

Are there any Good Food Nations out there?

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*Recipe for Success*¹, published in 2009, was the first strategic food policy in the UK. It highlighted the successes of Scotland's food and drink sector whilst recognising the continuing challenges. *Becoming a Good Food Nation*², published in 2014, sought views on a number of proposed priority areas of work and recognised the need to move towards a healthier, resilient and sustainable food system. The Scottish Government have now committed to consultation on legislation in 2017³ – the Good Food Nation Bill could be a European – if not world-leader in taking a framework and rights-based approach to food.

But what are other countries doing in terms of food policy? Are there any other Good Food Nations in existence or will Scotland be the pioneers of a statutory framework to join up food policy and create a sustainable food system that is accessible to all? This is not an exhaustive analysis, but a reflection on some examples of food initiatives, policy and law that go beyond nutrition, food safety and food security and can offer inspiration to Scotland during the development of the Good Food Nation Bill.

Looking to Europe

France

The Public Policy for Food, France's legislative food plan, was developed with the involvement of the National Council of Food and passed in July 2010⁴. The Government is required to report to Parliament every three years on progress made, which covers food security, food safety, animal health and welfare, plant health, education, food hygiene, seasonality, produce origin, the environmental impact of agricultural activities, loyalty of commercial claims and consumer information rules. The plan's slogan "bien manger c'est l'affaire de tous!" (eating well is everyone's business) emphasises the need to work together to achieve the goals of the plan.

The plan has four working areas:

1. Facilitate access for all to quality food;
2. Enhance the quality of the food supply;
3. Improve knowledge and information on food;
4. Preserve and promote the French gastronomic and culinary heritage.

Concrete aims of the plan include displaying the environmental impact of food products, including their carbon footprint, water footprint and their impact on biodiversity, the development of the Right for the Consumer, Country of Origin Labelling and the development of socio-economic tools to better understand food behaviours⁴.

In 2014 the French government passed the *Law for the Future of Agriculture, Food and the Forest* which is intended to work within the framework of the National Food Plan. The law is framed by the principles of agroecology and proposes tools to fight land artificialisation and urban sprawl in order to preserve

¹ The Scottish Government (2009) "Recipe for Success: Scotland's National Food and Drink Policy" [Online] Available from: <http://www.gov.scot/resource/doc/277346/0083283.pdf>

² The Scottish Government (2014) "Becoming a Good Food Nation" [Online] Available from: <http://www.gov.scot/resource/0045/00453219.pdf>

³ The Scottish Government (2016) "A Plan for Scotland: The Government's Programme for Scotland 2016-2017" [Online] <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00505210.pdf>

⁴ Paul Menecier (2011) "Food Policy in France" Le Ministere de Votre Alimentation [Online Presentation] Available from: http://www.hah.hr/pdf/wfd_2011/Menecier-French%20Food%20policy.pdf

agricultural land⁵. In light of the fact that 40% of France's agricultural workforce are past retiring age or set to retire within five years, the French state employed over 200 researchers and tutors to teach agroecology across France as a core part of the national agricultural education programme to ensure the next generation of farmers are trained and prepared to convert to agroecology⁶. The law also aims to bring consumers closer to producers by establishing food plans at local level and promoting short food supply chains, and to encourage education on food at school⁶. Furthermore, France became the first country to ban supermarkets from throwing away or destroying unsold food which is still edible, forcing them to instead donate the food to charities and food banks⁷.

Italy

Italy is the home of Slow Food, a movement which began in 1986. The initial aim of the organisation was to defend regional traditions, good food, gastronomic pleasure and a slow pace of life. Now it is an international movement with a comprehensive approach to food, that appreciates the "strong connections between plate, planet, people, politics and culture"⁸. While many progressive ideas have come out of Italy with regards to food, there is no overarching Food Policy akin to a Good Food Nation Bill. The Italian Parliament is currently considering a bill that would restrict the advertising of palm oil, which has led to barilla being the latest Italian food company to remove palm oil from its product range⁹. Italy followed France's lead and passed a bill to make supermarkets give wasted food to charity in March 2016¹⁰, highlighting the power of being a policy pioneer.

Turin has rich experience in practices, projects and policies for a fairer and more sustainable food system.¹¹ Their more recent successes come from clear leadership – Turin's Mayor has pledged to promote vegetarian and vegan diets as a priority with a view to reducing the environmental impact of agriculture while improving human health and the wellbeing of animals¹².

