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# Report of the High-Level EU Committee on Food Systems Science

Tom Arnold

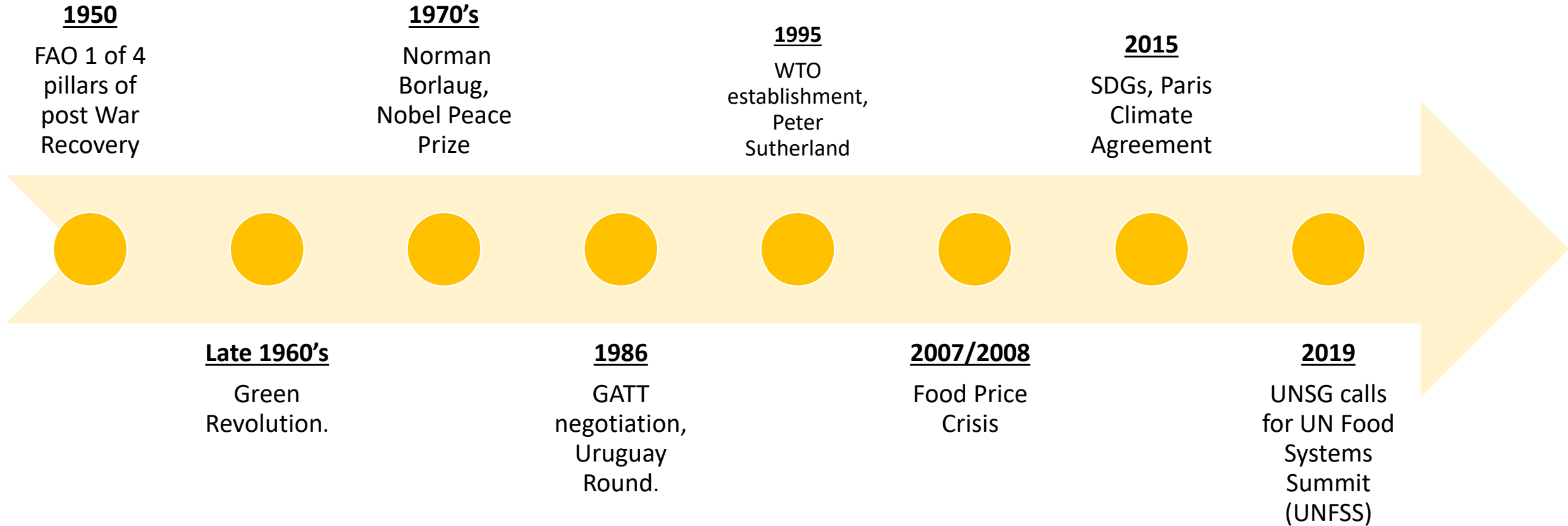
Chair, High Level EU Committee on Food Systems Science.

Research and Innovation for Sustainable Food Systems:  
Delivering on the Ambition of Food Vision 2030.

# Structure of presentation

- 1950-2020: The International, European and Irish Stories.
- 2020-2050: The Future Story.
- Where does the Expert Group's report fit into the Future Story?

# The International Story



# The European (EU) Story

## Early 1950's

Post-War  
food  
insecurity

## 1958

Common  
Agricultural  
Policy (CAP).  
Sicco  
Mansholt

## 1992

Major reform  
of CAP  
Ray McSharry

## 2019

European  
Green Deal  
(EGD): Farm  
to Fork (F2F),  
Biodiversity  
Strategies.

## 1958

Establishment  
of European  
Economic  
Community  
(EEC), based  
on Treaty of  
Rome (1957)

