

Sustainable Diets: Food for Healthy People and a Healthy Planet

Policy Implications

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IOM/NAS

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Three Policy Elements

1. What can we learn from Europe?
2. New policy approaches
3. Specific policy targets

Consciousness and Commitment



- Recognition of the food system as a system
- Acknowledgment that sustainable diets are appropriate policy and public health goal
- Portion of industry and consumers far ahead

Planning

- DEFRA evidence plans
- Dutch Guidelines – multiple documents over some years from various Ministries
- FAO – coordination of multiple efforts and institutions
- No food system policy framework in U.S.

Evidence Status

- Good deal already known
- Many ecological indicators are correlated re: meat production
- Qualitative recommendations due to statistical uncertainties



New Policy Approaches

1. Transformative
2. Interconnected across departments and administrations



Transformative/Systems (NRC 2010)

Policy needs:

1. Appropriate price signals and incentives to farmers
2. Policies less likely to produce unintended consequences
3. Policy tools that are politically viable and effective at landscape level

Cross-Departmental Actions

1. New emphasis on cross-issue analyses (GAO 1982)
2. Interconnected policymaking (Foresight 2011)
3. Few such collaborations exist

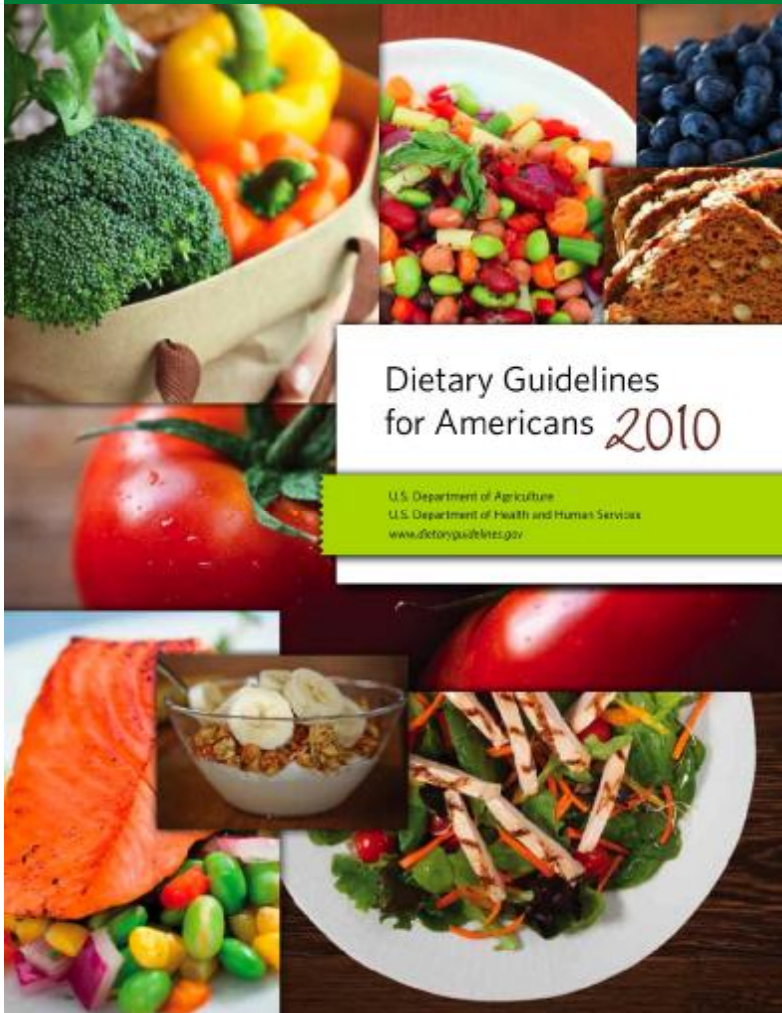
Specific Policy Targets: Dietary Guidelines

Committee members with
knowledge of sustainable
diets

Working definition

Evidence review

Start now – add as more
research is done



Dietary Guidelines
for Americans 2010

U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
www.dietaryguidelines.gov

Specific Policy Targets: Research

- Must accelerate progress
- Must increase government funding-NIFA, NSF
- Must address multiple dimensions of sustainability and resiliency
- Must explore system properties

Specific Policy Targets: Conservation Stewardship Program

- Array of conservation goals: water, air, soil, biodiversity, greenhouse gases
- Acreage-based
- Payment limit
- Technical and financial assistance
- By 2018, about 10% of U.S. farmland enrolled



Dietary Guidance Is...

A tool to

- Educate the public about food choices
- Effect change in food choices
- Educate the public about the food system



Dietary Guidance Is...

A signal that

- Government recognizes its role to provide best food and dietary advice
- Government recognizes links among health, environment, and food security
- The public has a role in conserving natural resources through its food choices