Denmark

Denmark has had a nutrition policy since 1984 but does not appear to be publicly developing framework legislation. However, Organic Denmark produced a 67-point plan, backed by 400mn Kroner from the Government, which seeks to double the area of organically cultivated land from 2007 levels by 2020¹³. Furthermore, as of May 2016 88% of food served in Copenhagen's public institutions is organic; this was achieved without an increase in budget at these institutions¹⁴. It is also a leader in the food waste, with more initiatives than any other European state such as food waste supermarkets, where you can buy a reusable bag for the equivalent of 2 GBP and fill it to your heart's content¹⁵. The Government were experimental in 2011-2012, applying a tax on food products containing more than

⁵ Live Well For Life (2014) "Up for vote in France: the bill for the future of agriculture, food and forestry" [Online] Available from: <http://livewellforlife.eu/news/up-for-vote-in-france-the-bill-for-the-future-of-agriculture-food-and-forestry>

⁶ Crosskey, P (2016) "New Law, Contested Agroecology- France's Loi d'Avenir" arc 2020 [Online] Available online: <http://www.arc2020.eu/2016/02/a-new-law-a-contested-agroecology-frances-loi-davenir/>

⁷ Chrisafis, A. (2016) "French law forbids food waste by supermarkets" The Guardian [Online] Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/04/french-law-forbids-food-waste-by-supermarkets>

⁸ Slow Food (2016) "Our History" [Online] Available from: <http://www.slowfood.com/about-us/our-history/>

⁹ Peter Rixon (2016) "Italy's love of palm oil waning" EU Food Law [Online] Available from: <http://www.eurofoodlaw.com/country-reports/italys-love-of-palm-oil-waning--1.htm><http://www.eurofoodlaw.com/country-reports/italys-love-of-palm-oil-waning--1.htm>

¹⁰ Doug Boulton (2016) "Italy passes law to make supermarkets give wasted food to charity" The Independent [Online] Available from: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/italy-supermarkets-food-waste-law-charity-a6937001.html>

¹¹ Maria Bottiglieri, Giacomo Pettenati & Alessia Toldo (2016) "Toward the Turin Food Policy: Good Practices and Vision" [Online] Available from: http://ojs.francoangeli.it/_omp/index.php/oa/catalog/book/156

¹² Stephanie Kirchgaessner (2016) "Five Star mayor of Turin to create Italy's first 'vegetarian city'" The Guardian [Online] Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/21/turin-mayor-italys-first-vegetarian-city-five-star>

¹³ Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark (2015) "Organic Action Plan for Denmark" [Online] Available from: http://en.mfvm.dk/fileadmin/user_upload/FVM.dk/Dokumenter/Landbrug/Indsatser/Oekologi/7348_FVM_OekologiplanDanmark_A5_PIXL_English_Web.pdf

¹⁴ The Local (2016) "Copenhagen touts 'organic food revolution'" [Online] Available from: <https://www.thelocal.dk/20160524/copenhagen-touts-organic-food-revolution>

¹⁵ Helen Russell (2016) "How did Denmark become a leader in the food waste revolution?" The Guardian [Online] Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jul/13/how-did-denmark-become-a-leader-in-the-food-waste-revolution>

2.3% saturated fat in an attempt to encourage healthier choices¹⁶. The trial was unsuccessful and the tax was dropped due to intense pressure from food industry, which led to the abandonment of the sugar tax which was due to follow.

Sweden

The Swedish National Food Agency released a set of dietary guidelines in 2015 with the message: 'eat greener, not too much and be active'¹⁷. The guidelines ask consumers to look at the sustainable big picture, emphasizing the need to consider their health and the environment in their dietary choices. Recommendations include eating more fruit and vegetables, more seafood (two or three times per week), exercising more (at least 30 minutes a day), switching to wholemeal, healthy fats and low fat dairy, eating less red and processed meat (no more than 500g per week) and reducing salt and sugar intake.

Norway

Norway's Action Plan on Nutrition 2007-2011: Recipe for a healthier diet employed five main strategies:

1. To improve the availability of healthy food products
2. To increase consumers' knowledge
3. To improve the qualifications of key personnel
4. To ensure the local basis of nutrition-related work
5. To strengthen the focus on nutrition in the health care services

In 2012 the Directorate of Health of the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services commissioned the World Health Organisation for Europe to conduct an evaluation of the action plan. The evaluation found that the Plan was as supportive tool at local level for implementing nutrition related activities. The heavy allocation of measures within the context of health was challenged and it was suggested that other ministries should see how health-related objectives contributes to achieving their own objectives. The plan was criticised for having no clear timeline, budget, earmarked funding or targets relating to the different measures within the plan¹⁸.

