Dietary patterns, Food Reformulation & Sustainability: The triad for public health

Emmanuella Magriplis, PhD, PDt, RD

Assistant Professor in Nutritional Epidemiology & Public Health Laboratory of Dietetics and Quality of Life; Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition School of Food and Nutritional Sciences; Agricultural University of Athens | Visiting Professor, Public Health Laboratory, Department of Medicine, University of Patras |



Dietary patterns: a complex food – nutrient matrix that influences health
 Contain Health Benefits & Health Risks

- ➢Food Reformulations
 - ➢Policies
 - ➢Food industry initiative following consumer needs
- ➤Sustainability
 - ➤Supporting environment for dietary choices
 - Dietary choices to support the environment

American Heart Association, Guidelines

Emphasis on healthy dietary patterns
Mediterranean diet
DASH
Vegetarian style
Creation of supportive environments

for adoption of these

American Heart Association. Circulation, 147(22), 1715-1730.

Food Reformulations

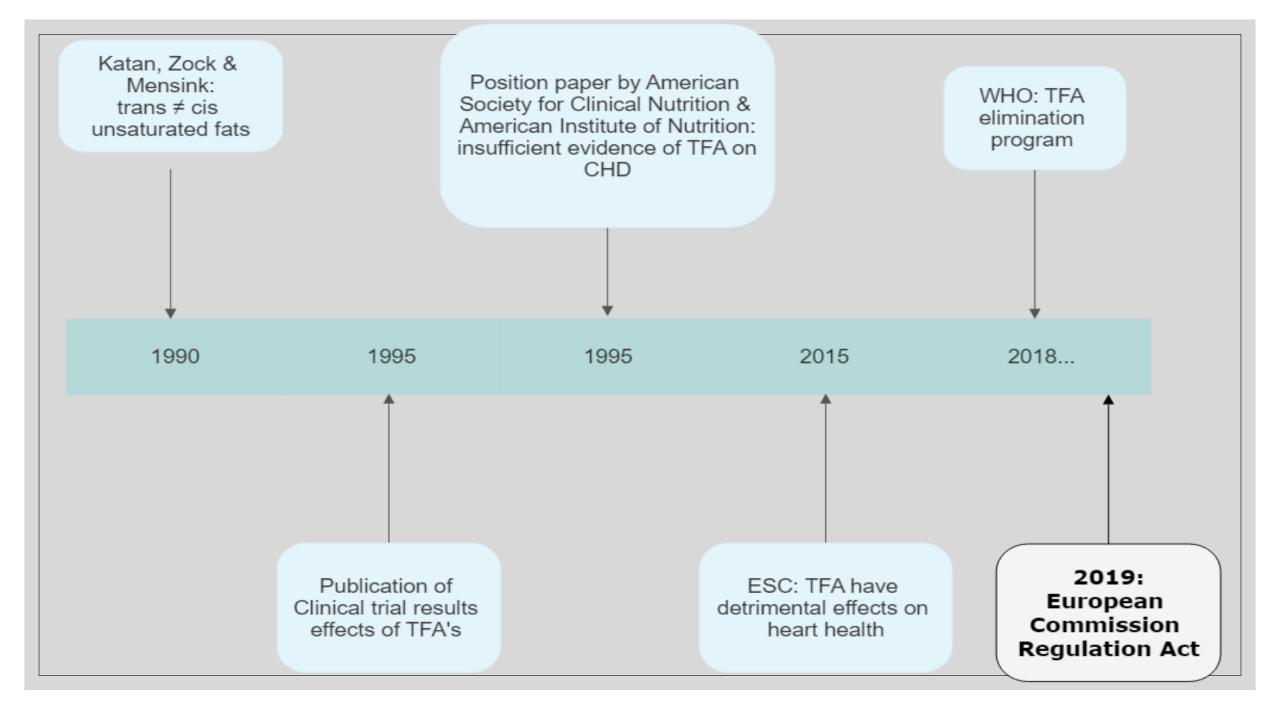
- >The process of redesigning processed foods to make them healthier
 - > often considered a crucial step to help decrease chronic disease prevalence
- ➢Food the main modifiable variable used used to create a Nutritional supportive "environment" for public health. Can be:
 - ≻Mandatory, as per policies
 - ➢Voluntarily derived from food manufacturers

Mandatory Food Reformulations

➢Dietary choices influence health

- ➤Macro-nutrients
- ➢ Micronutrients

Risk assessment performed in regular intervals by scientific panels EFSA to summarize "evidence" for such policies



ESC: Trans Fats Not Safe For Consumption



TFAs have a detrimental effect on heart health and mortality: Sun, 19 Jul 2015

The primary source of artificial trans fats in the food supply are partially hydrogenated oils, one of the most used source of fat in commercial bakery products.

