

# Top ingredients for #futurefoodsecurity

## 1) Sustainable food production

Agriculture and the environment are intrinsically linked. The natural resources that farming depends on, such as biodiversity, water and soil, are being eroded on a massive scale, and climate change, which the farming sector both suffers from and contributes to, is only making matters worse. Reversing these trends is essential for long-term food security. As healthy biodiversity provides ecological services (such as pollination, pest regulation, nutrient cycling, and microclimate regulation) which support agricultural production, only water, soil and climate-friendly agriculture can secure lasting sustainable food production on a healthy planet. The conservation and enhancement of farmland biodiversity will therefore play a key role in ensuring food security, especially as our climate continues to change. Farming should contribute to the restoration and stabilisation of our environment and help make it more resilient.

**Without sustainable food production there can be no long-term food security – it is time for the EU to take it seriously.**

## 2) Sustainable food consumption

Sustainable production is just one side of the coin, how and what we consume also has an impact on food security. Projections show that future global levels of dairy and meat consumption are likely to be unsustainable in terms of their impact on emissions and the environment. Thirty percent of the planet's land mass is now taken up by crops grown solely to feed livestock as a result of rising global levels of meat and dairy consumption and 14.5% of total global greenhouse gas emissions come from the livestock sector. Reducing how much meat we consume would reduce pressure on our climate and allow us to move away from industrial farming methods to a more seasonal and local food production model. This would both reap public health benefits and make more space for farm animals to graze naturally instead of ploughing grasslands to grow animal feed. In turn, this would boost our environment's natural ability to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, increase animal welfare and help reduce how much water the agriculture industry uses – growing crops for animal feed requires huge amounts of water.

**Moving to a sustainable consumption model can help ensure everyone has enough healthy food to eat.**

## 3) Reducing pressure on land

EU bioenergy policy is increasing pressure on our land and our environment through the setting of fundamentally unsustainable and rigid targets Member States need to meet. The EU must stop supporting incentives for land-based biofuels as they are bad for the climate, for people and for the environment. Not only does land-based biofuel production divert agricultural commodities away from undernourished people around the world and damage biodiversity in the process, in several cases biofuel use does not actually contribute to significant greenhouse gas savings. We must increase support for alternatives such as other renewables and energy efficiency measures.

We can further reduce pressure on land by reducing and limiting how much food we throw away; every tonne of food waste is responsible for 4.5 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions.

**The EU must reduce waste and limit the amount of biomass used for energy.**

## 4) Food Sovereignty

The global food crisis cannot be solved through intensifying agricultural production in the EU or through new production subsidies. This would only lead to further degradation of natural resources at the cost of biodiversity and long-term agricultural productivity. Instead, Europe should reduce its global carbon footprint by changing its land-use related production and consumption patterns and supporting sustainable agricultural practices. In developing countries, sustainable agricultural productivity also needs to increase so people can feed themselves and protect the world's last remaining unspoiled natural habitats at the same time.

Local food production is about more than access to food or affordability; it is about communities shaping their own food policy. Europe must support the most sustainable and poorest farmers – both in Europe and in developing countries – by ensuring that trade rules are harmonised with environmental and social standards. Global trade deals (such as TTIP and CETA) should ensure that food standards are not watered down to the lowest common denominator.

**The EU must support developing countries produce their own food sustainably.**