Finland

Finland published a national strategy titled *Food for Tomorrow* in 2010 which stated the following vision: "in 2030 the Finnish consumers eat tasty, wholesome, sustainably produced and safe food"¹⁹. For the vision to be achieved the steering group who wrote the paper believe the strategy must be consumer-orientated and seek collaboration among consumers, traders, food and catering services, processors and primary producers, while also placing more value on food and its makers; teaching people to understand how their food is produced, appreciate its role in our health and make time for peaceful eating¹³.

Finns prefer domestic food: 80% of food consumed in Finland is also produced in Finland²⁰. The Government produced a report in 2012 on local food to use as a guideline as to how to proceed from

¹⁶ Marion Nestle (2012) "The Danish Fat Tax: Reflections of its demise" Food Politics [Online] Available from: <http://www.foodpolitics.com/tag/denmark/>

¹⁷ Livsmedelsverket (2016) "Find Your Way" Sweden's National Food Agency [Online] Available from: <http://www.livsmedelsverket.se/globalassets/english/food-habits-health-environment/dietary-guidelines/kostrad-eng.pdf?id=8140>

¹⁸ WHO Regional Office for Europe (2013) "Evaluation of the Norwegian nutrition policy with a focus on the Action Plan for Nutrition" [Online] Available from: http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/192882/Evaluation-of-the-Norwegian-nutrition-policy-with-a-focus-on-the-Action-Plan-on-Nutrition-20072011.pdf

¹⁹ Simo Palokangas, Teija Andersen, Juha Marttila, Sinikka Turunen, Patrik Borg, Marko Parkkinen, Sirpa Kurppa & Risto Pyykonen (2010) "Food for Tomorrow" [Online] Available from: http://mmm.fi/documents/1410837/1708293/Ruokastrategia_eng.pdf/99541249-29d8-48a5-a5ab-3be610468a25

²⁰ Dr Minna Huttunen (2014) "Finnish Food Strategy" Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Finland [Online] Available from: https://www.slu.se/globalassets/ew/org/centrb/fr-lantbr/pdf-filer/fran-gamla-webben/minna-huttunen_finnish-food-strategy.pdf

2013-2020, which would assist them to reach their 20% by 2020 target of organically cultivated arable land area¹⁴. A Food Policy Committee was established in 2013 which brings together food policy issues and supports food and nutrition related political actions for the common good¹⁴. The committee includes seven ministries, NGOs and industry representatives.

Romania

Romania made a radical legislative proposal in May 2016: that large grocery chains ensure that a fixed share (at least 51%) of their shelf space is reserved for food produced via the “short supply chain” in order to boost the local economy²¹. The term “short supply chain” is lifted from the Common Agriculture Policy, which Romania as an EU member state are subject to, and is intended to mean food produced in Romania in this context. The Bill also seeks to regulate the discounting activities and fees charged by the supermarkets.

Down Under

Australia

The Gillard Government committed to developing Australia’s first National Food Plan during the 2010 election campaign. The plan, now in its third stage, has set the following goals to be achieved by 2025²²:

- Remain world leaders in innovation and productivity by investing in R&D;
- Improve access to export markets;
- Build collaborative relationships with trading partners while tackling barriers to trade
- Work to reduce regulatory burden for foods businesses;
- Support farmers markets, food sharing networks and community gardens;
- Work to embed food and agriculture in the national curriculum

New Zealand

The National Good Food Network arose following the mapping of the food system in New Zealand in 2014, which was performed by the Sustainable Business Network (SBN). The network aims to strengthen city region food systems and share information across regions, so effective initiatives can be adopted nationwide. The SBN connect food businesses to community organisations to inspire peer-to-peer experiential learning²³. The legislation relating to food in New Zealand focuses on food safety, such as The Food Act 2014.

