

1. Brexit and the economic situation:

Agriculture is a strategic sector in the UK, it represented **122 billion£ to the UK economy** in 2018 and **employs over 4 million people**.

The UK was the fifth beneficiary of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

The PAC was an important source of income for most agricultural holdings. It raises the question of their economic situation and the viability of their farming exploitations without this funding. The loss of the PAC fundings calls for a radical and innovative reform of the current subsidies system.

2. Intensive farming and environmental degradation

The agricultural sector is a prominent contributor to UK greenhouse gas emissions, representing 10% of UK overall GHG emissions. The current system relies heavily on long-distance supply chains and on fossil fuels use, which will become scarcer as we approach peak oil. Besides, organic farming represents only 2,7% of the total farmed area in the UK. Even more worrying, the area of land farmed organically decreased by 36% since 2008.

3. Weak food security: The UK system is largely dependant on imports, it imports 40% of the food it consumes. This makes the UK vulnerable to climate changes and price fluctuation.

The food we currently consume in the UK, especially in cities, is not locally produced most of the time. Food security is a challenge that most urban areas will face in the coming years.

Climate Impact	Ingredients affected			
Heat wave causing heat stress	Chicken	Milk	Lamb	Tomatoes
Water shortage and droughts	Potatoes	Peas	Wheat	
Warmer, wetter conditions favouring pests	Rice	Onions	Peas	Wheat
Climatic change reducing growth rates	Soy (for chicken & dairy feed)		Tomatoes	Cod
Unseasonal weather events	Lemons			
Soil losses to erosion	Wheat			

Common UK produces impacted by climate change

How do we keep a competitive agri-food sector for the UK while mitigating its effects on climate change and ensuring food security?

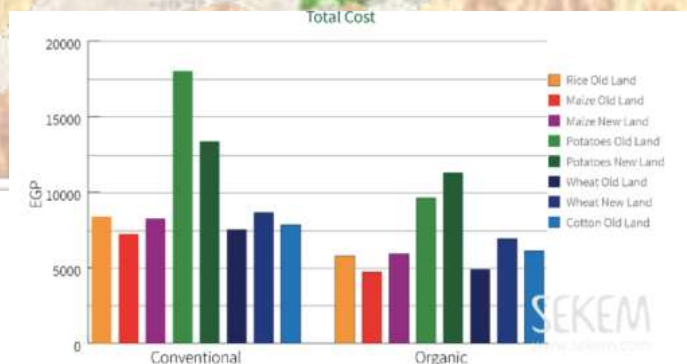
Our proposal

1. Relocating food production in Green Belts

- Green Belt currently represent 12,5% of the land area in England
- Some of it is already farmed but more land could be done and there is a need to diversify the current food production happening on green belts.
- Local Councils (who are important landowners on the London Green Belt for instance) should have the right to use their legal tools to stop soil artificialisation and encourage a climate-friendly agriculture.

2. Increasing subsidies to organic farming and small farms

- Need for a new life cycle analysis of our agricultural system like the one used by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations which takes environmental cost into account ("Full Cost Accounting"). Organic agriculture has a slightly higher direct input cost of production but results in better cost effectiveness and profitability in the long-term for society as a whole.
- High energy subsidies support unsustainable practices and the market is distorted. We could decrease these subsidies to direct them towards more sustainable practices.
- Our proposal aims at shifting our practices by valuing natural capital and ecosystem preservation and not quantity and short term profits.
- In the long run, our vision for the UK agri-food system's future is a new agricultural landscape: less intensive farming, more small-size holdings practicing agroecology and a shift in food consumption with a larger share of locally produced and seasonal produces



Cost of conventional farming vs organic farming based on the "Full Cost Accounting" methodology