



SCAF

Scottish Alliance for Food:
health, equity and sustainability



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

SCAF - an Alliance for Research Challenge

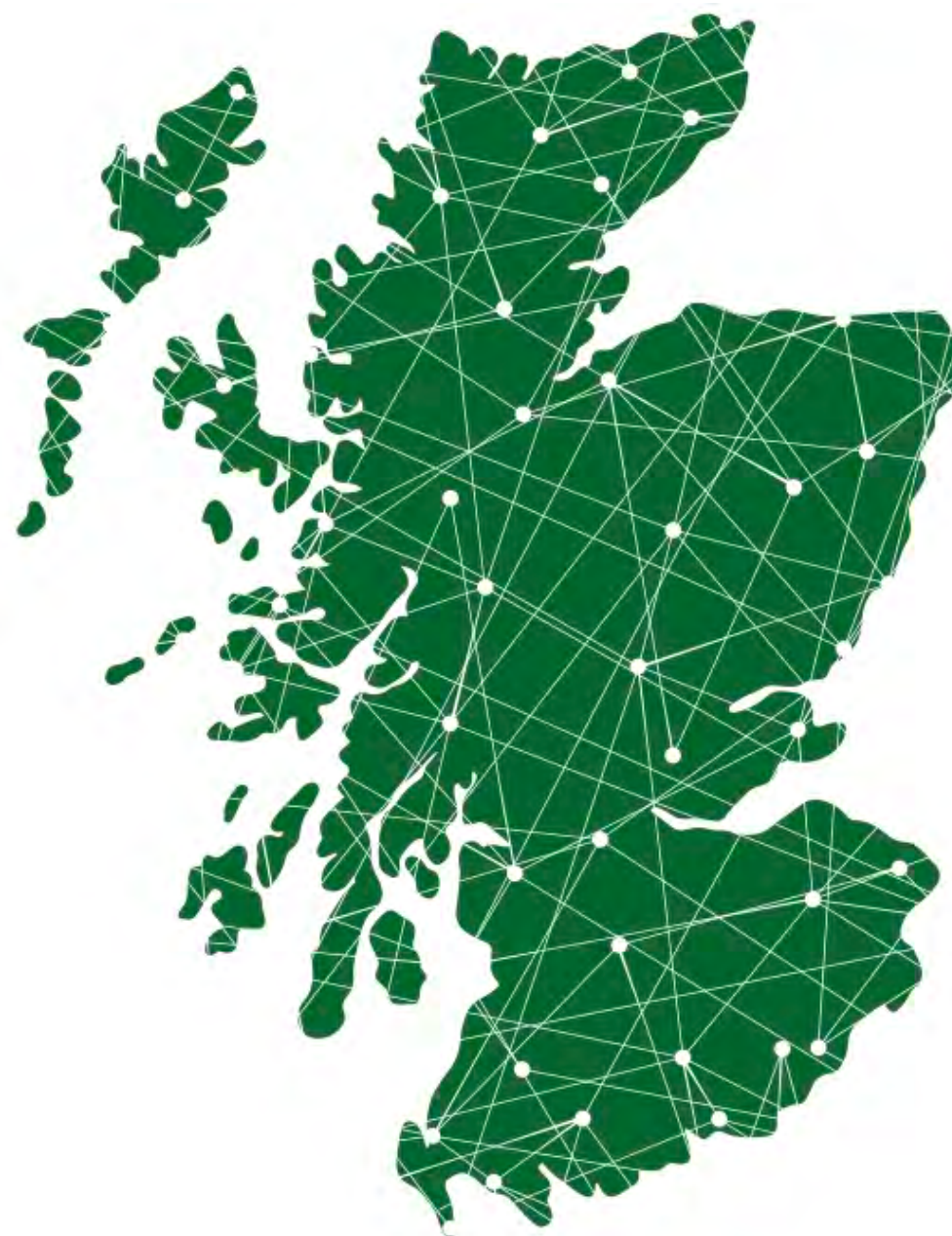
How do we make our food future one that is coherent with keeping people and the planet healthy without jeopardising culture and tradition?





We are the Scottish Alliance for Food

We bring together perspectives from social, natural, formal and applied sciences and arts & humanities to understand and address the **complexity of food** as a grand societal challenge, helping to bridge the gap between stakeholders across the value chain, researchers, and people across Scotland.



Our activities help create an environment of collaboration and shared responsibility to formulate and tackle critical emerging research questions linked to building a **better food future for all**, addressing the combined imperatives of improving **health, sustainability, and equity**.



Founding Partners

The SCAF leadership team is made up of academics representing 10 different institutions across Scotland.