Dietary fat distribution of the HNNHS population in total and by tertile of TFA consumption

	Total Population N=3537	1st Tertile N=1163	2nd Tertile N=1196	3rd Tertile N= 1178	P for differences	P for trend
Total fat, %en, mean (sd)	38.1 (10.3)	35.0 (11.9)	38.1 (9.3)	41.0 (8.7)	<0.001	<0.001
TFA, % energy, mean (sd)	0.53 (0.34, 0.81)	0.27 (0.17, 0.34)	0.53 (0.47, 0.61)	0.95 (0.81, 1.31)	<0.001	<0.001
SFA, % energy, mean (sd)	12.6 (4.3)		13.0 (3.6)	14.6 (4.3)	<0.001	<0.001
PUFA %en, median IQR	4.9 (3.9, 6.4)	4.8 (3.7, 6.3)	4.8 (3.8, 6.3)	5.2 (4.1, 6.5)	<0.001	<0.001
MUFA %en, mean (sd)	17.1 (6.1)	16.9 (7.3)	16.7 (5.6)	17.6 (5.2)	0.003	<0.001
Total energy, mean (sd)	1937 (859)	1956 (904)	1915 (817)	1942 (856)	0.022	0.501

Rev. Cardiovasc. Med. **2022**, 23(4),130; <u>https://doi.org/10.31083/j.rcm2304130</u>

TABLE 2

Percentage of SFA, *trans* fatty acid, and industrial *trans* fatty acid (g/100 g fat) in different types of nonprepacked savory baked goods (mean and SD) collected in 2015³ and 2021

Type of product	SFA (g/100 g fat) (2015) ³	SFA (g/100 g fat) (2021)	total TFA (g/100 g fat) (2015) ³	total TFA (g/100 g fat) (2021)	i-TFA (g/100 g fat) (2015) ³	i-TFA (g/100 g fat) (2021)	No. of samples exceeding the legal limit (i-TFA>2%) (2015)	No. of samples exceeding the legal limit (i-TFA>2%) (2021)
Cheese pies with phyllo pastry	37.90 (11.62)	36.42 (9.86)	1.28 (0.50)	0.66 (0.25)	0.76 (0.57)	0.06 (0.11)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Cheese pies with shortcrust pastries	49.13 (5.53)	48.21 (6.33)	2.75 (2.24)	2.24 (1.83)	2.36 (1.98)	1.78 (1.81)	5 (50%)	6 (31.6%)
Cheese pies with puff pastry	55.03 (2.59)	55.11 (2.55)	4.09 (2.17)	1.21 (1.06)	3.72 (2.31)	0.96 (1.06)	7 (63.6%)	2 (9.1%)
Bougatsa with cheese	-	45.44 (5.91)	-	1.60 (1.19)	-	0.93 (1.17)	-	5 (25%)
Pizza/Peinirli ¹	54.1 (5.9)	54.20 (9.14)	1.02 (0.36)	1.52 (0.65)	0.00 (0.01)	0.24 (0.71)	0 (0%)	2 (10%)
Vegetarian pies (e.g., spinach or leek pie)	19.9 (6.9)	23.14 (12.03)	0.77 (0.58)	0.34 (0.20)	0.76 (0.63)	0.30 (0.20)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Meat-containing pies (e.g., sausage pies, ham pies) 2	50.5 (2.4)	47.15 (9.59)	1.93 (1.27)	0.77 (0.77)	1.81 (1.23)	0.63 (0.82)	2 (40%)	1 (5.26%)
All SBGs	45.78 (12.78)	44.34 (13.29)	2.28 (1.97)	1.19 (1.14)	1.87 (1.98)	0.69 (1.11)	14 (31.1%)	16 (11.4%)

i-TFA, industrial trans fatty acids; SBG, savory baked good; SD, standard deviation; SFA, saturated fatty acids; TFA, trans fatty acids.

