

RELU Workshop

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SEERAD

Outline

- Reminder of SE Research Strategy
- Summary of SE Food Policy interests
- Some research issues arising

SEERAD Research Strategy

To help improve the economic performance of Scotland's agriculture, aquaculture, fishing and food industries within the wider context of sustainable exploitation of our land, sea and freshwater resources and rural development, while safeguarding the interests of consumers, protecting and enhancing the environment, and ensuring a fair deal for taxpayers

Summary of intentions

Research will be commissioned as Programmes which will have high level policy objectives as the drivers. These will be in the areas of Profitable and Sustainable Agriculture, Land Use and Rural Stewardship and Impacts on Human Health, with Cross Cutting Themes of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Social and Economic Sustainability.

Programme modes

- Research programmes...will demonstrate increasing & clear relevance to policy priorities
- Proportion of research classified as policy relevant and applied will increase
- Increasing proportion subject to competition, and peer review

SE Departments

- SEERAD
- SEETLLD/Scottish Enterprise
- SEHD/FSAS

Some SE Policy documents

- Scottish Food & Drink:
The Big Opportunity (1999)
- Forward Strategy for
Scottish Agriculture (2001)
- Food & Health Action Plan (2004)

Main themes

- Natural, high-quality raw materials
- Sectoral linkages
- Value-added, consumer focus
- Competitiveness
- Access to healthier food choices
- Food safety, nutritional health
- Food chain approach

Food Chain Approach

- working with all sectors of Scottish agriculture and fisheries to promote and develop the sustained availability of core Scottish produce as part of a healthy diet;
- developing and promoting the potential of the local food sector;
- prioritising current grant schemes in favour of projects which support the Scottish dietary targets as well as adding value to Scottish produce;
- supporting through research the development of produce which contributes to the further implementation of the Scottish Diet Action Plan.

Supply Chain Management

- Co-operation
- Competition
- Competencies

Rural Development

- Scope & scale economies
- Sparsity/market size
- Cost base

Food safety

- Proportionality/consistency
- Whose risk?
- Production vs. consumption

Consumption habits

- Availability/variety
- Expectations/preferences
- Labelling/education

Conclusions

- Over-lapping policy areas
- Complex issues
- Multi-disciplinary perspective needed