



We are  
working for a  
**stronger food culture** to make  
**healthy local seasonal**  
and **organic food** available to  
**everyone** everywhere in  
**Scotland**



**Nourish Scotland:** Annual Review 2014

# 2014

was a year of debates, challenges and changes right across Scotland. Through our membership outreach, policy, research, training and events, we did our best to encourage people to talk and learn more about food.

In our first full year of operation as a staffed team, we successfully delivered a large annual conference on local and global food sovereignty and with an international reach. We also ran several stand-alone networking and training events and a series of regional consultation meetings. We responded to Scottish Government consultations, gave evidence to Scottish Parliament Committees, conducted some wide-ranging research into the local food economy in Scotland and delivered our first innovative New Farmer training programme.

We introduced paid membership and now have 95 members, including individuals as well as community groups and organisations. We produced a monthly e-bulletin, two Nourish magazines and raised the profile of food issues via our media work, networking website and social media, including coverage on BBC Out of Doors, BBC Landward and Good Morning Scotland and in several national newspapers.

## Policy

### Good Food Nation

In 2014 the Scottish Government launched a discussion document on "Becoming a Good Food Nation". With local partners Nourish held eight meetings across Scotland to talk about the ideas in the paper. We were thrilled that more than 230 people joined us to talk about how we can create a better, stronger, fairer food system in Scotland. It was great to hear so many articulate and heartfelt contributions from businesses, community groups, think tanks and the public sector. We hope our meetings helped boost the number of responses the Scottish Government received to their consultation by giving confidence to those interested in submitting and by making the process easier, for example by setting up an online responses survey. Further policy announcements are expected shortly and we look forward to taking more steps towards becoming a Good Food Nation in 2015!

### Campaigning and Lobbying

Food cuts across so many issues, ranging from international trade and business development to carbon reduction and community growing. Our policy team continued to work on a huge range of these issues. For example, we campaigned for the new Procurement Act to promote more sustainable food buying by public bodies, argued for greater access to land for both commercial and community food growing, and advocated for our Common Agricultural Policy to be implemented in a way that ensures everyone benefits.

Nourish also gave evidence to Scottish Parliament Committees on agricultural reform, rural development funding and community empowerment.

We are also working alongside partners in Edible Edinburgh and the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership to progress their plans for becoming 'Sustainable Food Cities'. We are working with them to develop detailed action plans, launch food charters to raise awareness, and to help them keep food at the heart of their city's plans.

### Training

In 2014 Nourish ran its first ever New Farmer Programme, providing vocational training and work placements for new entrants and employees to develop their food growing, local marketing and small business skills. The programme focused on producing fresh fruit and vegetables for direct sale to customers. It included practical horticultural production skills as well as basic theory, and training in running a business and marketing produce. 20 people successfully completed the training, of which nearly half are now working in, or are setting up their own local food business. Others are putting their skills to good use in the community growing sector, to encourage these projects to grow produce for sale. We will build on what we learned from the first programme to prepare an even better one in 2016. During 2015 there will be a number of training sessions offering specific skills, and the opportunities to meet like-minded people, which will help people decide if the next programme is for them.

## Research

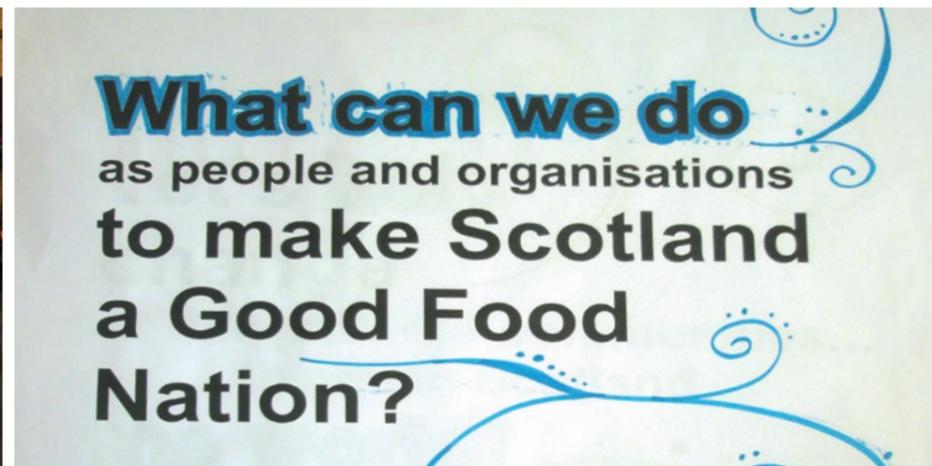
### Growing the local food economy

During 2014 we contacted 700 businesses as part of our survey on the state of the local food sector. We wanted to get a better idea about the nature of local food in Scotland and a more comprehensive overview of the barriers preventing growth of the local food economy.

The combined turnover of the 180 respondents to the survey is more than £53 million. The majority of producers expect their turnover to increase in the near future. More than half would like, in future, to be selling the majority of their produce within 30 miles of their location.

The main barriers mentioned were a lack of cooperation between businesses in selling, marketing and transportation. Some businesses also wanted better support from government through more funding provision, raising public awareness or developing local infrastructure such as markets, transport and processing facilities.

Following our research we held a seminar to consider how we can help the local food economy grow and develop local supply chains. We will spend 2015 putting together some concrete proposals for funding and other targeted actions in this area of work.



**Nourish Scotland**  
is connecting  
**producers**  
**growers retailers**  
**communities**  
and all who care for  
**local sustainable**  
**food**



## Events

### Nourish Conference 2014 **Our Common Wealth of Food**



Nourish held a two-day conference in October at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. More than 200 people met to share ideas about our global food policy and how we can make it fairer and more ethical. Speakers and delegates came from Malawi, India, the Caribbean and Canada as well as Europe and the UK. Many speakers emphasised that food poverty should not be seen as an issue of charity but an issue of justice. Currently food poverty is taken care of by charities, but Nourish believes that access to sufficient nutritious food is a basic right which should be protected by government and that 'the right to food' should be enshrined into our constitution and legislation. The event was highly energised, with a real sense of meaningful connections being made and of a developing momentum for change. In keeping with Nourish's ethos, delegates were treated to wonderful organic, fresh and seasonal food throughout. A conference report, presentations and photographs can be found on our [website](#).

**Nourish Scotland**  
54 Manor Place  
Edinburgh EH3 7EH

Tel: 0131 226 1497

[info@nourishscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@nourishscotland.org.uk)  
[www.nourishscotland.org.uk](http://www.nourishscotland.org.uk)



Nourish Scotland would like to thank our funders for their generous support.

Cover image and conference image Ros Gasson. All photos © Nourish Scotland.

