2019 City Food Symposium: How to develop and deliver a national food policy
Workshops and Roundtables

The workshops will used methods which foster shared learning to develop new insights to inform the development and delivery of national food policies anywhere in the world. The workshops will also be an opportunity to test and refine workshopping methods that could be used to facilitate public participation in the process of developing national food policies. The recommendations stemming from the workshops will, along with the learnings from the rest of the Symposium, be included in the Symposium Report on “How to develop and deliver a national food policy: a global perspective.”

1-3 are global in scope, so are applicable to anywhere in the world, including the UK
4-5 focus on learning lessons from past experiences from around the world, for the UK and elsewhere
6-8 are focused specifically on the proposed National Food Strategy for England

Workshops with a global scope

1. Creating a shared vision for a national food policy
Led by Dr Laura Pereira, Research Fellow, Centre for Food Policy. Dr. Pereira has an extensive background working on food systems challenges in various countries around the world, including South Africa, Nigeria, Mozambique, Brazil and Spain. As part of her work, she has used the 3 Horizons framework in scenario development methods. Most recently she led an exercise for The World in 2050 together with colleagues from the Stockholm Resilience Centre that employed the 3 Horizons framework to discuss pathways to achieving SDG 2 on Zero Hunger in Africa.

This workshop will use an adaptation of the 3 Horizons approach to explore what a future vision for a National Food Policy could look like and how we could get there. The group will start by brainstorming what they think a desirable future food system could look like and what aspects should be addressed by a national food policy. The present landscape of policy and actions will then be mapped out- both existing, but not yet dominant ideas that could actively contribute to an NFP as well as dominant aspects of the system that would need to decline in order for the NFP to be implemented. The final step will be for the participants to plot a pathway of actions that could lead from the current status quo towards the achievement of a NFP that meets the needs and desires of the group.
Room C309

2. Building bridges: Using a national food policy to connect different food issues
Led by Dr Kelly Parsons, Research Fellow, Centre for Food Policy. Dr Parsons’ research expertise in national food policy development has been informed by analyses of cross-cutting government food policy projects in Australia and the UK. She has a particular focus on the concept and practice of integrated food policy: how different food-related challenges and
policies are connected to each-other, and how governance structures can hinder or support a more holistic policy approach to food. Last year she published a briefing paper on connecting food systems for the Austrian Presidency of the EU. She has run several workshops examining policy connections, most recently working with the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development’s Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Unit on a workshop in Scotland on the coherence of policies within the Good Food Nation programme.

Our food system has the potential to ‘deliver healthy and affordable food for all people; restore and enhance the environment for the next generation; be robust in the face of future challenges and be built upon a resilient and sustainable agriculture sector’. But the various issues to be addressed by a national food policy do not exist in isolation from each-other: there are tensions, trade-offs and opportunities which will need to be addressed to truly achieve a more joined-up approach to food. This workshop will use a food system goal ‘speed dating’ method to explore the connections between national food policy goals, using a two-step process of discussing how issues are currently connected to each-other, and then how they might be better connected for the benefit of both.

Room CLG55

3. Overcoming barriers to the development and delivery of a national food policy

Led by Dr Annabel de Frece, Teaching Fellow, Centre for Food Policy. Dr de Frece has worked on the IFSTAL (Interdisciplinary Food Systems Teaching and Learning) programme for the last two years. With IFSTAL she has developed teaching methods to support the understanding of systems approaches to global food challenges in both postgraduate students and food sector professionals. Dr de Frece has worked extensively with communities using participatory methods in Ghana, Mexico and India. These methods align well with collaborative thinking methods which are central to the soft systems approach to problem solving.

We know that there are barriers to the development and delivery a National Food Policy in any jurisdiction and we know that those barriers are characterised by multiple actors, structures and processes which make it difficult to understand where to start. This workshop will use the Rich Picture methodology to explore those barriers and identify ways of overcoming them. The Rich Picture method is an exercise which is useful for collaboratively and visually articulating where issues lie and where solutions can be found. It is a fast and effective way to understand complex systems and for facilitating discussion between different areas of expertise. In the session, groups will first discuss what the key barriers are thought to be. Multiple perspectives will be sought to gain greater understanding of the problem. Working within groups we will construct a visual representation of the ‘situation’. Then, developing and enhancing our Rich Pictures, we will explore ways of overcoming those barriers by identifying connections within the structures, processes and perspectives of this complex arena. Through this process we will work together to identify routes to overcome the barriers identified.

Room C315
“Learning Lessons” roundtables with a global scope

4. Learning lessons from efforts to enable public participation in the development of integrated food policies at the regional, national and city-level

Roundtable discussion with Nick Jacobs (IPES-Food), based on his experience of managing public participation in the development of the Common Food Policy for the EU; Pete Ritchie (Nourish Scotland), drawing on his experience of the development of Good Food Nation, Scotland; Clément Cheissoux (Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation, France) drawing on her experience of the development of Etats Généraux de l’Alimentation; and Emily O’Brien based on the consultation carried out during the development of the Brighton Food Strategy. Chaired by Dr Claire Marris, Reader, Centre for Food Policy.

This workshop will bring together morning speakers to drill down in more detail into the process of engaging citizens in developing a national food policy. Speakers will share in more detail why citizens were engaged, how, and the difference it did (or did not) make. The aim will be to come up with a set of lessons learned and specific recommendations for other countries seeking to engage their populations in the development of national food policies.