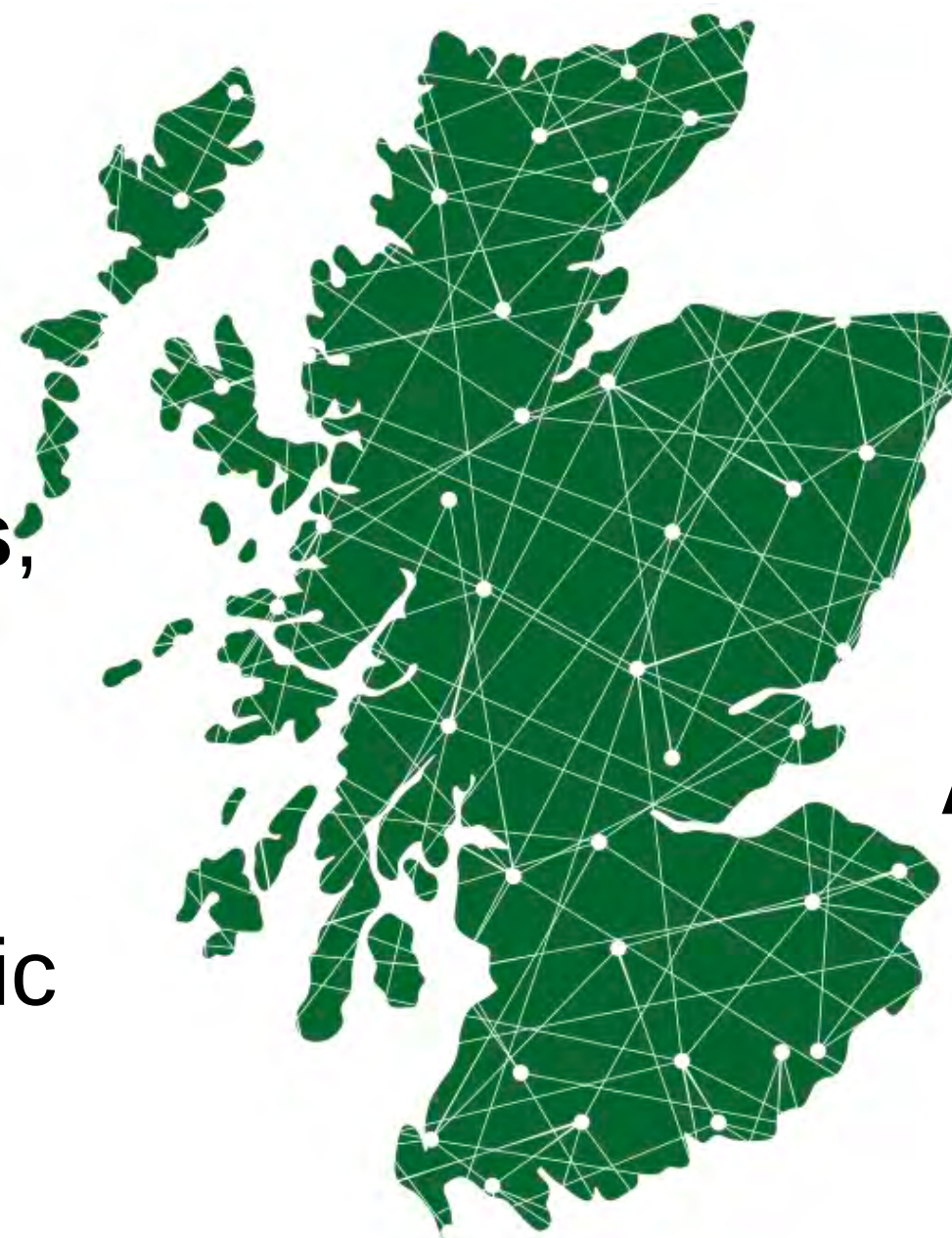


We are the Scottish Alliance for Food

>700 members
across career stages

>200 unique institutions,
inc. all Scottish HEI

50% academic
10% members of the public



Leadership team – 27
academics (inc ECR)

Governance board: 10

Advisory steering board: 13

Staff 1.7FTE (PM, comms,
admin support)



Our Vision & Values

Our work will facilitate the creation and maintenance of **cross-disciplinary communities** that have a deepened appreciation and understanding of the challenges facing other stakeholders and who are able to **come together to solve research challenges** and provide much-needed transformation in the Scottish food landscape.



EVIDENCE-BASED



INCLUSIVE



COLLABORATIVE



Policy milestone: Good Food Nation Act

→ serious structural
reform and long-term
change

1

FEDERATE

Since launching in 2023, SCAF has grown into a vibrant and diverse network of 700+ members across disciplines and sectors, from >200 organisations.



2 ENGAGE

We have hosted >30 events to support networking, learning, collaboration and innovation – from webinars, to online speed networking, writing retreats and sandpits to kick-start new ideas and projects.