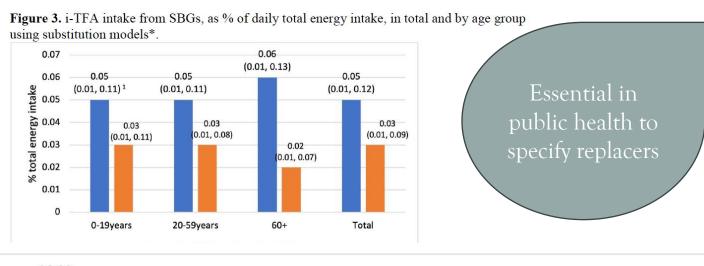
¹ In 2015, pizza slice samples from bakeries were collected, whereas in 2021, pizza boat (peinirli) samples from bakeries were collected.

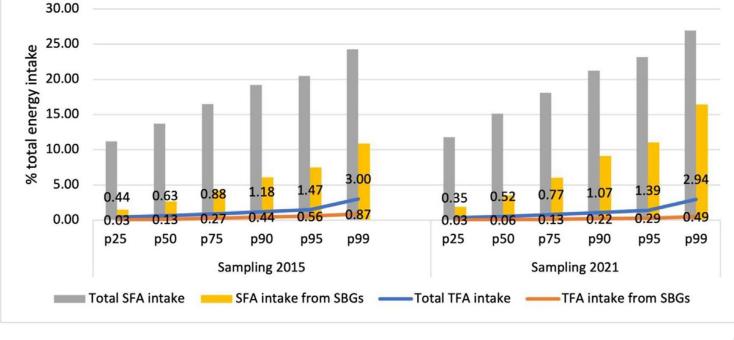
² In 2015, only sausage pies were collected (N = 5), whereas in 2021, sausage pies (N = 16), cheese and ham pies (N = 3), and cooked beef in tomato sauce pies (N = 1) were collected.

³ Reproduced from reference [9] with permission.

Trans Fat intake in Greece before and after the trans policy & food reformulation

i-TFA (g/100 g fat) (2015) ³	i-TFA (g/100 g fat) (2021)
0.76 (0.57)	0.06 (0.11)
2.36 (1.98)	1.78 (1.81)
3.72 (2.31)	0.96 (1.06)
-	0.93 (1.17)
0.00 (0.01)	0.24 (0.71)
0.76 (0.63)	0.30 (0.20)
1.81 (1.23)	0.63 (0.82)
1.87 (1.98)	0.69 (1.11)





Trans Fat intake in Greece before and after the trans policy & food reformulation

Substitution models: measured SFA and TFA content in savory baked goods in 2021 were Placed from those measured during the HNNHS study years (2015) to evaluate TFA intake amounts post Regulation (EU)2019/649 if food intakes remained unaltered

Marakis et al., 2023; AJCN; 118(5); 1010-19

Voluntary Food Reformulations

Based on dietary recommendations for a "healthier" food product based on consumption data of high population intakes

≻Salt

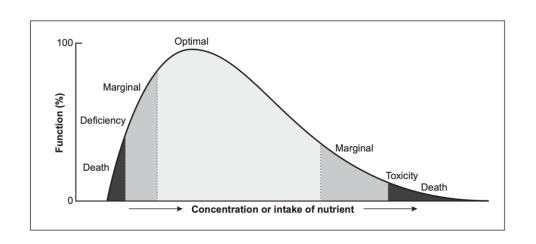
≻Saturated Fat

≻Sugar (added)

≻Reformulations also seen for many vitamins & minerals

➢Has been shown through RCT's to improve micronutrient intakes and status of various population groups

