

Realigning UK food production and trade for transition to healthy and sustainable diets

Project Summary

This project directly addresses the two overarching challenges posed by the Transforming UK Food Systems programme that relate to:

- (1) the changes in dietary consumption, food production and trade patterns that would be required for a transition to healthy and sustainable diets;
- (2) the interventions that would be needed across government, business and civil society to deliver this transformed food system.

The project takes a food systems approach through a simultaneous consideration of consumption, production, trade and supply chain implications of a transition to healthy and sustainable diets and brings together multidisciplinary expertise encompassing:

- economic modelling consumer demand and shifts in consumer preferences;
- dietary pattern analysis;
- derivation of environmental sustainability indicators at food product level;
- partial equilibrium modelling of production and trade incorporating environmental impacts of GHGs, land use and water use;
- elicitation of consumer preferences using stated preference techniques (discrete choice experiments);
- trade policy analysis in the context of current and emerging international and regional trade policy regimes;
- structural changes in the supply and value chains for the agri-food sector;
- co-design approaches for industry-led initiatives in designing a coherent framework for supporting the transition to healthy and sustainable diets.

Project Team

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Project Duration

01 August 2023 – 31 July 2025

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Project Objectives

This project aims to develop a blueprint for a co-ordinated set of policy interventions to support the transition to healthy and sustainable diets in the UK. The interventions considered will include fiscal and trade policy measures, supply chain innovations and possible industry-led initiatives that can facilitate the transition to HSD.

- To model the changes required in consumer food baskets and dietary consumption patterns for different socio-demographic segments of the UK population for a transition to healthy and environmentally sustainable diets. Assess the changes in the aggregate consumption of agricultural commodities and food products associated with the transition.
- To assess the changes in UK food production and trade patterns needed to support the transition to healthy and sustainable diets.
- To evaluate the potential effectiveness of fiscal and trade policy interventions (including those recommended by the National Food Strategy) that can support the food system transition in the UK.
- To identify the structural changes needed in the supply chain for key agricultural commodities to support consumers, manufacturers and importers for the dietary transition.

Project Structure and Work Packages