3

INNOVATE

We provide funds to design and deliver projects aligned with the SCAF vision & mission, de-risking future projects. So far, SCAF awarded £87k of funding across 19 seed projects to prime future research or innovation.



4

SUPPORT

We support the career development of early career professionals in academia and beyond, through mentoring support, feedback, and tailored activities.



5 SHOWCASE

We promote SCAF members' work through newsletters, web, displays and social media – showcasing the diversity of skills, expertise and capabilities for research on food across Scotland.

6

TRANSFORM

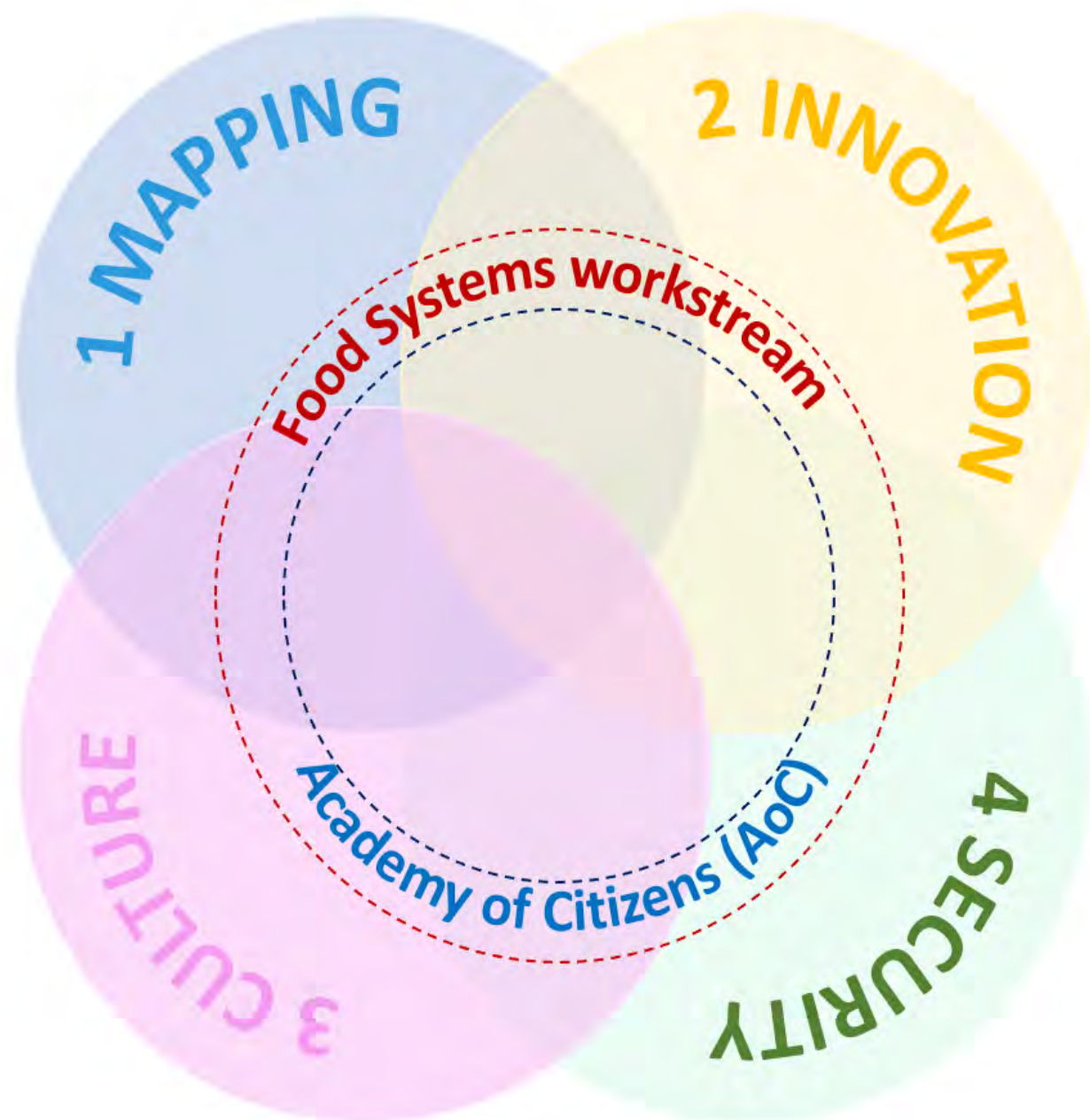
We bring diverse voices together to tackle food as a societal grand challenge – responding to consultations & enquiries, and designing transformative, interdisciplinary research.





SCAF

Scottish Alliance for Food:
health, equity and sustainability



This work was supported through Scottish Funding Council grant H23050.

