



# POLICY LEVERS FOR FOOD TRANSITIONS

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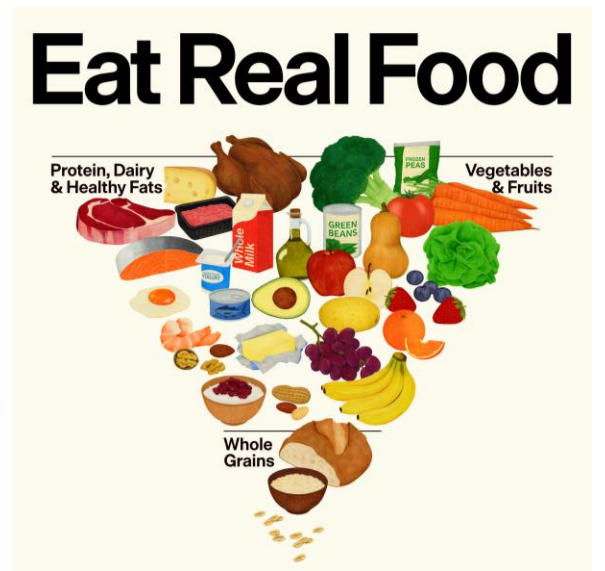
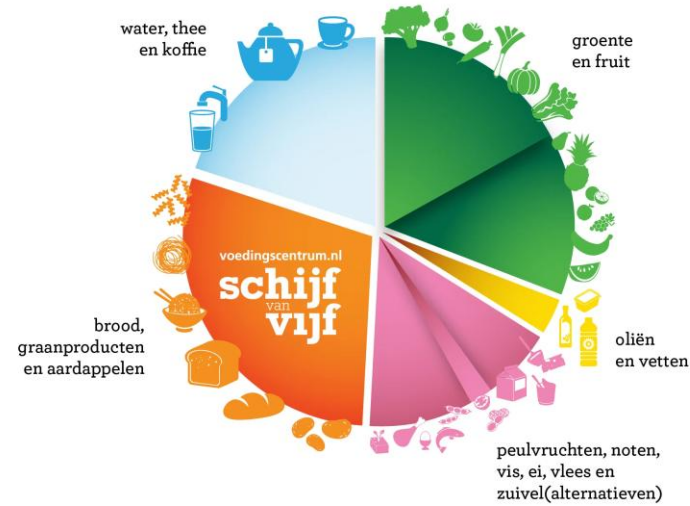
# SHIFTING NARRATIVES





FOR THE PLANET

- *A variety of climate diets: vegan, vegetarian, and flexitarian*
- Backlash against climate action in the news and politics
- Despite quiet broad support for climate action
- Food as a culture war issue



- *Competing narratives about what is healthy*
- EAT Lancet vs the protein obsession
- RFK and the carnivore diet
- Concerns about processed foods



# FOOD AUTONOMY

- *A region's ability to feed itself without external dependencies*
- Europe is heavily dependent on imported fertilizers, protein crops, and oilseeds
- Wars on the edge of Europe
- Weaponization of trade dependencies
- Price shocks in oil and gas



- *Mid- and long-term supply security for food ingredients*
- Animal disease
- Fuel shocks with potentially long reverberations
- Changing climate conditions
- Fluctuating prices



# ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- Fear of losing competitiveness
- Tech-forward solutions pitched on economic potential
- Techno-optimistic narrative embraced in some countries, backlash in others



## EUROPEAN LEVEL

- Strategic food autonomy is the most important ongoing dialogue
- Mainly motivating a renewed interest in pulse cultivation
- Fear of losing competitiveness leads to biotech strategies
- But biotech for food remains a divisive issue among European countries



EUROPEAN LEVEL

- Research funding
- *Recognizing protein crops as a sector*
- *Derisking farmer transition*
- *Funding lighthouse farms*
- *Structural support for startups*
- *Blended finance for chain investments*





# NATIONAL LEVEL

- Countries largely choosing their own biggest economic win
- Where land is abundant, investments in plant-based value chains
- Where land is scarce, focus on biotech



# NATIONAL LEVEL

- Research & development funding
- Regulatory changes
- Public-private partnerships
- Stimulating entrepreneurship
- Investing in facilities
- Network building



# REGIONAL/LOCAL LEVEL

THE CITY OF COPENHAGEN'S  
**FOOD STRATEGY**

City of Copenhagen

**Public meals in Copenhagen**


- 70.000 meals daily
- 1000+ kitchen units
- 1750 kitchen workers
- 10.000 tonnes yearly procurement
- Approx. 40 mln. EUR yearly

City of Copenhagen

**Journey to improve quality of public meals since early 2000's**



**NYC**  
Food Policy



**NYC FOOD AND CLIMATE STRATEGY**

December 2025

Ernährungsrat BERLIN

The food council of Berlin

**For a sustainable food and agricultural policy in the region**



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- Focus on climate-smart and healthy diets is largely embedded with municipalities and sub-national governments



## REGIONAL/LOCAL LEVEL

- Procurement policy
- Education
- Community embedding
- Public spaces
- Private sector partnerships



**THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

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