Over the Pond

Canada

Food Secure Canada (FSC), a pan-Canadian alliance working together to advance food security and food sovereignty, have been working hard for four years to advance a national food policy in Canada. “*Resetting the Table: A People’s Food Policy for Canada*” is a grassroots response which shares the ideas of 3500 people across Canada on how to tackle the crises in Canada’s food system and calls for a national food policy²⁴. The People’s Policy recognises the challenges, discusses potential ways forward and makes priority recommendations on the following areas of food policy:

1. Indigenous Food Sovereignty

²¹ Peter Rixon (2016) “*Analysis: Romania’s radical plans to change food policy*” Euro Food Law [Online] Available from: <http://www.eurofoodlaw.com/country-reports/analysis-romaniyas-radical-plans-to-change-food-policy-117169.htm>

²² Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (2015) “*The National Food Plan*” Australian Government[Online] Available from: http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/food/publications/national_food_plan/white-paper/foreword?wasRedirectedByModule=true

²³ Sustainable Business Network (2015) “*Introducing the National Good Food Network*” [Online] Available from: http://sustainable.org.nz/sustainability-news/introducing-the-national-good-food-network#.V_Icp4-cHIW

²⁴ Food Secure Canada (2015) “*Resetting the Table: A People’s Food Policy for Canada*” [Online] Available from: http://foodsecurecanada.org/sites/default/files/fsc-resetting-2015_web.pdf

2. Food Sovereignty in Rural and Remote Communities
3. Access to Food in Urban Communities
4. Agriculture, Infrastructure and Livelihoods
5. A Sustainable Fishery and Reasonable Livelihood for Fishers
6. Environment and Agriculture
7. Science and Technology for Food and Agriculture
8. Food Trade and International Aid
9. Healthy and Safe Food for All
10. Food Democracy and Governance

The recently elected Canadian Government have committed to developing a national food policy and FSC intend to apply to carry out the public consultation process which will contribute to the development of the policy, building on their *Resetting the Table* document.

The **USA** does not as yet have a national food policy, yet there has been discussion that this is something the next president should make a reality²⁵. However, there are examples of municipal action, such as:

Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC)

The LAFPC is a collective impact initiative with an aim to make food healthy, affordable, fair and sustainable for all in Southern California. Within their Good Food for All Agenda the council identified a number of goals which would assist them to achieve their aims. They have established networks between farmers, NGOs, government agencies, businesses and community organisations alongside their Healthy Neighborhood Market Networks. In addition, the LAFPC provides strategic support to empower major institutions to procure local, sustainable and humanely produced foods through the Good Food Purchasing Programme (GFPP). This programme applies to food service institutions only. The GFPP not only strengthens the local food system, it boosts the local economy²⁶.

Detroit Urban Food

The Greening of Detroit are driving a community food movement, offering food education, healthy local catering and sustainability training, job opportunities and training in urban agriculture²⁷. The organisation is not policy-led, and rather began in 1989 following the loss of around 500,000 trees in the city to Dutch Elm disease and urban expansion between 1950 and 1980. Now it is driven to enhance the quality of life for Detroiters, a city which grew to accommodate 2 million residents in the 1950's but now has a population of less than 700,000- which means lots of vacant land and therefore potential for The Greening of Detroit. Grassroot movements such as this shaped the 2008 Detroit Food Policy, which led to the establishment of the Detroit Food Policy Council in 2009.

Lessons in Latin

South and Central America is home to the largest number of countries that have constitutionalised the right to food. However there is still considerable diversity in the progression made in practice.

Brazil

Brazil's legacy of a rights-based and framework approach is amongst the the most successful examples globally.²⁸ From the first initiatives in the 1990s Brazilian policy was led by The National Council of Food and Nutritional Security (CONSEA) – a body with cross government and civil society representation. The Zero Hunger Programme adopted in 2004 reflected directly on UN FAO guidelines,

²⁵ Mark Bittman, Michael Pollan, Ricardo Salvador, Olivier De Schutter (2015) "A National Food Policy for the 21st Century" Food is the New Internet [Online] Available from: <https://medium.com/food-is-the-new-internet/a-national-food-policy-for-the-21st-century-7d323ee7c65f#.mo1x8pjcx>

²⁶ Los Angeles Food Policy Council (2016) *Objectives and Policy & Programmes* [Online] Available from: <http://goodfoodla.org/>

²⁷ The Greening of Detroit (2016) "What We Do" [Online] Available from: <http://www.greeningofdetroit.com/what-we-do/job-training/>

²⁸ Oxfam International (2010) "Fighting Hunger in Brazil" Much achieved, much to do" [Online] Available from: <https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/cs-fighting-hunger-brazil-090611-en.pdf>

and included both direct financial assistance and longer term poverty alleviation measures. The Programme developed from focusing on food access to more broadly aligning with health and agricultural production. Action culminated in 2006 in the passing of Brazil's National Food and Nutritional Security Law (LOSAN). LOSAN brought together the various food policies and initiatives into one clear framework, outlining clear responsibilities and mechanisms for participation, monitoring and accountability.²⁹

Outside of countries with framework laws there are still positive initiatives across South and Central America. Looking to Chile, front of package warning labels have been particularly effective - black labels on products which surpass government-established limits for calories, sugar, sodium and saturated fat. Products too high in any of those categories cannot be sold in schools, and producers are forbidden to target adverts for these products to children under the age of 14³⁰.

