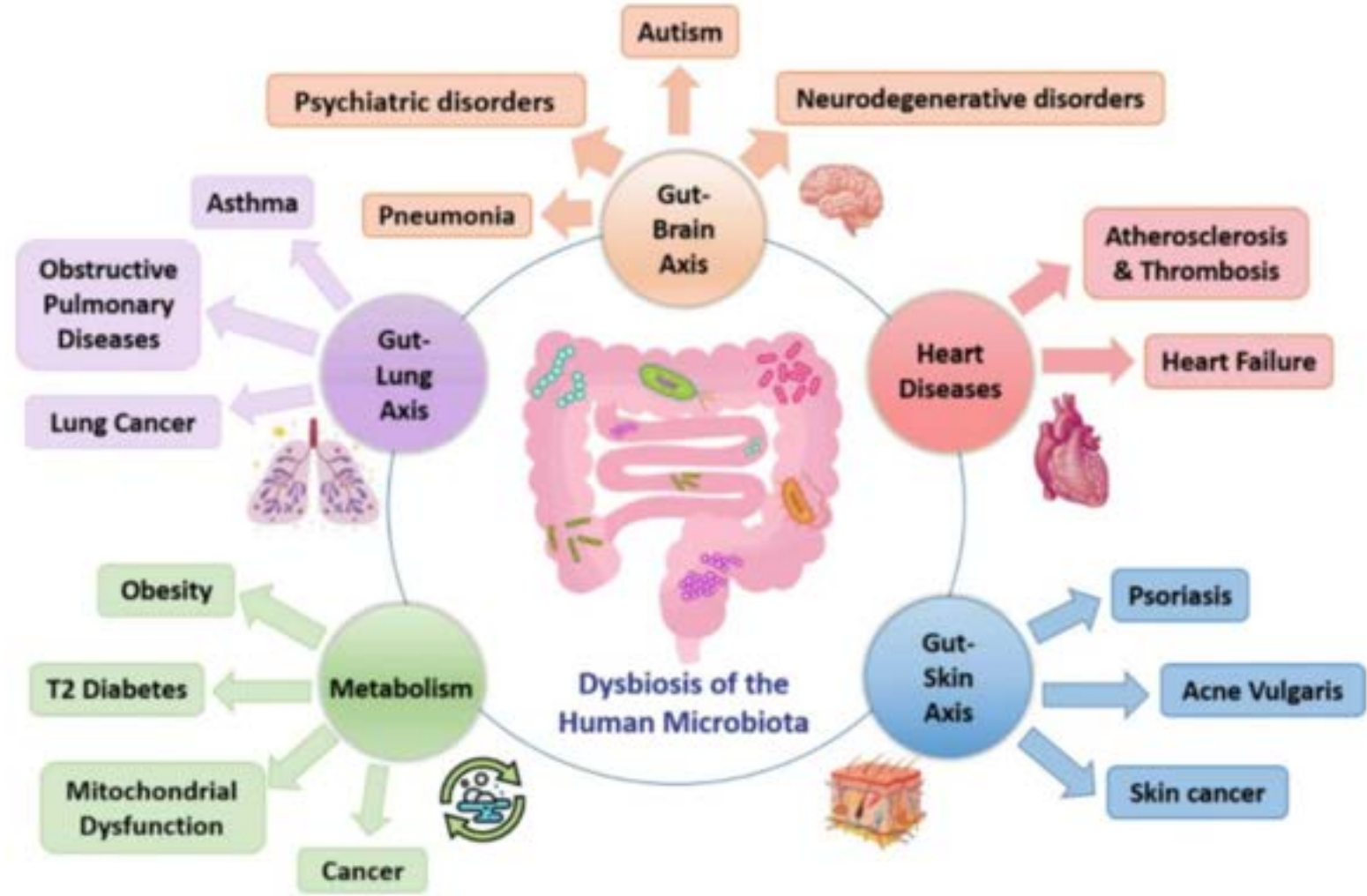
- biological nitrogen fixation
- phosphate solubilisation
- iron uptake

# Microbes on Your Plate

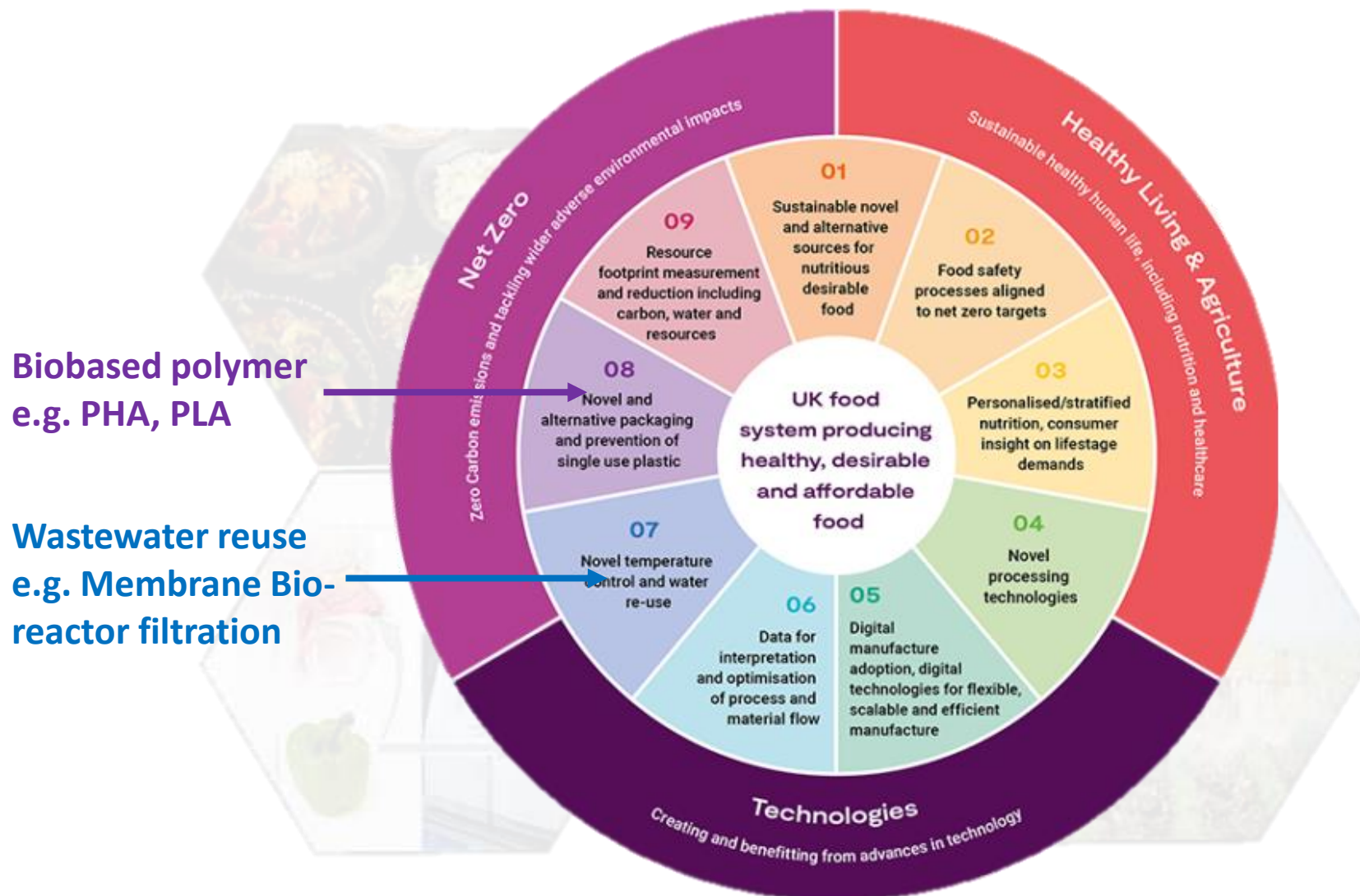
- As a protein source – e.g. *Fusarium*
- In the form of fermented foods - e.g. yoghurt, kefir, kimchi, tempeh and sauerkraut
- As probiotics – e.g. *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium*



# The importance of microbiome and well-being



# Microbes beyond Health Living & Agriculture



# In summary

## In agriculture

- Soil health
- Plant health
- Disease suppression
- Biological control
- Reduce the reliance of inorganic fertilisers and pesticides

## On our plate

- Fermentation
- Probiotics
- Food preservation
- Gut health

# Microbial Synergy and Transdisciplinary Solutions

- Break down disciplinary barriers
- Provide an integrated approach to sustainable agriculture
- Support healthy soils and human well-being
- Be part of the solution to enhance ecosystem resilience, adaptability and sustainability
- Contribute to policy development





**Thank you for  
listening**



# Novel processing technologies to deliver positive consumer food choices

John Bows – PepsiCo R&D (Leicester, UK)



The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of PepsiCo, Inc. John Bows is an employee of PepsiCo, Inc.

# PepsiCo is a global beverage and convenient food company with a portfolio of trusted brands

Net Revenue  
More than  
**\$86 billion**  
in 2022

Operating Profit  
More than  
**\$12 billion**  
in 2022

Iconic  
**23 bn-dollar**  
brands sold in over  
200+ countries and  
territories

Purposeful  
  
Creating growth  
and value



# Food process technology can unlock positive consumer food choices committed by PepsiCo pep+



## POSITIVE CHOICES

Evolve our portfolio to be better for people and the planet



Building "Healthier snacking" business across EU

**\$500MM** by 2025

**\$1BN** by 2030



Reducing Sugars in Beverages across EU

**25%** by 2025

**50%** by 2030

Leverage our iconic brands to inspire positive choices



Nov 2023

... "diverse ingredients," which we define as food groups and ingredients – such as legumes, whole grains, plant-based proteins, fruits and vegetables, nuts and seeds – that people don't consume enough of in most countries. By 2030, we aim to **deliver 145 billion portions of diverse ingredients annually in our global convenient foods portfolio**. Each portion will provide approximately 10% of the suggested daily amount of the relevant ingredient

# Microwave drying unlocks nutrient retention from high moisture fresh vegetables as it's rapid, gentle and low temperature

## Hybrid Baking Process

Rapid Microwave  
Drying



Rapid Hot Air  
Impingement Drying



Slow Hot Air  
Convective Drying



Fresh mashed potato blended with chopped fresh vegetables (70% m/c)



Deposited as a disc with large in-tact vegetable pieces



Dried snack retains nutrition value of vegetables pieces

# Baked vegetable snacks made on a novel Hot Air Baking process\* demonstrated in *clinical trials* equivalent bioaccessibility of phytochemicals compared to fresh cook control.

