

# Global Challenges Research Fund: Food Systems Portfolio



Prof. Nicola Lowe  
GCRF Challenge Leader, Food systems  
UK Research and Innovation

# Global Context: UN Sustainable Development Goals





# GCRF: Portfolios of Research to Address SDGs

---

An ambition to create portfolios of research projects responding to SDGs to:










- Disseminate, combine, and scale up excellent research and excellent impact
- Have real impact on SDGs, at scale
- Set benchmarks for best practice in research for development
- Make sure that GCRF is more than the ‘sum of its parts’

# Challenge Leaders: Who are we?

---

- Led by Dr Helen Fletcher, responsible and accountable, through her, to UKRI GCRF senior sponsor Professor Andrew Thompson
- Draw on the knowledge and experience of GCRF Strategic Advisory Group as well as on various GCRF groups in Research Councils and Academies
- **Nine** of us altogether

# Challenge Leaders

Challenge Leader	Portfolio	Title	Challenge Leader	Portfolio	Title
	Resilience Challenge Leader	Professor Mark Pelling (King's College London)		Food Systems Challenge Leader	Professor Nicola Lowe (University of Central Lancashire)
	Resilience Challenge Leader	Dr John Rees (British Geological Survey)		Food Systems Challenge Leader	Dr Tahrat Shahid (University of Oxford)
	Conflicts Challenge Leader	Dr Neelam Raina (Middlesex University)		Education Challenge Leader	Dr Kelsey Shanks (Ulster University UNESCO Centre)
	Conflicts Challenge Leader	Dr Laura Hammond (SOAS University of London)		Global Health Challenge Leader	Dr Helen Fletcher (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine)
	Cities Challenge Leader	Dr Jaideep Gupte (Institute of Development Studies)			



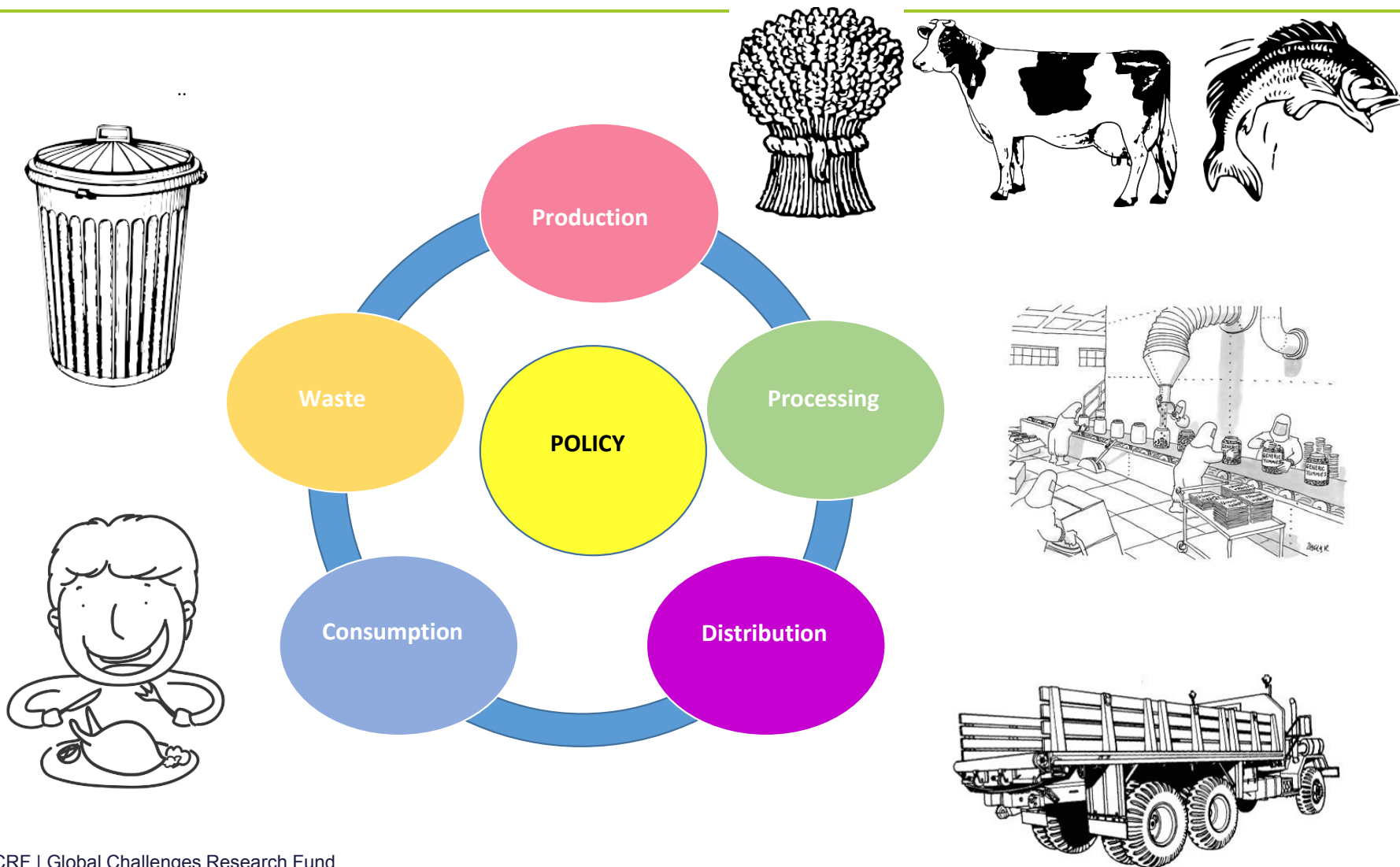
# What is our role?