Asia & Africa

With a combined population of 5.6 billion, the Asian and African continents are home to the majority of the 7.4 people living on earth. There is a broad spectrum of economic prosperity within these nations, with those that are economically developing having food policies which centre predominantly on food security or safety.

India

India's Parliament passed the National Food Security Act in 2013, which provides coverage for up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidised foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)³¹. The Act is particularly concerned with providing nutritional support to women and children, offering meals to pregnant and lactating women who will also be entitled to a maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000 (69 GBP). Children up to 14 years of age are entitled to nutritious meals as per the prescribed standard. The Act provides that each of the 32 State Governments must constitute a State Food Commission to monitor and review the implementation of the Act. The Right to Food campaign is ongoing in India. It began in 2001 when a petition was submitted to the supreme court demanding that India's gigantic food stocks should be used to protect Indian people from starvation and hunger³². The campaign includes seven demands:

1. A national Employment Guarantee Act
2. Universal mid-day meals in primary schools
3. Universalization of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) for children under 6
4. Effective implementation of all nutrition-related schemes
5. Revival and universalization of the public distribution system
6. Social security arrangements for those who are not able to work
7. Equitable land rights and forest rights.

Of these demands one has been entirely achieved (Number 2) and the first demand has been achieved to the extent that a National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was enacted in 2005, while the others are still a work-in-progress. The Right to Food Campaign operates within a decentralised network.

China

In China, food self-sufficiency is one of the central goals of its agricultural policy. Specific policies under this umbrella include the grain reserve system, strong disaster relief programmes and large scale food-

²⁹ UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (2007) "Right to Food: Lessons Learned in Brazil" [Online] Available from: <http://hrbaportal.org/wp-content/files/a1331e.pdf>

³⁰ Andy Bellatti (2014) "5 Food Policy lessons the U.S. could learn from Latin America" [Online] Available from: <http://civileats.com/2014/11/20/5-food-policy-lessons-the-u-s-could-learn-from-latin-america/>

³¹ Department of Food & Public Distribution (2013) "National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013" [Online] Available from: <http://dfpd.nic.in/nfsa-act.htm>

³² Right to Food Campaign (2016) "About" [Online] Available from: <http://www.righttofoodcampaign.in/about>

for-work schemes³³. In 2016 the Chinese Government issued a new set of dietary guidelines which urges citizens to limit their meat and egg consumption to 200g a day, which is two thirds of the current average of 300g, in an attempt to reduce diet-related diseases and the environmental impacts of these products³⁴.

Ghana

Ghana reviewed their Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy (FASDEP) in 2007 as the initial policy failed to achieve the desired impact on poverty since it was formulated in 2002. FASDEP II sought to enhance the environment for all categories of farmers, targeting poor and risk-prone and risk-adverse producers³⁵. However, controversially the Ghanaian Government brought the Plant Breeders Bill debate back to parliament in 2016 despite protests and without consultation groups such as Food Sovereignty Ghana. It is thought that Ghana risks falling behind its competitors Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe who have already passed a Plant Breeders Bill, and that passing the bill is also pivotal combatting poverty in the country³⁶. The counter argument is that “whoever controls the seed controls the entire food chain”, meaning that small-scale farmers’ rights could be lost to the transnational corporations.³⁷

Zambia

There are numerous targeted nutrition programmes in Zambia which are rolled out by the National Food and Nutrition Commission, including School Health and Nutrition, Nutrition and HIV, Nutrition in Emergencies, Management of Severe Acute Nutrition, Maternal, Adolescent, Infant and Young Child Nutrition and 1st 1000 Most Critical Days³⁸. These programmes identify groups within the population who are arguably most in need of assistance with their nutrition and provides those groups with extra support and education.

Within the UK

Similarly to the USA, there are great examples of local food policies from cities such as Glasgow and Bristol within the UK, but neither the UK nor the Northern Irish Government have so far developed a national joined up food policy like the Good Food Nation Bill Scotland is proposing.

