



TUKFS 2026
Parallel 2 Session: Individual papers
2.2 System transformation

“Regulatory Tools for a Healthy and Sustainable Diet: the case of command-and-control regulation, tariffs, and economic instruments.”

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Monday 24th March 2026, 15.30–17.00 pm



Food Systems and Public Policy – HSD

Food systems influence:

- Public health
- Environmental sustainability
- Agricultural production
- Global trade

HSDs aim to:

- Improve health outcomes
- Reduce environmental impacts
- Support sustainable agriculture
- Ensure long-term food security



Policy Recognition – Current Regulatory Approach

Growing policy recognition of:

- Environmental impacts of food systems
- Diet-related health problems
- Sustainability challenges in agriculture

UK policy relies heavily on:

- Voluntary industry initiatives
- Informational tools
- Market-based approaches



Limitations of Voluntary Regulation – Research Gaps / Objective

Challenges include:

- Uneven participation
- Weak enforcement
- Competitive pressures

Limited research on:

- Strong regulatory interventions
- Structural change in food systems

Research Objective:

- Examine regulatory tools capable of realigning UK food production and trade with healthy and sustainable diets.



Regulatory Tools

Focus on:

1. Command regulation
2. Economic instruments
3. Trade measures

➤ Doctrinal and policy-based legal analysis

➤ Evaluation criteria:

- Supply chain impact
- Incentive structures
- Sustainability outcomes



Command Regulation – Command Regulation in Practice – Economic Instruments

Command Regulation

- Binding legal rules can drive structural change across supply chains.

Command Regulation in Practice

Examples: Product standards / Advertising restrictions / Environmental farming rules

Internalising Externalities:

- Economic regulation can incorporate environmental and health costs into food prices.

Supply Chain Incentives: Economic instruments influence:

- Farmers / Processors / Retailers



Trade Instruments – Regulatory “leakage” – Policy Implications

- Trade measures align imports with domestic regulatory standards.

Regulatory “leakage”

- Tariffs and border measures can reduce regulatory leakage.

Policy Implications

- A coherent strategy requires combining regulatory tools.

Solution?

- Transition to HSDs requires stronger regulatory frameworks.





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THANK YOU !!!

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