



Beyond borders: A trade and food system fit for the future

How can we harness innovative trade policies for a sustainable food system?

To effectively tackle the triple challenge of climate change, biodiversity loss, and feed a growing population, we must change our food system – and trade can serve as a driver for this transformation. Join a diverse group of sector stakeholders to share valuable experiences and innovative solutions within this context, while also exploring practical action to take now.

Agenda | Thursday, 23 November 2023

08:15 – 08:50 Arrivals and registration

Tea and coffee will be served on arrival.

08:50 – 09:00 Welcome and opening remarks from Chatham House

Speaker: **Tim Benton**, Research Director; Director, Environment and Society Centre, Chatham House

09:00 – 09:20 Keynote: The necessity of integrated food and trade policies

Keynote speaker: **Tim Smith CBE**, Industry Chair, Food and Drink Sector Council

Chair: **Tim Benton**, Research Director; Director, Environment and Society Centre, Chatham House

09:20 – 10:00 Panel 1: Trade, Agriculture and the Environment: Lessons from across the supply chain

This panel will explore why a supportive trade policy, underpinned by core environmental standards, is required in the pursuit of environmental objectives, and to maintain a level playing field for farmers and businesses that are already striving for sustainable production in the UK.

The current landscape of trade policies provides UK market access for goods produced to different standards. This allows goods made to a lower standard, even if illegal in the UK, to access the UK market on preferential terms incentivising offshoring practices.

Speakers:

- **Andrew Opie**, Director of Food and Consumer Policy, British Retail Consortium
- **Courtney Scott**, Director of Policy & Research, Food, Farming & Countryside Commission
- **Gail Soutar**, Chief International Trade Adviser, National Farmers Union

Chair: **Rachel Solomon Williams**, Executive Director, Aldersgate Group

10:00 – 10:40 Panel 2: A coordinated and innovative trade strategy

The role of trade is changing. Across the world trade mechanisms are being developed to tackle environmental, social and sustainable issues shifting trade beyond customs processes. The UK has



already tabled deforestation legislation and is currently exploring the development of CBAMs and Mandatory Product Standards.

This panel will explore developments worldwide in developing sustainable trade policy- from efforts to reduce deforestation, textiles and fisheries to the development of new approaches in the EU- and discuss how the UK can pioneer an exciting and innovative trade policy that goes beyond conventional border processes.

Speakers:

- **Shemina Amarsy**, Advisor on Sustainability Standards & Value Chains, International Trade Centre [*virtual*]
- **Jonathan Gorman**, Technical Director, Efeca
- **Linda Wood**, Aquaculture & Fisheries Manager, Marks and Spencer

Chair: Angela Francis, Director of Policy Solutions, WWF

10:40 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:00 Breakout discussions

Room 1: Sustainable trade and developing countries

The session will discuss the impact on developing countries of environmental regulations in international trade policy. Recognizing the imperative for the UK to play its role in facilitating a global shift towards sustainable trade and food systems, the panel seeks to explore inclusive strategies that actively involve developing countries in this transition.

Speakers:

- **Doaa Abdel-Motaal**, Senior Counsellor, Agriculture and Commodities Division, WTO
- **Michael Gidney**, CEO, The Fairtrade Foundation
- **Babafemi Oyewole**, CEO, Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO) [*virtual*]

Chair: Anna Sands, Senior Policy Adviser, WWF

Room 2: What makes effective trade policy and standards?

The UK is currently planning new ways to trade, with the development of the Single Trade Window and Border25 model. Meanwhile, deforestation legislation and the development of CBAMs and Mandatory Product Standards are progressing in the background. The border can be a crucial tool in delivering sustainable trade objectives.

This breakout session will explore the role of regulatory trade mechanisms, what makes them effective, and if they could, or should, be applied to other sectors. This is planned to be an interactive session with a smaller but expert audience to share insight and develop priorities and actions the Government must consider.

Speakers:

- **Adam Cohen**, Head of Low Carbon Product Standards, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero



- **Frank Faraday**, Senior Policy Trade Adviser, BSI
- **Ramin Takin**, Founder, Head of Sales & Partnerships, Exabler

Chair: Emily Lydgate, Professor of Environmental Law, University of Sussex; Deputy Director UK Trade Policy Observatory

Room 3: Technology in trade

This discussion will examine the advances in trade technologies to support business, but crucially to explore how these advances can enable trade to go beyond traditional customs processes and address social and environmental objectives.

Speakers:

- **Koen Vingerhoets**, Blockchain Evangelist and Business Architect, Fujitsu
- **Sally Jones**, UK Partner for Trade Policy & Strategy, EY
- **Kevin Shakespeare**, Director of Strategic Projects and International Development, Institute of Export & International Trade

12:00 – 12:20 Coffee break

12:20 – 13:10 Panel 3: What's the future of UK trade policy?

This panel will share reflections from the day's event and set out some clear actions the current or next government could take to advance the sustainable agenda through trade.

This panel will include moderators from the day as well as political and business representatives. The aim is to involve them in the conversation, understand how they can influence this policymaking and urge them to champion the day's asks.

- **Lorand Bartels**, Chair, Trade and Agriculture Commission (TAC)
- **Angela Francis**, Director of Policy Solutions, WWF
- **James Kane**, Associate, Institute for Government
- **Rachel Solomon Williams**, Executive Director, Aldersgate Group

Chair: Tim Benton, Research Director; Director, Environment and Society Centre, Chatham House

13:10 – 13:15 Closing remarks

13:15 – 14:15 Networking lunch