---

- Build strong intellectual and strategic leadership for each portfolio
- Strengthen coordination across multiple delivery partners, building relationships with colleagues in Research Councils and Academies through formal and informal means
- Build and promote individual portfolios in terms of coherence, excellence, and real-world impact i.e. connect with policy makers
- Champion collective research, innovation, and growth agenda
- Champion equality, diversity and inclusion policies and practices and other policies which support mission
- Be sensitive to potential conflicts of interest at all times

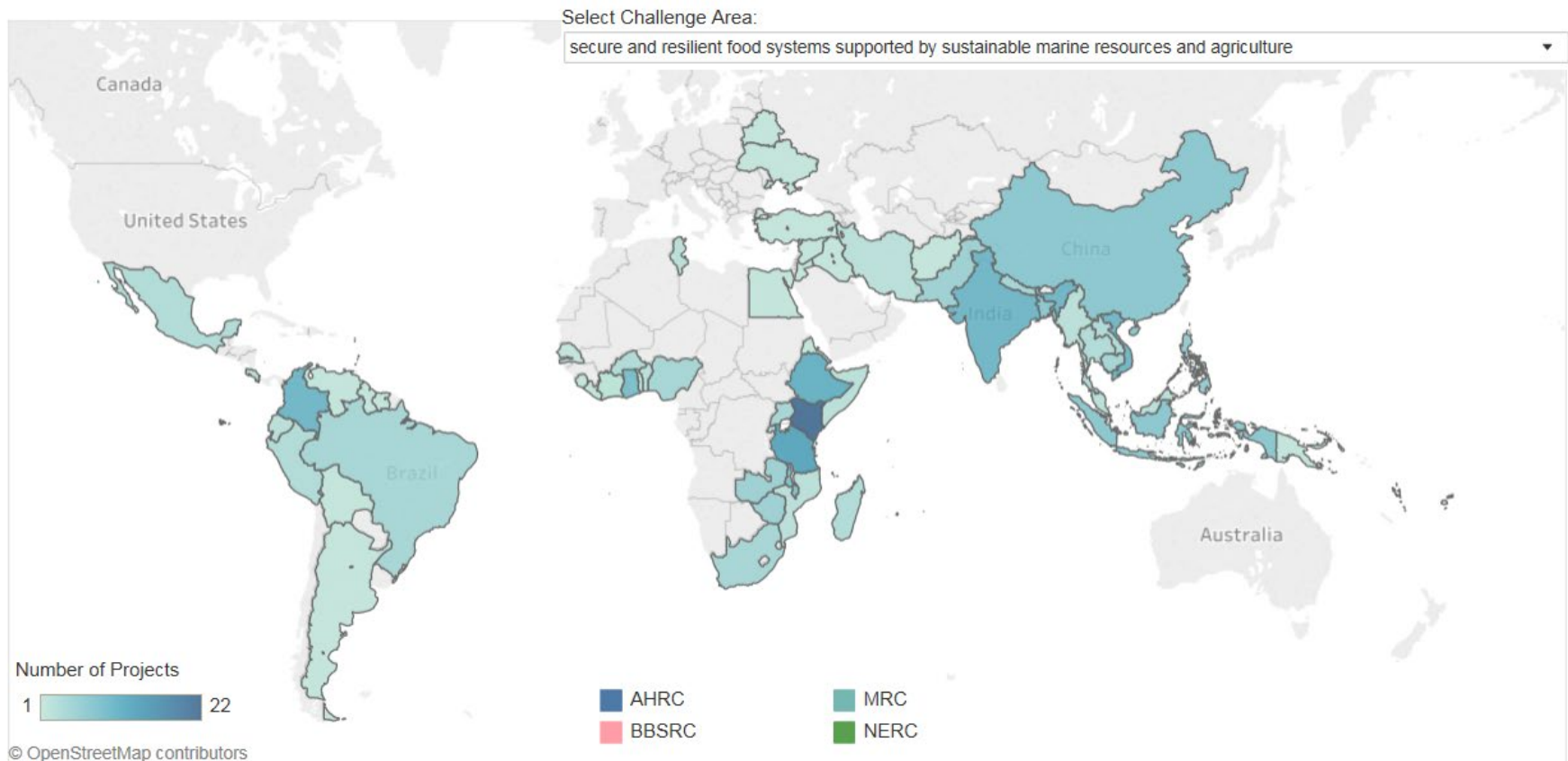
# Food Systems Portfolio to date

# Food Systems





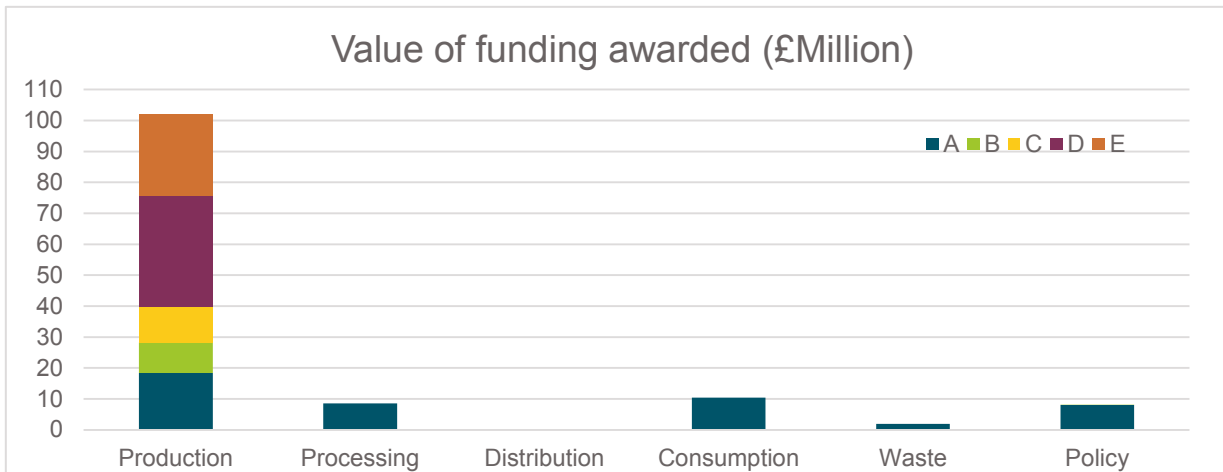
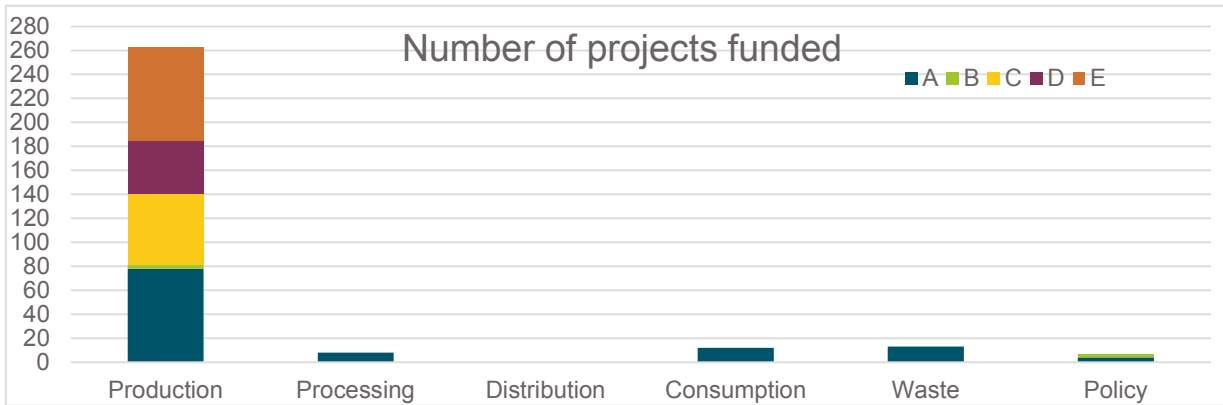
## Countries of Focus and Challenge Areas on UKRI Projects Awarded Through the GCRF



# Food Systems



# Primary focus of funded projects



KEY	
