



UK FOOD SYSTEMS
CENTRE FOR DOCTORAL TRAINING
DEVELOPING LEADERS FOR A HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD FUTURE



UK Research
and Innovation



**TRANSFORMING
UK FOOD
SYSTEMS**
Strategic Priorities Fund

UK Food Systems Centre for Doctoral Training (UKFS-CDT) Project kernel launch

*From the seed of an idea to an interdisciplinary food systems
PhD project*



Our approach is different! (cheat sheet)



- Interdisciplinary research student projects addressing food system challenges.
- Students are recruited to the CDT without a defined project
- PhD projects for years 2-4 are co-designed by students, supervisors and Associate Partners from industry, government or civil society (food system actors).
- Research priorities have been defined by our associate partners (Food Systems Academy)
- Potential supervisors are being asked to propose core project ideas (kernels) against research priorities.
- Associate partners will express their interest in being part of these kernels.
- Students will chose 2 kernels (one social science, one natural science), which will form the basis of mini-research projects (rotations) in year 1 of their study.
- PhD project proposal developed by student based on their rotations, discussions with supervisors and Associate Partners.
- In first year, all students register with Greenwich and then move to University of first supervisor
- Students receive food systems and other training in year 1 in addition to rotations.

Objectives



- To train >60 doctoral researchers and future food system transformation leaders (42 CDT funded and 20 partner funded).
- To co-create and disseminate a body of knowledge to transform the UK food system
- To create a food systems community (UKFS-CDT Academy)

Funding

£5 million: Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) 'Transforming the UK Food System for Healthy People and a Healthy Environment Programme', delivered by UKRI, in partnership with the Global Food Security Programme, BBSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC, Defra, DHSC, PHE, Innovate UK and FSA