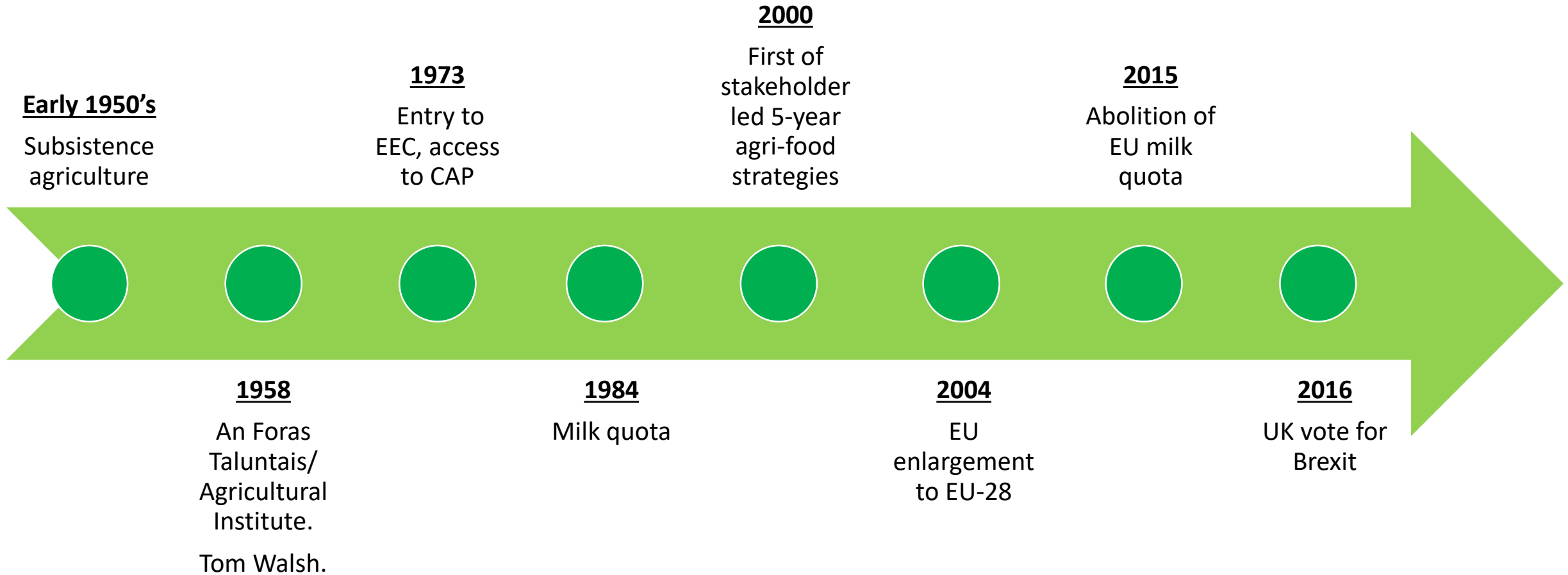
## 1984

Milk quota

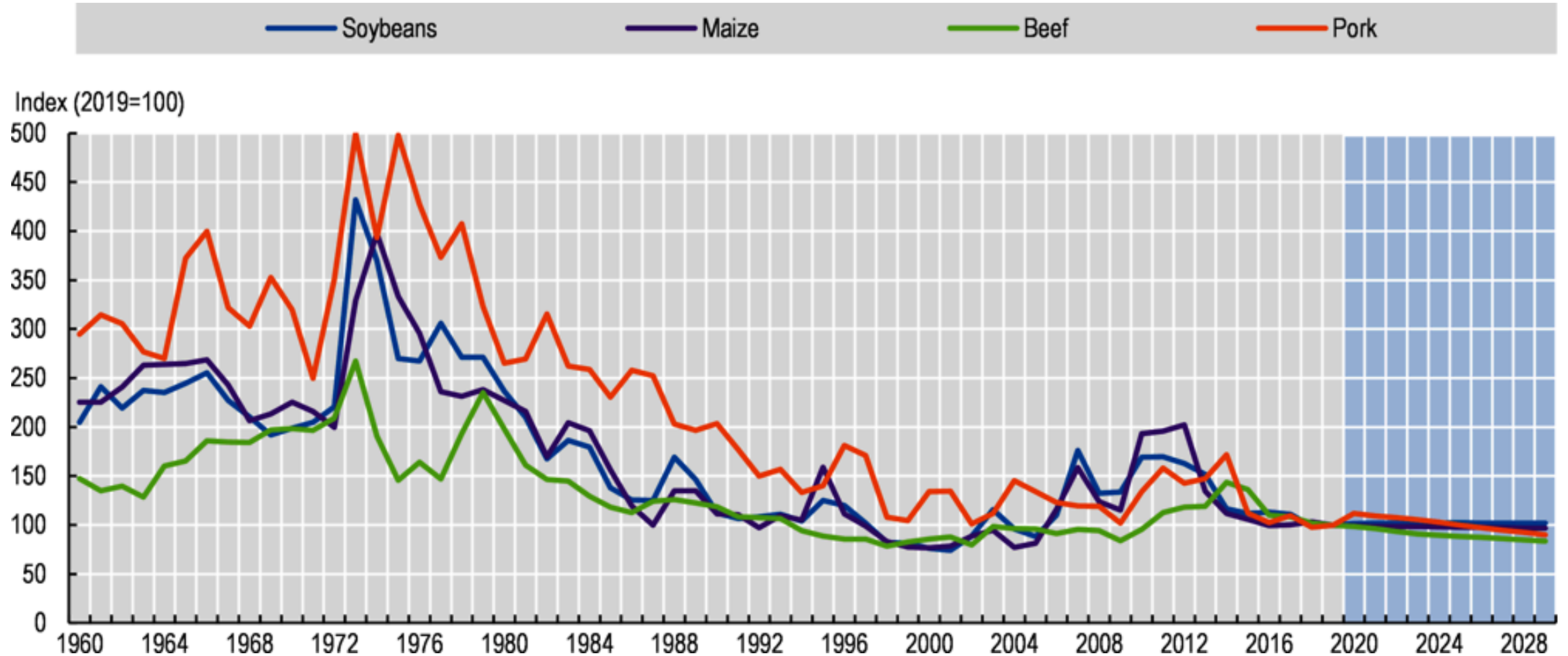
## 2003-2017

More CAP  
reform

# The Irish Story



# Long-term evolution of real agricultural prices



Note: Historical data for soybeans, maize and beef from World Bank, "World Commodity Price Data" (1960-1989). Historical data for pork from USDA QuickStats (1960-1989).

Source: OECD/FAO (2020), "OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook", OECD Agriculture statistics (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/agr-outl-data-en>.

# Summary and Conclusions 1950-2020

- |                   | 1950   | 2020.  |
|-------------------|--------|--------|
| • Population      | 2.5 bn | 7.8 bn |
| • Hungry people   | 800 m  | 811 m  |
| • % of population | 30.0   | 9.6.   |
- Key success factors: Economic growth and poverty reduction. Green Revolution/science.
  - Downsides: Environmental damage to the planet, The Triple Burden of Malnutrition.
  - Conclusion: 2010-2020: A Food Systems approach needed:
  - 2021: The UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS)

# Rolling Series of 10 year Strategies







Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Food Vision 2030

A World Leader in  
Sustainable Food  
Systems



# Distinguishing Features of FV 2030

- A Sustainable Food System (SFS): delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, environmental and social bases to generate food and nutrition security for future generations are not compromised (FAO, 2017).
- FV 2030 developed using a 'Food Systems' approach, explicitly linking policies for agri-food with environment and climate, and nutrition and health.
- Coherence between domestic policy on SFSs and foreign/development-cooperation policy.
- Mission approach.

# Key objectives of FV 2030



# 2020-2050: The Future Story

- 2021: UNFSS: over 100 countries commit to 'food systems transformation' (FST).
- 2022: Ukraine crisis, with implications for the global food system.
- 2030: Achievement – or not – of commitments made for SDGs, Paris Climate Agreement.
- Population: 7.8 billion (2020) to 9.7 billion (2050).
- Temperature: 1.5 degrees or over 2.0 degrees?

Box for Uncertainties: Geopolitics; Climate impacts; Pandemics.

# The Political and Policy Implications of the 'Future Story' for Food Systems

- The past decade has seen an increasing acceptance of the need to plan using a 'food systems' lens.
- The commitments made at UNFSS has accelerated the move towards using a food systems approach: these commitments must now be implemented with urgency and effectiveness.
- Ireland's tradition of using stakeholder-led development of agri-food strategy, and the adoption of Food Vision 2030 as government policy in 2021, provides an opportunity to achieve international leadership in FST.