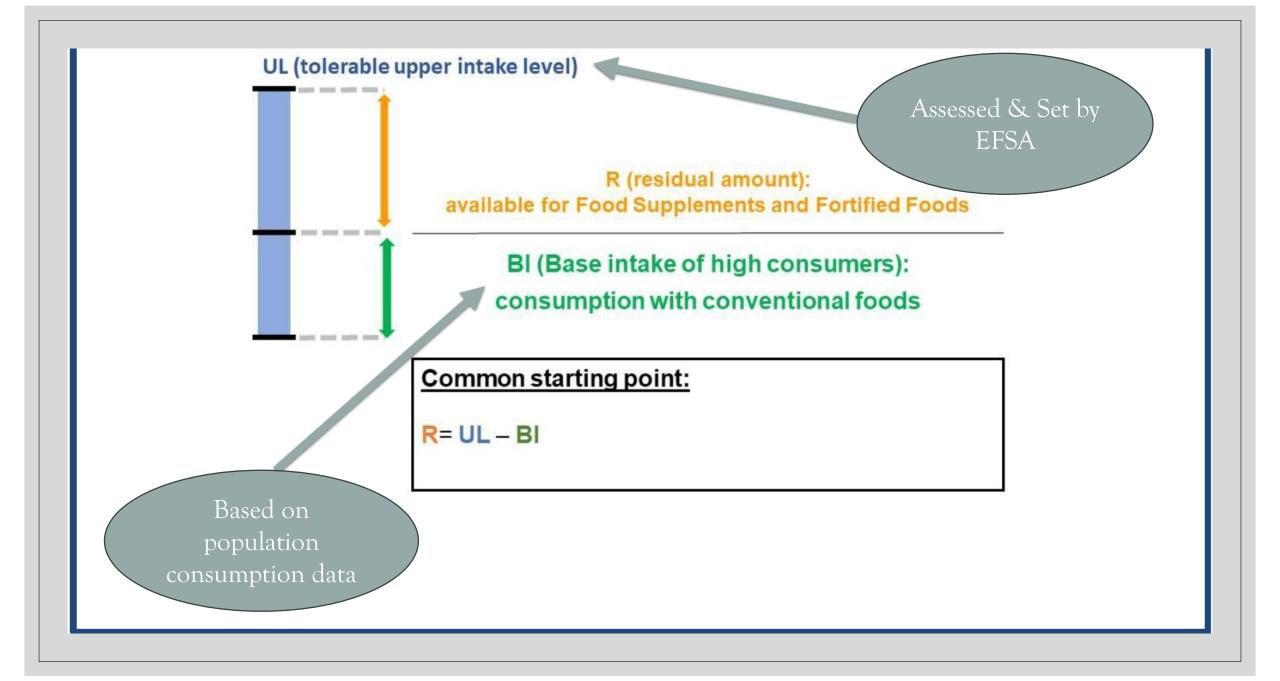
➤Safety issue



Hypothetical micronutrient intake/status distribution

Voluntary Food Reformulations

- Potential misplaced emphasis if not based on population based data/needs
- Risk management: setting upper fortification levels in foods and supplements to avoid defficiencies & toxicities
 - ➤Task Force on Maximum amounts of vitamins and minerals in food supplements and fortified foods (European Commission)



Examples of critical areas to consider for setting UL's

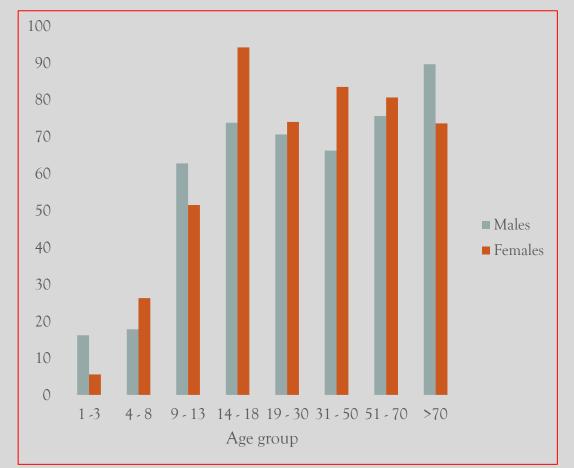
Nutrient	Critical endpoint/effect
Boron	Foetal body weight
Calcium	Milk-alkali syndrome
Copper	Hepatotoxicity
Fluoride	Bone fracture (adults and children > 8 years) Dental fluorosis (children < 8 years)
Folic acid	Masking/exacerbation of vitamin B12 deficiency symptoms (pernicious anaemia)
Iodine	Serum TSH levels
Magnesium	Laxative effects
Molybdenum	Reproductive toxicity
Nicotinamide	Markers of hepatic functions and glucose homeostasis
Nicotinic acid	Flushing
Selenium	Clinical selenosis
Vitamin A	Teratogenicity
Vitamin B6	Neurotoxicity
Vitamin D	Hypercalcaemia (adults) Serum 25(OH)D (infants)
Vitamin E	Blood clotting
Zinc	Copper status