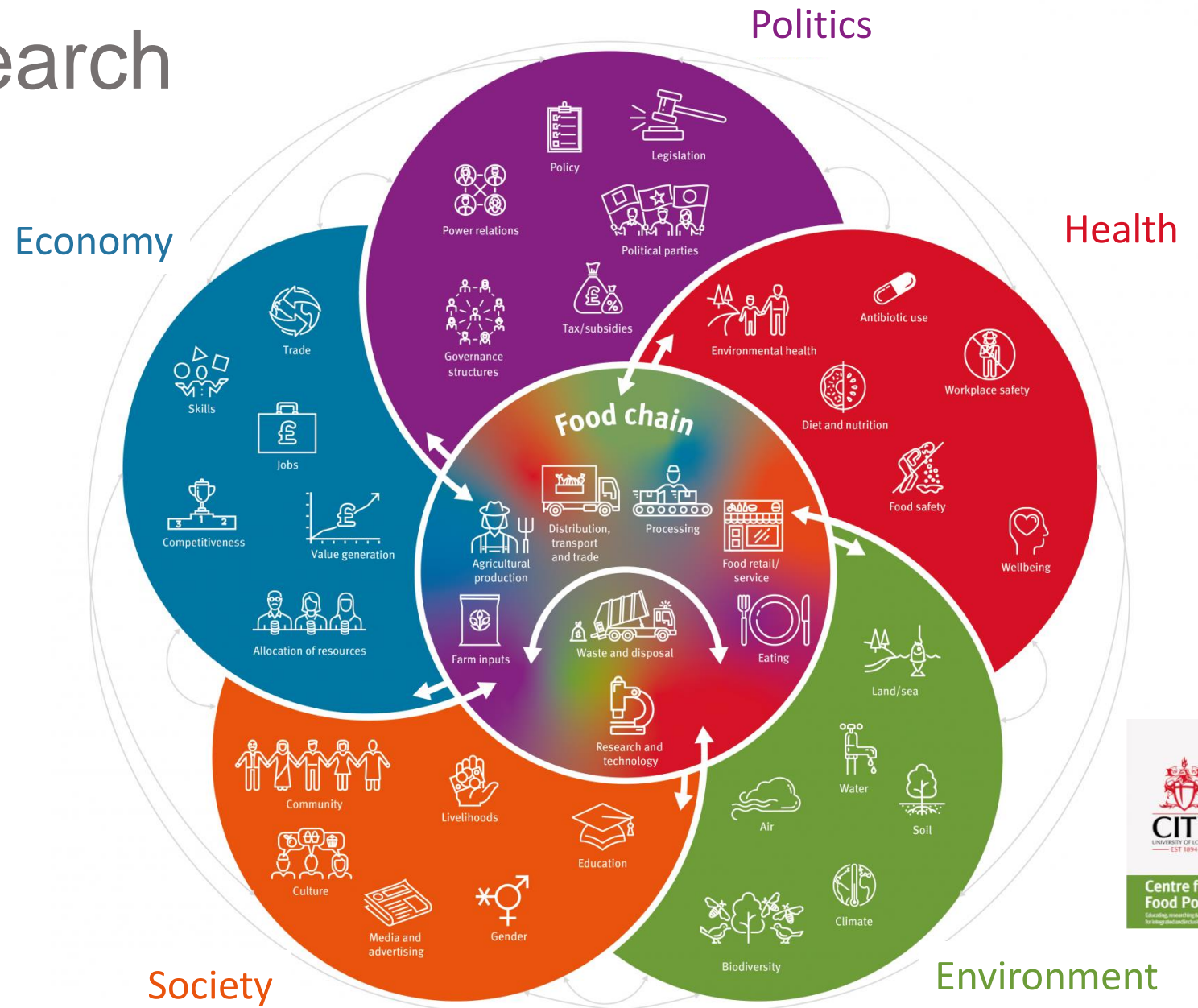


Consortium Partners



Food Systems Research

The UKFS-CDT takes a “**systems approach**”, framing the holistic context in which people acquire and consume foods.

