

WORK PACKAGE 3.3: FOOD SECURITY

The aim of Work Package (WP) 3.3 is to provide evidence to policy makers on food security in Scotland, including how various policies are likely to impact food security in Scotland in the future.

This WP focuses on a range of issues relating to food security in Scotland. At a macro level this includes examining the pattern of domestic and international consumption of Scottish produce and the extent to which current consumption in Scotland is dependent on imported products. The WP will explore the potential tensions around promoting exports, encouraging the consumption of local produce in the context of encouraging food supply chain resilience, economic growth of the food and drink sector and food security.

At a micro level, the WP will explore ways in which food security in Scotland can be enhanced in the future, including the role of encouraging the consumption of more local produce. The research will develop the evidence base required to improve the efficiency and sustainability of Short Food Supply Networks (SFSNs) and will explore ways to increase producer and community empowerment and household food security.

The WP sets out a range of objectives including the following:

- Analysing the relationship (demand and supply) between Scottish exports and imported products; and the implications of these on sustainability, economic growth, food supply network resilience and food security.
- Analysing international factors that may influence food security in Scotland.
- Understanding who is affected by food insecurity in Scotland and the degree to which particular groups are affected by it and manage it.
- Developing a culturally relevant measure of household food insecurity which is applicable to the Scottish context that can be used to inform the development of policy responses aimed at alleviating household food insecurity and evaluating their effectiveness.
- Generating baseline data on different forms of SFSNs in Scotland to improve policy-makers' knowledge of: diversification in Scottish agriculture and crofting; links between farmers, food producers and other local food-related rural enterprises, such as Community Supported Agriculture.
- Informing policy on the role of SFSNs in helping promote rural development and innovation, empower resilient communities and enhance trust, equality, food sovereignty and sustainability.

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