

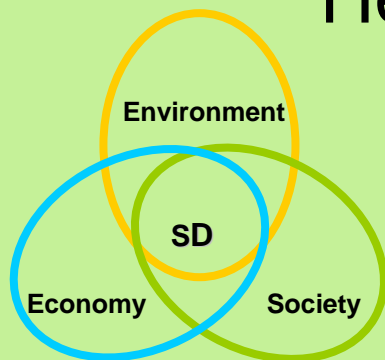
# Sustainability in the Food Chain: Minimising our Environmental Impact

Symposium: Edinburgh 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008

## The Food Standards Agency's Approach to Sustainable Development in Policy Making

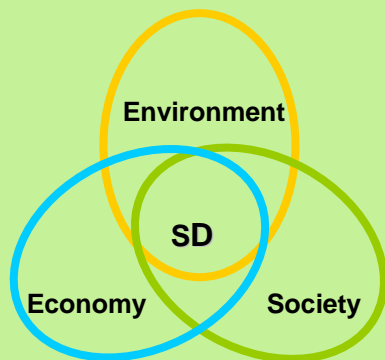
Bill Adamson

Head of Strategic Policy & Consumer  
Engagement



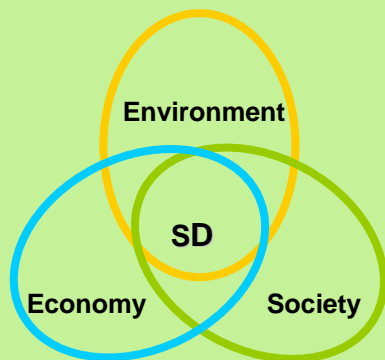
# Agency Approach to Sustainable Development in Policy Making

- Background
- Agency progress to date with embedding SD into its business
- Outline of the Agency's draft approach to SD and consultation
- Practical Examples:- Food Alerts & Recalls



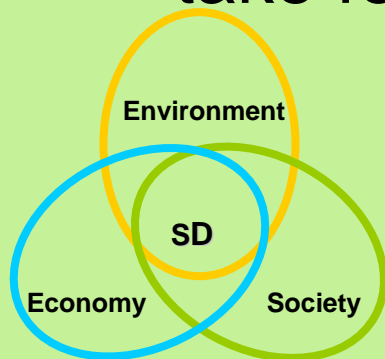
# Background to Sustainable Development and Agency position

- The UK Government and Devolved Administrations launched a strategic framework for SD 'One Future – Different Paths' (March 2005)
- 'Securing the Future' SD Strategy document published in 2005 which sets out UK Government vision
- 'Choosing our future' SG Strategy document published 2005. (Section 6 Food)
- The Agency is committed to taking sustainable development into account in all of its activities



# Embedding SD – the story so far

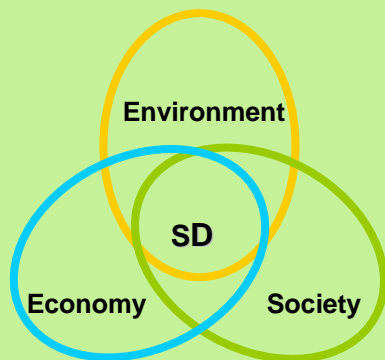
- Agency has taken a number of positive steps to embed sustainable thinking within its policy making and facilities management
  - Guidance on SD and sustainability assessments
  - Workshops for staff on SD
- Questions arising: What does embedding SD actually mean? How can the Agency embed SD? What responsibility should the Agency take for negative impacts?



# Consultation on Agency's approach to SD

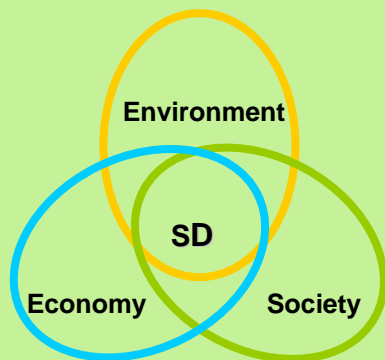
## Key features of approach:

- Working within our statutory remit whilst recognising importance of all aspects of SD
- Assessing on a case by case basis
- Achieving primary objectives whilst maximising positive impacts in all areas of SD
- Taking responsibility to minimise negative impacts of Agency policy
- Working in partnership with OGDs and organisations to deliver SD



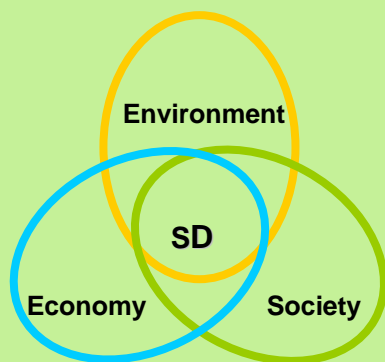
# UK wide consultation on Agency's approach to SD

- Launched consultation on 11<sup>th</sup> March
- Approach reflects and builds on Government's principles of SD and acknowledges Agency's statutory remit
- Builds on Agency's current position and takes responsibility for impacts of policies
- Proposed approach 2 parts: A clear statement of approach followed by more detail on how approach will be applied



# We welcome your views on the Agency's approach ...

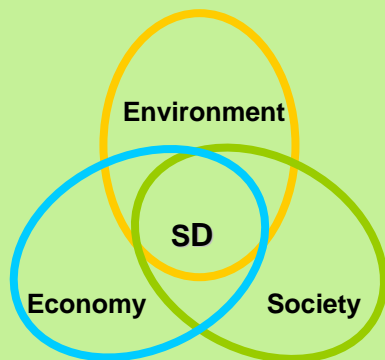
- Should we set priorities within SD?
- Should food safety and nutrition be a priority for the Agency?
- Should the Agency take responsibility and moderate policy where negative impacts arise?
- Should we seek a more integrated approach?



# Practical Example:

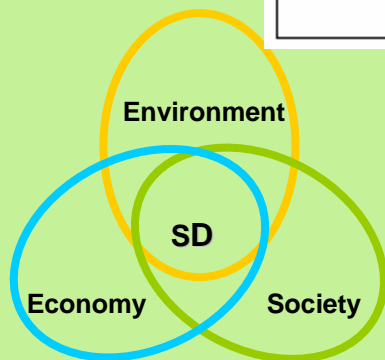
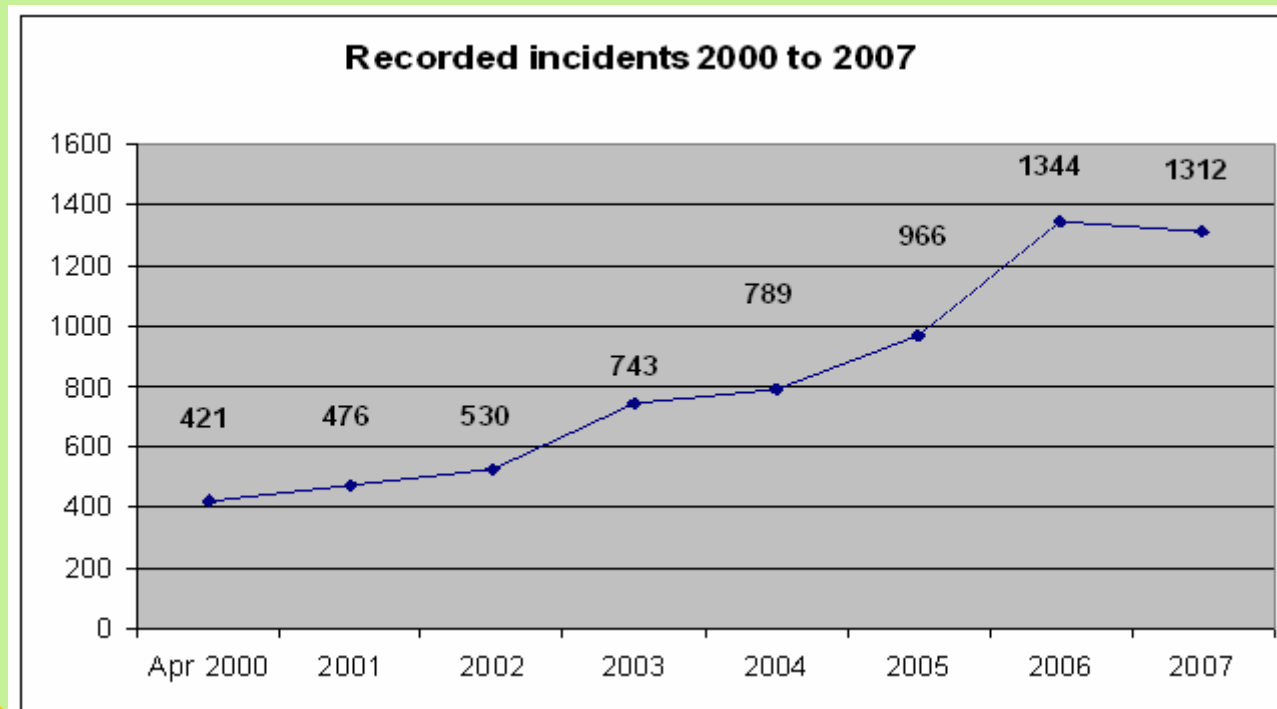
## Food Alerts Food Recalls Food Waste