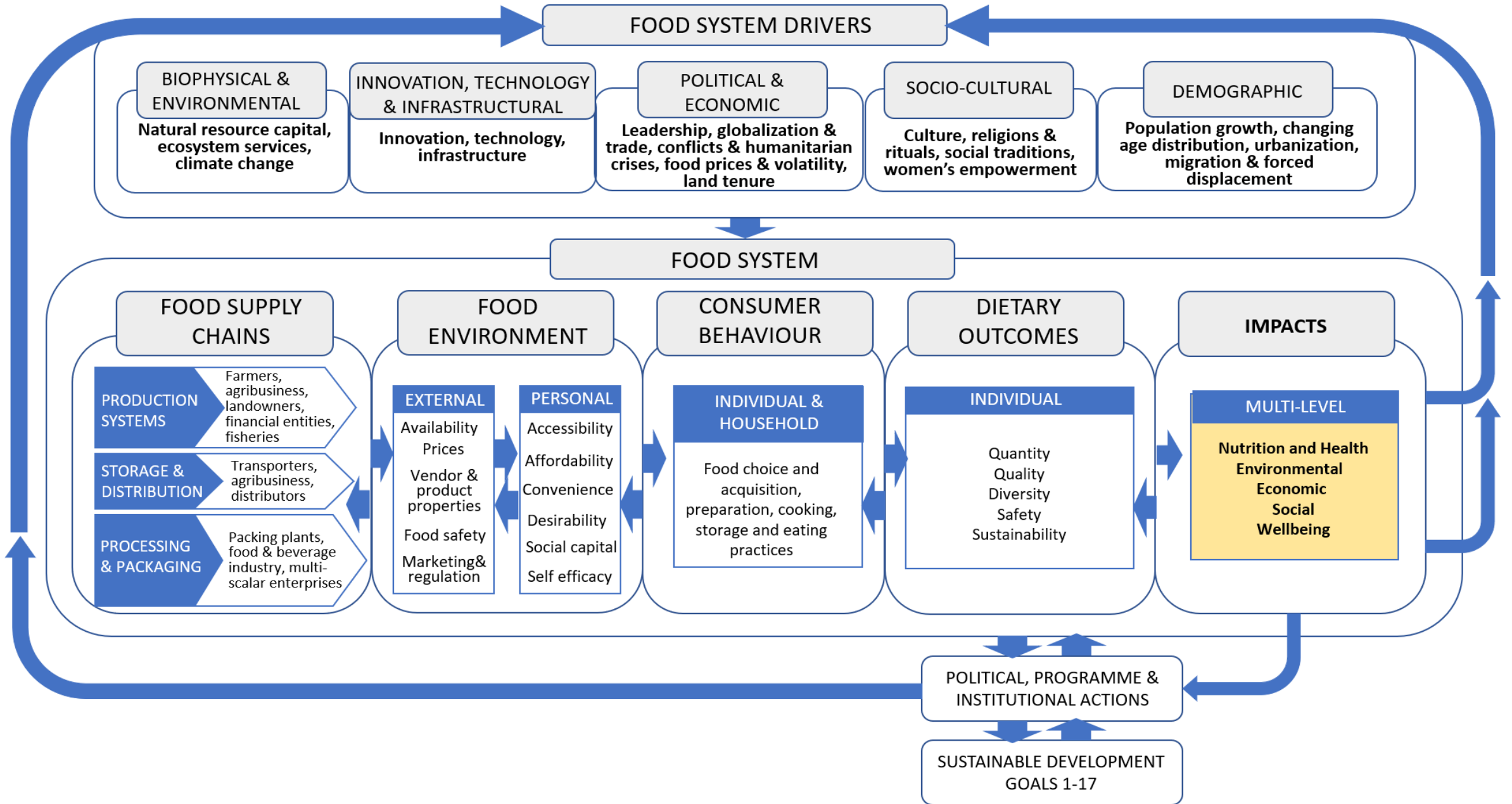


UKFS- CDT Research Themes



- **Healthy People:** Food Environments, Consumer Behavior, Diets, Nutrition and Health
- **Healthy Animals:** Livestock health and welfare in sustainable food systems
- **Healthy Environment:** Environmental sustainability of Food Systems
- **Healthy Economy:** Food production, distribution, manufacturing and waste
- **Healthy Society:** Food System Governance and Resilience





UKFS-CDT Academy

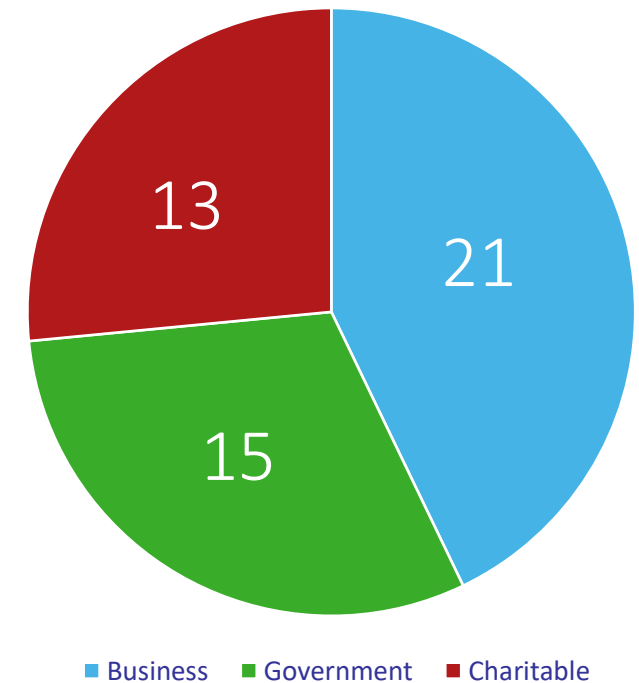


The UKFS-CDT Academy provides a platform for collaboration among our doctoral researchers, academic supervisors, and associate partners.

