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**NEW CLIMATE PLAN PUTS FOOD AND FARMING ON THE TABLE**

Nourish Scotland welcomed the Draft Plan published on Thursday, and encouraged MSPs to keep a sharp focus on food to turn the plan’s aspirations into reality.

Food accounts for 25-30% of Scotland’s greenhouse gas emissions, spread across agriculture, transport, industry and waste.

**Pete Ritchie, Director of Nourish Scotland said**:

“We’re pleased with the Government’s ambition for agriculture in Scotland ‘*to be among the lowest carbon and most efficient food producers in the world*’ but we can’t do this with farming as usual or food as usual.

“The plan does a good job of joining the dots with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Circular Economy and the Good Food Nation bill.

Pete continued:

“Some of the most important changes are outwith the control of farmers. We need to shift to a more sustainable and healthier diet. This includes getting our meat consumption down by half to the global average; and we need to get much smarter about food waste throughout the food chain.”

“But farmers matter: they manage over 70% of our soils, which are a sink for billions of tonnes of carbon. Soils are a public asset and must be managed for the common good.”

“That means being much thriftier with nitrogen, recycling the nutrients from food waste and sewage and spreading slurry better; integrated systems like dual purpose dairy breeds and chickens under trees; agroforestry at scale to lock up carbon and reduce flooding; cutting back on pesticides which deplete the soil’s capacity to do its job; investing in organics so everyone can afford it; and paying farmers to use their land for public good - like not farming the peatland.”

“We know most farmers are small businesses, so we need to walk with them and support them through this change, providing transition grants and loans where needed and above all exchanging skills and knowledge.”

“The Parliament also agreed yesterday to an independent commission to review the future of farming support. Aligning the new system with Scotland’s low carbon ambitions is a win-win situation. As Roseanna Cunningham says: ‘*what is good for the planet is good for farmers’ pockets*’ – just now, they could both do with some help.”

**ENDS**

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

[1] The Scottish Government’s full draft Climate Change Plan is available here: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00513102.pdf>

[2] Cabinet Secretary Roseanna Cunningham’s speech introducing the draft Plan is available here: <http://news.gov.scot/speeches-and-briefings/ministerial-statement-draft-climate-change-plan>

Nourish Scotland is food justice NGO campaigning for a fairer, healthier and more sustainable food system.

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