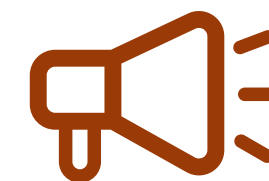
We are the Scottish Alliance for Food



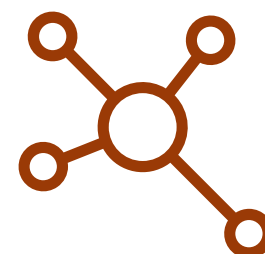
Mapped priorities, gaps
& opportunities for
collaborative research
projects



Webinars, workshops
and events to support
learning, networking
and development



An opportunity for all
voices to be part of
future-focused research
proposals



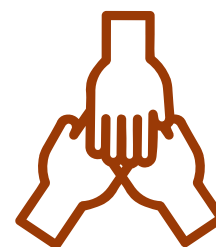
Connection to a
diverse range of food
system stakeholders



Open conversations with
stakeholders (inc.
funding bodies) to
facilitate knowledge
exchange/transfer



Writing retreats and
sandpits linked to
specific funding calls



Fostering a positive
research culture, with a
focus on early career
researchers



Financial support
for pump priming
projects



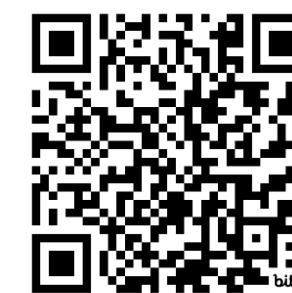
Learn more and
join us!



Overview of activities to date

Visit our
website for info

bit.ly/scaf-events



Workshops, panels
& events x33



Showcases x13



Webinars x12



ECN Training x5



Mentorship travel
bursaries x3



Pump priming projects
x19



Competitions x2



White paper
(in progress)



Consultations x6



Grant applications x11



International
conference bid



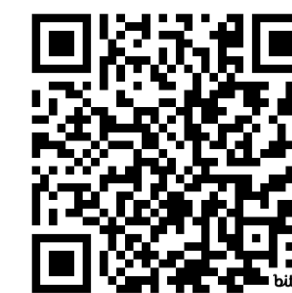
Letters of Support x9



Activities Highlight

Visit our
website for info

bit.ly/scaf-events



Creative & collaborative research

Unexpected pairings (e.g., law + nutrition; maths + community food).

Democratised leadership



Quantum Solutions for
Food and Nutrition
Workshop | Autumn

Cross sector engagement

Convening roundtables across public, third sector, and research.

Active participation from non-academic stakeholders – shaping questions, not just answering them.



SCAF
Scottish Alliance for Food:
health, equity and sustainability

Are you a member of the
public based in Scotland?

Do you want to help shape
the **future of food**?

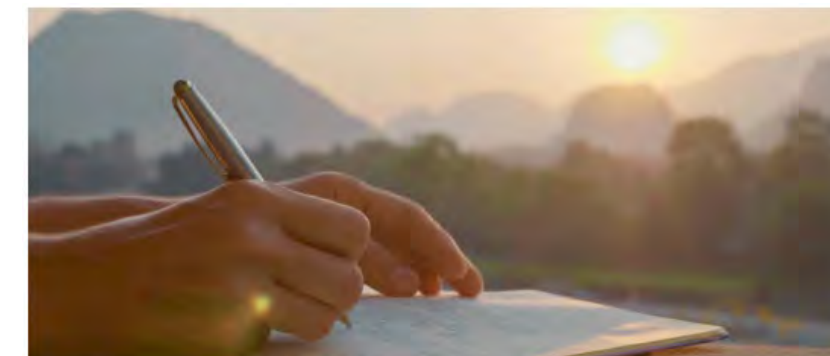
[Apply to join the SCAF Academy of Citizens Panel](#)



Culture-building

Mentorship + support for ECP.

Experimental spaces: workshops, ideation labs, writing retreats, participatory and systems methods



SCAF Residential Writing
Retreat | 2nd - 5th June
2025



Strategic opportunities

Visit our
website for info

bit.ly/scaf-events



Funding

SCAF is positioned to foster leadership of major consortia bids – UKRI, Horizon Europe, Wellcome.

Strong foundations for Scotland-based strategic bids, building collaborative capacity across institutions.



A new research culture

SCAF demonstrates what ARC investment enables: radical collaboration, creativity, and connection-building across silos.



SCAF Annual Event | 4th
- 5th September 2025

Positioning SCAF as a convenor

Architect of the conversation and research broker

Scotland offers a unique opportunity as a testbed for systems change (Good Food Nation Act, local food economies, devolved policy levers).





Looking ahead – leveraging current membership, networking our networks and building capacity to secure funding for HEI in Scotland and for SCAF beyond 2027