- Currently >50 partners and an additional 80 EOIs following the launch in March

Associate partners have kindly agreed to support the CDT in **at least one** of the following ways:

- Engage in the Food Systems Academy;
- Contribute to priority setting;
- Support the co-design of research projects with students and academic partners;
- Provide placements;
- Contribute to CDT training activities;
- Fund/co-fund PhD projects.
- Participate in our Stakeholder Advisory Board

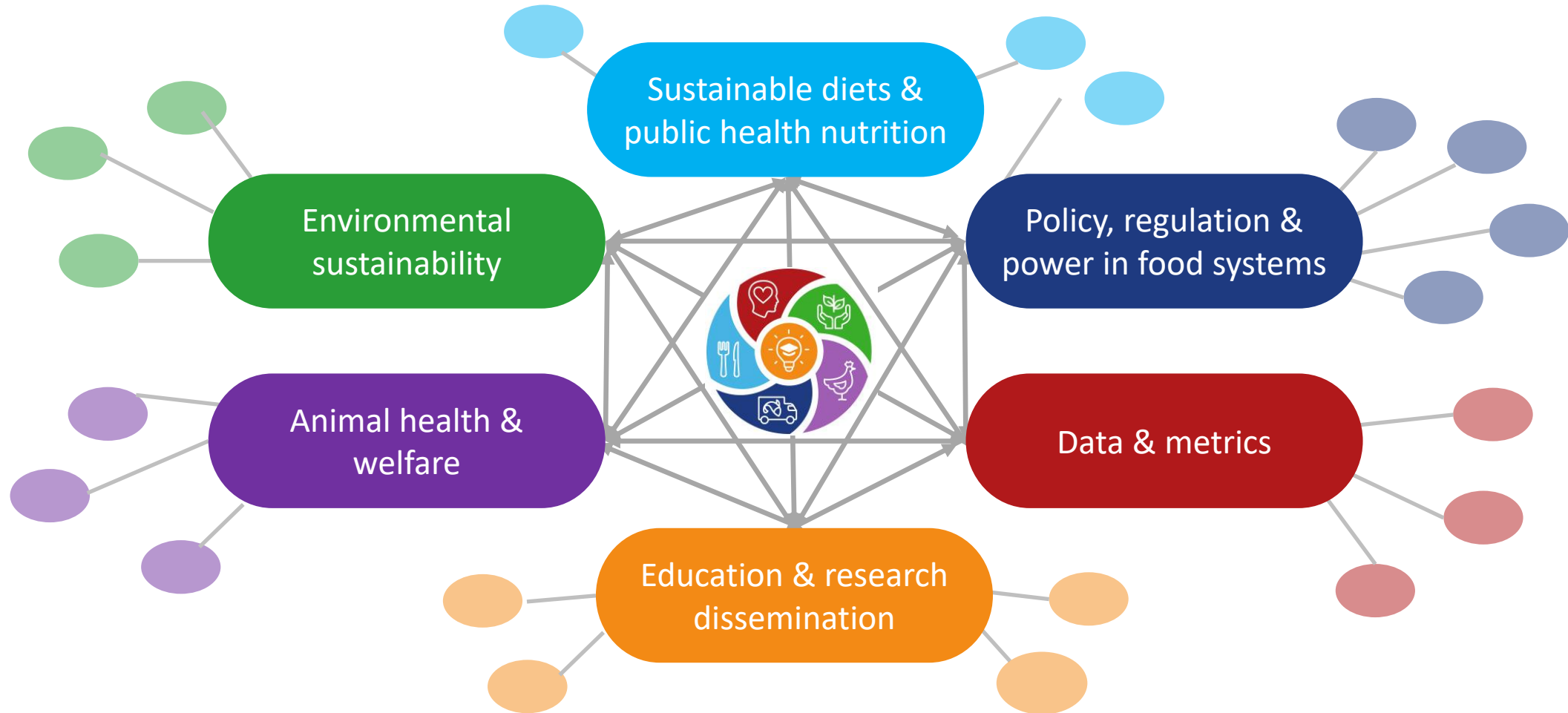


Research priority setting events



- 3 events in May
- 38 attendees, including Associate Partners and wider EOIs
- Aims:
 1. Inform the overall direction of the UKFS-CDT programme;
 2. Provide inspiration for the development of project kernels by academics across our consortium partners;
 3. Indicate areas of research interest among the Associate Partners of the UKFS-CDT Academy.

