CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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?

10. Which other areas would you prioritise?

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

12. What else should be considered?

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?

14. How did you hear about this Discussion Document?
17 October 2014

**Becoming a Good Food Nation Consultation:**
**Response from the Scottish Fair Trade Forum**

The Scottish Fair Trade Forum welcomes the desire for Scotland to become a Good Food Nation and in particular the emphasis on the importance of sustainability and transparency in food supply chains. We also welcome the commitment to ensure that public sector procurement is used proactively to ensure that such principles are put into practice when using public money.

However, the Forum is disappointed that the consultation document makes no reference to Scotland’s achievement of Fair Trade Nation status as declared by the Scottish Government’s Minister for External Affairs and International Development in February 2013. Scotland is a global leader in its commitment to Fair Trade and the importance of justice in international trade. Food and drink accounts for a significant proportion of Fair Trade products. The nature of these products does not undermine the place of locally produced food and drink. The commitment to Fair Trade can be a significant part of ensuring food and drink imports are environmentally sustainable and bringing transparency in their supply chains.

The Forum understands the focus of the consultation document on locally produced and consumed food and drink and we also understand the desire to promote the export of Scottish food and drink. However, we believe that becoming a Good Food Nation also needs to include a focus on the provenance, transparency and sustainability of imported products. Scotland as a Fair Trade Nation is already showing its commitment to being a global leader in ensuring social justice in trade. The Forum believes that this commitment should be included in any Good Food Nation aspiration.
On the practical issues of defining and achieving Good Food Nation status, we would offer some comments based on our experience of Fair Trade Nation status. One of the lessons learnt from the process of working towards Fair Trade Nation status is that having set criteria that must be achieved can partly inhibit innovation and can lead to a restricted approach. Published criteria to achieve a particular status effectively limited the ability of the Forum to change priorities based on a changing political, social or economic environment. We would agree that there needs to be some numerical targets because of perceptions of credibility and the ability of targets to focus and motivate. However, there has needs to be an acknowledgement that the food and drink industry and its social and economic environment is dynamic and setting criteria can prove not to be flexible enough to reflect that dynamism.

The Forum would be happy to offer advice and assistance from our involvement in the Fair Trade Nation campaign to those leading the Good Food Nation programme.

Regards

Martin Rhodes
Director