- Background
  - Statutory Responsibilities
- Where we are
- Where we want to be
- Links to sustainability



# Practical Example

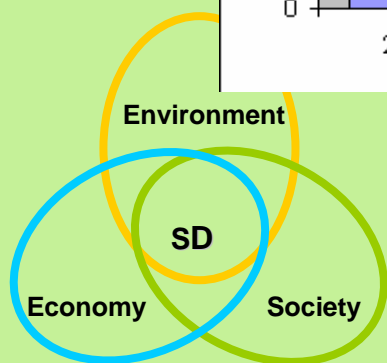
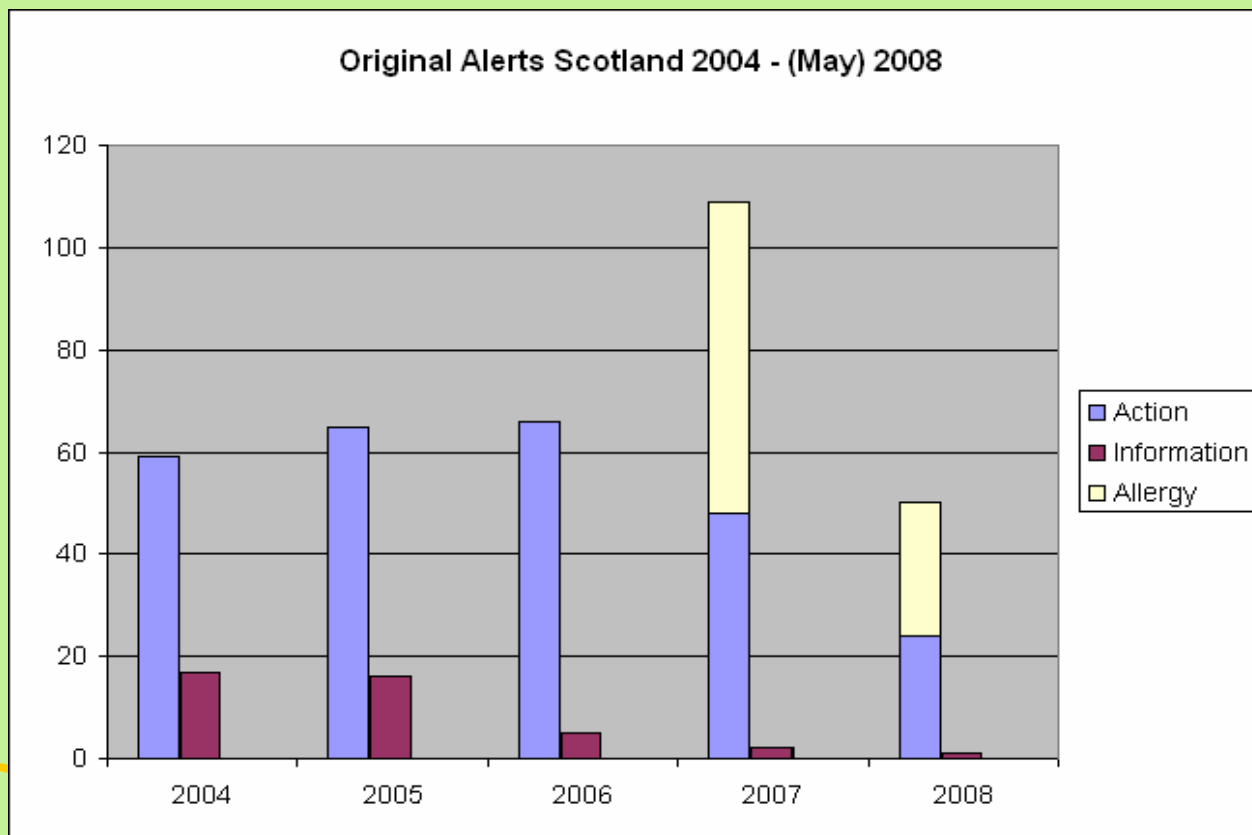
## Food Alerts Food Recalls Food Waste