75g Baked snacks = 460g fresh cook veg mix



Used from Freeze Dried

Used from Frozen



Glucoraphanin



$\beta$ -carotene



Quercetin



Apigenin

Also exhibited equivalent bioavailability  
(how much the body absorbs)

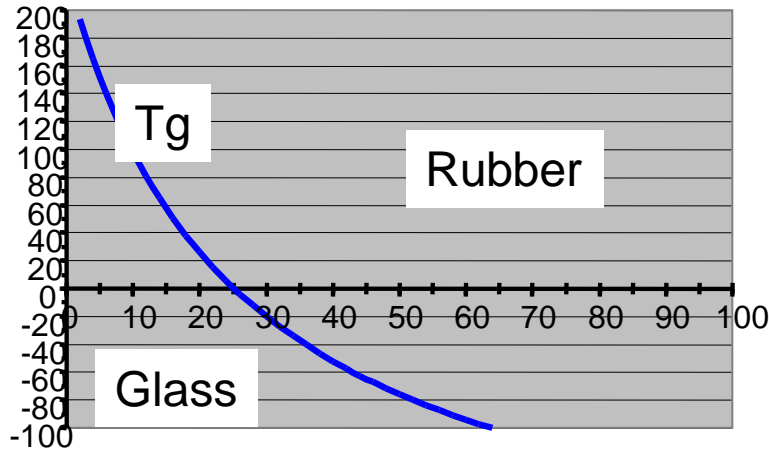
Research led to publications and patents

- Patent GB 332748 filed 7-Jul-2017, WO 2019008088 filed 5-Jul-2018
- Paper on clinical trials published in Journal of Functional Foods (2018)
- Further publications by PepsiCo-funded PhD on nutrient retention from baked snacks (Langston)

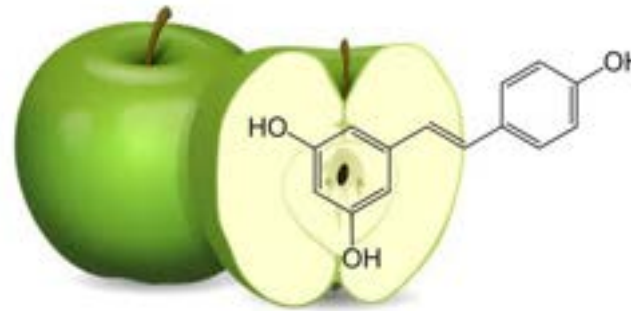
\* Project Oliver (2012-14) was a UK Government co-funded TSB project between PepsiCo, Quadram and Uni. East Anglia

# Understanding snack production through lens of Soft Matter Physics, Field Physics & Flavour Chemistry can unlock great tasting healthy snacks made from fresh-only ingredients with purposeful choice of process technologies

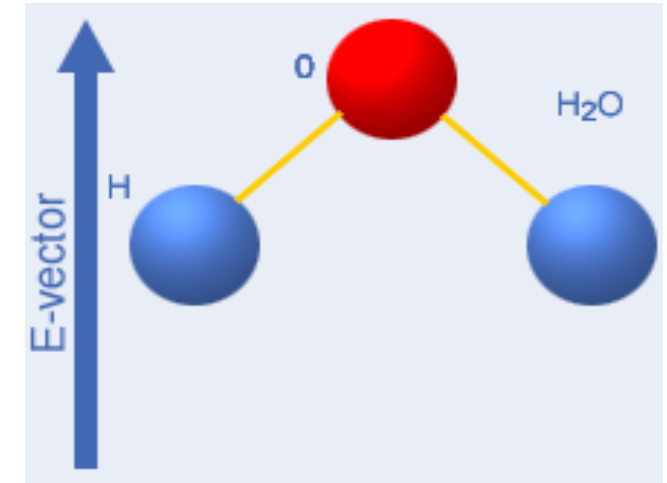
## Soft Matter Physics



## Flavour Chemistry



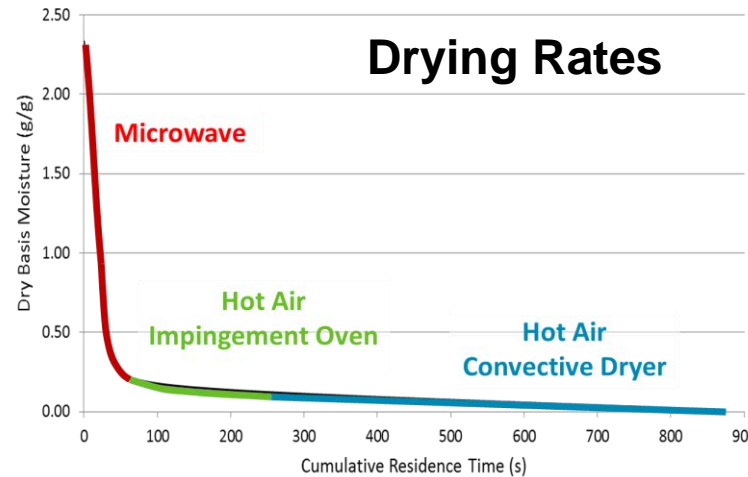
## Field Physics



## Gentle Ingredient Handling



## Drying Rates



## Dielectric Theory

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \sigma \mathbf{E} + \frac{D}{t}$$

$$\Delta T / \Delta t \propto f E_m^2 \epsilon'' / \rho C_p$$

$$\epsilon^* = \epsilon' - j \epsilon''$$

# Without fully understanding the complete ingredient transformational physics, simply replacing frying with microwave drying has met with limited consumer success



c. 2010 (US)



re-launch 2012 (US)



Launched 2014 (UK)



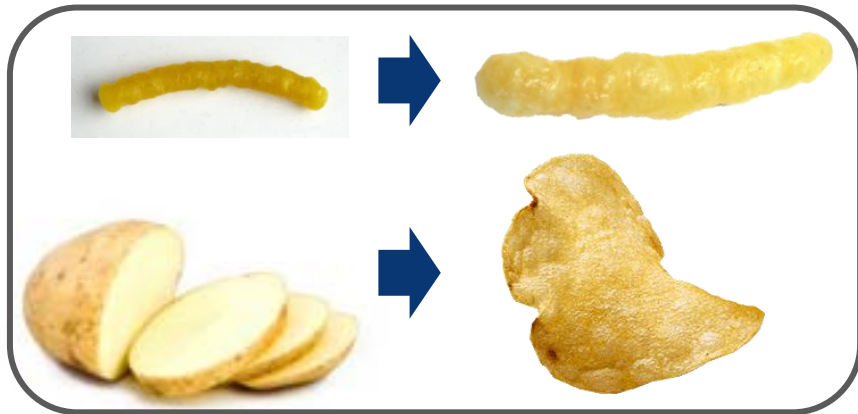
M&S "Count on Us"  
UK, 3% fat

Discontinued 2018

Discontinued

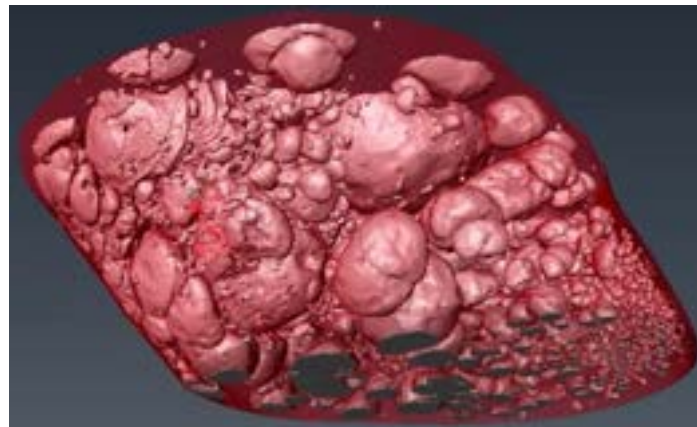
# “Novel processing” technologies can deliver positive consumer food choices with natural ingredients

Understand ingredient to product transformation  
(texture, flavour, appearance)



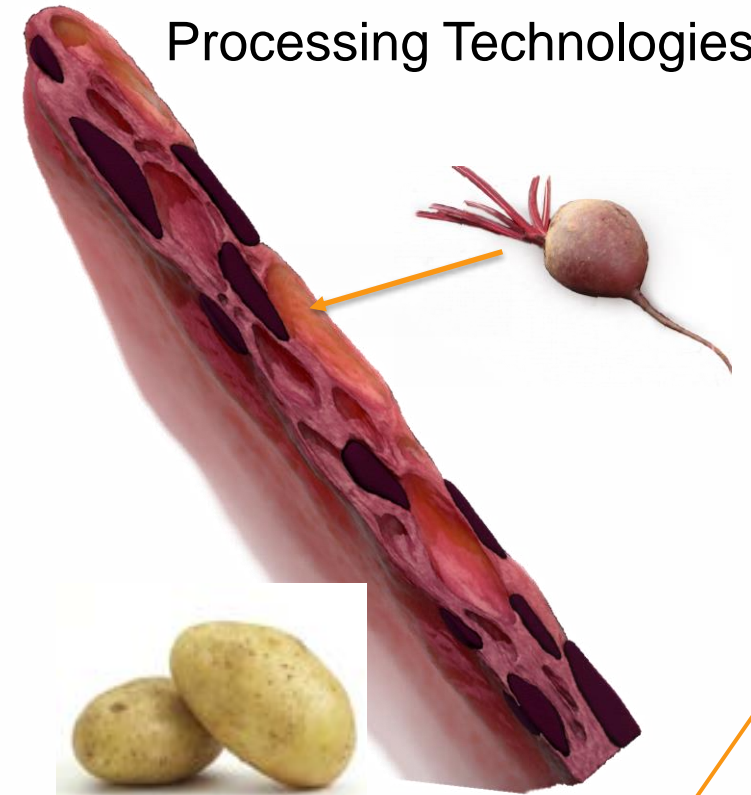
Agri Science to Soft matter physics

Quantify Transformations  
(Imaging, Measurement, Analytical,  
Sensory and Virtual First Capabilities)



X-Ray 3D imaging of  
expanded snack showing air  
pores and cell walls

Deliver transformation through  
Nutrient-Retention Gentle  
Processing Technologies



In-tact microstructure of vegetable  
inclusions in fresh mash potato snack



# Net zero and our needs as an industry

*Dr Laura Malhi* PhD AMIChemE CEng

Food & Drink  
Special Interest Group  
[www.icheme.org](http://www.icheme.org)

**ProFSET**  
Professional Food Science,  
Engineering and Technology Group



**IChemE** ADVANCING  
CHEMICAL  
ENGINEERING  
WORLDWIDE

# Dr Laura Malhi – A little about myself



Food & Drink  
Special Interest Group  
[www.icheme.org](http://www.icheme.org)

IChemE ADVANCING  
CHEMICAL  
ENGINEERING  
WORLDWIDE

**ProFSET Mission.** Identify and propose actions in Science and Technology, to meet the future needs of an efficient UK Food Supply Chain in the rapidly changing global situation

### **Focus Areas**

- 1. A single, informed voice to influence and support government, media and the public**
- 2. Providing opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing and cooperation across industry and academia**
- 3. Promoting the industry as an exciting career path and supporting the development, education and training of professionals**



**ProFSET**

Professional Food Science,  
Engineering and Technology Group

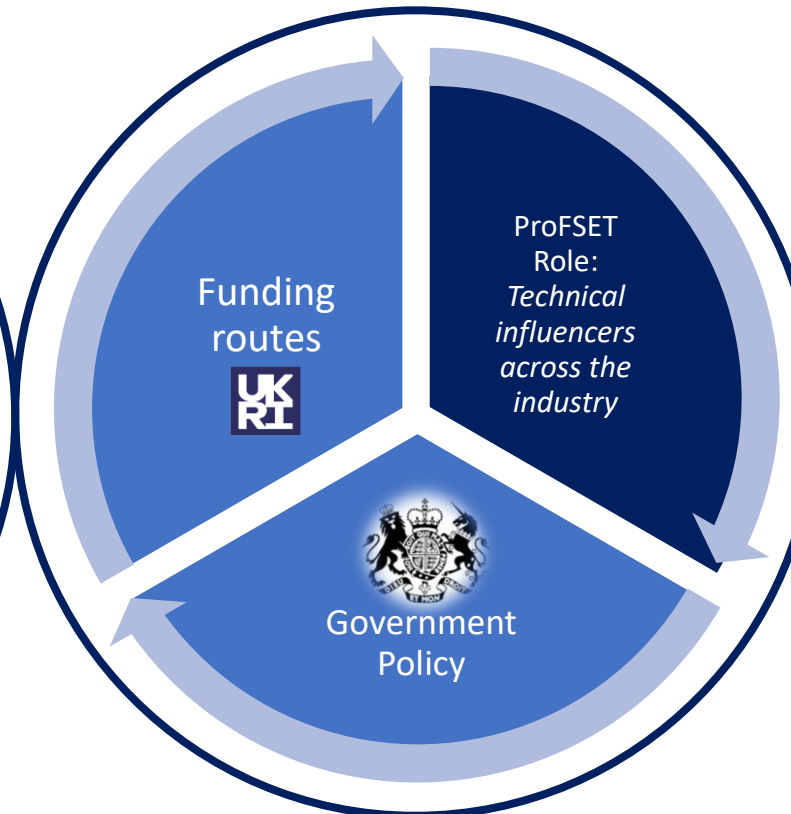
# “A single, informed voice to influence and support government, media and the public”

## WHY ACTION IS NEEDED:

The Agri-Food industry is the largest in the UK generating £128b GVA, accounting for 20%<sup>2</sup> of the manufacturing industry though 98% of the companies are SMEs.<sup>1</sup> This leads to estimated emissions of 150 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2019.<sup>3</sup>

*Communicating the needs of the breadth of the industry with ‘one voice’ is vital to ensure sufficient funding is invested to achieve net zero targets & promote economic growth.*

## PROFSET ROLE:



## WHAT WE WILL DELIVER:

We will take a strategic lead in liaising with UK government & academia on scientific & technical demands from the industry.