Folic acid intake among the Greek population, by sex and age group below the AR (from food only)

In 1998 mandatory fortification of all refined flours in the US for public health (decrease NTD's)

Since then, mandatory in other countries as well

Remains voluntary in EU



Mitsopoulou, A et al. "Micronutrient intakes and their food sources among Greek children and adolescents." PHN; vol. 23,13 (2020): 2314-2326.

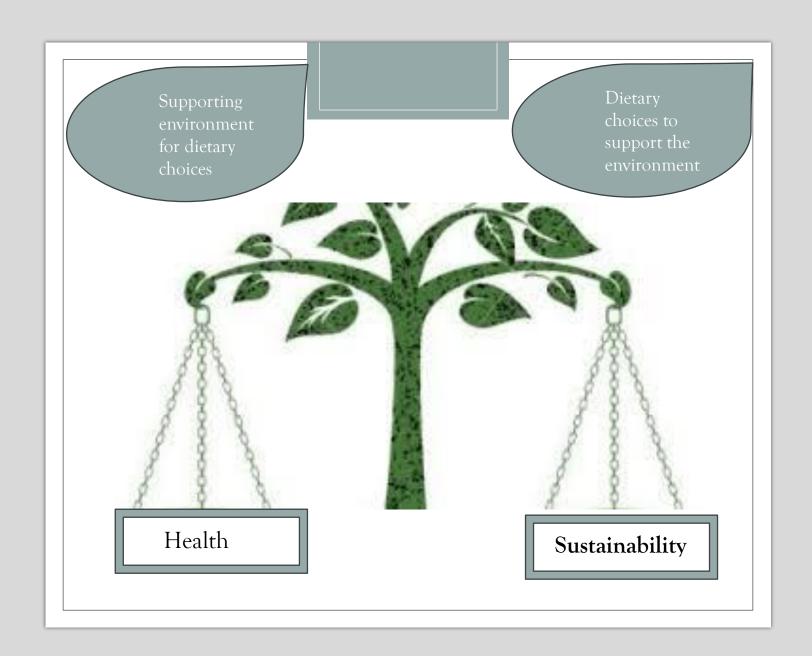
Mitsopoulou, Anastasia Vasiliki et al. "Micronutrient dietary intakes and their food sources in adults: the Hellenic National Nutrition and Health Survey (HNNHS)." *JHND*; vol. 34,3 (2021): 616-628.

Main Problem: Risk underestimation of Baseline Intake levels 1. Data consumption surveys vary methodologically

2. Not all coutres have nutritional surveys – consumption data

3. Limited amount of data available that have specified food fortification (in nonmandatory cases)

4. Inadequate food supplementation documentation



AN IMPORTANT AREA TO CONSIDER:

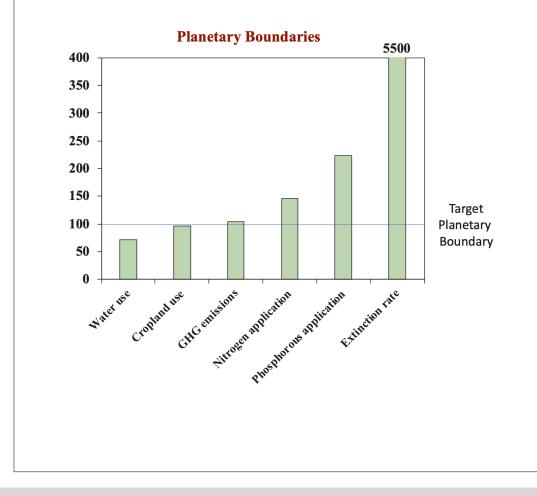
Plant Based Foods

Food Reformulation, Health & Sustainability

Plant Based Diets are more sustainable but are they also adequate nutrient replacers?

