



**hungry?**

# Delivering food security in the United Kingdom

“Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (FAO).

## Key points

- ☛ Soil is the basis of all life on Earth, delivering 90% of the food produced, and is a finite resource. If soils are not sustainably managed their degradation severely limits availability and resilience of food supply across the globe.
- ☛ Our understanding of the state and response of our soil resource is fundamental to delivering good soil quality and health through sustainable soil management.
- ☛ Climate change scenarios will add to the challenges of good soil management for sustainable food production.
- ☛ Increasing demand for housing and infrastructure places additional pressures on fertile soils.
- ☛ Current planning processes do not explicitly consider soil functions, regularly leading to a loss of function, increasing flood risk, decreasing biodiversity and degrading our ability to grow food.

## Our recommendations

- ☛ Commitments to UK soil, agricultural and associated land research and education to ensure continued supply of expertise and knowledge transfer into the future
- ☛ Significant investment in mapping and monitoring of soil resources are essential to inform effective decision-making processes to ensure soils can deliver a broad range of services to society.
- ☛ Develop an integrated approach to soil management in the public and private sectors to ensure delivery of soil protection in the context of climate change and uncertain food futures.
- ☛ Explicit consideration of soil in the planning process to ensure contrasting demands on soil are met by all stakeholders.



The British Society of Soil Science together with its professional body, the Institute of Professional Soil Scientists, exist to advance the study of soil and to promote a better understanding of soil, nationally and internationally.

