

MODULE IV Handout

Learning Objectives:

1. Addressing the challenge for more sustainable Food Systems
2. Exploring the three pillars of sustainability
3. Getting into biotechnologies

Activity for self-reflection: "Sustainable Food Systems"

Test knowledge acquired through modules about SFS, CSR and related EU Regulatory Frameworks. The activities are developed as Fill in the Gaps, in order to give users a quick and practical tool to test what they have learned, or through closed questions with four options to be chosen.

Essay: "Easing the transition towards more sustainable Food Systems"

The **European food industry** is keenly interested in establishing **more sustainable models of production and consumption on a global scale**, in order to meet the challenges of the future, including the need to produce 70% more food to feed the 9 billion people that the Food and Agriculture Organization estimates will live on the planet by 2050. The European food system stands as a model of sustainable production and consumption, capable of meeting the growing needs of the world's population and ensuring the competitiveness of agri-food systems while respecting the environment, territorial communities, economic development, and social growth.

EU food & beverage sector plays a crucial role, as it contributes to food production, economic growth, and the preservation of culinary traditions. Recent events, such as COVID and conflicts, have experienced **disruptive situations**, which undermined their stability, while highlighting their resilience and the importance to focus on the transition towards more Sustainable Food Systems (SFS).

To address this challenge, a **joint effort** is needed from food producers, academia, research community, policy makers and consumers: all these categories need to give their contribution to improve our Food Systems. **Sustainability**, explored within its three pillars (economic, social, and environmental) is of paramount importance along this path, and it is highly connected to the concept of **circular economy**, **food safety**, minimization of **waste production**, valorisation of **by-products**, as well as the integration of **biodiversity**. These topics, which are now increasingly gaining momentum, are at the core of companies' policies. In fact, the EU food and beverage sector is eager to positively contribute in a proactive way to the shift towards more sustainable food systems.

In brief, as this footpath cannot be performed by single actors alone, private and public sectors, governments, NGOs and consumers must collaborate together to face this urgent and global challenge.

Find out more by participating in the Training for Food Businesses delivered online:

<https://upinfood.erasmus.site/>

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.