





# THE SWEDISH FOOD FEDERATION SUSTAINABILITY MANIFESTO

**P**roduction of food – from field to meal – has a comprehensive impact on both the local environment and the global climate. At the same time, the production of nutritious, high-quality food must also increase constantly to feed a rapidly growing population. A part of the solution is to establish sustainable and efficient food production that places equal emphasis on sustainability and on taste and quality. The food industry in Sweden is to contribute to achieving the aims of the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and must comply with the EU roadmap for the climate.

## **For sustainable and robust Swedish food production**

The Swedish Food Federation has around 800 member companies which share a common cause in producing foods in Sweden. The Swedish Food Federation thus represents the majority of what is commonly referred to as the Swedish food industry. For the sake of clarity, it is important to emphasise that, with a few exceptions, the Swedish Food Federation does not represent primary producers or the retail sector; what we are is one of the links in the food supply chain closely tied to both.

This manifesto has been prepared on the basis of what the scientific community as a whole is saying about the increasingly evident challenges to sustainability that are the result of human activity. The manifesto also sets out the responsibility that Swedish food producers have in the light of both climate change and a rapidly growing global population. As a first step, the manifesto presents five sustainability undertakings that we at the Swedish Food Federation encourage our member companies to adopt and comply with, on condition that they be relevant to their operations.

## **The food industry has and accepts a huge responsibility**

In order to feed more and more people, the production and consumption of foods has to change. Solutions are to be found in all links of the food supply chain, i.e. from primary production to food production and the retail sector – as well as among the end consumers.

The food industry is unique, in that it is an industry with which all consumers come into contact every day. The food industry in Sweden currently employs around 49,000 people, generates an annual turnover of approx. SEK 195 billion, and refines 70% of products from Swedish agriculture. In addition to producing the majority of what Swedish consumers eat and drink, the industry also constitutes a large and important part of Swedish society from an economic, environmental and social perspective. Moreover, the industry produces foods for the rest of the world to an ever-increasing degree. Many Swedish food producers likewise make use of ingredients produced outside Europe and therefore have a responsibility to the environment, the economy and working conditions in other countries.

## **Trust is something you earn**

A survey conducted by the Swedish analysis company Demoskop reveals that 87% of Swedes highly trust the Swedish food industry. Trust is something you earn, and the Swedish food industry is – and must continue to be – credible and trustworthy. Swedish consumers make high demands on their food and drinks being produced in a sustainable manner. Work with sustainability is thus a part of everyday operations for Swedish food producers, and is increasingly indispensable in remaining competitive and, by extension, surviving. Long-term sustainability has to do with taking responsibility in a local, regional, national and even international context – and thus reinforcing your competitive strength.

All in all, this means that the food industry bears a huge responsibility in relation to the various measures set out in the Paris Agreement and, in particular, to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2030. The food industry is a part of the solution, together with the other players in the food supply chain.

# FIVE

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## UNDERTAKINGS FOR SUSTAINABLE AND ROBUST SWEDISH FOOD PRODUCTION

This manifesto contains undertakings in the field of sustainability that members of the Swedish Food Federation can sign up for. Not all undertakings are equally relevant to all companies, but all undertakings are relevant to the ability of us in the food industry to contribute to a sustainable future and help achieve the aims of the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030. By signing up for an undertaking, the member company pledges to contribute to achieving the associated objective, and to keep relevant information about the company's part of the undertaking readily available for review. The first five undertakings are based on aspects that the companies themselves are directly able to influence. Additional undertakings will be launched on an ongoing basis, all with clear links to the challenges that have been outlined above.



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### 1. A FOSSIL-FREE INDUSTRY

Using fossil energy for heating and transport leads to the accumulation of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Up to 80 percent of Swedish emissions that affect the climate come from fossil energy. In order to stabilise the rise in the mean temperature of the Earth at significantly less than two degrees compared to pre-industrial levels, fossil carbon dioxide emissions have to be reduced to zero. Within the food industry, this means switching to fossil-free energy in everything from the heating and cooling of plants and machinery to transport of all kinds.

**We undertake to ensure that in 2030, we have switched to fossil-free energy in both our production processes and our transports.**



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## 2. CUT FOOD WASTE

At global level, waste in the food supply chain amounts to around 30 percent of total food production and must therefore be significantly reduced. Every link of the production chain, including consumers, has a responsibility to change this situation. It is positive to note that the work to reduce waste has already been started in many areas, but this issue must permeate the working practices of the entire food supply chain to an even greater extent. The waste that does occur must similarly be directed into resource-efficient, circular flows to a greater extent. The shared goal of the food industry is to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.3, and the industry is committed to work within its own link of the food supply chain, as well as together with other players in the chain, to achieve this goal. Joining forces will make it possible to ensure that the work to reach the goal is run both more quickly and more effectively.