Room B200

5. What do international efforts to take an integrated, multisectoral, approach to addressing nutrition teach us about how to develop and deliver a coherent national food policy?

Led by Professor Liv Elin Torheim (Oslo Metropolitan University, Oslo, Norway) and Dr Jody Harris (Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, UK). As well as her university role, Liv Elin Torheim is vice-chair of the Norwegian National Nutrition Council (NNC), an independent advisory board to the Norwegian health authorities. She previously chaired the council for four years. Her research focuses on food and nutrition policies and programming in Norway and in various countries in Africa (Mali, Malawi, Nigeria etc) and Asia (Nepal and India). Professor Torheim teaches global and national food and nutrition policies and nutrition and human rights at postgraduate level. Jody Harris is a nutritionist who is conducting research into nutrition policy processes, multi-sectoral nutrition platforms, the nutrition transition and nutrition and human rights and in various countries. For her PhD at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, she researched the Zambian nutrition policy process and implications of the transfer of ideas from the international development system into national policy.

This roundtable will provide an opportunity to learn about the experiences of two countries that have developed national strategies to improve nutrition: Norway and Zambia. Both countries have developed coherent written nutrition policies involving several sectors, and have developed multisectoral coordination structures to facilitate Implementation. On paper, both are examples of efforts to take coherent strategies across government and beyond to address a food-related challenge. Yet converting the policies into action has proved more challenging. The roundtable will start with two brief presentations on the Norwegian National Action Plan for a Healthier Diet (2017-2021) and Zambia’s 2006 National Food and Nutrition Policy and subsequent 2011 National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan. The workshop will then draw on participant experiences and ideas around integrated policy, as well as existing research and
frameworks, to facilitate discussion. The outcome will be a set of issues that should be addressed by any country planning to develop and deliver an integrated food strategy.

**Room C313**

**Workshops specific to the proposed National Food Strategy for England**

**Workshop 6. Making the case for a National Food Strategy: developing a Theory of Change**

Led by Dr Rebecca Wells, Teaching Fellow, Centre for Food Policy. Dr Wells has for the last three years been working on the IFSTAL (Interdisciplinary Food Systems Teaching and Learning) programme. With IFSTAL she has developed teaching methods to support the understanding of systems approaches to global food challenges in both postgraduate students and food sector professionals. One of the key areas addressed by Dr Wells during food systems teaching is food systems change – and one of the methods she looks at is Theory of Change. Participants take a critical approach and use problem based learning to work through complex case study examples in workshop settings.

This workshop will use a Theory of Change framework to trace the pathways through which a National Food Strategy could be adopted. Working in small groups, participants will learn about Theory of Change and how it is used in food systems contexts. We will then use the example of a National Food Strategy as the ‘change we want to see’, working together in small groups to identify the pre-conditions required to introduce a National Food Strategy. Then we will map short, medium and long-term goals that might help us achieve our overall aim, as well as indicators that will help us measure progress. We will finish by presenting our work to each other to review and revise. The workshop will help us to map what is needed to enable the adoption of a national food strategy. What measures need to be put in place to support the introduction of the policy? Who needs to be involved? Importantly, too, what would be the most effective form a National Food Strategy could take (e.g. policy framework? legislation? setting ambition?) thus enabling it to be both ambitious but achievable.

**Room C310**

**Workshop 7. Measurable outcomes for a National Food Strategy**

Led by Anna Taylor, Executive Director, The Food Foundation. Anna has led The Food Foundation since 2015, taking it from start-up to a mainstay of the UK food scene. She is also currently supporting Henry Dimbleby in the early stages of scoping a national food strategy for England. The first phase includes a scoping of measurable outcomes, the focus of this workshop. Anna has extensive experience of working in government, having spent 5 years at the Department for International Development leading the policy team on nutrition and supporting the delivery of the UK’s global commitments to tackle undernutrition. Anna has also worked for the UK Department of Health. In May 2017 Anna became a member of the London Food Board to advise the Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority on the food matters that affect Londoners.

This workshop will explore the key outcomes of what a national food strategy for England should deliver and how these could be measured. It will consider the pros and cons of having targets incorporated into the strategy and how desired outcomes might be given political sustainability. Past experience in measuring outcomes of the food system will be considered
and discussed – and how this experience can be learned from as the new National Food Strategy is developed. It will use a process of successive rapid group tasks to reveal key areas of debate and explore in plenary if and how contentious areas can be resolved.

**Room C312**

**Workshop 8. What will be the contested areas in the development of a National Food Strategy and how to manage them?**

Led by Ben Reynolds, Deputy Chief Executive, Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming. Ben has been working at Sustain since 2004, and as Acting Coordinator (2014 – 2015) developed Sustain’s first overarching strategy. Ben was a founding member of the Sustainable Food Cities network launched in 2013, and more recently the UK’s Food Power network. In 2005/06 Ben and his team successfully ran the consultation on the Mayor of London's Food Strategy. He has also been a member of the London Food Board, chair of Growing Greenwich, and has advised internationally on creating and implementing urban food strategies. Ben is Sustain’s lead on the National Food Strategy.

The National Food Strategy has the ambition of covering a broad range of food issues and to be effective will need to: address food and farming’s role in tackling climate change; drive a sustainable food economy; and ensure that good food is more accessible, affordable and well promoted. This workshop will explore what contested issues the strategy may touch on, particularly any trade-offs between these three areas. Who will lose out? And what can be done to minimise this impact.

**Room BG02**