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The Landworkers' Alliance

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The Landworkers' Alliance response to the Government Food Strategy

A spokesperson for the Landworkers' Alliance said:

"The Government's National Food Strategy White Paper is the policy equivalent of junk food, and fails to deliver the kind of interconnected and whole-system approach that we urgently need if we are to create a better food system for all. The trade-off between protecting the environment and providing enough healthy and affordable food for everyone is a myth – we can, and must, transform our food and farming system to do both.

The LWA, in alliance with many other civil society group and charities, is calling for a Food Bill, underpinning meaningful food system change with robust legislation, and enshrining a Right to Food which would put into the law the basic right of every person to affordable, nutritious and sustainably produced food, but this White Paper makes no mention of this and fails to deliver any new policy of value.

The White Paper seems to focus heavily on hi-tech solutions and industrial farming, which the LWA believes is fundamentally the wrong way to go. Hi-tech solutions like automation in horticulture and genetically edited food are false solutions to the food systems crisis, the environmental crisis and the cost-of-living crisis. What we need is a whole system change – the White Paper totally lacks the ambition to achieve this."

Notes to editors:

- The Landworkers' Alliance is a grassroots union of farmers, foresters and land-based workers in the UK. It is part of a global movement representing 200 million small-scale farmers under the umbrella group La Via Campesina. <https://landworkersalliance.org.uk/>
- Agroecology is a food and land-use system that operates within the finite limits of our earth, regenerates natural resources and cools our planet without compromising the ability of others around the world or future generations to provide for themselves.
- The Government Food Strategy White Paper is a response to the National Food Strategy (NFS) which was published in July 2021.