### Short term deliverable:

Support academic / industry partnerships bidding for UKRI funding  
*(e.g. 2022/23 - £12m EPSRC funding to establish a food manufacturing hub).*

### Longer term goal:

Maintain network across the professional bodies & industry to influence funding.

# Today's talk: Purpose

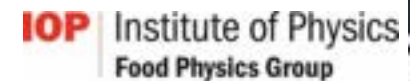
## Share our vision for ProFSET's role: Technical input



Celebrating the wheel with ProFSET member feedback

Technical inspiration from the 'Net Zero' section

Representing 10,000 members in total!



# Approaching our members for feedback on the wheel

**Nov 2022 – shared a survey with our members  
Asked our members to vote on areas  
that require increased funding.**



*Disclaimer!*

The following results are some of the areas that were voted highly for needing increased funding, and does not cover ALL!

# Approaching our members for feedback on the wheel



Solutions for turning current waste streams into useful cost neutral or higher value commodities.

- Exploiting under-utilised crops that suit UK agronomy under changing climatic conditions.
- Approaches that improve nutritional composition including increasing fibre and micronutrient content whilst reducing fat/salt/sugar.

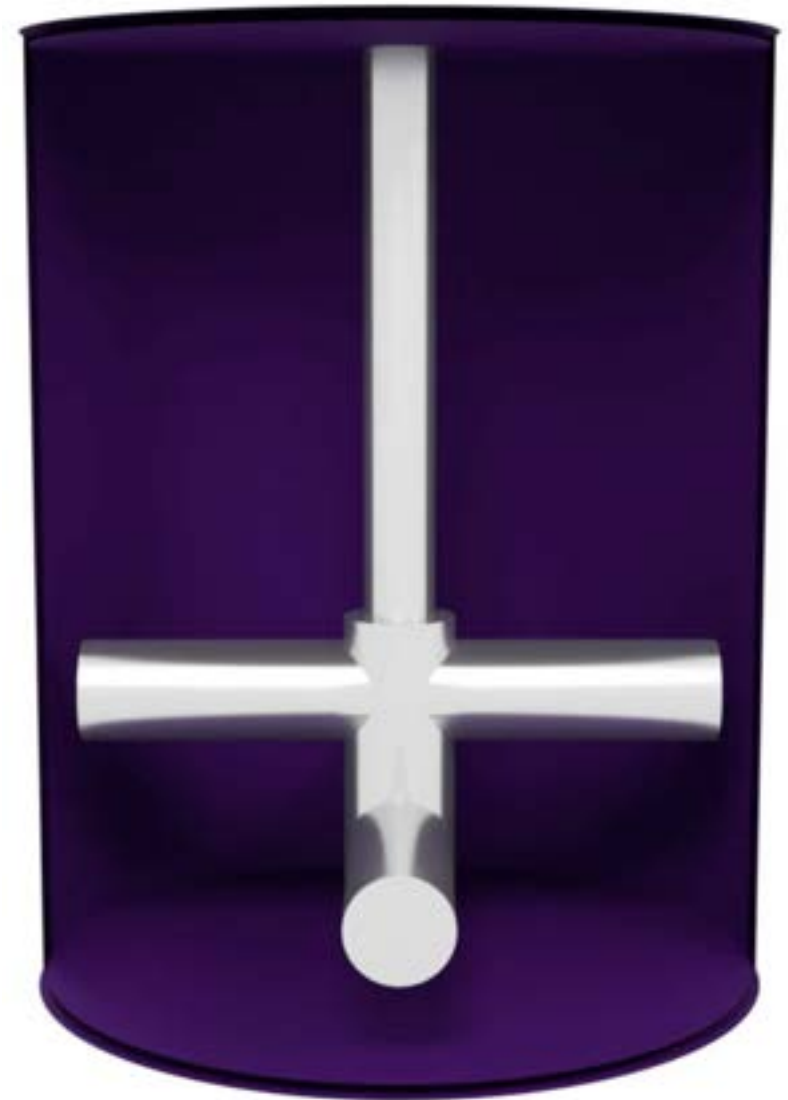
- Advanced mono-materials that facilitate (onsite) recycling or increased biodegradability.
- Increase recycled content of packaging, cut virgin plastic use.
- Re-usable packaging solutions.

Improve resource efficiency with reduced greenhouse gas emissions in reimagined food processing

# Evolutionary Optimisation “Reimagined food processing”

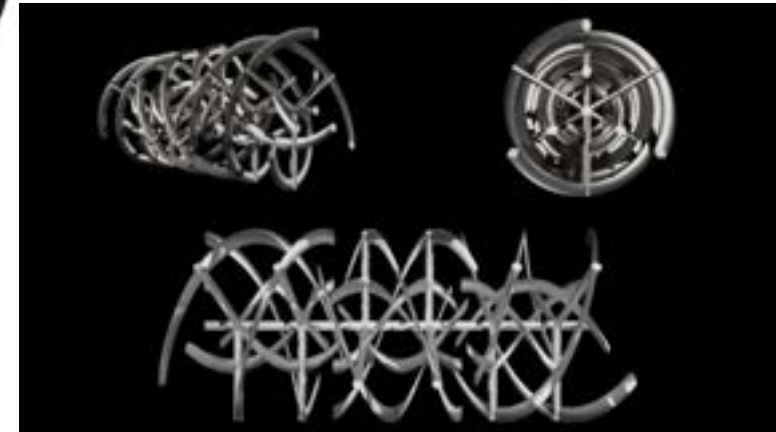
## Milling:

- >3% of **global energy**
- Often <1% efficient
- “Classical” trial-and-error optimisation slow & expensive
- **How to improve sustainability in a tractable manner?**





# Evolutionary Optimisation “Reimagined food processing”



*Ref: Christopher Windows-Yule*

# Today's talk: Summary

**Shared our vision for ProFSET's role:  
Technical input  
Celebrated the wheel with some  
ProFSET members feedback**



# DECARBONISING HEAT IN THE FOOD SECTOR – EXAMPLES & FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

Institution of  
**MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERS**

23 November 2023

Elliot Brown

Project Engineer

Element Digital Engineering Ltd

**Improving the world through engineering**

# PRESENTATION AGENDA.

- 01 Introduction to Element Digital Engineering
- 02 Modelling & Simulation: Decarbonising Heat
- 03 Future Opportunities
- 04 Conclusions

# WHO ARE ELEMENT DIGITAL ENGINEERING



An engineering consultancy company formed as Norton Straw in 2011 and a business unit of Element Materials Technology since 2022.



Deep specialists in the use of numerical analysis to support design, operational and safety challenges in high-hazard and capital-intensive industries.



Active participants in nationally-funded R&D programmes and collaborators with major software companies in developing new methods and techniques.



Developers of specialist software solutions for analysis and assessment problems that cannot be addressed with commercial codes.

# PREVIOUS PROJECTS DELIVERED FOR...



**Solar Turbines**  
A Caterpillar Company



**SIEMENS**  
*Ingenuity for life*



**PEPSICO**



**Rolls-Royce®**



**Schlumberger**



**Mondelēz**  
International



**MEGGITT**



**wood.**

**MAGTEC**  
HYBRID & ELECTRIC VEHICLE DRIVES



# WHY MODELLING & SIMULATION

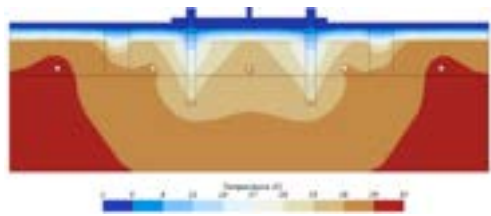
- Rapid assessment of design options without the need to build prototypes
- Understand systems over time (high cycle fatigue or thermal stresses)
- Gain insight to underlying physics phenomena
- No downtime required for production lines
- Assess dangerous systems without human risk

# REFRIGERATED ROOM

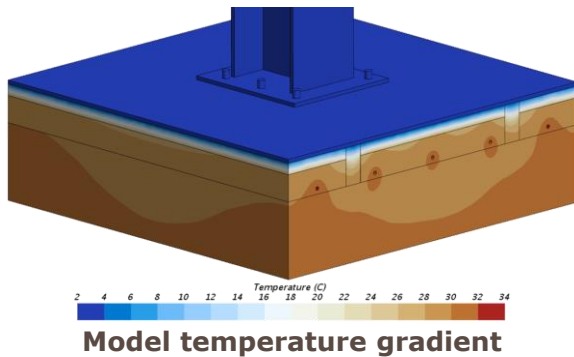
## Challenge

Our client was installing the floor for a refrigerated room.

Heat transfer through the floor was allowing excess heat into the cooled room from the ceiling below.



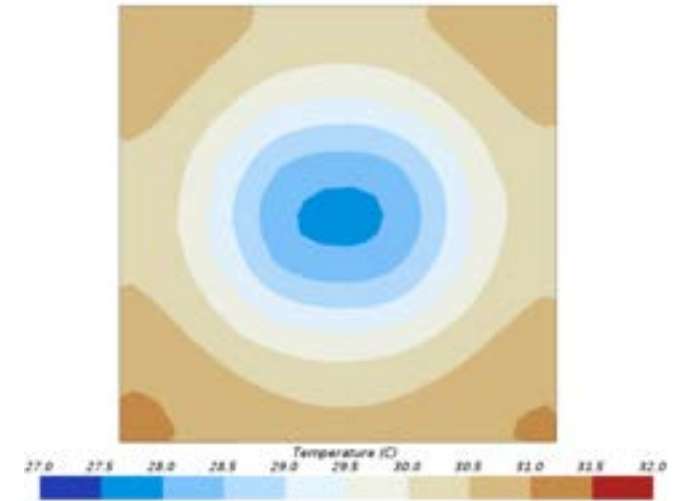
Model section temperature gradient



Model temperature gradient

## Approach

We applied our knowledge of heat transfer mechanics to construct and simulate thermal models using an iterative approach to reach a converged heat transfer coefficient.



Ceiling temperature gradient

## Outcome

Optimised design reduced heat leak into the cooled room, and reduced energy requirements for cooling by 50%.



