CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. How important do you think it is that we aim to be a Good Food Nation?
We applaud our government’s ambition to develop our food & drink industry for the benefit of our health, environment, economy and quality of life.

2. How would we know when we had got there? What would success look like?
This is a journey to an evolving destination. Success is the achievement of sustained progress of positive outcomes.

3. Do you agree with the proposed vision? How would you improve it?
Not entirely. The vision should be of an efficient, dynamic, innovative food industry, producing and adding value sustainably and locally for the fully informed citizenry delivering real and significant public benefits locally nationally and globally.

4. How would your life be better? What does being a Good Food Nation mean in your locality?
Small local dynamic innovative businesses creating added value and meaningful jobs in a fully sustainable fashion can be encouraged, facilitated and incentivised to produce goods for Scottish retail and foodservice outlets whilst at the same time delivering measurable achievable public benefits.

In our remote rural locality, there would be affordable access to a wide range of wholesome, sustainable Scottish produce and the majority of the population will understand the social implications of the food they choose to buy. In addition family farmers and small businesses adding value to food and drink would be in a financial position to pay their employees a living wage.

5. Are there any other essential steps we need to take before setting out on this journey?
We need to assess the food production and consumption models in the context of the evolving global challenges of resource depletion, climate change, biodiversity loss, diffuse pollution, long fragile supply chains, antibiotic resistance, commodity price volatility and social degradation including non-communicable diet related diseases. The current models are ill-equipped to meet these challenges – as we are currently experiencing in the crises affecting the dairy industry and also in public health.
6. How do you think a Food Commission could best help?

A Food Commission should first and foremost make an objective assessment of the fundamental suitability of our current food and drink industry and culture in the context of the local, national and global challenges. It should make recommendations of how the industry and society transitions from where we are to where we need to be.

7. In what areas should indicators be set to check we are on track towards our goals?

The Food Commission should develop the Good Food Nation roadmap, which should include goals, targets and timescales.

8. What are your views on the different approaches that could be taken to help us become a Good Food Nation?

The document assumes that we should be building on what we have already. The challenges ahead are of a scale never experienced before and ‘business as usual’ will not be an option. A fundamental review of food production, food processing, supply chains and food culture is required in order to determine the approach.

The suggestion in the paper that the definition of sustainability should be simplified begs the question ‘which part of sustainability should be left out’. Should it be climate change, should it be antibiotic resistance, should it be diffuse pollution, should it be biodiversity loss, should it be food security, should it be energy use, should it be resource efficiency, should it be animal welfare, should it be social fairness? In my opinion all of these, and others, are vital parts of a sustainable food system and should be embraced by a Good Food Nation.

9. Do you agree with the proposed initial focus on:

- Food in the public sector
- A children’s food policy
- Local food
- Good food choices and
- Continued economic growth?

No the initial focus should be on how to achieve a truly sustainable food system which addresses the growing national and global challenges.

Before continuing to focus on economic growth through the export of food, we should understand the impact that Scotland’s diet has on developing nations. I suggested we should be focusing on expanding the range of food that we grow in Scotland for our own use, rather than focusing on increasing the production of livestock for the export market.
10. Which other areas would you prioritise?

Robust production models of a mix of healthy food focusing initially on the home market.

11. What other steps toward achieving a Good Food Nation would you recommend?

Start the preparation for CAP 2020 with the Good Food Nation goal in mind, so that the industry understands and supports the changing of CAP towards payments for the delivery of a healthy society and environment.

12. What else should be considered?

Supply chains to enable small scale producers to be included in Public Procurement.

13. What steps do you plan to take to help Scotland on the journey toward becoming a Good Food Nation – in the next month and in the next 12 months?

Lead by example by demonstrating that small scale sustainable food production provides the greatest public benefits.

14. How did you hear about this Discussion Document?

Word of Mouth

**Responding to this Consultation Paper**

We are inviting written responses to this consultation paper by 17th October 2014. Please send your response with the completed Respondent Information Form (see "Handling your Response" below) to:

**goodfoodnation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk**

Or by post to:
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If you have any queries please contact Eugenia Christie at 0131 244 9574.

This consultation, and all other Scottish Government consultation exercises, can be viewed online on the consultation web pages of the Scottish Government website at [http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations).