

## **UK Food Policy, Implications for RELU**

**Chair:** Professor Henry Buller

**Presenters:** Dr Andrew Moxey, Head of Analytical Services, SEERAD  
Philip Andrews, Defra  
Helen Dunn, Defra

### *Chair's notes*

This workshop was addressed by two speakers from DEFRA (Philip Andrews and Helen Dunn) and one from SEERAD (Andrew Moxey). The presenters from DEFRA spoke essentially of the Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food, offering a rapid trawl through its principal aspects and focusing essentially upon the reconnection of farmers with their markets (and indicators of implementation achievement). It did not really address issues of Food Policy per se but rather considered ERDP measures and progress to date in their implementation. This presentation was followed by a view from SEERAD of its agenda relating to Food Policy. More explicitly focused upon the issue at hand, this second presentation drew attention to the complexity of Food policy and Food policy research and the clear need for a genuinely interdisciplinary perspective.

The lively debate that followed these presentations lasted an hour and explored a number of key Food Policy issues. Amongst those debated were:

- The need to consider government food policy in terms of its relations to the strategies of major retailers;
- The need to fully understand the drivers of Food Policy change and the divided legacy of Food and Farming as now addressing often largely distinct policy communities;
- The as yet unknown impact of the 'Food Miles' debate on Food Policy and the potentially enormous impact of this upon land use management;
- The importance of whole food chain research;
- The critical role of government policy in this with respect to CAP reform and the nature of future intervention (move entirely to Pillar 2 support).
- Differences emerged from the presentations between the English trade based food policy focus – classic economics, while the Scottish approach was much more demand focused, about Scotland and Scottish identity and devolution. England wedded to competition policy and the free-market. Need a more refined English regional food policy, more advocacy and interventionist with regional delivery plans being mentioned as a mechanism
- Definitions of food quality; an area that is still uncertain.