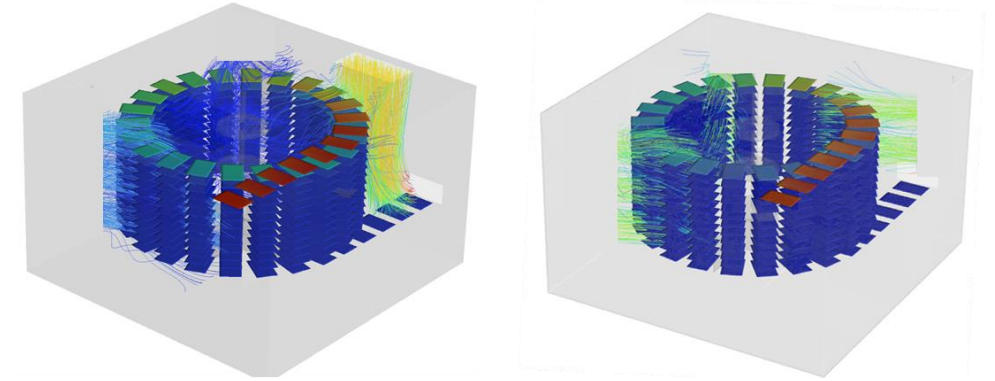
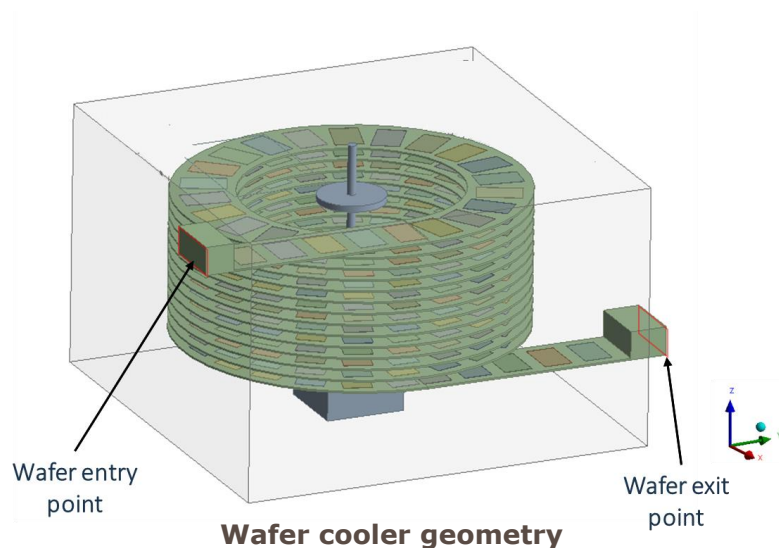
# WAFER COOLER

## Challenge

Our client was looking to increase throughput of a wafer cooling unit, while maintaining existing performance.

## Approach

We used a CFD model to assess the cooler and present potential design improvements. The preferred design was compared to the original cooler.



**Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) results**

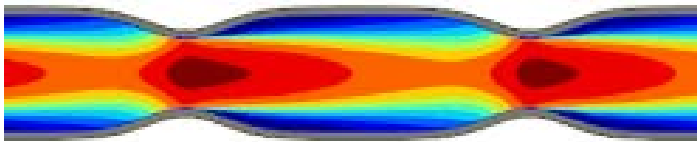
## Outcome

Cooling of the wafers was improved leading to an improvement in throughput of 20% for the same energy costs.

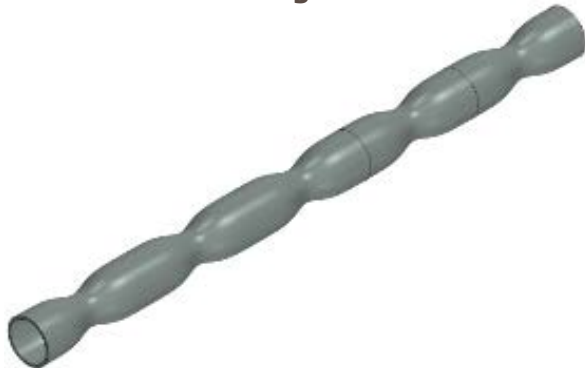
# HEAT EXCHANGER

## Challenge

Our client wanted support with optimization of the tube wall pattern of shell-and-tube a heat exchanger.



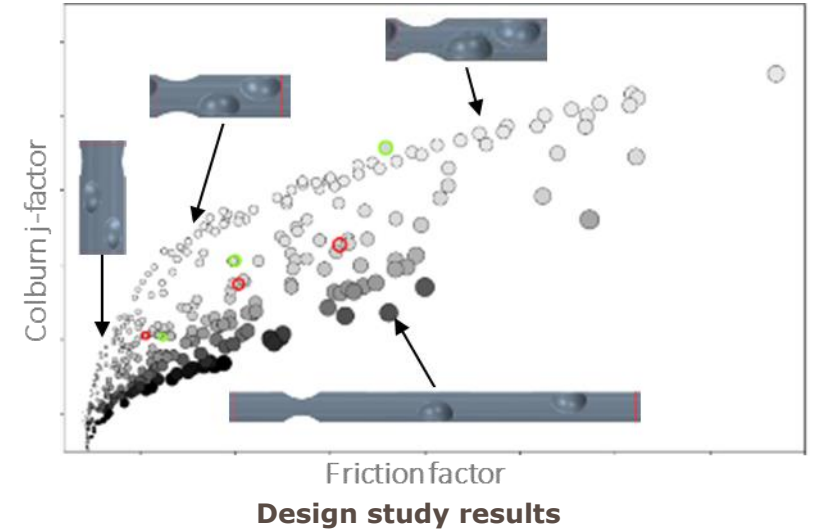
Heat exchanger flow field



Heat exchanger geometry

## Approach

We used experimental data to validate our initial model, we then performed a design optimisation study to improve the heat exchanger performance.



## Outcome

We were able to demonstrate a 20% performance increase over the same pressure drop, and a 50% decrease in pressure drop for the same thermal performance.

# FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- Increasing demand for engineering and data models of end-to-end processes
  - Optimisation of full production lines to reduce energy requirements
- Development of Reduced Order Models (ROMs) allows for condition-based monitoring and process optimisation
  - Reduction in reduction in production line waste and minimised maintenance burden
- Development of Apps
  - Democratisation of modelling & simulation to engineers close to the issues
- Materials modelling to validate suitability of new sustainable materials
- Data driven approaches to identify possible savings

# CONCLUSIONS

- The digital space can lead to real world benefits
  - Modelling & simulation allows for valuable insights into the wide variety of physics that are encountered during food & drink manufacture
  - Understanding thermal characteristics of systems and processes can lead to a reduction in energy usage
- Digital engineering can be used in tandem with real world data to build robust models and validate them against real world data
  - This allows us to rapidly test new ideas and designs in the digital space before committing to implementation
- Insights from other industries can be used to drive emissions reduction in food and drink

# FURTHER READING

- Report published September 2023 by the IMechE Food & Drink Engineering Committee (FDEC)

[Homepage](#) > [News](#) > [Policy and press](#) > [All reports and policy statements](#) > [Report and policies detail](#)

REPORT

## THE ROLE OF MODELLING AND SIMULATION IN THE FOOD AND DRINK INDUSTRY

21 Sep 2023

This report, produced by the IMechE Food and Drink Engineering Committee, explores benefits of modelling and simulation in this important sector.

## THE ROLE OF MODELLING AND SIMULATION IN THE FOOD AND DRINK INDUSTRY.

Institution of  
**MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERS**








Improving the world through engineering

# THANK YOU.

Institution of  
**MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERS**

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 **element**  
**Digital Engineering**

# Introduction to agricultural technologies and its potentials

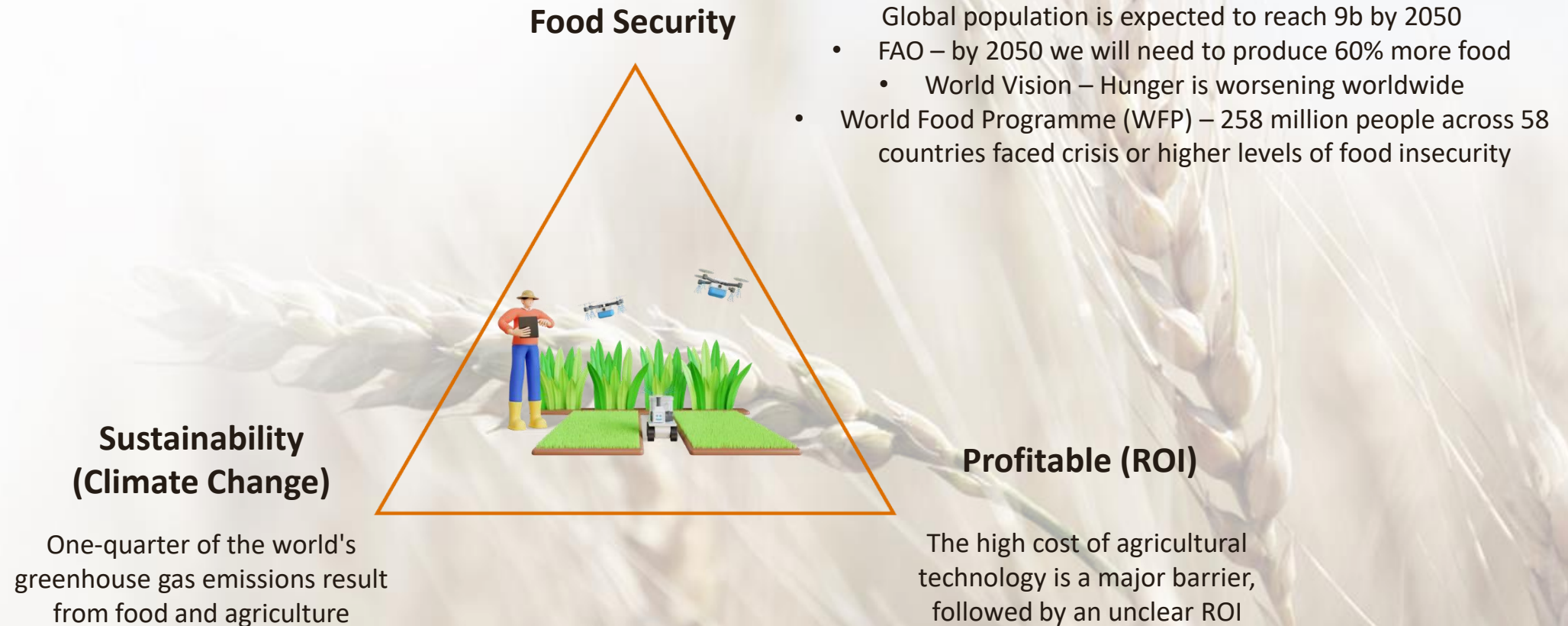


Dr Mark Moore, Director Government Affairs, AGCO

# The challenge

## Food security vs Climate Change vs Profitability

How do we produce more food in a sustainable that allows farmers (and others in the supply chain) to make a living?





