

Glossary of Terms

1. **Agroecology:** Agroecology is based on applying ecological principles to optimize the relationships between plants, animals, humans and the environment, as well as strengthening the aspects of a sustainable and fair food system.

Through building these relationships, agroecology supports food production, food security and nutrition, while restoring the ecosystems and biodiversity that are essential for sustainable agriculture. Agroecology can play an important role in adapting to climate change.

Agroecology is grounded in place-specific design and organization, of crops, livestock, farms and landscapes, conserving cultural and knowledge diversity, with a focus on women's and young people's roles in agriculture.

To harness all the benefits from adopting agroecological approaches, the right conditions are required, adapting policies, public investments, institutions and research priorities. Agroecology is the basis for growing food systems that are equally strong in environmental, economic, social and agronomic dimensions. (Adapted from [UN FAO](#) 2019)

2. **Food Citizenship:** Food Citizenship explores the idea that we are not just consumers at the end of the chain, but participants in the food system as a whole ([Food Ethics Council](#))
3. **Food Hub:** Food hubs are entities that sit between people who produce food and people who use it, gathering food from growers and distributing it either to commercial customers or directly to consumers. Often, they focus on helping small-scale suppliers find markets, and operate within an explicit ethical framework. They can fill gaps in local food infrastructure, help consumers find locally sourced produce, support new forms of food retail, incubate food enterprises, or create a space for community education and action. ([Food Research Collaboration Food Policy Discussion Paper](#))
4. **Food Insecurity:** A situation that exists when people lack secure access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life. ([Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations](#))
5. **Food Partnership:** A cross-sector group of organisations and individuals, such as local authorities, health boards, food businesses, community groups and charities, who work together to improve the local food system.
6. **Food Poverty:** Food poverty is worse diet, worse access, worse health, higher percentage of income on food and less choice from a restricted range of

foods. Above all food poverty is about less or almost no consumption of fruit & vegetables (Tim Lang, Professor of Food Policy at City University as published by [Sustain](#))

7. **Food Systems:** By food system we mean: all the actors and relationships involved in growing, producing, manufacturing, supplying and consuming food. It encompasses agriculture, fisheries, food manufacturing, retail, food service, consumption and waste. It includes the social and economic drivers of choices and dynamics within the system and cuts across all scales and aspects of policy, including the economy, environment, business, education, welfare, health, transport, trade, planning and local government.
8. **Foundational Economy:** The services and products within the foundational economy provide those basic goods and services on which every citizen relies and which keep us safe, sound and civilized. Care and health services, food, housing, energy, construction, tourism and retailers on the high street are all examples of the foundational economy. The industries and firms that are there because people are there. Estimates suggest they account for four in ten jobs and £1 in every three that we spend. In some parts of Wales this basic 'foundational economy' is the economy ([Welsh Government](#))
9. **Good Food Movement:** According to Sustainable Food Places, driving a shift towards healthier and more sustainable food requires high public awareness of food issues and widespread participation in food-related activity, by both individuals and institutions, as part of a growing movement of active food citizenship. Key to achieving this are: communications and events that can inspire people about the role, importance and joy of good food; practical engagement opportunities such as growing, cooking and sharing food in every community; and a facilitated network through which food actors of every kind can connect and collaborate on-line and in person as part of a local good food movement. ([Sustainable Food Places](#))
10. **Pantry:** Pantries go beyond the food bank model, creating a sustainable and long-term solution to food poverty. Members pay a small weekly fee, typically £3.50, for which they can choose at least ten items of food each week, along with additional opportunities of volunteering and training.

Members have reported improved financial positions, improved health and well-being and reduced isolation. The 2018 Social Impact Report also found that for every £1 invested that Pantries have generated a £6 return in **social value**. [Read the report here.](#)

The Your Local Pantry project, run jointly by [Foundations Stockport](#) and [Church Action on Poverty](#) is now being **rolled out nationwide**, with communities invited to set up their own affiliated Pantries ([Your Local Pantry](#))

11. **Public Food Procurement:** Public procurement has been commonly used as a tool to pursue social, economic and environmental outcomes. Governments in all parts of the world use their market power to drive different policy goals. In a similar vein, public food procurement can also be an instrument to foster agricultural development by directing government food demand to domestic suppliers, particularly smallholder farmers. ([Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations](#))