

Paper 15.5 External Expertise Mapping

Summary

This paper outlines work undertaken to identify organisations with expertise in food policy research and analytical methods. The aim is to improve awareness of relevant research programmes and methodological approaches that may support or align with FSA priorities.

Members are asked to consider:

1. Are there any organisations or research groups working in the areas identified as gaps (shown in table 1) that we have not identified?
2. An alphabetical list of organisations is shown in annex A (by topic) and annex B (by method). Are there any additional organisations with relevant expertise that we have not identified?

Background

This paper summarises recent work to identify external organisations with expertise relevant to the FSA's Analytics Unit (AU) and policy areas. The purpose of this work is to strengthen our awareness of current research programmes and methodological approaches that may support or align with FSA priorities, helping ensure that the AU's work remains connected to developments across the wider evidence landscape.

This exercise has involved compiling structured lists of organisations and research groups to develop an up-to-date view of external expertise in:

- Food policy research, including areas such as food crime, novel foods, and wider consumer interests.
- Analytical methods used in social science, economics, statistics, and operational research

Approach

To identify relevant external expertise in food policy research and analytical methodologies, we began by consolidating existing internal sources of stakeholder information including: FSA Stakeholder Register and Register of Specialists, Science and evidence research directorate (SERD) intranet and newsletters (which includes updates on recent engagements and featured researchers), and the SERD stakeholder map (compiled earlier this year using SAC stakeholder lists, publication authors, and known collaborators).

This helped us establish a foundation of known organisations and research groups and identify areas where external expertise might currently be missing or underrepresented.

We then conducted targeted online searches to identify additional expertise, this included:

- Using university department pages, research group websites, and publication databases to identify relevant expertise in food policy topics and research methods. We focused on the Russell Group universities as a starting point, given their research intensity.
- Using curated lists such as the Food Research Collaboration's directory of Food Research Institutes in the UK to identify specialist centres and networks.

The organisations identified through this process are listed alphabetically in the annexes:

- Annex A: Organisations and research groups with food policy expertise
- Annex B: Organisations and research groups with methodological expertise

Analysis of topic and method coverage

To support future use of the data, we developed a tagging system to classify expertise by topic and method:

- Topic keywords were based on the latest categorisation of AU projects, as reflected in our updated internal folder structure. These were adapted to reflect emerging areas of interest, for example, Novel Foods was added as a standalone topic due to significant AU activity in CBD, precision breeding, and alternative proteins.

- Topic keywords chosen were: Food Crime; Business Compliance (RCD, NLR); Operational Delivery (Regulated Products Delivery, OV's, Field Ops, Ops Assurance); Risk Analysis (Regulated Products Reform, Chemical, Radiological); Novel Foods (CBD, PB, CCP, Alt proteins, emerging technologies); Foodborne Diseases; AMR; Food Hypersensitivities; Trade; Consumer Monitoring (behaviour & perception); Communications (risk comms); Nutrition; Strategy (Strategic Insight, wider interests e.g. sustainability, schools, vulnerable, food insecurity); Not specified.
- Method keywords were identified by analysing FSA Social Science publications using CoPilot and grouped into overarching categories. Other AU teams (e.g. Operational Research, Economics, Statistics) have been invited to add to this list to ensure cross-disciplinary coverage.
- Method keywords chosen were: Evidence reviews; Surveys; Statistical analysis; Interviews, focus groups; Participatory, e.g. CitSci, deliberative; Ethnographic, e.g. observation; Creative e.g. social media; Innovative, e.g. AI, eye tracking; Behaviour change e.g. trials, experiments; Evaluations, e.g. process, outcome; Not specified.

Expertise was tagged by matching these keywords to descriptors found in “About Us” sections, research summaries, and publication abstracts.

These topic and method tags were then used to assess the breadth of coverage across the organisations identified. This analysis helped us highlight seven areas where expertise appears limited or fragmented.

Table 1 summarises the food policy topics and research methods that are currently underrepresented in the mapping.

Next Steps

Our overall aim is to create a searchable database to support colleagues in the Analytics Unit (and wider FSA) to identify suitable external research expertise and maintain awareness of external research programmes and publications. We will seek input from the ACSS assurance group when we have a first draft of this database and will update periodically.