# Agricultural technology is already making an important contribution

## Auto Steer

– uses GPS signals to automatically control the tractor in seeding, spraying, fertilizer application and harvesting, reducing overlap of farming operations and leading to substantial fuel savings

## Variable rate technology

– uses sensors or preprogrammed maps to determine seeding, fertilizer, crop protection application rates. Supporting technologies include variable rate controllers, GPS, yield monitors, crop sensors and soil sensors

## Machine and Fleet Management

– time monitoring of equipment, providing information like GPS location, equipment idling, traffic control and route suggestions



## Machine Section Control

– section control technology turns planter, fertilizer or sprayer sections on or off in rows that have been previously seeded/sprayed, or at headland turns, point rows and waterways

## Precision Irrigation

– switch on/off apply and different amounts of water to different areas of the field. Focused on centre pivots

# Agricultural technology – further potential

Annual crop production could increase a further **6%** with a broader adoption of Precision Farming technologies

Wider adoption of precision ag technology has the potential to provide significant improvements



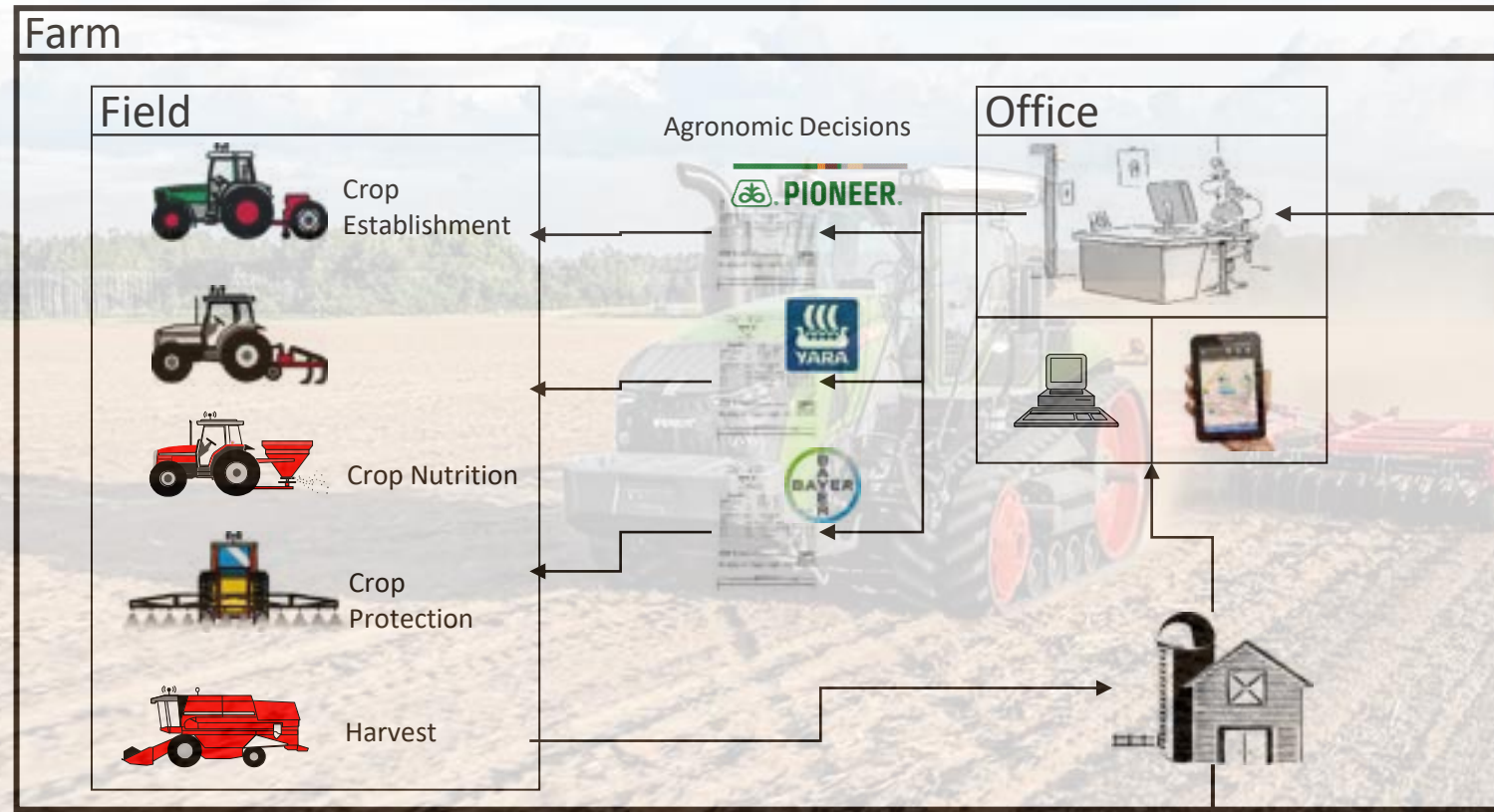
Source: AEM

# Precision Ag products & services “touch” many parts of a food production system

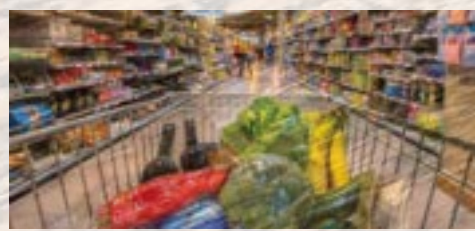
Agricultural engineering has an overarching role within the food production system, but we don't own it

We need to collaborate with others to ensure systems:

- Work seamlessly, and:
- Deliver value to all stakeholders



- Suppliers
- Energy
  - Inputs, seed, fertiliser, pesticides
  - Animal husbandry
  - Machinery and technology
- Advisors
- Agronomists
  - Governments
  - Universities



Food retailers



Food processors

Compliance and traceability

# Summary

- There's never been a more exciting time to be an agricultural engineer !
- The challenge is enormous – 60% more food by 2050 while reducing impact on the environment and maintaining profitability
- Governments recognise the aims of policies cannot be achieved without smart technologies and digital transformation
  - The expectation from policy makers is agricultural technology will enable sustainable food production while ensuring food security
- The agricultural machinery and technology sector has an overarching role across the food supply chain
- A systems approach is required to meet the challenge
  - Delivering useable systems with an obtainable ROI will increase adoption rate
- Collaboration across organisations will be required
  - We know working in silos limits the adoption of technology by farmers



# Role of Thermal Processing in Waste Reduction of Pasteurised Foods

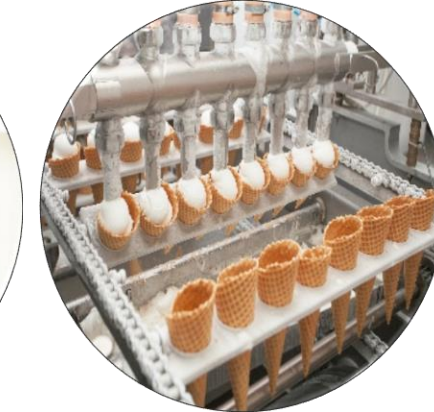
By Chris Holland FIFST, Food Processing Special Interest Group

Presented by:

Natasha Medhurst FIFST, Senior Scientific Affairs Manager



# Special Interest Groups



Sensory  
Science

Food  
Regulatory

Food Science and  
Nutrition

Food  
Safety

Food  
Innovation  
(Product &  
Packaging)

Food  
Processing

# Knowledge Hubs



**COVID-19**



**Food Allergens**



**Sustainability**

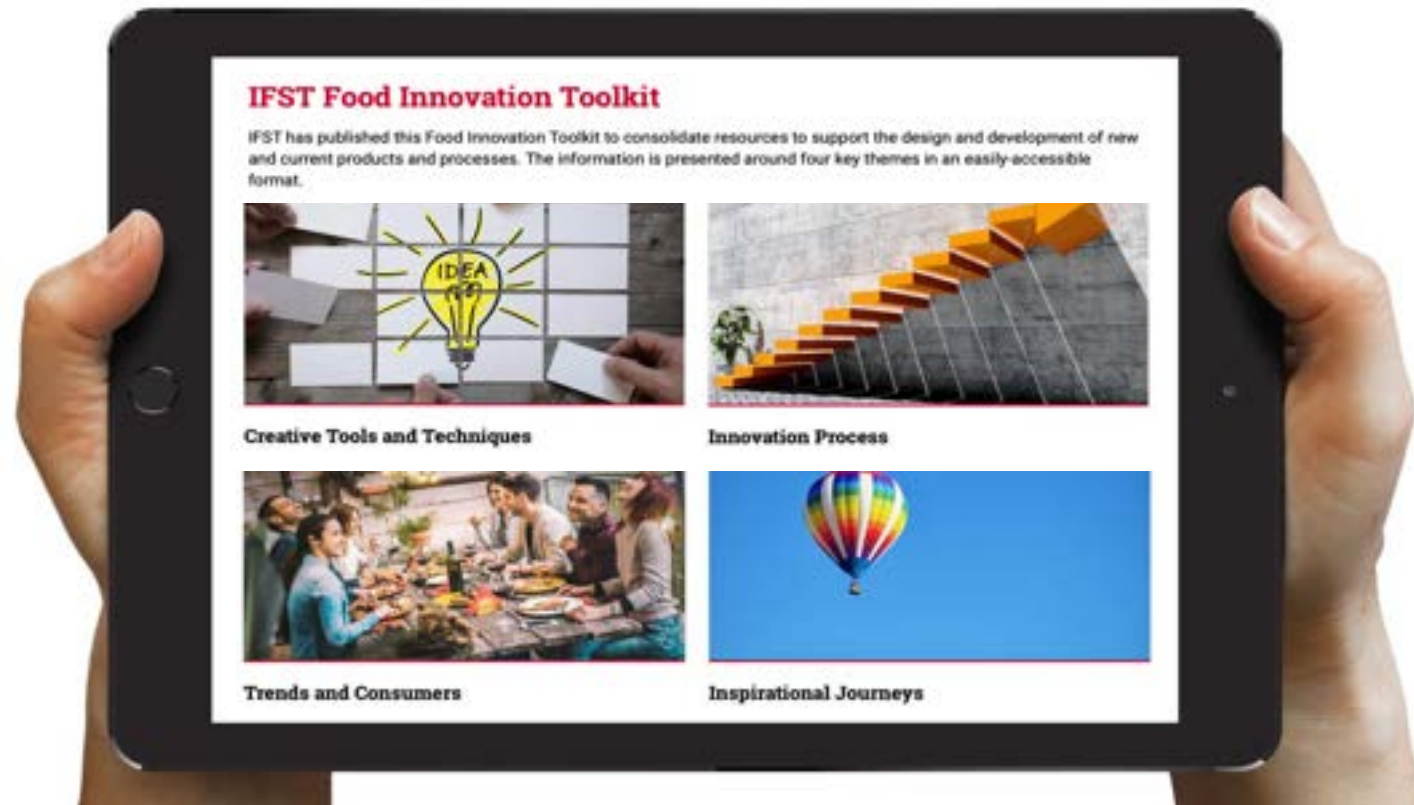


**Food Safety**



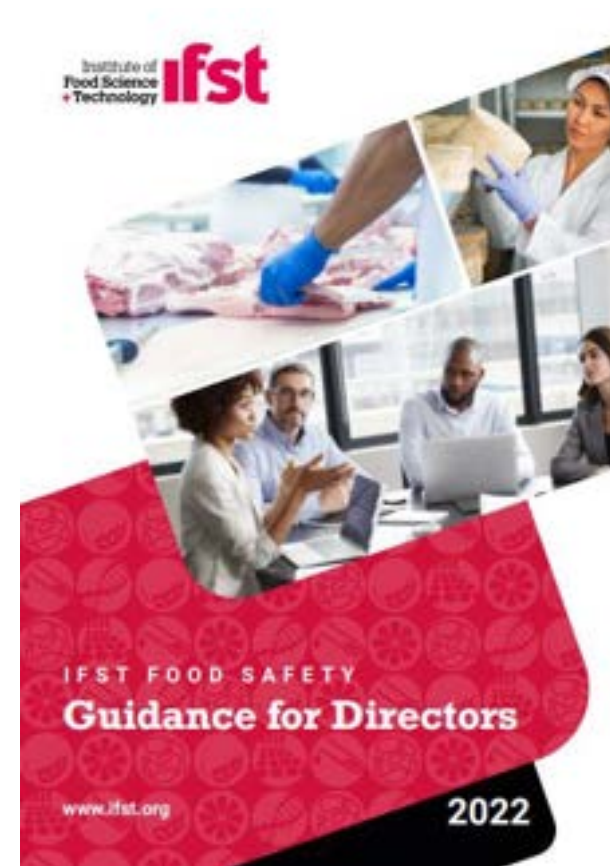
**Food Processing**

# Food Innovation Toolkit – new!





# Publications



# Setting the Scene Source: WRAP 2019

**APPROXIMATELY 1/3<sup>RD</sup>**  
of all purchased food ends up in landfill



Around 4% of recipe dish products are  
**WASTED IN-STORE**

**Over 2 million**  
ready meals per week  
never leave distribution



The food and drink sector is  
responsible for approximately **35%**  
**OF THE UK'S CARBON FOOTPRINT**

10% of this is  
from  
processing



# Why is this happening?

## Manufacturing focus:

- Overproduction – industry wide disconnect between retail orders and manufacturing timelines
- Product recalls
- Packaging damaged in transit
- Consumer preferences
- **SHORT SHELF LIVES**
- **CONSUMER DEMAND FOR PERFECTION**



“Thermal processing delivers waste reduction and a sustainable solution for the future as it has in the past”



**Holmach Ltd**  
*Enabling State-of-the-Art Manufacturing*

*Chris Holland, Managing Director, Holmach Ltd*



## What is Thermal Processing?

Defined as the application of **heat** or **cold** to achieve property change in a consumable product

May be an enzymatic reaction, gelling or crystallisation effect; more commonly a **time/temperature equation** to apply a log reduction to microbial flora

Put simply: **PASTEURISATION & STERILISATION**



## Breaking down the myths relating to processed food



Right thermal process will retain nutritional value of raw ingredients.