Production	Policy
A Crops	A Agriculture
B Marine	B Nutrition/ Health
C Livestock	
D Climate/Environment	
E Capacity-building	



- Action Against Stunting
- One Health Poultry Hub
- One Ocean Hub
- South Asian Nitrogen Hub
- Water Security and Sustainable Development Hub

# Food Systems Portfolio: looking forwards

## **Calls that cut across the portfolios:**

- GCRF Coherence Grants
- GCRF Gender and Intersectionality Network Plus
- GCRF Global Engagement Networks

## **Pre-calls announced**

### Coherence Grants

- GCRF Cultures, Behaviours and Histories of Agriculture, Food, and Nutrition
- GCRF A combined Food Systems approach to developing interventions to address the Double Burden of Malnutrition



# Lessons learned from previous GCRF activities

---

- These are not just standard grants with overseas partners
- Proposals need to be ODA challenge-led/solution-focused - compliance statements need to be focused on and specific to the partner/target countries
- Applicants need to demonstrate an understanding of the context (societal, cultural, political, historical, economic etc.)
- In-country partners need to be appropriate, involved in the scoping and delivery of the research and add value
- Be clear and realistic about the potential impact
  - Directly associated with this grant
  - What are the benefits beyond the lifetime of the grant?
- Learn from others!

# Questions?



# Challenge Session

---

- In groups discussing the following questions (30 minutes):
  - What are the top three challenges in this area that research and innovation can help tackle?
  - Who are the key research partner and stakeholder organisations we should be partnering with to deliver the research and enable research outputs to have impact?
  - How can we engage them better?
- Feedback – 15 minutes