Table 1: Areas of expertise with limited coverage

Area	Organisations identified with expertise	Link
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Innovative methods (e.g. AI, eye-tracking)	National Centre for Social Research	Methodology and Innovation Hub
Creative methods (e.g. social media, arts-based methods)	Royal Agricultural University	Food policy, quality and security
Creative methods (e.g. social media, arts-based methods)	University of Birmingham	Birmingham Food Network
Creative methods (e.g. social media, arts-based methods)	University of Leeds	Global Food and Environment Institute
Creative methods (e.g. social media, arts-based methods)	University of Leeds	Social Research Methods Centre
Creative methods (e.g. social media, arts-based methods)	University of Manchester	Management Sciences
Creative methods (e.g. social media, arts-based methods)	University of Sheffield	Sheffield Methods Institute
Creative methods (e.g. social media, arts-based methods)	Nesta	Nesta
Creative methods (e.g. social media, arts-based methods)	WRAP	WRAP
Food crime	Queen's University Belfast	Institute for Global Food Security
Food crime	University of Portsmouth	Food Cultures in Transition (FOODCITI) Research Cluster
Food crime	University of York	Food, Water & Waste - York Environmental Sustainability Institute
Food crime	University of York	AgriFood at York - Research

Food crime	POST	Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST)
Food hypersensitivities	Imperial College London	Centre for Translational Nutrition and Food Research
Food hypersensitivities	University of Bath	Centre for Motivation and Behaviour Change
Food hypersensitivities	University of Manchester	InformAll: Communicating about Food Allergies
Food hypersensitivities	University of Surrey	Food, Consumer Behaviour and Health Research Centre
Food hypersensitivities	House of Commons Library	The House of Commons Library
Foodborne diseases / Antimicrobial resistance	University College Dublin / Queen's University Belfast / University of Sheffield	Co-Centre for Sustainable Food Systems
Foodborne diseases / Antimicrobial resistance	University of Exeter	Exeter Food
Foodborne diseases / Antimicrobial resistance	University of Greenwich	Centre for Food Systems Research - Natural Resources Institute
Foodborne diseases / Antimicrobial resistance	University of Leeds	School of Geography
Foodborne diseases / Antimicrobial resistance	University of Sussex	Institute of Development Studies
Business Compliance	University of Manchester	Management Sciences
Business Compliance	UWE Bristol	School of Applied Social Sciences
Operational Delivery	None identified yet	None identified yet

Discussion

Members are asked to consider:

1. Are there any organisations or research groups working in the areas identified as gaps (shown in table 1) that we have not identified?
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Annex A: Organisations and research groups with food policy expertise

Organisation/Collaboration

Cardiff University

City St George's, University of London

City St George's, University of London

[Fuse](#)

[Healthy People, Healthy Food](#)

Imperial College London

Lancaster University

London School of Economics (LSE)

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Newcastle University

Newcastle University

NIHR Policy Research Units at Universities

Queen Mary University of London

Queen's University Belfast

Royal Agricultural University

[Salient](#)

Department / Research Group

[Research Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Food \(SURF\)](#)

[Centre for Food Policy](#)

[Food Research Collaboration](#)

6-University collaboration

7-University collaboration

[Centre for Translational Nutrition and Food Research](#)

Food Security for Equitable Futures

Consortium on Behavioural Science

[Food Policy Impact Lab](#)

[School of Natural and Environmental Sciences](#)

[Centre for Rural Economy](#)

[NIHR Policy Research Units 2024-2028](#)

[Centre for Public Health and Policy - Wolfson Institute of Population Health](#)

[Institute for Global Food Security](#)

Food policy, quality and security

8-University collaboration plus BIT and Nesta

Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)

[Scottish Alliance for Food](#)

SOAS University of London

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

University College Dublin / Queen's University
Belfast / University of Sheffield

University College London (UCL)

University College London (UCL)

University of Aberdeen

University of Bath

University of Bath

University of Birmingham

University of Bristol

University of Cambridge

University of Cambridge

University of Cambridge

University of Edinburgh

University of Edinburgh

University of Exeter

University of Greenwich

[Economics & policy | SRUC](#)

10-University collaboration

[SOAS Food Studies Centre](#)

[Transforming UK Food System
\(TUKFS\)](#)

[Global Food Security](#)

[Co-Centre for Sustainable Food
Systems](#)

[Food, Metabolism & Society](#)

[Centre for Behaviour Change](#)

