

Food and Climate Change

Agenda

- Introductions
- Food and climate change
- Supply chains
- What would a sustainable supply chains look like?
- Concluding thoughts

Introductions



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Introductions

How comfortable are you thinking
about sustainable food systems?

Climate change and food

Food as a driver of climate change

- Food causes about ¼ of climate change.
- 29% of global greenhouse gas emissions comes from the food system.
- In terms of food distribution, the UK is the biggest emissions offender, accounting for 5.4% of food system emissions.
- The transport industry accounts for around 14.5% of global GHG emissions.
- Globally, around 1/3 of our food is wasted. This accounts for 10% total global GHG.

Climate change and food

Food as a victim of climate change

- Climate change causes:
 - Rising temperatures
 - Extreme weather – drought, flooding, storms
 - Changes to migration patterns in fish
 - More pests and viruses
 - Lower yields
 - Unreliable harvests
 - Price increases, political unrest, competition

Climate change and food

Other considerations

- What role does food play in your life?
- How do your food choices reflect your beliefs, values, and culture?
- What influences the decisions you make about food?

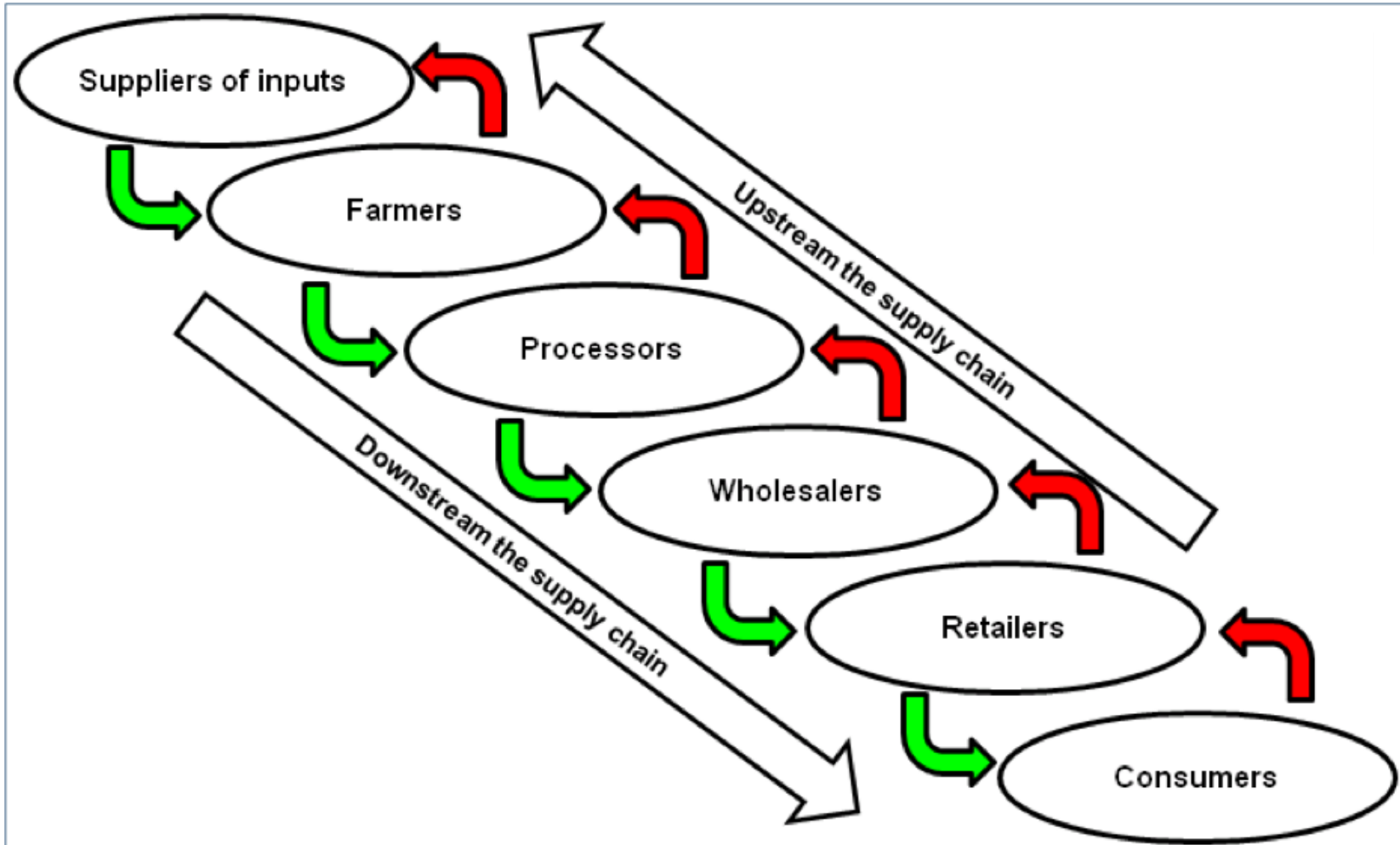
Climate change and food

Other considerations

- Social
- Economic
- Trade
- Health
- Culture
- Identity

Food supply chains

What do we mean?



Food supply chains

UK imports

The UK imports around 80% of its food, including:

- 84% of our fresh fruit
- 90% of our cod
- Over 80% of our tomatoes, mainly from Spain and the Netherlands

Not a constant – in January, the UK imports 90% of the lettuces it needs. But in June, Britain produces 95% of its own salad leaves.

Food supply chains

Exports

The top food and drink products exported by the UK in 2020, as reported by the Food and Drinks Federation:

| ITEM | VALUE |
|------|----------------|
| | £3.9 billion |
| | £786.3 million |
| | £653.6 million |
| | £629.7 million |
| | £617.1 million |

Food supply chains

Exports

Top 5 non-food exports:

| ITEM | VALUE |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Machinery including computers | £43.53 billion |
| Gems and precious metals | £31.21 billion |
| Vehicles | £26.23 billion |
| Mineral fuels including oil | £19.03 billion |
| Electrical machinery and equipment | £18.02 billion |

Food supply chains

Why does it matter?

Environmental concerns

- 1/5 of fresh produce comes from countries at risk of climate breakdown
- Industrial meat processing is the leading cause of deforestation, globally
- Packaging and transport contribute to emissions
- Quantity over quality – soil depletion, pollution, threat to wildlife
- Land use – if everyone ate a plant-based diet, we'd need 75% less farmland

Other concerns

- System is unreliable and vulnerable to shocks

**What would a sustainable
supply chain look like?**

What do we need?
How could we make this happen?

Conclusions

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