_										-		
_					Vegetarian							
	AHA Features*	DASH- style (Nordic, Baltic)	Mediterranean	Pescetarian	Ovo, Lacto, Ovo-Lacto	Vegan >10% fat	Low-fat, (TLC, Volumetrics)	Very low-fat <10% fat (often vegan)	Low-carb (Zone, South Beach, Low-Glycemic Index)	Paleo	Very low-carb (Atkins, Ketogenic, WFKD)	
1	Energy balance needed to maintain a healthy weight	Not Scored										
2	Eat plenty of vegetables and fruits, a wide variety [†]											
3	Choose mostly whole grains rather than refined grains [‡]											
	Adequate Healthy Plant-Based and Other Protein Sources ⁶											
	Mostly protein from plants (legumes and nuts) [§]											
4) Fish and Seafood ^{\$}											
	Low-Fat or fat-free dairy products instead of full-fat dairy®											
	If consuming meat or poultry, choose lean cuts§											
5	Use liquid plant oils rather than tropical oils"											
6	Minimize intake of beverages and foods with added sugars ¹											
7	Choose and prepare foods with little or no salt [#]											
8	If you do not drink alcohol) don't start, if you choose to drink alcohol, limit intake**											
9	Choose minimally processed foods instead of ultraprocessed foods ^{††}											
10	Adhere to this guidance wherever food is prepared or consumed [‡]											
	Points	9	8	8.25	7.75	7	7	6.5	5.75	4.75	2.75	
	Score normalized to 100% (Range 0-100) ⁵⁵	100	89	92	86	78	78	72	64	53	31	
	Tiers		Ti	er 1		Ті	ier 2	Ті	er 3	т	ier 4	
			Legend									
			1 point= fully me	ets recommer	ndation							
			0.75 points= mos	stly meets rec	ommendation							
			0.5 points= parti			n and/or insu	ufficiently clea	r				
			0 points= does n			lad in the -"						
			Not scored beca									
	Hatched cells denote the 4 sub features of the protein recommendation											

Gardner et al., (2021); Circulation, 147(22), 1715-1730.



Planetary & Human health

Price and energy and nutritional content of cows' milk yogurt and coconut, nuts and soya plant-based yogurt alternatives available on the UK market.

Variable	Cow	l	Coc	onut ²	Nuts ³		Soya ⁴		
	n	Mean±SE	n	Mean±SE	n	Mean±SE	n	Mean±SE	P-value ⁵
Price (GBP/100g)	78	$0.30{\pm}0.017^{d}$	10	0.55±0.038 ^b	10	$0.87{\pm}0.034^{a}$	35	0.44±0.04°	< 0.001
Energy (kcal/100g)	78	83.31±3.672 ^b	10	111.70±4.854ª	10	96.80±3.777 ^{ab}	35	68.43±2.019°	< 0.001
Fat (g/100g)	78	3.26±0.366 ^b	10	6.17±0.888ª	10	6.69±0.43ª	35	2.25±0.064b	< 0.001
Saturated fat (g/100g)	78	2.14±0.239 ^b	10	6.14±0.914ª	10	1.17 ± 0.485^{bc}	35	0.40±0.025°	< 0.001
Carbohydrates (g/100g)	78	8.13±0.412 ^b	10	11.57±1.295ª	10	6.43±0.61 ^b	35	7.05±0.57 ^b	0.003
Sugars (g/100g)	78	$7.58{\pm}0.375^{a}$	10	7.80±1.437ª	10	2.71 ± 0.726^{b}	35	6.71±0.568ª	< 0.001
Fibre (g/100g)	45	0.10±0.030°	8	0.35±0.135 ^b	8	$0.13{\pm}0.125^{\text{bc}}$	35	1.03±0.067ª	< 0.001
Protein (g/100g)	78	5.32±0.192ª	10	0.82±0.092°	10	1.89±0.061°	35	3.93±0.097 ^b	< 0.001
Salt (g/100g)	78	0.16±0.006 ^b	10	$0.24{\pm}0.062^{a}$	10	$0.22{\pm}0.037^{a}$	35	0.20±0.014ª	0.003
Vitamin D (µg/100g)	0	*	6	0.75 ± 0.000	0	*	26	0.76±0.032	0.932
Vitamin B_{12} (µg/100g)	0	*	6	0.38 ± 0.000	0	*	25	0.37±0.006	0.310
Calcium (mg/100g)	44	153.80±4.385ª	6	$128.00{\pm}0.000^{ab}$	0	*	32	111.00±7.487 ^b	< 0.001