Recent study (*Food Science & Nutrition* journal) found vitamin C not destroyed/reduced during thermal processing

Studies have shown that vitamin C levels in fresh vegetables can drop by  $\leq 75\%$  within 7 days of harvesting. Some thermally processed foods can retain nutrients for the duration of their shelf life



## Breaking down the myths relating to processed food



Thermal processing removes need for extra salt and sugar etc.  
- preservatives and the right process can enhance flavours without using unnecessary flavour enhancers



# Shelf Life Extension

## Retorting

- Gentle cooking process retains organoleptic properties of food
- Cooking in the container reduces overall cooking time and enhances flavours - same way as 'double cook' phenomenon
- No preservatives required e.g. high levels of salt / sugar / citric acid
- For chilled ready meals: can obtain additional shelf life of up to 28 days



Subject to packaging integrity, products reaching end of shelf-life can be retorted / re-retorted. May lose some commercial value during second cook but can still be safe and tasty for distribution via food waste initiatives e.g. food banks





## High Pressure Pasteurisation (HPP)

- Pasteurises fruit, vegetables, fish and meat gently, without heat or need for chemicals
- Food subjected to 6000 bar – approx. pressure at 60 km below water; high enough to neutralise germs and bacteria
- Products processed in final packaging; texture, appearance, taste and nutrients remain intact.

Shelf-life is up to 10 times longer after the preservation process



# Consumer demand for perfection

## **ISSUE:**

UK throws away c.1.4 million tonnes of edible fruit and vegetables p.a due to cosmetic imperfections = £2.1 billion (WRAP)

## **PART OF SOLUTION:**

ugly fruit and vegetables can be saved from waste by being used in thermally processed products e.g. ready meals, soups, juices, smoothies

# Consumer demand for perfection

## ISSUE:

industry loses £440 million p.a. due to the disposal of discoloured beef (BRC)

## PART OF SOLUTION:

High Pressure Pasteurisation can improve colour of fresh and cooked dark-cutting beef



Effects of high-pressure processing (HPP) on surface color of dark-cutting beef on day 1 of display.

# Consumer demand for perfection



## ISSUE:

c.1.3 million tonnes p.a. chocolate (10% of all produced) thrown away worldwide due to chocolate bloom\* - International Cocoa Organization (ICCO)

*\*white/greyish discoloration on surface - not harmful but looks unappealing*

## PART OF SOLUTION:

some manufacturers retemper chocolate with thermal processing technology solutions, then repackage - safe and quality retained

# Summary

- Based on a 21-day shelf-life, at least 10 days on shelf can eliminate 4% wastage instore. Still allows 11 days for distribution.
- Shelf-life on most foods can be increased without consumer resistance
- The narrative needs to change. Processing plays a significant part in the global battle against food shortages and waste
- Thermal processing is an ideal solution to food waste caused by cosmetic imperfections
- Retailer buyers need to be more sensitive to the valuable resource of food

**How has food science and technology changed our lives in the last 60 years?**



**Driving young people into rewarding and inspiring careers in the food sector**

# Advances in Food Chemistry: Solving issues spanning the Food System

Professor Tim Foster, FRSC, FIFST  
(Creating Food Meteorites Ltd)  
(Associate Editor of Food & Function  
(2012-2018))

# What is RSC's skin in the game?



- RSC Interest Group **FOOD** whose aims are to promote the role of chemistry in food and enable transfer and sharing of information and networking between academia and the food industry in a way to enhance sustainability and food & nutrition security:
  - foster an awareness of the importance of chemistry in the food chain
  - encourage interactions between scientists and technologists engaged in food R&D
  - help transfer such scientific research from ideas to applicationsAnd whose scope is: Analytical, biochemical, chemical, physical, nutritional and toxicological aspects of food & ingredients and the composition and relationships between structure and functionality throughout the entire food chain
- Two **FOOD** journals: 'Food & Function' and 'Sustainable Food Technology'



## **Food & Function**

**Connecting chemistry, biology  
and physics in food research**

**Food (micro)constituents and their relation to health and/or nutrition by describing (the):**

- **Physical properties and structure of food**
- **Chemistry of food components**
- **Biochemical and physiological actions of food components**
- **Nutritional aspects of food**
- **Toxicological responses to food components**
- **Clinical and population studies using food or food components**



**Novel green strategies applied to both crops and animal foods from every step of the food chain, “from farm to fork”: farming, harvesting, processing, packaging, storage, distribution and control.**

**Circular bioeconomy strategies, from those adding value to food by-products to those focused on the appropriate reuse of food waste**

# Alignment with the KTN Wheel

Circular strategies for adding value to food by-products and food waste (recovery and valorisation)

Molecular properties and physiological effects of food components / Novel and sustainable food resources and food ingredients

Green active and intelligent packaging and storage systems

Sustainable intensification of food production and processing requiring less energy and water consumption

Nanotechnology and biosensors in food processing, packaging and safety

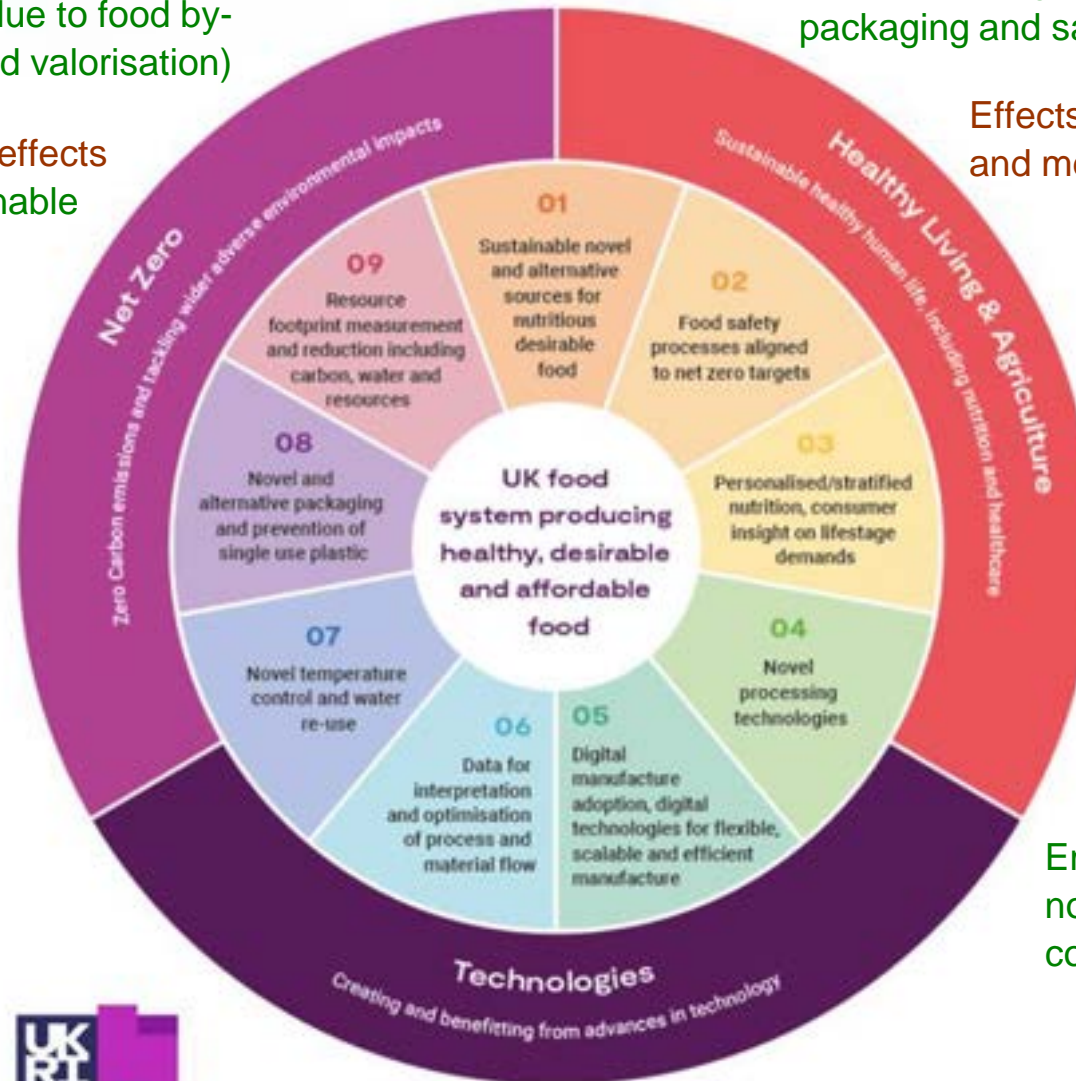
Effects of food contaminants - including toxicology and metabolism

Efficacy and mechanisms of bioactives in the body

Food fortification

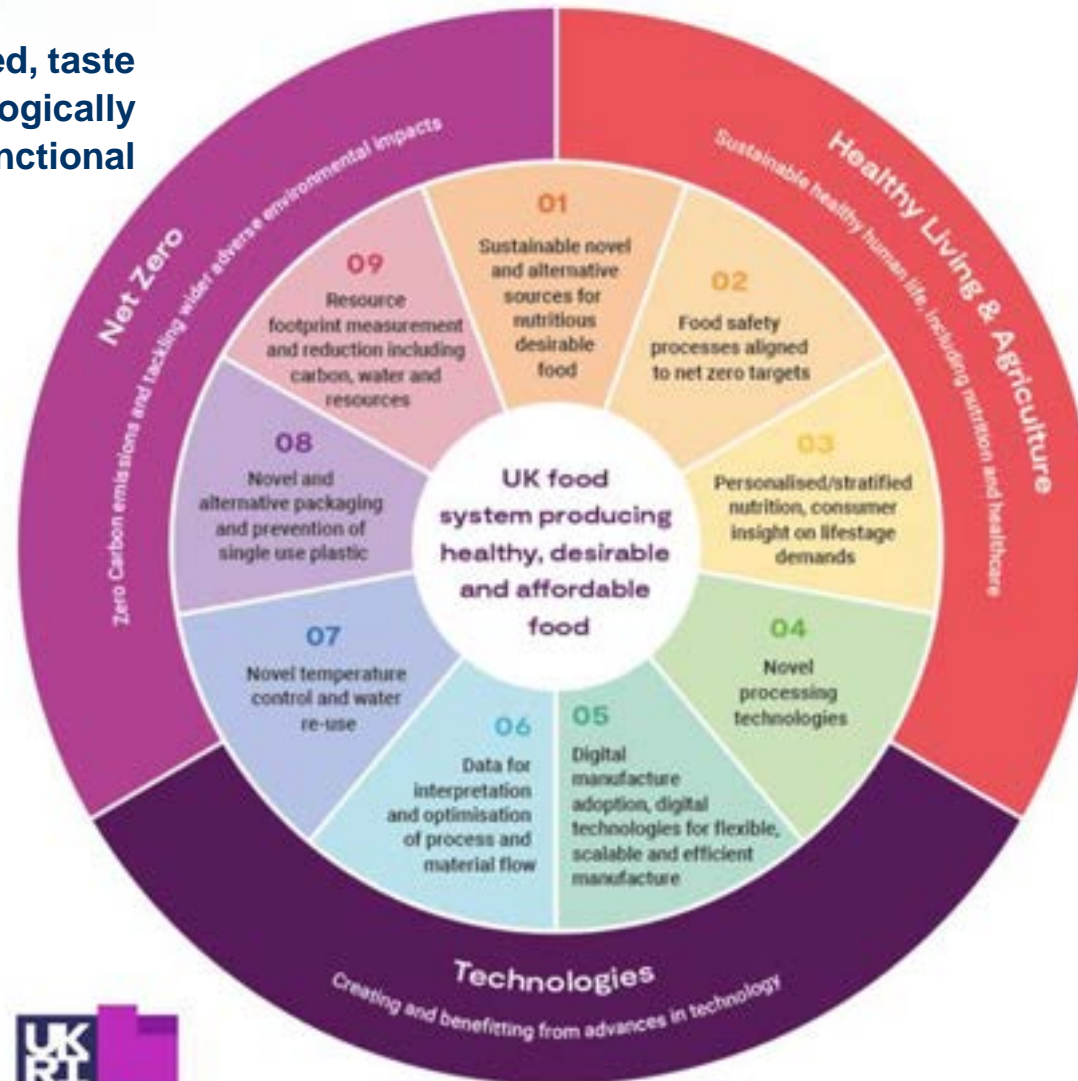
Chemistry and physics of food digestion processes e.g., nutrient release and uptake