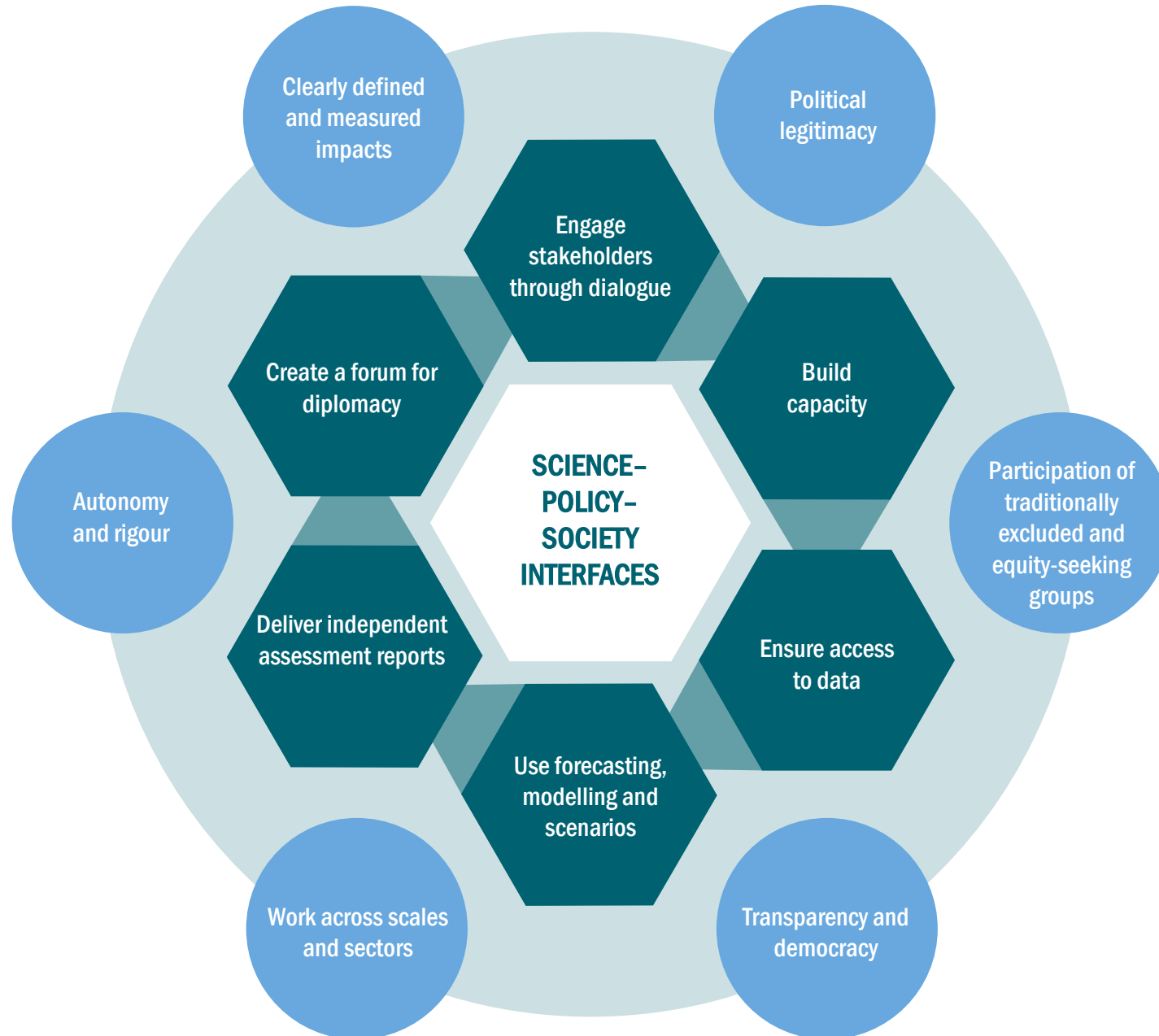
# The EU High Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Food Systems Science

- 19 international experts.
- Worked from February 2021 – May 2022.
- Launch at EU's Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR), 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021, in Paris.