Six research priorities



Co-design: Interdisciplinary project kernels



Project 'kernels' form the basis of our PhD programme

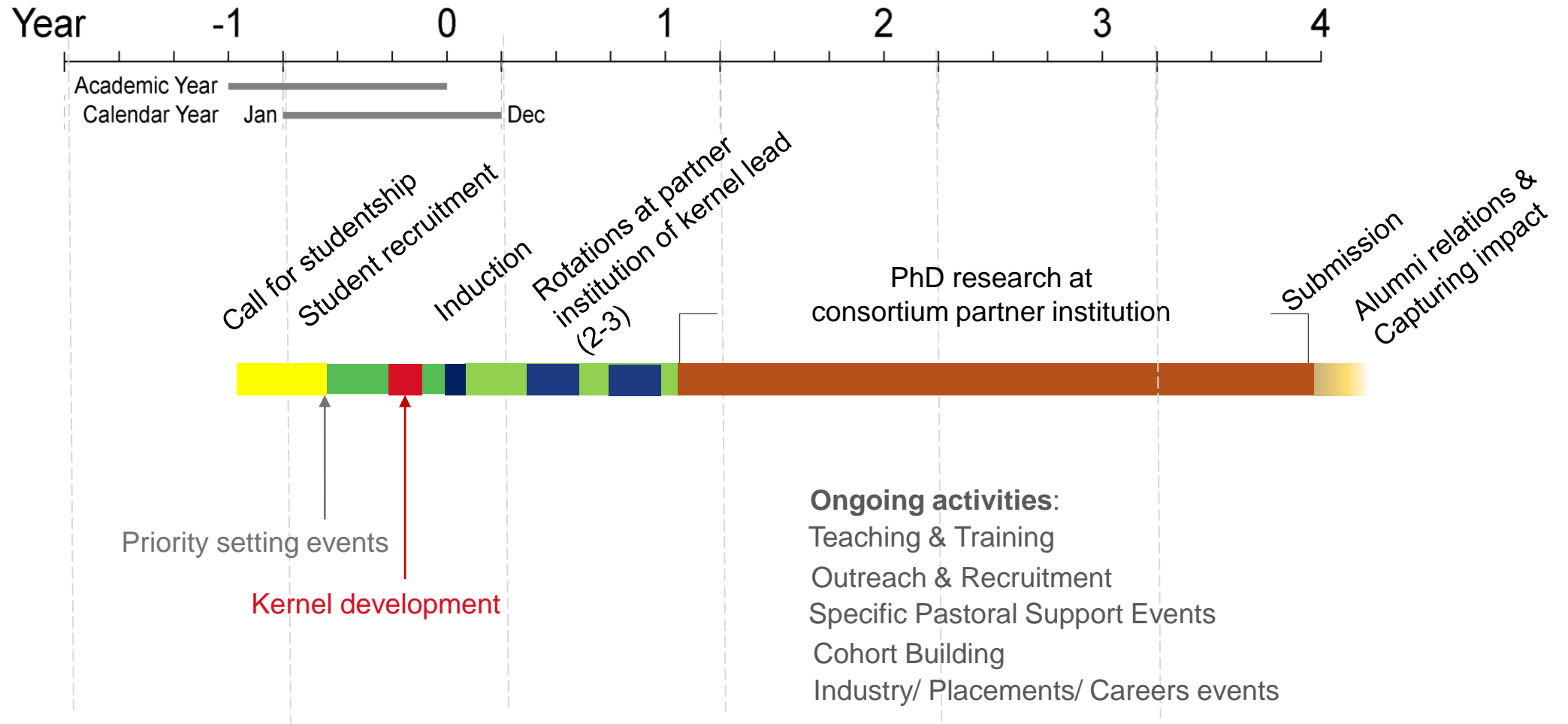
- Research priorities suggested by Associate Partners
- **Academics suggest project kernels**
- Associate partners align with kernels of interest
- Students select kernels (one social and one natural science)
- Students do rotations based on kernels and develop their proposal with academic and associate partners from the Academy.