Emerging food preservation techniques: non-thermal processes, bioactive compounds



# Alignment with the KTN Wheel

Alternative Proteins – minimal processed, taste optimised, physically and physiologically functional



Food fortification – increasing the nutritional profiles of food (macronutrients: protein / fibre / fats; micronutrients: zinc / iron) and their interactions

Lab Grown – ingredients, matrices, structures and products

# RSC Education Programme – Example Activities

## Schools Outreach

Practical kit and demo – flavours within chocolate flavour

Schools' poster competition – "Food, the Vital Ingredient"



## Events

Advances in the Chemical Analysis of Food – conference series

"Natural" ingredients conference

## Publications

Food science "Mythbusting" book in preparation

Interactive Food Periodic Table of Elements

## Medals and Awards

Early Careers Medal  
Open Medal

**Mg** **Magnesium** **12**

**Occurs in food**

- All green leafy vegetables.
- Nuts and seeds, bananas, avocado and tuna.
- Used to fortify some breakfast cereals.
- Available as a dietary supplement.

**Roles in the body**

- Essential for human body - adult body contains ~25 g, mostly in bones.
- Cofactor in many enzyme systems so regulates many metabolic processes.
- Required for production of energy.
- Required for development of bones.
- Regulates heart beat and nerve impulses.

**Roles in food**

**Chlorophyll**

- Essential part of chlorophyll (a or b) which captures sunlight to make leaves green.
- Also used as an anticaking agent (magnesium hydroxide).
- Can be used as salt (sodium) replacement but very bitter.

# Conclusions

Advances in Food Chemistry not only span the food system but both the academic and industrial landscapes.

A discipline synergistic with physics, nutrition, toxicology, clinical and emerging AI / modelling capabilities.

Providing educational stimulus for the next generation.

# SCI Food Group

Where Science Meets Business

Breaking Down Barriers to  
Open up the Science-Business  
Interface: Microencapsulation  
as a case study

The ProFSET Conference  
23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023



# Barriers to Innovation in the Food System

## Communication

- Culture
  - ‘Not-invented here’
  - Reluctance to change
- Language

## Existing barriers to communication

- Academia-industry
- Large and small businesses
- Between disciplines
- Scientists and non-scientists

## Limited access to investment

## Short-term R&D planning

## Regulatory





# About SCI

## Vision

- To be '*where science meets business*'

## Identity

- Unique, independent multidisciplinary community
- Supporting innovation from chemistry and related sciences in sectors including Energy, Environment, AgriFood, Health and Materials

## Mission

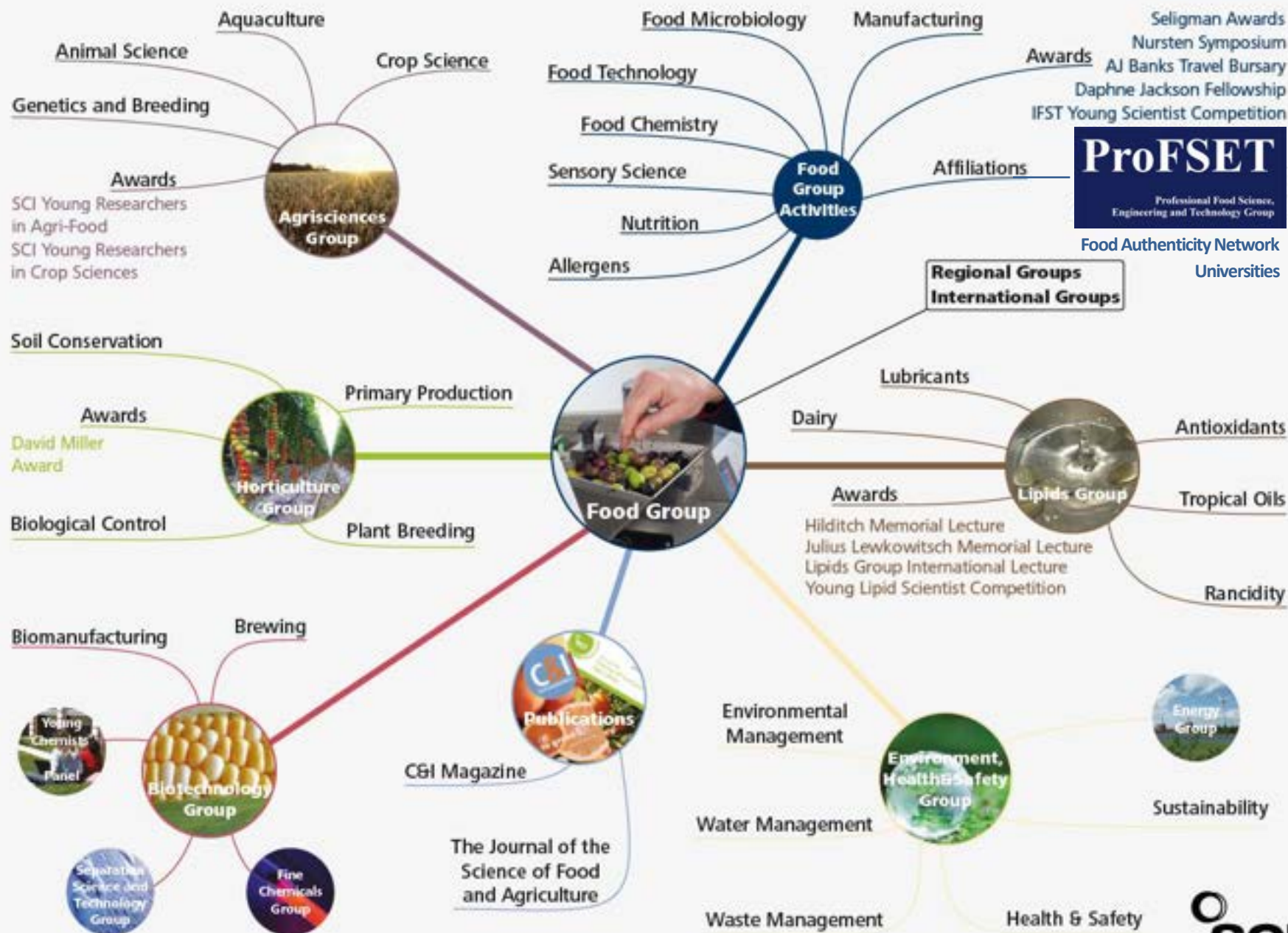
- Encourage networking and distributing knowledge
- Support members' careers in business and academia
- Contribute to public understanding of science



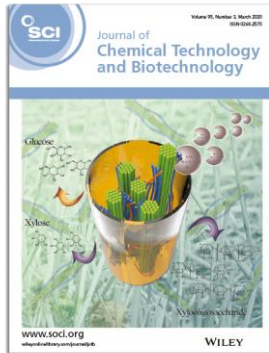
**Foster innovation**  
The commercialisation  
of science via new  
products and processes

The SCI Agri-Food Hub  
 A Long-Term Collaborative Network

# The SCI Food Network



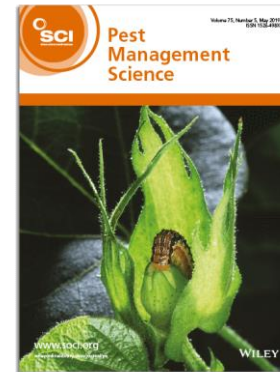
# Communication



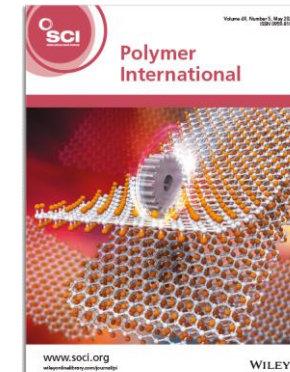
**Journal of Chemical Technology and Biotechnology**



**Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture**



**Pest Management Science**



**Polymer International**



**Biofuels, Bioproducts & Biorefining Journal**



**Energy Science & Engineering**

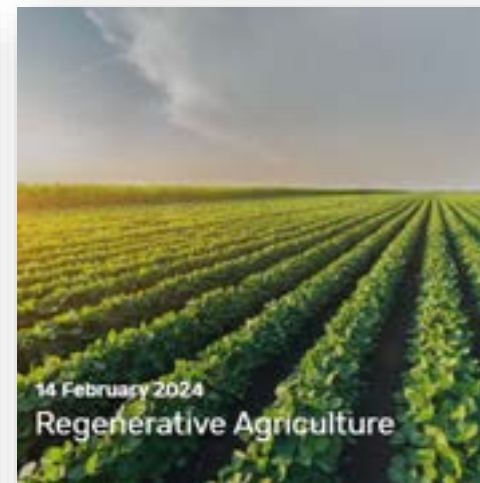
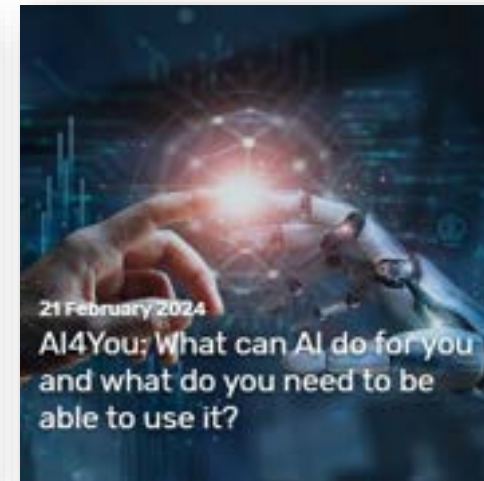


**Greenhouse Gases: Science and Technology**



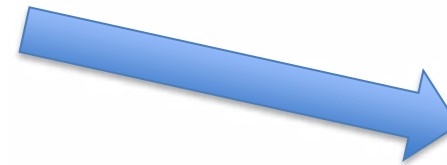
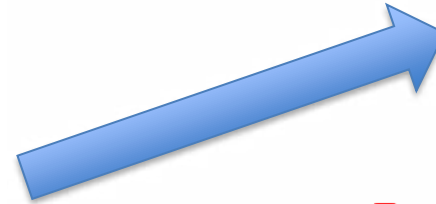
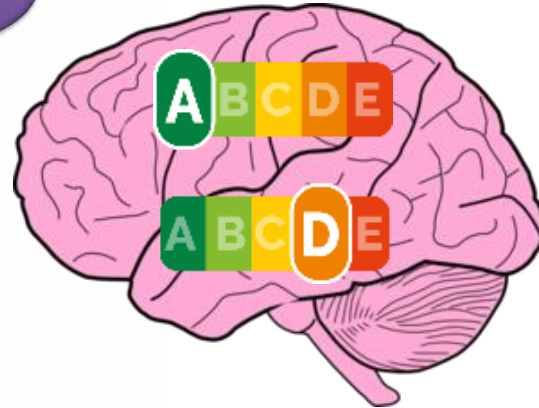
**Chemistry & Industry magazine**

# Events



# Meeting the Challenges

Retaining flavour,  
texture and colour  
in the "Free From"  
marketplace...



