Dear Prime Minister,

An open letter to the Prime Minister on food, farming and COP26

The COP Presidency gives the UK Government a unique opportunity, as well as the responsibility, to deliver a more resilient and sustainable food and farming system.

We are pleased that a Sustainable Farming Dialogue has been added to the COP Presidency Nature Day. Handled well, this presents a vital opportunity to discuss and agree on the drivers to promote a shift to agroecology and improve food and farming around the globe. Given the critical role of land use, this is essential in the fight to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, reverse biodiversity declines, and to adapt to a changing climate.

The Sustain alliance and our partners are calling on the UK Government and COP Presidency to integrate three key food and farming areas into COP26:

1. Recognise that it is possible for farming to produce food in ways that provide solutions to tackling climate change alongside protecting and enhancing nature, and promote ways to reward farmers for doing so through agroecological approaches.
2. Implement the recommendations of the Trade and Agriculture Commission (TAC) that aim to maintain our current agri-food standards in new trade deals, advocate for improving global standards, and open up UK trade talks to more parliamentary and public participation.
3. Implement those recommendations from the National Food Strategy that will deliver on healthier and more sustainable diets in the UK, including a less and better approach to meat and dairy in public procurement, as well as more fruit, vegetables, pulses and wholegrain foods.

Yours sincerely,

sustain
the alliance for better food and farming

Letter coordinated by Sustain and supported by:

Alexandra Rose Charity
Allergy Alliance
Aquaculture Stewardship Council
Baby Milk Action
Slow Food in the UK  
Soil Association  
Students Organising for Sustainability UK  
The Sustain alliance  

Sustainable Food Trust  
The Real Farming Trust  
UNISON  
Women's Environment Network  

World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms  
Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics  
Growing Communities  
Food Ethics Council  

Common Action on Salt  
Humane Society International