The student journey



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Project kernels: The submission process



- A link to the project kernel form will be shared with your key contact person from the 23rd of June
- Eligibility criteria will be shared with the kernel form
- **Submission deadline: 30th of July**



UKFS-CDT Project Kernel Form

Social/natural science: [LIST – primary]

Project kernel title: [LIST]

Academic lead: [LIST CONTACT DETAILS, INCLUDING PROFILES, PUBLICATIONS]

Additional collaborators: [LIST IF ANY]

Rotation location: [LIST CONSORTSIUM PARTNER OF ACADEMIC LEAD]

Affiliated UKFS-CDT Associate Partners: [LIST IF ANY]

UKFS-CDT research priorities: [LIST IF ANY]

Disciplines: [LIST]

Background: [300 words]

Aims: [150 words]

Proposed methods: [150 words]

Knowledge and skills to be developed through the kernel: [200 words]

Proposed areas for interdisciplinarity and a food systems approach: [50 words]

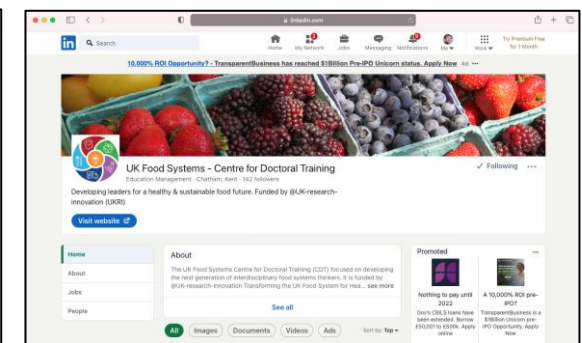
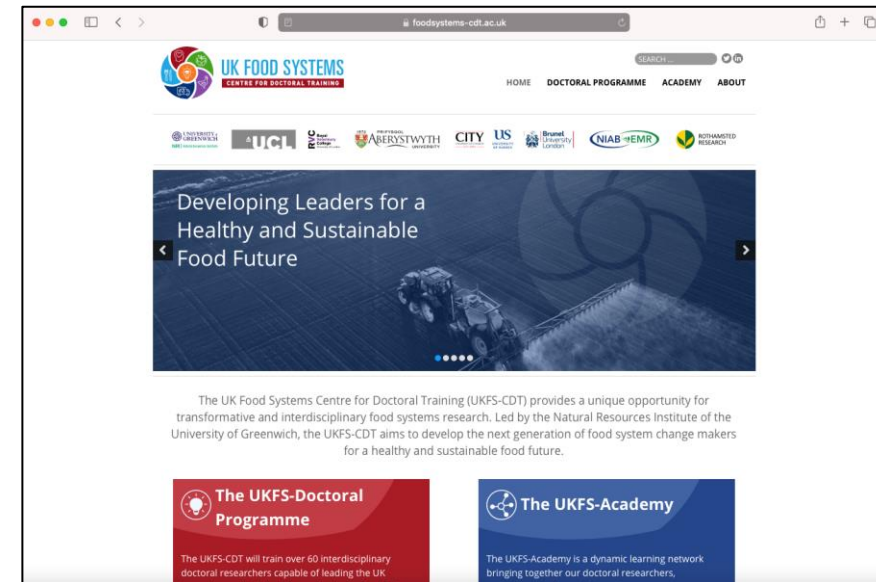
Key references: [LIST – up to three]

Timeline:

- Student recruitment – 14 places offered for cohort one from a total of 200+ applicants, very competitive process!
- Research priority setting events with Associate Partners (May 2021)
- **Project kernel development from Academics (June/July 2021)**
- Development of the project kernel catalogue (July/September 2021)
- Induction of Cohort 1 (October 2021)



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Questions





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PARTNERSHIP FOR A SUSTAINABLE FOOD FUTURE

UKFS-CDT is supported through the Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) [Transforming the UK Food System for Healthy People and a Healthy Environment Programme](#), delivered by UKRI, in partnership with the Global Food Security Programme, BBSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC, Defra, DHSC, PHE, Innovate UK and FSA.

