

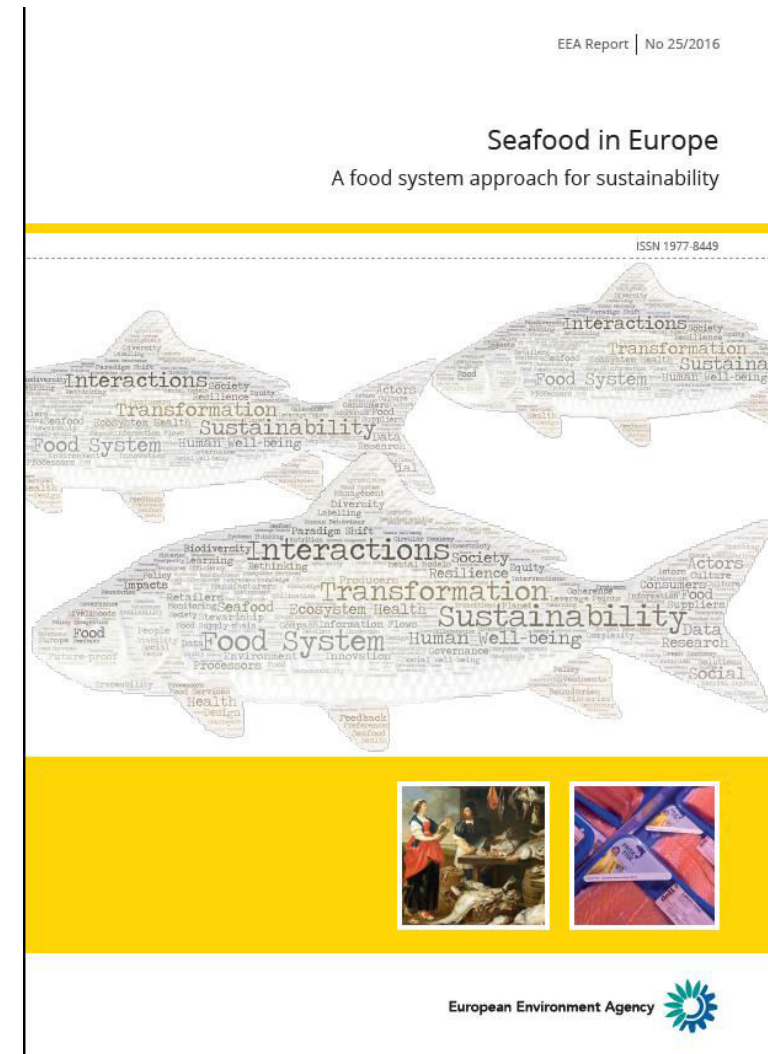
A food systems approach for sustainability

Ongoing work at EEA

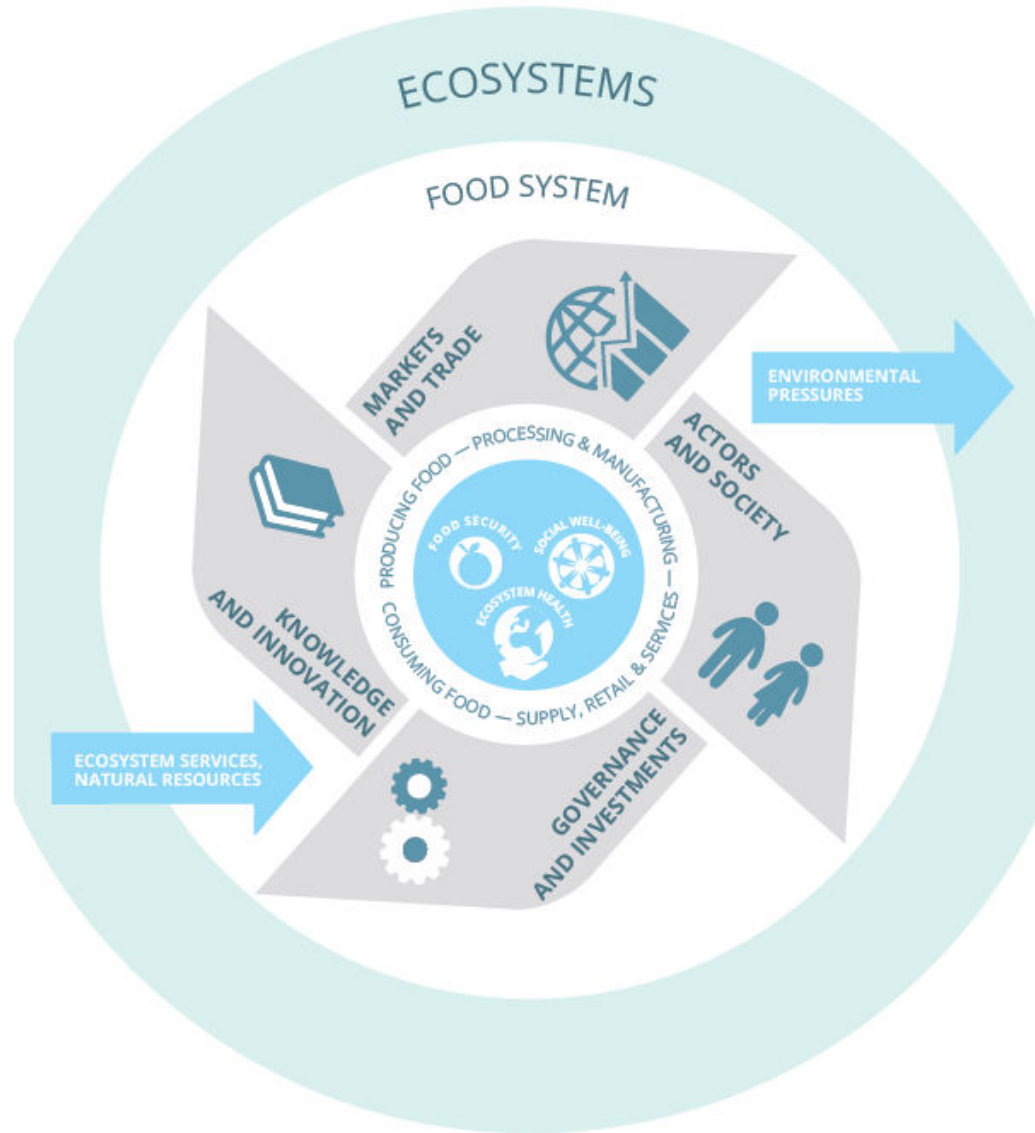


Work so far...

- To characterise Europe's food system (and its global interlinkages) in terms of its main environmental, social, economic and governance aspects.
- To analyse selected aspects of resource efficiency and environmental pressures along the value chain and their impacts on ecosystem resilience and human well-being.
- To explore current opportunities to recalibrate the food system towards increased sustainability and transition to a green economy.
- To highlight key knowledge gaps and needs, and strengthen the knowledge base needed to inform the transition of the food system.

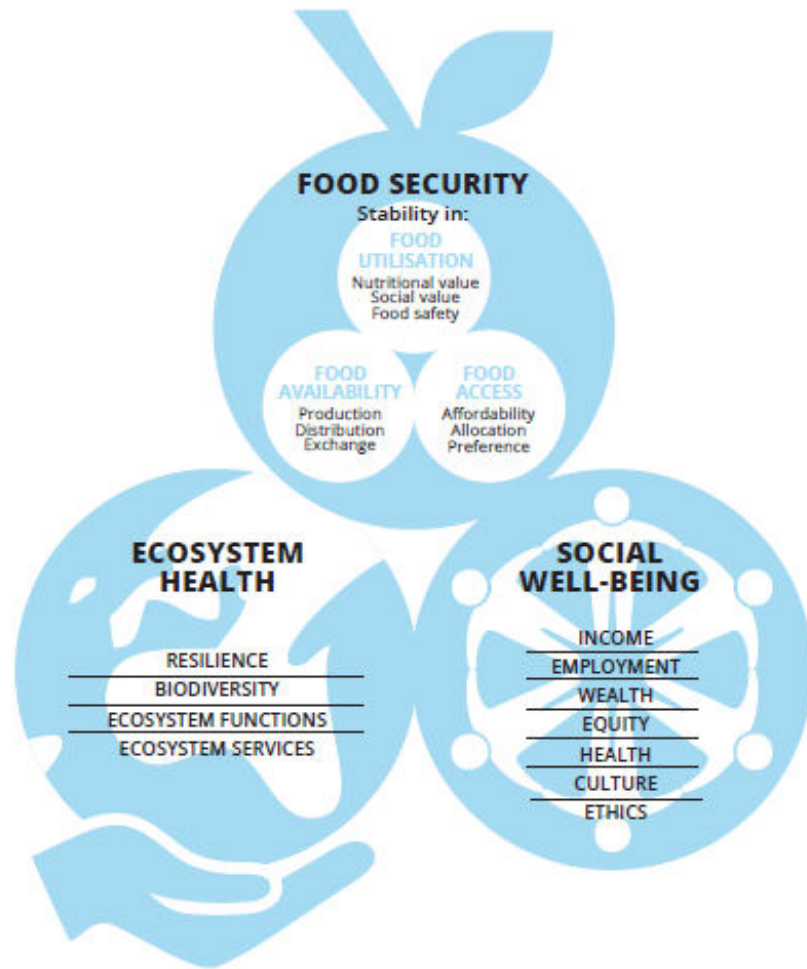


Understanding the food system



A sustainable food system is a food system that ensures food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition of future generations are not compromised (HLPE, 2014)

What do we want from a food system?



7th EAP 2050 vision - core concepts of **'living well'** and **'within the limits of our planet'**

To **live well** – the food system is optimising outcomes in terms of food security and social well-being

Within the limits of the planet – the food system is optimising outcomes in terms of ecosystem health

What does the European food system look like now?

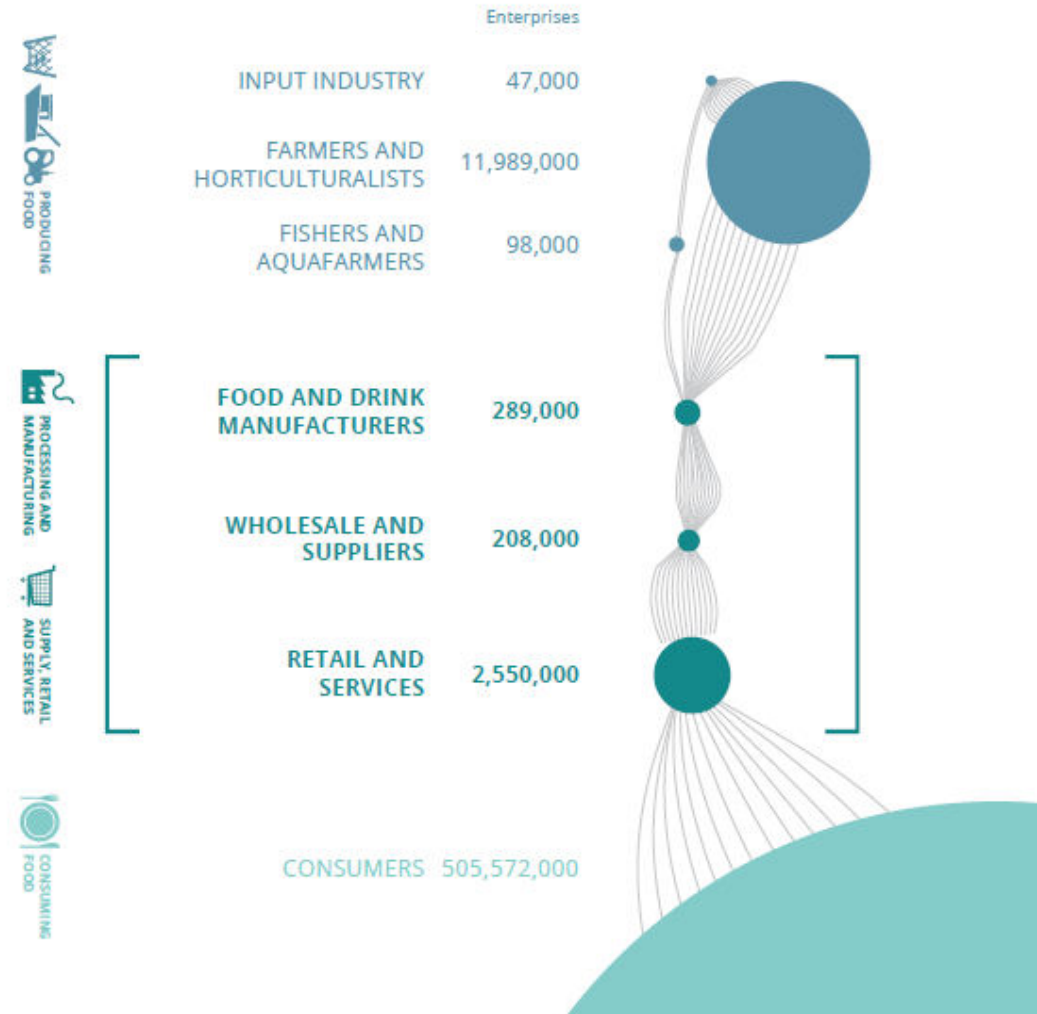
Production

Consumption

Trade

Actors

Policy landscape

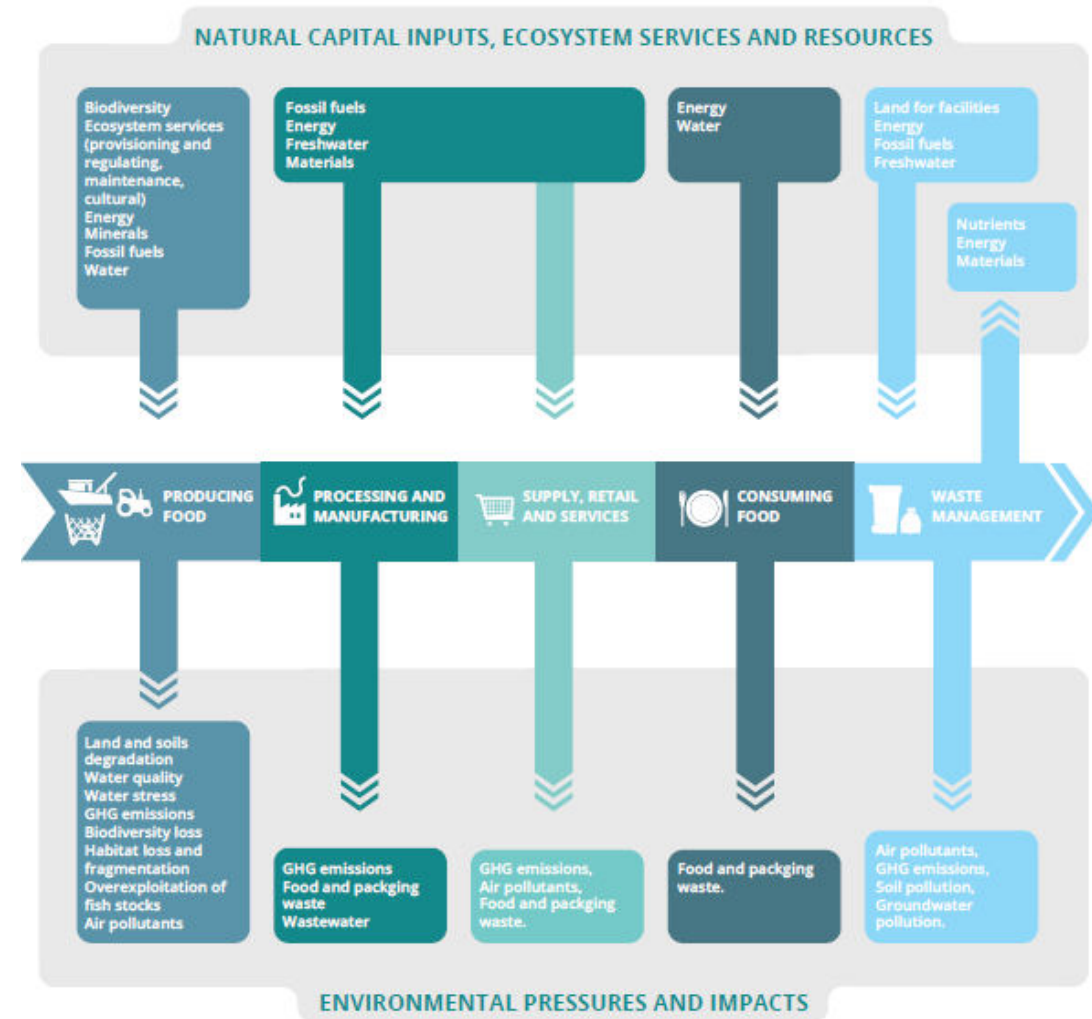


What are the challenges ahead?

Global megatrends

European perspective

