

FOOD ISSUES CENSUS 2024-25

A THIRD SURVEY OF UK CIVIL SOCIETY

Food Issues Census 2024-25 draws on insights from ~130 civil society organisations to highlight the challenges, priorities, and opportunities facing those working in, and organising around, food and farming in the UK today.

Change food, change the world.

From fuelling chronic disease that costs the UK £268 billion a year, to being the second-largest driver of climate change and the leading cause of biodiversity loss, food shapes everything from

health to the environment. With over 4 million jobs tied to food, and 1 in 5 people in the UK facing food insecurity, transforming food systems means transforming lives, livelihoods, and the planet.

Organisations are working across a broad range of issues—with strong focus on environmental sustainability, food security, and agroecological farming.

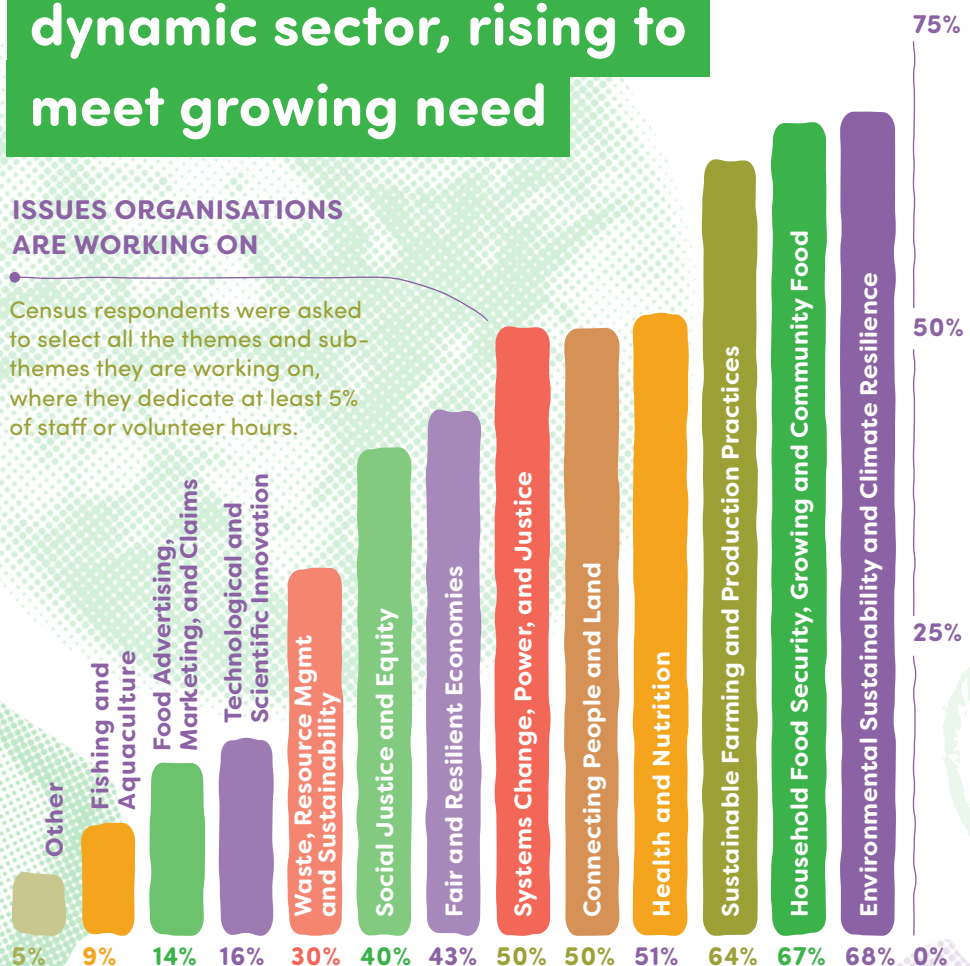
Since the last Census, there has been a clear rise in climate-focused work, alongside a continued emphasis on household food insecurity.

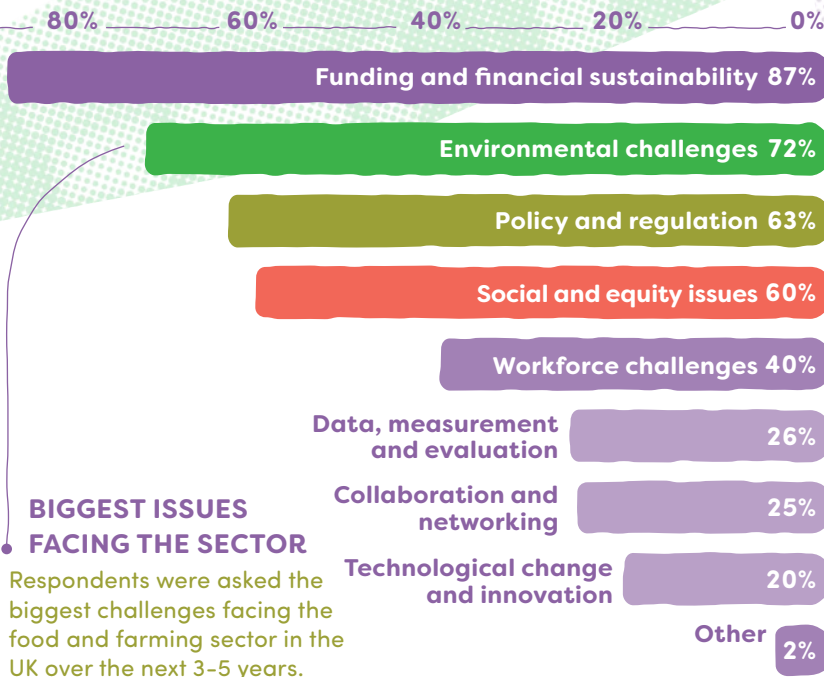
Many organisations are deeply engaged with marginalised communities, including people in financial hardship and racially minoritised groups. Collaboration is strong—with key partners like **Sustain**, **Soil Association**, and **Landworkers' Alliance**—and there is a growing appetite for deeper connections with **government bodies** and local authorities.

A connected and dynamic sector, rising to meet growing need

ISSUES ORGANISATIONS ARE WORKING ON

Census respondents were asked to select all the themes and sub-themes they are working on, where they dedicate at least 5% of staff or volunteer hours.





A sector under pressure

Funding is the biggest constraint, with limited and unpredictable resources undermining long-term planning. Environmental pressures, policy uncertainty, and workforce challenges are also stalling progress.

BIGGEST ISSUES FACING THE SECTOR

Respondents were asked the biggest challenges facing the food and farming sector in the UK over the next 3-5 years.

A call to support the slow, networked work of transformation

The sector needs:

- Long-term, flexible, and inclusive funding
- Fair pay for people's time and lived experience
- Space for collaboration –not competition
- Research rooted in community knowledge
- Smarter, more agile ways of working

Change takes time. But with bold, sustained investment, the food and farming sector can shape a fairer, greener, more resilient future for all.

GEOGRAPHIC REACH

Census respondents were asked what region their work focuses on. What is clear is that there is civil society activity on food and farming in every region of the UK.



Read the full report here:



Thanks to the 130+ organisations who contributed, and to our steering group from **A Team Foundation**, **Treebeard Trust**, **Farming the Future**, **Sustain**, **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation**, **Brinkl!**, **Nourish Scotland**, **Ennismore Foundation**, **Food Sense Wales**, and **Platform London**, who co-designed this work. It was led by the **Food Ethics Council**, with **Nadeen Haidar** as Project Lead and Principal Writer, and design by **Jaś Lewicki**.