**We undertake to work to cut food waste by half in our own production, and to contribute to reducing food waste in the primary production, trade and consumer links.**



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## 3. PACKAGING IN RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

Food packaging plays an important role in a sustainable food system in that it protects the contents en route from producer to consumer, reduces food waste and makes sure the food maintains high levels of quality and safety. If the packaging can be made of more appropriate materials and in a smarter design, this will help cut total resource consumption. Working to promote smart use of packaging and packaging materials contributes to reducing climate impact – both from the food itself and from the packaging solutions.

**By 2030, we undertake to achieve 100% material recyclability for all types of packaging, and to work to raise the level of recycled material used in our packaging solutions.**



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## 4. GOOD CONDITIONS IN THE SUPPLIER LINK

The members of the Swedish Food Federation have chosen to take responsibility for their employees by signing collective agreements. Employees are paid contractual salaries, receive pension contributions and are insured through their employers. The food industry features numerous high-risk work processes and strives constantly to improve working conditions for food company employees. The Swedish Food Federation has a zero vision for workplace accidents.

For the food industry, maintaining good working conditions and taking responsibility for employer/employee relations is a key issue at our own companies and among our suppliers. We view every workplace accident as a failure and every incident of unethical or unlawful treatment of an employee as unacceptable in our own companies, and the same applies in relation to our suppliers. In our view, it is essential that employees in our supplier link enjoy good working conditions.

**We undertake to have a code of conduct and a working environment policy for our supplier link in place no later than 2020. We are to follow up on this policy every year.**



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## 5. MORE EFFICIENT USE OF WATER

Sweden uses a lot of water in relation to its population, but the country also enjoys good access to water. The forecast climate change, together with the water shortages in certain parts of the country in recent years, have highlighted the issue of access to water for food production in Sweden. In the light of these developments, it is essential that all operators review their water consumption, work to promote more efficient use of water and emergency water supply – particularly those regions at risk of water shortage.

**We undertake to improve the efficiency of our water consumption. We will complete a mapping process in 2019 and promise to have drawn up efficiency goals for 2020.**

# SHARED CHALLENGES FOR THE ENTIRE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

**T**he food industry can do a great deal on its own to minimise its climate impact and to contribute to a more sustainable world and a more sustainable society. The five undertakings set out in the manifesto constitute a good start to this important work. Some challenges, however, demand coordinated work between different parts of the food supply chain and different players in society. The Swedish Food Federation will be placing special emphasis on three of these shared challenges: the climate impact of primary production, social sustainability and improved eating and life habits.

## **The climate impact of primary production**

In many ways, Swedish agriculture is a role model for the rest of the world – but this doesn't mean that we cannot do more to reduce the climate impact of primary production in Sweden even further.

One of the biggest future challenges has to do with the relationship between access to and demand for food ingredients that stem from primary production. It is estimated that the global population will increase from 7 billion today to 10 billion in 2050, and the arable surface of our planet will quite simply not be able to increase in step with the growing population. In other words, it will be necessary to produce more food while preventing any rise in environmental impact. This is an area in which modern, research-intensive primary production has the opportunity to take the lead and show the rest of the world how it can be done.

The Swedish food industry is to make an active contribution to influencing the primary production link of the chain to minimise its climate impact. This can be done in a number of ways; for example, by including clear sustainability requirements in procurement contracts, and by working closely with primary production on research and innovation. It can

also be done by convincing Swedish decision-makers of how important it is to ensure Sweden maintains robust domestic primary production. There is nothing to gain by seeing efficient Swedish agriculture disappear to be replaced by overseas production with significantly higher impact on the climate.

## **Social sustainability**

In an industry that is truly global to a large extent, it is simply essential to make high demands on social sustainability in the supplier link of the chain. Many companies make use of ingredients produced outside Europe and therefore have a significant responsibility to contribute to ensuring good working conditions in those countries where they are active. At the same time as working with these issues in our supplier countries, we must likewise highlight them at domestic level. Working to improve equality and diversity at our workplaces in Sweden helps boost assurance and credibility; it also provides insurance against the risk of losing valuable skills in the company.

## **Better eating and life habits**

The issue of health is crucial to the Swedish Food Federation. Eating and life habits are inextricably linked to health and well-being. A great many different players need to work together to provide inspiration – and create conditions – for promoting healthy eating and life habits in people's everyday lives. The food industry is and must remain a positive force for improved public health in partnership with other stakeholders. We are therefore taking a proactive, long-term and evidence-based approach to initiatives to support public health.



**LIVSMEDELSFÖRETAGEN**  
The Swedish Food Federation