- Food security
- Social wellbeing
- Ecosystem health
- Integrated management, policies and governance



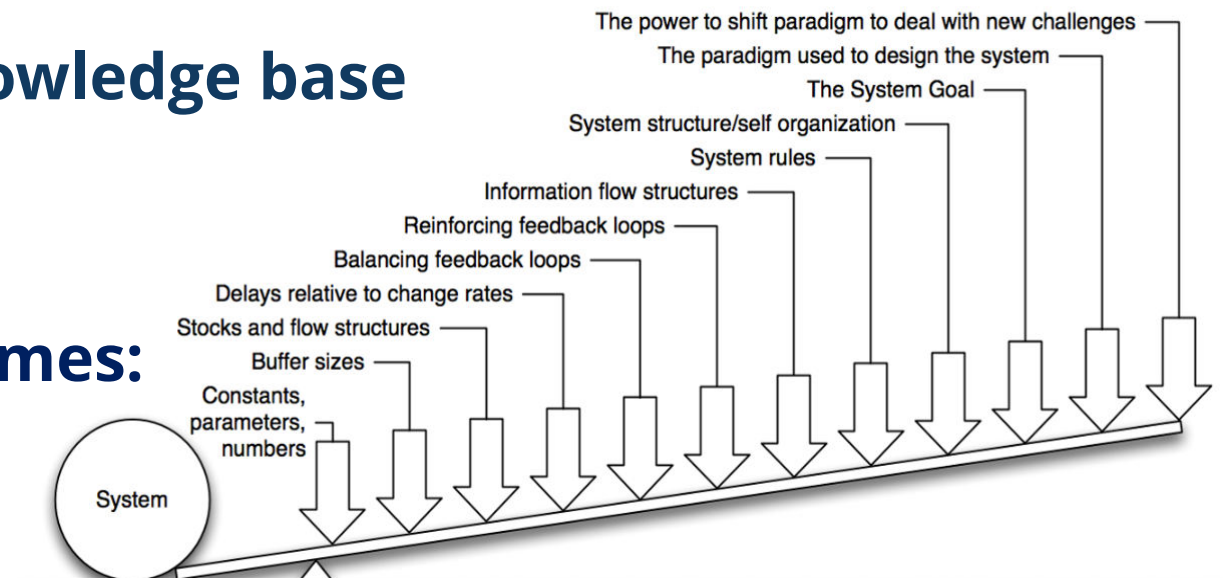
Looking ahead – food for thought

3 main areas of focus:

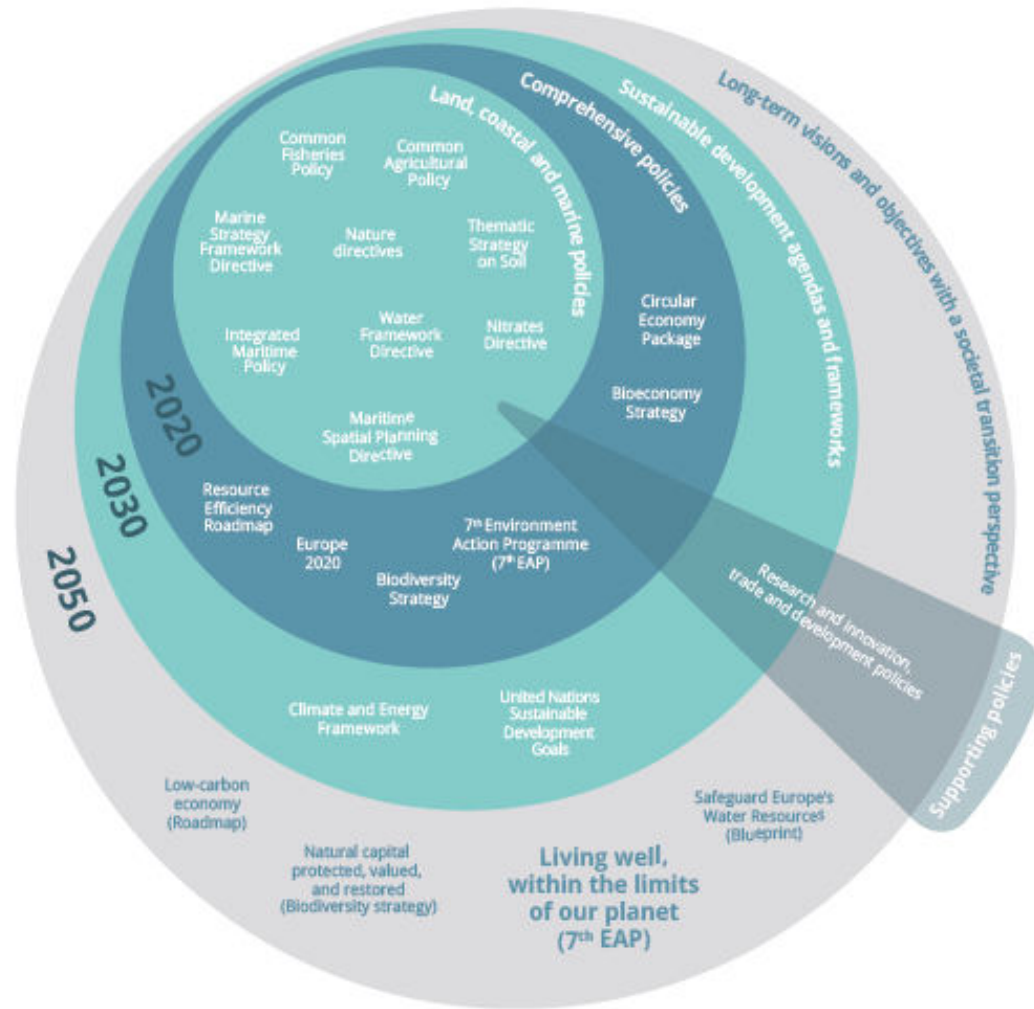
- Transition in the food system – thinking and acting for change
- Seizing current opportunities
- Strengthening the knowledge base

Looking across 3 timeframes:

- 2020, 2030 and 2050.



Looking ahead – food for thought



Seizing current opportunities involves dealing with some well-known and more specific issues for which solutions already exist.

Identification of no-regret options (can be tailored to context and location).

Need to combine short-term actions with longer-term transitions – enabling/supporting actions.

What can PATHWAYS, ARTS and TESS tell us?

- **Environmental and socio-economic characteristics** of the key systems (e.g. ecosystem impacts, systemic risks, emerging issues, scale of needed change)
- **Obstacles and opportunities for change** (e.g. lock-ins, feedbacks, trade-offs, burden-shifting; leverage points, tensions, cracks)
- **Promoting experimentation and innovation, and enabling systemic change** (e.g. quantification of systemic impacts of local initiatives; factors enabling innovation, learning and upscaling)
- **Evidence of opportunities for policymakers** to overcome barriers and support systemic transitions (to be expanded on in the next session)
- **Surprises/emerging issues**

In considering these questions it will be useful to distinguish system-specific lessons from more general insights