# ‘Everyone at the Table: Transforming Food Systems by Connecting Science, Policy and Society’

- What:  
Roadmap, Signposts for FST
- For Whom:  
Politicians and Policymakers
- Where:  
National, Regional,  
International

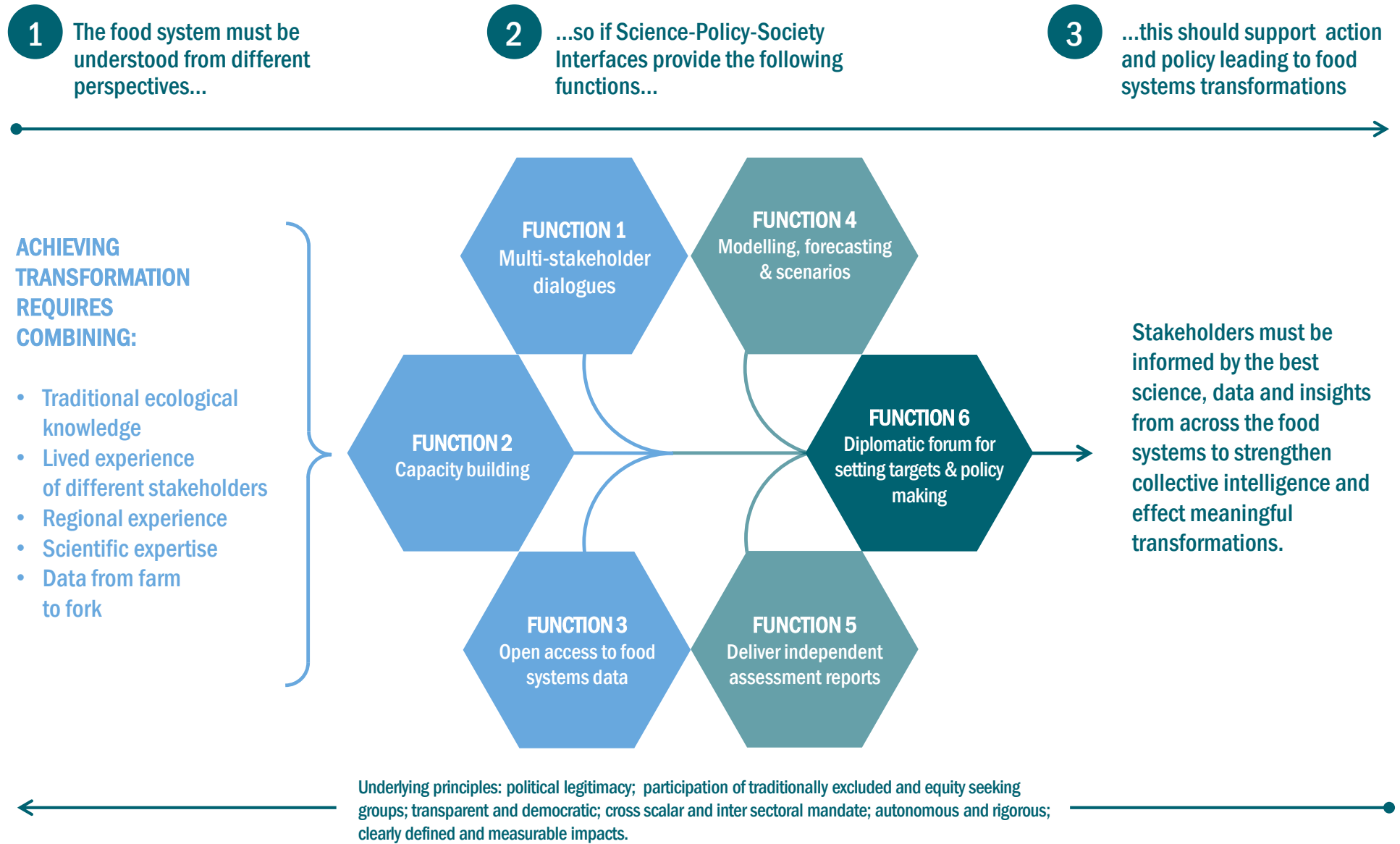




 **FUNCTIONS**  
 **PRINCIPLES**



**FIGURE 2**  
Theory of change linking multiple perspectives on food systems (1) to the proposed functions that SPSIs must perform (2), through to policy outcomes (3)



# Conclusions

- SFSs: A response to the twin imperatives of nourishing an expanding global population and meeting climate targets.
- FV 2030 Strategy aspires to be an international leader in SFSs.
- Delivering economic, environmental and social sustainability is a major challenge for political leaders and policy makers.
- Critical role for the Research and Innovation (R&I) community if Irish leadership in SFSs is to be achieved.
- Today's discussion should produce ideas on the HOW and the RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS for the R&I community to deliver.