**FOOD  
STANDARDS  
AGENCY**  
SCOTLAND  
Buidheann  
Inbhe-Bidhe  
an Alba

# Practical Example

## Food Alerts Food Recalls Food Waste



FOOD  
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# Practical Example:

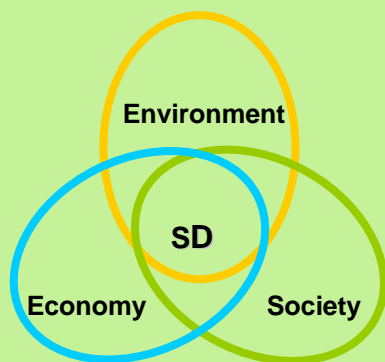
## Food Alerts Food Recalls Food Waste

### Draft FSA Incident Prevention Strategy to 2010

#### Overall Strategic Objective:

*'To develop by 2010 effective interventions to tackle food safety problems at source before they become incidents'*

- To learn from past mistakes
- To identify & address main sources of incidents
- To be as prepared as possible to anticipate & deal with emerging & re-emerging risks



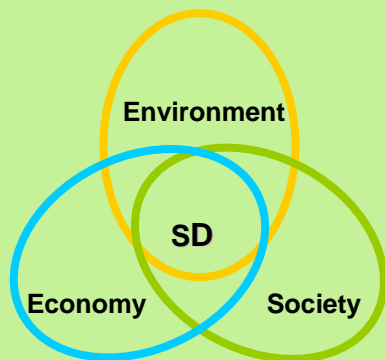
# Practical Example:

Food Alerts Food Recalls Food Waste

## FSA Incident Prevention Strategy

Sets out a programme of work under 3 project themes:

- Intelligence gathering and horizon scanning
- Partnership working and building trust
- Better science and better regulation



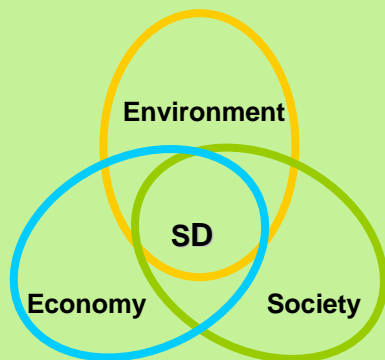
# Practical Example

Food Alerts Food Recalls Food Waste

## Incident Prevention Strategy

If successful should result in the following benefits:-

- Incident Numbers will reduce
- Food Recalls will reduce
- Food Alerts will reduce
- Amount of food waste will reduce



# Practical Example

## Food Alerts Food Recalls Food Waste

### Incident Prevention Strategy

Informal Sustainability Impact Assessment

#### Social Pillar

- Reduce risk to public health
- Improve wellbeing through increased consumer confidence

#### Economic Pillar

- Reduce food waste costs:- product, transport, disposal
- Increase sales:- better consumer confidence
- Reduce admin and legal costs
- Reduce Competent Authority costs

#### Environmental Pillar

- Reduce Food Waste- pollution from landfill & incineration
- Reduce carbon footprint of transport disposal
- Reduce paper costs –forms, certificates for disposal etc

