

A FUNCTION SPACE MAP of the FOOD SUPPLY SYSTEM

WHAT FOOD SUPPLY ORGANISATIONS ACTUALLY DO

Given the scale and complexity of our supply system, it's useful to think of the physical entities within a system (aka its 'structure space') *and* their function (aka its 'function space').

Their function often provides a simpler means to 'see' the system, as in the Function Space Map overleaf. This map shines a light on what millions of entities in the food supply system actually *do*.

It allows us to 'see' that the system comprises far more than farm to fork production and consumption; i.e. everything *above* the red line.

Much of the food system activity (and economic value) is, however, *below* the red line; i.e. in operational and organisational support.

The whole system is underpinned by the Government using the economic and policy levers that only they have the authority to use. The Government's function is to set the parameters of engagement between all the players in the system.

Behind each function space are physical entities, millions of organised interconnections of people, plant and product. Out of this complexity, emerges an unimaginable range of foods and food stuffs.

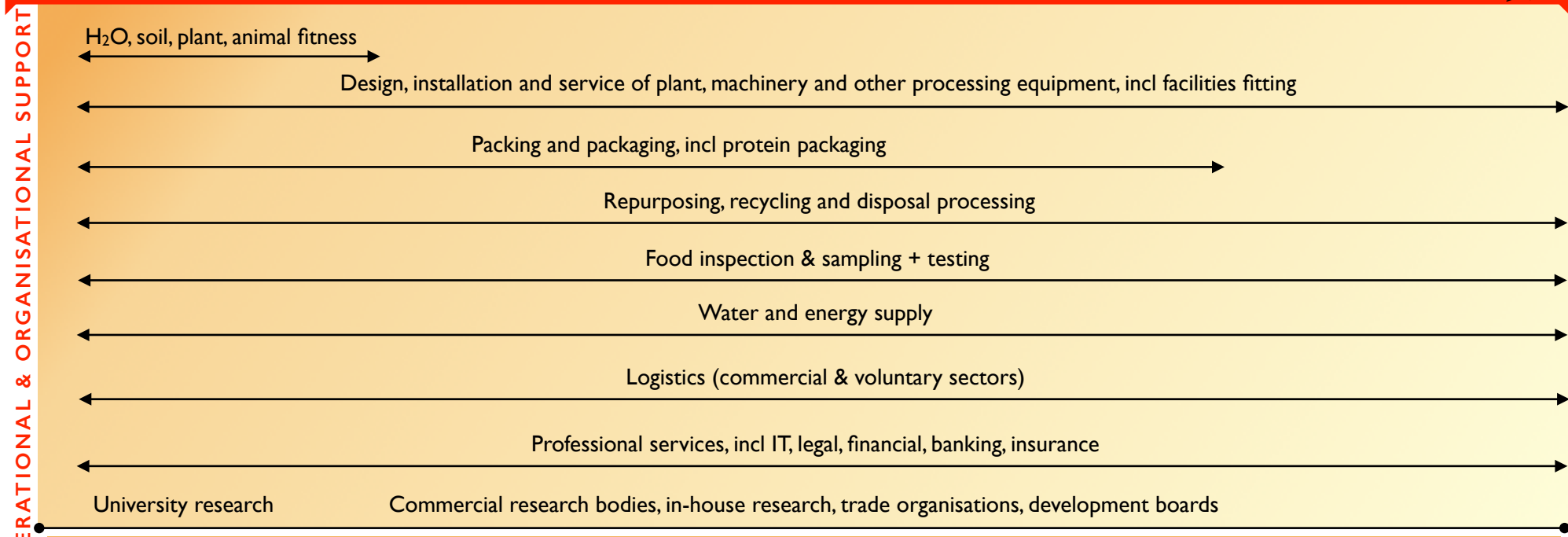
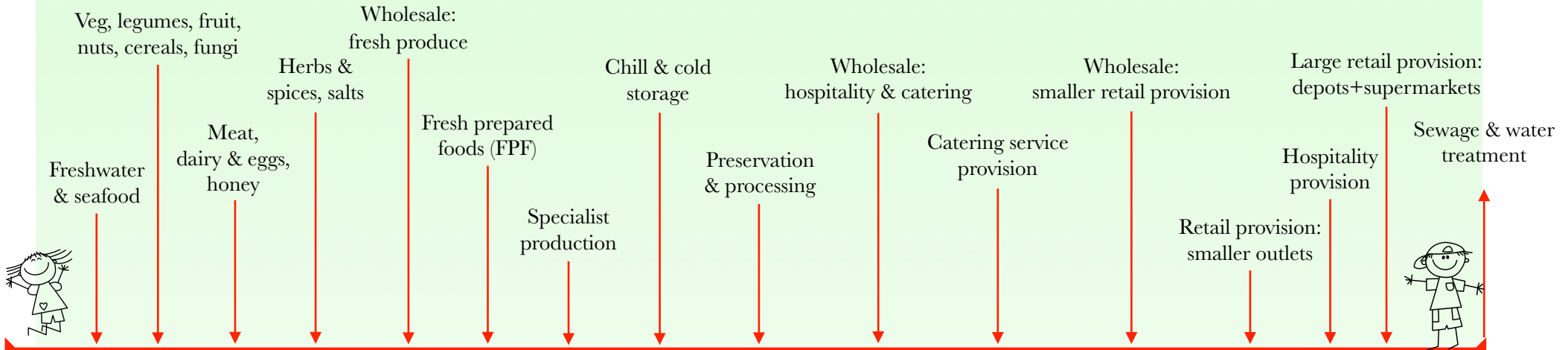
If one or more functions fails, the connectivity within the system means there will be ripple effects. If the effects start to cascade, the scale of operations required to feed a large population will mean many will go hungry — unless the Government intervenes.

BIRMINGHAM
FOOD COUNCIL

AUGUST 2021

A FUNCTION SPACE MAP of the FOOD SUPPLY SYSTEM

PRIMARY PRODUCTION S E C O N D A R Y P R O D U C T I O N CONSUMPTION



FISCAL POLICIES TRADE AGREEMENTS TARIFF & NON-TARIFF BARRIERS REGULATION & ENFORCEMENT REGULATORY BODIES