Wales

Food for Wales, Food from Wales (2010) aims to develop a clear direction for Welsh food industry to grow between 2010 and 2020. The strategy takes an integrated approach, considering health, food culture and education, food security, environmental sustainability and community development³⁹. The purpose of the strategy is to build resilience in the food system and encourage a stronger food economy in Wales. While Annual Strategy Reviews take place, the overall success of the strategy will be assessed in 2020. The Welsh Government acknowledge that this strategy will “provide a focus on the powers needed for policy development and legislation”, which suggests that Wales intend to pursue a bill similar to the Good Food Nation Bill after 2020.

³³ FAO (1998) “Agricultural Policy & Food Security in China” Annex 3 [Online] Available from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/004/ab981e/ab981e0c.htm>

³⁴ Think Progress (2016) “China’s New Dietary Guidelines Could Be Good News For The Climate” [Online] Available from: <https://thinkprogress.org/chinas-new-dietary-guidelines-could-be-good-news-for-the-climate-f385f9388f72#.wpm2bawge>

³⁵ Ministry of Food & Agriculture, Republic of Ghana (2007) “Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy” [PDF] Available from: <https://www.grain.org/attachments/2685/download>

³⁶ West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (2016) “Pass Plant Breeders Bill to combat poverty in Ghana” [Online] Available from: <http://www.myjoyonline.com/news/2016/May-27th/pass-plant-breeders-bill-to-combat-poverty-in-ghana-wacci.php>

³⁷ Ali-Masmadi, Jehu-Appiah and Chris Walker (2014) *Ghana’s battle for seed sovereignty* New African [Online] Available from: <http://newafricanmagazine.com/ghanas-battle-seed-sovereignty/>

³⁸ The National Food and Nutrition Commission of Zambia (2016) “Programmes” [Online] Available from: http://www.nfnc.org.zm/nutrition_programmes

³⁹ Welsh Assembly Government (2010) “Food for Wales, Food from Wales 2010 | 2020” [Online] Available from: <http://www.physicalactivityandnutritionwales.org.uk/Documents/740/Food%20Strategy%202010-2020-eng.pdf>

Summary

France's National Food Plan bears the closest resemblance to the framework approach expected of the Good Food Nation Bill. It expressed the importance of a collaborative and holistic approach, as did Los Angeles, Wales, Finland, Australia and New Zealand. France's plan included developing the Right of the Consumer, which bears similarities to the Right to Food. India and Brazil have also taken strong framework legislative action to protect and progress the right to food. On the other hand, the Ghanaian Government is attempting to bring the Plant Breeders Bill debate back into parliament which could potentially threaten the rights of small-scale farmers.

France, Italy and Denmark have all been leaders in policy and legislation which tackles food waste, which Scotland has had some success with but with household food waste as the focus. France and Italy have brought in legislation which requires supermarkets to give wasted food to charity; Scotland should avoid making similar commitments within the Good Food Nation Bill and instead focus on solving the root causes of food waste throughout the supply chain and food insecurity separately – keeping in mind the recommendations of the Independent Working Group on Food Poverty to place dignity at the heart of solutions.⁴⁰

Scotland can learn from the shortcomings of Denmark's attempt to introduce a tax on foods high in saturated fat during their consultation process of a potential sugar tax – and should focus instead on reducing the cost of healthy food. Brazil, Argentina and Chile put health at the centre of their food initiatives, through dietary guidelines, wellness centres, black labelling and advertising restrictions. Finland and China both express that food self-sufficiency is important to them, while Romania have proposed radical legislation to support a short supply chain.

The holistic People's Food Policy written by Food Secure Canada is an excellent example of a broad public consultation, which is what Nourish would like to see happen for the Good Food Nation Bill in Scotland. FSC consulted 3500 people in the development of their policy through kitchen table talks, policy submissions, tele-conferences, online discussions and cross-Canada conferences. If a consultation at this level is possible in a vast country like Canada with a population of 35 million, it sets a precedent that a widespread public consultation is possible in Scotland.

Conclusion

While many countries have policy and legislation in place with regards to food security or food safety, and some have branched out into tackling food waste and promoting localisation, few have elaborated beyond those areas in an attempt to offer a framework, rights-based approach to food. Those who have made a step in that direction, namely France and Canada, offer food for thought which can be taken into consideration during the shaping of Scotland's Good Food Nation Bill. This research suggests that Scotland's Good Food Nation Bill has the potential to be world-leading in its approach.

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⁴⁰ Independent Working Group on Food Poverty (2016) "Dignity: Ending Hunger in Scotland Together" [Online] Available from: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00502395.pdf>