

-10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 %

Lowest price of selected 30 everyday groceries, item-level price changes, September 2022 compared with September 2021 Source: ONS press release October 2022

The Future of Food

British farming

With high calorie consumption and an increasing population British farms are trying to increase yields. This is challenging as food insecurity is a growing issue.

Food price volatility

contributes to this problem. Recent volatility has been caused by higher freight costs, rising commodity prices,

export restrictions initiated during

Profit margins on British farms are projected to be much tighter than they have been for some time, endangering the livelihoods of smallscale British farmers.

Royal Geographical Society with IBG

Advancing geography and geographical learning

British farms can increase yields by improving efficiency. For example, by reducing inputs, such as fertiliser, whilst maximising light energy and available water.

British sustainable food should be encouraged. For example, meat production based around a grass-fed system is more sustainable (and therefore a better option) than grain-fed meat.

> The g requ inves fertili highirriga will n

The green revolution requires continued investment. The use of fertilisers, pesticides, high-yield crops, and irrigation techniques will need to support

 80
 75
 70

 70
 70
 70

 65
 70
 70

 2003
 04
 05
 06
 07
 08
 09
 10
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 x

 Years

 All Commodity Price Index; includes

 both Fuel and Non-Fuel Price Indices

Source: IMF Primary Commodity Price System data

All Commodity

Price Index

in US\$

185 180

175 170

165

160 155

150 145

140

135

130

125

120 115

110 105

100 95

90

85



COVID-19, and the war in Ukraine increasing the cost of

fertiliser1.

Solutions

Supermarkets need to clearly label products to allow consumers to make informed choices.

> Post production, waste is estimated at 9.5Mt, of which 7.7Mt is in households and hospitality and 1.8Mt in manufacturing and retail. These figures compare to around 43Mt of food purchased for consumption in the UK.2

a growing British population.

Food waste must be reduced. The estimated annual combined surplus and waste in primary production is 3.6 million tonnes (Mt), which is between 6 and 7% of total output. Wastage in households and post production businesses also reduces the effective supply of UK food.

> Composting is an excellent way to prevent food waste whilst also enriching soils. If less is thrown away, less needs to be grown.

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) is the home of geography. We provide a wide range of teaching resources for all Key Stages, access to CPD, advice, support and an opportunity to join us through our membership schemes.

education@rgs.org www.rgs.org/schools @RGS_IBGschools #ChooseGeography

References 1 Deloitte insights, *Sizzling food prices are leading to global heartburn*, 31 May 2022 2 GOV.UK Data from Food Security Report 2021: Theme 2: UK Food Supply Sources, 22 December 2022