[Food: Cultures, Economy,
Sovereignty | The School of Social
Science](#)

[Centre for Motivation and
Behaviour Change](#)

[Centre for Development Studies](#)

[Birmingham Food Network](#)

[Nutrition and Behaviour Unit |
School of Psychological Science](#)

[Population Health Interventions -
MRC Epidemiology Unit](#)

[Behaviour Change By Design |
Department of Public Health and
Primary Care \(PHPC\)](#)

[Cambridge Global Food Security](#)

[Food Researchers in Edinburgh
\(FRIED\)](#)

[Global Agriculture and Food
Systems | The Royal \(Dick\) School
of Veterinary Studies](#)

[Exeter Food](#)

[Centre for Food Systems](#)

[Research - Natural Resources
Institute](#)

University of Hertfordshire	<u>Centre for Agriculture, Food and Environmental Management Research</u>
University of Hertfordshire	<u>Centre for Research in Public Health and Community Care (CRIPACC)</u>
University of Leeds	<u>Global Food and Environment Institute</u>
University of Leeds	<u>School of Geography</u>
University of Leeds / University College London / University of Liverpool / University of Oxford	<u>Consumer Data Research Centre</u>
University of Lincoln	<u>Lincoln Institute for Agri-Food Technology University of Lincoln</u>
University of Liverpool	<u>Transforming the UK food system Institute of Population Health</u>
University of Manchester	<u>Management Sciences</u>
University of Manchester	<u>InformAll: Communicating about Food Allergies</u>
University of Manchester	<u>Sustainable Consumption Institute The University of Manchester</u>
University of Nottingham	<u>Food Systems Institute</u>
University of Oxford (with international collaborators)	<u>TableDebates</u>
University of Oxford	<u>Food Systems Transformation Environmental Change Institute</u>
University of Oxford	<u>Future of Food Oxford Martin School</u>
University of Portsmouth	<u>Food Cultures in Transition (FOODCITI) Research Cluster</u>
University of Reading	<u>Department of Agri-Food Economics and Marketing</u>
University of Reading	<u>Institute for Food Nutrition & Health</u>

University of Sheffield	Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute SPERI
University of Sheffield	Institute for Sustainable Food
University of Sheffield / University of Leeds	National Alternative Protein Innovation Centre (NAPIC)
University of Surrey	Food, Consumer Behaviour and Health Research Centre
University of Sussex	Institute of Development Studies
University of Sussex	Institute of Development Studies
University of Warwick	Our Research - Food GRP
	Food, Water & Waste - York
University of York	Environmental Sustainability Institute
	Food sustainability and security - Research
University of York	AgriFood at York - Research
UWE Bristol	School of Applied Sciences
Centre for Science and Policy	CSaP Affiliate Network
Chatham House	Agriculture and food
Food Ethics Council	Not specified
House of Commons Library	The House of Commons Library
Nesta	A healthy life Nesta
Nuffield Council on Bioethics	The environment & health - Nuffield Council on Bioethics
Nuffield Foundation	Not specified
Nuffield Foundation Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST)	Not specified
The Food Foundation	Not specified
The Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)	Not specified
Trussell	Not specified
WRAP	Not specified

Annex B: Organisations and research groups with methods expertise

Organisation

8-University collaboration plus UKHSA,
Scottish & Welsh govts: Behavioural
Research UK

7-University collaboration, UKFS-CDT

London School of Economics (LSE)

University of Birmingham

University of Essex

University of Leeds

University of Sheffield

University of Southampton

University of Southampton

University of Warwick

National Centre for Social Research

[Universities Policy
Engagement Network \(UPEN\)](#)

Department / Research Group

[Behavioural Research UK \(BR-UK\)](#)

[UK Food Systems Centre for Doctoral
Training](#)

[Department of Psychological &
Behavioural Science](#)

[Centre for National Training and
Research Excellence in Understanding
Behaviour \(CENTRE-UB\)](#)

[Institute for Social and Economic
Research \(ISER\)](#)

[Social Research Methods Centre
Sheffield Methods Institute](#)

[Statistical Sciences Research Institute
\(S3RI\)](#)

[Methodological Innovation: Survey
Methods and Official Statistics](#)

[Behavioural Science Group](#)

[Our expertise | National Centre for Social
Research](#)

[Policymaker support – UPEN](#)