# Microencapsulation – From Printing to Probiotics



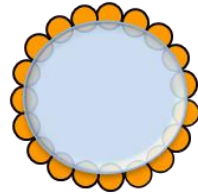
Matrix Particle



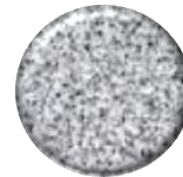
Hollow Particle



Carrier System



Pickering Emulsion



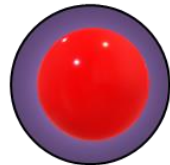
Surface Modified



Fibre or Pellet



Liquid-filled Capsule



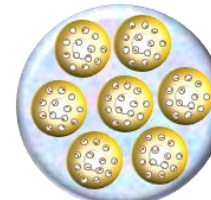
Core-Shell Capsule



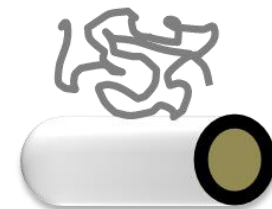
Multi-shell Capsule



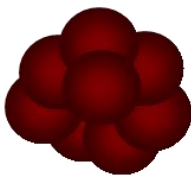
O/W & W/O Emulsions



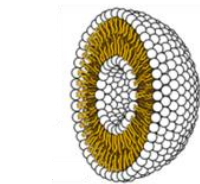
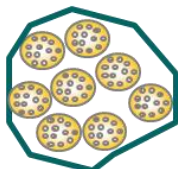
Complex Emulsion



Tube



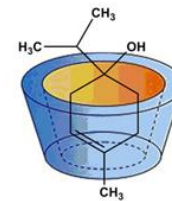
Granules



Liposome



Micelle



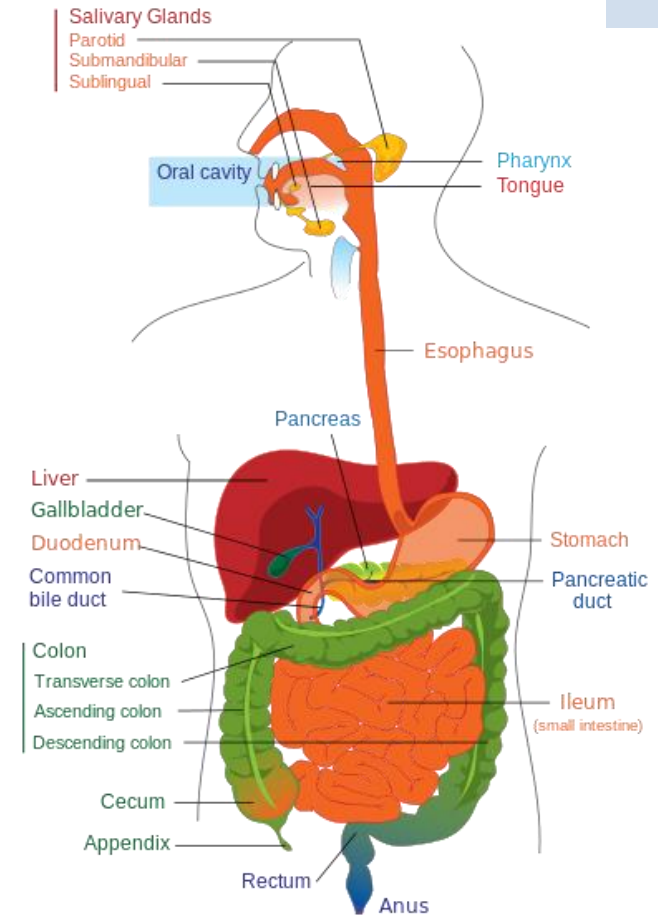
Inclusion Complex



Powders

# Why Microencapsulation?

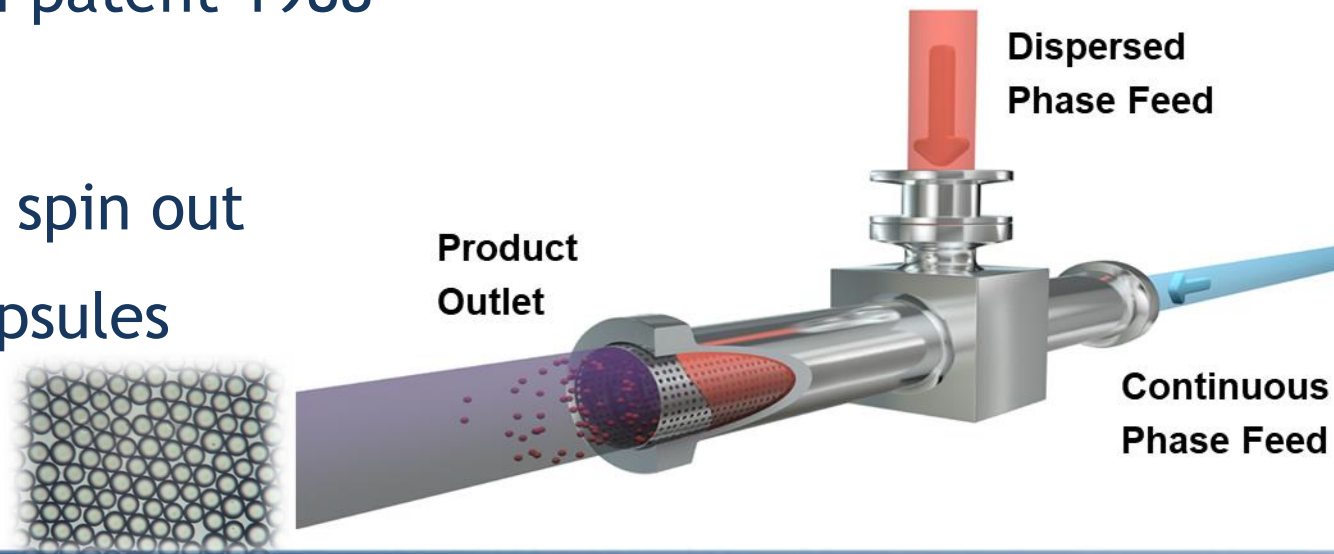
- Protect sensitive ingredients
- Improve handling
- Improve bioavailability
- Control retention/release
- Taste masking



# From the Brain to the Bank

## ● Membrane Emulsification

- Traditionally - high-pressure homogenizers and rotor-stator systems are high energy systems generating heat
- First membrane emulsification patent 1988
- This innovation patented 2006
- Commercialised via University spin out
- Controlled emulsions/microcapsules
  - Pharma, Ag-Chem, Food





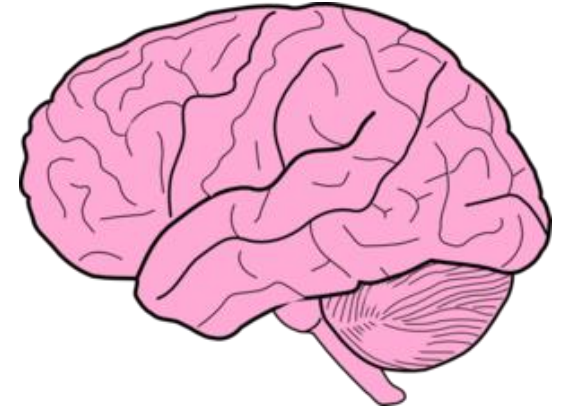
## Something Borrowed

- Electrostatic Spray Drying
  - Electrostatic Printing Invented 1778
  - Spray Drying 1860-1872
  - Electrostatic Crop Spraying in the 1970s
  - Electropray Mass Spectrometry in 1980s
  - Electrostatic atomisation/spray dryer patents 2015/16
  - Taken from bench to production scale



## Key Learnings

- Long-term collaborative networks
- Generalists and specialists in the same room
- Bringing academia and industry together
- Include SMEs and multinationals
- Diversity is key - be aware of unintentional bias



***Panel Discussion***  
***How can ProFSET support the vision of healthy, desirable,  
and affordable food for all?***

Facilitated by Prof Ian Noble  
VP R&D Mondelez, Chair of Innovate UK Food Sector Group

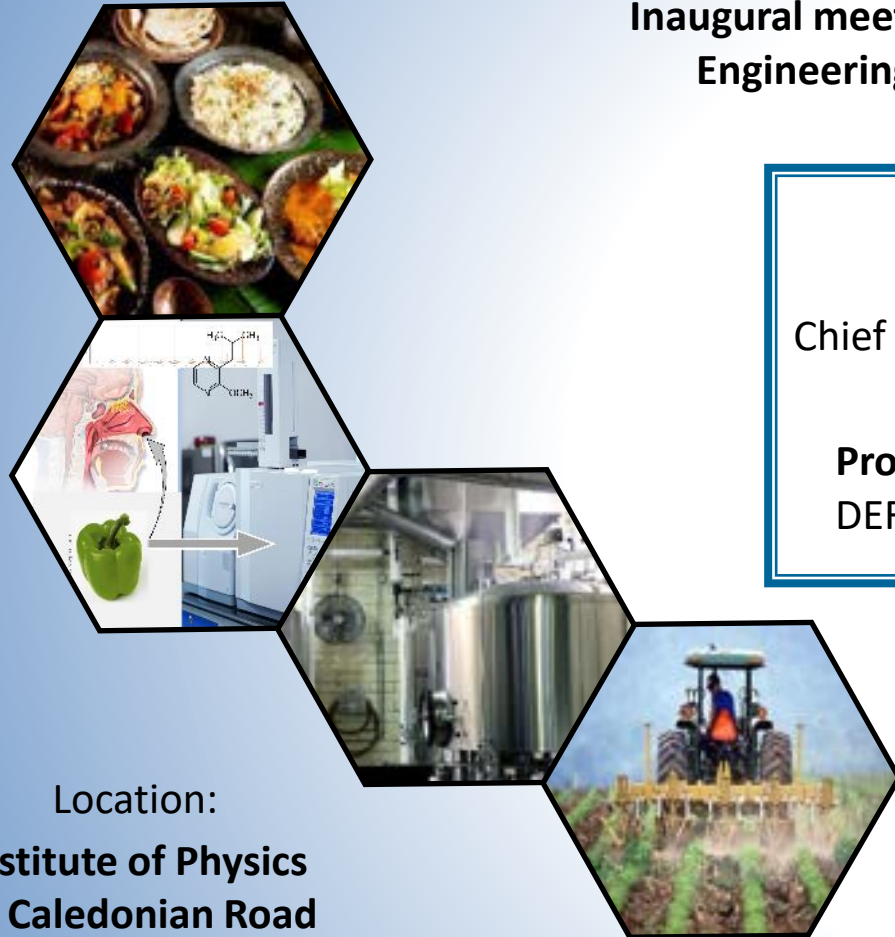


# Transdisciplinary Solutions to Meet the UK Food System Challenges

Inaugural meeting of the Professional Food Science, Engineering and Technology group (ProFSET)

Supported by:

Institute of Physics  
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IFST  
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Society of Dairy  
Technology  
❖  
Applied Microbiology  
International  
❖  
The Nutrition Society  
❖  
IAgrE



Keynote talks from:  
**Kate Halliwell**  
Chief Scientific Officer at Food and  
Drink Federation (FDF)  
**Professor Gideon Henderson,**  
DEFRA Chief Scientific Adviser

**10.30 am to 3.30 pm**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023**

Location:  
**Institute of Physics**  
**37 Caledonian Road**  
**London N1 9BU, UK**

