### CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

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

   It is crucial for the well being and the economies of local island communities that Scotland aims to be a good food nation.

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

   Scotland grows more of its own food, and local communities especially on islands develop a “terroir” identity with local food being identified for its special qualities inherent to the place where it is produced. Island beef and lamb are sold at a premium price. Orchards with Scottish variety of fruits are widespread in communities as well as in the private sector. There is an increase in local potato growing in the Highlands. Local or mobile abattoirs are set up to prevent food miles for meat production. These allows local meat products to be developed locally with their own identity. Scotland's islands are flourishing due to the development of a high quality tourism industry which not only includes whisky, but local real ales from microbreweries and local product trails. People in general have a healthier diet, with less obesity, heart condition and diabetes.

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

   Yes. It is crucial for the well-being of the Scottish nation, its food security and to combat climate change.

   Continue with funding Climate Change and Zero Waste Scotland projects to do with food.

   Encourage island produce branding at EU level so that Scottish island produce can become easily identified not only in Scotland but also abroad.

   Continue to encourage traditional crofting and farming practices.

   Re-introduced traditional Scottish apple varieties.

   Encourage hydroponic growing in areas where it is difficult to grow food outside.

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

   Our local communities would be able to consume fresher products, good, locally sourced meat and have a healthier diet that would include more local fruit and veg.
5. Are there any other essential steps we need to take before setting out on this journey?

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

As stated encourage food excellence in the public sector, especially schools, hospitals and care-homes as well as schemes encouraging local food production, network and trails. The role of local shops should not be neglected and schemes to encourage their retention should be implemented to ensure that supermarket competition does not drive them out, as they play a vital part in the local economy.

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

Primary food production.
Trainees that are fit for purpose in the food and drink sector.
Development of the local food economy.

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

Yes. Children food policy is essential to educate our youth about good healthy food, interest them in growing their own fruit and veg and be discerning about local products. Good food in the public sector will lead by example and will set higher standards. A comprehensive local food policy is also absolutely crucial for Scotland to become a good food nation. A good food choices policy will help people choose the healthier options and widen tastes and food knowledge. However, developing a circular economy to ensure a slower but more sustainable growth by including Climate friendly and Zero-Waste policies, would seem more important than too much emphasis on continuous economic growth.
10. Which other areas would you prioritise?

Community composting with particular emphasis on anaerobic composting (see Inishmore community composting in Ireland) to help communities to access cheap and reliable sources of compost for growing food, thereby making steps towards a circular economy.

Help crofters and small farmers have access to local abattoirs such as the Mull abattoir to produce meat with traceability and quality for the area they live in, thereby contributing to the development of local specialities. Help crofters and farmers market their product as quality local food.

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

Ensure that urban children have access to farms on a regular basis for them to understand what food production means, with particular emphasis on what seasonal food means. School trips to rural areas and in particular to islands as is done in the Scandinavian countries would be particularly valuable for them to understand what small holdings and crofting food production is like.

It would be great to see more encouragement to garden market production, box schemes, meat box schemes to help guarantee an income to small producers.

12. What else should be considered?

The Community Empowerment Bill and its provision for allotment schemes should also include the possibility for communities to access land for allotments and community orchards on large estates which are unlikely to be sold, in the form of a long lease at a peppercorn rate. This could be made as a conditional clause for large private estates to access land development or conservation grants.

Protect wild food stocks, particularly wild fish stocks, by protecting the rights of inshore fishermen whilst managing coastal zones to ensure their sustainability.

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?

Continue to lobby the EU commission to bring forward legislation in accordance with Article 32 of EU Regulation 1151/2012, which would create a new optional reserved term "product of island farming" to promote products whose raw material comes from or whose processing takes place on an island.

Continue to lobby for a revision of state aid rules and measures to take into account the specific issues of food production on the smaller islands -
14. How did you hear about this Discussion Document?

Through a local food officer in the Scottish Crofting Federation

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.

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.

The Scottish Government has an email alert system for consultations, http://register.scotland.gov.uk. This system allows stakeholder individuals and organisations to register and receive a weekly email containing details of all new consultations (including web links). It complements, but in no way replaces Scottish Government distribution lists, and is designed to allow stakeholders to keep up to date with all Scottish Government consultation activity, and therefore be alerted at the earliest opportunity to those of most interest. We would encourage you to register.

Handling your response
We need to know how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are happy for your response to be made public. Please complete and return the Respondent Information Form which forms part of the consultation questionnaire attached an annex as this will ensure that we treat your response appropriately. If you ask for your response not to be published we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation.