CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. How important do you think it is that we aim to be a Good Food Nation?

The Scottish (Managed) Sustainable Health Network (SMaSH) welcomes the opportunity to highlight issues of environmental sustainability and health as part of this consultation. As highlighted in the discussion document, environmental sustainability and climate change are significant and increasing challenges to our food system that could affect all, but which may have a greater negative impact on vulnerable populations.

It is important that Scotland becomes a Good Food Nation in so far as this could provide the vehicle for achieving the co-benefits of improving health, reducing health inequalities and improving environmental sustainability. However, the emphasis should be on achieving true co-benefits and consideration of environmental sustainability needs to be at the heart of the development of a Good Food Nation.

Developing a Good Food Nation has the potential to harness and augment the current, growing body of work by various food and sustainability organisations in Scotland.

2. How would we know when we had got there? What would success look like?

All aspects of sustainability are well understood and the impact of decisions regarding other elements of the Good Food Nation on sustainability is fully considered.

All decisions related to food consider issues of environmental sustainability, health and health inequalities as a matter of course.

When the public sector contribution to the Good Food Nation agenda through sustainable procurement, the reduction of ‘food miles’, shortening supply chains and so forth is complete.

When measureable improvements in population health, health inequalities and the environmental impact of Scotland’s food system are seen.

3. Do you agree with the proposed vision? How would you improve it?

Broadly SMaSH agrees with the vision. It could be improved through greater clarity on what is meant by ‘sustainability’ and recognition of the
potential conflict between the various elements of the vision. For instance, there could be a conflict between achieving both economic growth and reducing the negative environmental impact of the food sector. This raises the question of how a Good Food Nation will balance or prioritise potentially conflicting elements?

4. How would your life be better? What does being a Good Food Nation mean in your locality?

SMaSH is currently developing work in relation to food and sustainability, as are many other organisations, so the development of the Good Food Nation will allow greater promotion and understanding of this whole agenda.

5. Are there any other essential steps we need to take before setting out on this journey?

It is essential to ensure that sustainability is brought to the forefront of thinking when developing the Good Food Nation. SMaSH would propose undertaking health and inequality impact assessment of policies supporting the Good Food Nation, including questions on environmental sustainability. (http://www.healthscotland.com/resources/networks/shian.aspx)

6. How do you think a Food Commission could best help?

A Food Commission could ensure effective working between different policy areas within Scottish Government and across a diverse set of organisations. Equally its membership should reflect a wide set of representation including environmental sustainability.

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

There should be indicators in relation to all elements highlighted as contributing to developing a Good Food Nation. Of particular importance would be indicators on population health, health inequalities and environmental impact. SMaSH would welcome the opportunity to collaborate in the formulation of indicators on sustainability and health.

8. What are your views on the different approaches that could be taken to help us become a Good Food Nation?
SMaSH agrees that whatever the approach taken, it should ‘seek to counter the perception that caring about food should only be for those who can afford to do so. Healthy, sustainable and delicious food should be accessible to everyone’. This is an important but challenging aim. How will this be achieved?

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?

It would be important for environmental sustainability and health to be considered as core to each of these strands.

10. Which other areas would you prioritise?

As previous question, environmental sustainability and health are important factors to consider but cannot be prioritised in isolation.

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

Effective approaches to disease prevention could also contribute to improving the health of Scotland’s population, reducing health inequalities and promoting sustainability of health services. Food policy, for example on salt or fat content of processed food or on alcohol pricing, may have the potential to influence these outcomes. Would the scope of a Good Food Nation extend to considering these types of food policy?

12. What else should be considered?

Given the potential for the NHS and the public sector to contribute to becoming a Good Food Nation, it is important to improve the environmental sustainability of their activities and promote their achievements.

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?

SMaSH will continue to undertake work in relation to food and sustainability.

14. How did you hear about this Discussion Document?
Through various routes – via colleagues within NHS Health Scotland and the SMaSH network.

**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:
Good Food Nation
Food and Drink Division
B1 Spur
Saughton House
Edinburgh
EH11 3XD

If you have any queries please contact Eugenia Christie at 0131 244 9574.