Willet et al., 2019; Lancet, 393(10170), 447-492

Clegg et al., 2021; Food Research Internation; 148

Price and energy and nutritional content of cows' milk cheese and nuts and seed and oil plant-based cheese alternatives available on the UK market.

Variable	Cow	,1	Nuts & Seeds ²		Oils ³		
	n	Mean	n	Mean	n	Mean	P-value ⁴
Price (GBP/100g)	38	0.76±0.073°	7	2.52±0.496ª	102	1.29±0.042 ^b	< 0.001
Energy (kcal/100g)	38	312.90±13.730ª	6	240.50±12.000°	102	284.30±2.569b	< 0.001
Fat (g/100g)	38	26.04±1.402ª	6	21.00±2.066b	102	22.94±0.262b	0.003
Saturated fat (g/100g)	37	17.36±0.723b	6	2.13±0.304°	102	19.22±0.315ª	< 0.001
Carbohydrates (g/100g)	38	1.80±0.299 ^b	6	5.42±1.496 ^b	102	17.58±0.757ª	< 0.001
Sugars (g/100g)	37	1.52±0.284ª	6	2.48±1.041ª	102	0.62±0.128 ^b	< 0.001
Fibre (g/100g)	25	0.25±0.124 ^b	3	2.47±0.203ª	46	3.17±0.277ª	< 0.001
Protein (g/100g)	38	16.57±1.304ª	6	6.45±0.220b	102	1.05±0.182°	< 0.001
Salt (g/100g)	37	1.10±0.099 ^b	6	1.25±0.115ab	102	1.77±0.067 ^b	< 0.001
Vitamin D (µg/100g)	0	*	0	*	9	0.22±0.148	*
Vitamin B ₁₂ (µg/100g)	0	*	0	*	43	2.23±0.113	*
Calcium (mg/100g)	7	651.70±44.090	0	*	21	352.8±71.510	0.027
Potassium (mg/100g)	0	*	0	*	7	68.81±18.800	*
n = number of samples, S	E = sta	ndard error of mea	n				

Planetary & Human health

Lower Energy Variation in SFA Lower protein & Higher salt content

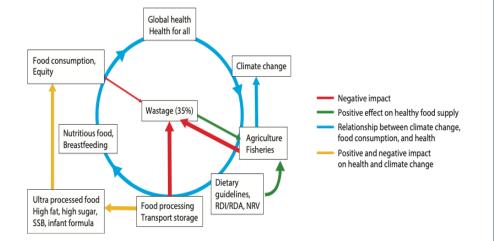
Clegg et al., 2021; Food Research Internation; 148

Health & Sustainability

Although plant-based products have been labelled predominantly as sustainable, compared to animal products,

in the current era, the trend is the production of "healthy", fortified, plant-based foods, often ready to consume.

- These foods, to date, have not been assessed in terms of health nor sustainability,
- The greater the processing, the higher the waste production (Binns et al., 2021)
- Lower sustainability
- Questionable positive health impact if levels of fat, sugar and salt are not monitored.



Overall food reformulations & innovative plant-based food, hold great promise for healthier foods but requires public health campaigns to increase consumer awareness and further research regarding health & environmentally sustainable products.

Conclusion

Data on current dietary patterns accounting food reformulations and supplement consumption are required

➢Consumption data

- ➢Mandatory policies should define replacers also, based on health recommendations, for public health amelioration
- Health impact & sustainability assessment of newly derived plant-based foods is required

Consumer awareness should be also emphasized

