

## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) 2021 REPORT



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### MD STATEMENT

This is our second Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) report, we aim to update annually to show our key plans and the progress we are making. We acknowledge that our CSR initiative is still in its infancy.

In December 2021 Futura Foods UK Ltd, sold the shareholding of Futura Foods Wales, to our parent company Nordex Holding AS. This formed part of the group strategy to align all group production facilities under the Nordex Food Group.

The Continental and Specialty Cheese Business Unit is the focus for this report. We are experts in products originating from or inspired by the Southern Mediterranean, working in long term partnerships with a network of European dairies. We develop distinct product solutions with our customers in multiple channels in the UK & Ireland.

Futura Foods will prioritise CSR and it is our ambition to add KPI's and clear goals within each of our core areas. Using our CSR framework to guide us and focus our activities. Our company values reflect this commitment and our management team recognise the importance of creating positive value for our employees, customers, supply partners and the wider communities in which we operate.

As part of Nordex Food Group, our work in this area will aim to integrate some of the UN's 17 sustainable development goals into our policies and it is our ambition to join Nordex Food Group in signing up to UN Global Compact, this is now likely to occur in 2024.

The Futura Foods CSR framework is built on 5 core pillars :

Respect for human rights, and the promotion of positive practices and working environments in our own operation & wider supply chains.

The environmental impact of our activities (direct & indirect).

The quality, authenticity and integrity of the products we produce & supply.

Animal welfare practices across our supply chain.

The role we play in our local communities.

In some areas of our plan we are well developed and in others we are at the start of our journey, but we aim to accelerate our activities with targeted action where we can. Our 1st report (2020) lays out the framework we have adopted, our 2nd report is a step forward on a long path. I hope you find it useful and enjoy reading it.

Hans Christiansen

MD FUTURA FOODS UK LTD.



## THE WAY WE WORK WITH CSR



#### OUR ALIGNMENT WITH THE UN'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

As of December 2018, Nordex Food (Nordex Food A/S) signed up to the UN Global Compact (UNGC). The compact has defined principles which guide CSR work in participating companies. Futura Foods aim to join the Global Compact in 2024 and our CSR framework builds on these principles and additional focus areas, such as food quality, authenticity and animal welfare which are important in our day to day operations. Our CSR framework incorporates our activities into 5 key pillars.



### RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The values we work with in Futura foods are:

# AUTONOMY INTEGRITY RESPONSIBILITY OWNERSHIP

• These values apply throughout the Nordex Food Group of companies. They reflect the culture we seek to develop and to demonstrate in our actions and decision making. We are clear about what these values mean and aim to reflect them in our day to day activities and behaviors. We work hard to make all employees aware of our values and how we demonstrate them.

- We respect human rights and follow the UN 1948 UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
- Of these 30 rights there are some that are more applicable to our business, in particular those rights and freedoms that apply without discrimination, distinction and coercion.

We expect our suppliers, partners and wider supply chain to work with these principles and legal structures that support them. We are clear about our policies and standards and what is required to do business with us.



Left: Cross functional team representing
Futura Foods at the PAPA Pizza Chef of the
Year Finals

### DIVERSITY

THE RIGHTS THAT WE HAVE CHOSEN TO WORK WITH ARE:

#### Article 2.

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the declaration, without discrimination of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

#### Article 3.

Everyone has the right to life liberty and security of person.

#### Article 7.

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.

#### Article 12.

No one will be subject to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation.

#### Article 19.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

#### Article 20.

Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

#### Article 24.

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

#### Article 25. (1)

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their family.

#### Article 26.

Everyone has the right to education.

We will, to the best of our ability, promote these rights within our business and wider supply chain.

## ANTI-CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY

At Futura Foods we do not tolerate corruption or bribery regardless of where it happens, internally or externally with the companies we work with.

- We clearly articulate to all our employees and our supply partners that we do not tolerate corruption or bribery.
- We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chain or in any part of our business. Our anti-slavery policy reflects our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships.
- We tell employees in interviews and through regular appraisals about our expectations, values and how we can live them.

- Our supplier code of conduct policies cover this area in more detail and are communicated to all our suppliers and are available on our website.
- We ensure our suppliers are aware and adhere via risk based ethical audit processes.

For more information on our practices, please click the below link to our website:

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking statement:
<a href="https://futura-foods.com/modern-slavery-human-trafficking-statement/">https://futura-foods.com/modern-slavery-human-trafficking-statement/</a>



## LABOUR & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

As Futura Foods expands we seek a positive working culture with focus on health, safety, employee wellbeing, personal development and engagement.

We aim to be an employer of choice and to play a positive role in communities in which we operate.

• We measure and report accidents, sickness and attendance and support any long term health issues wherever we can.

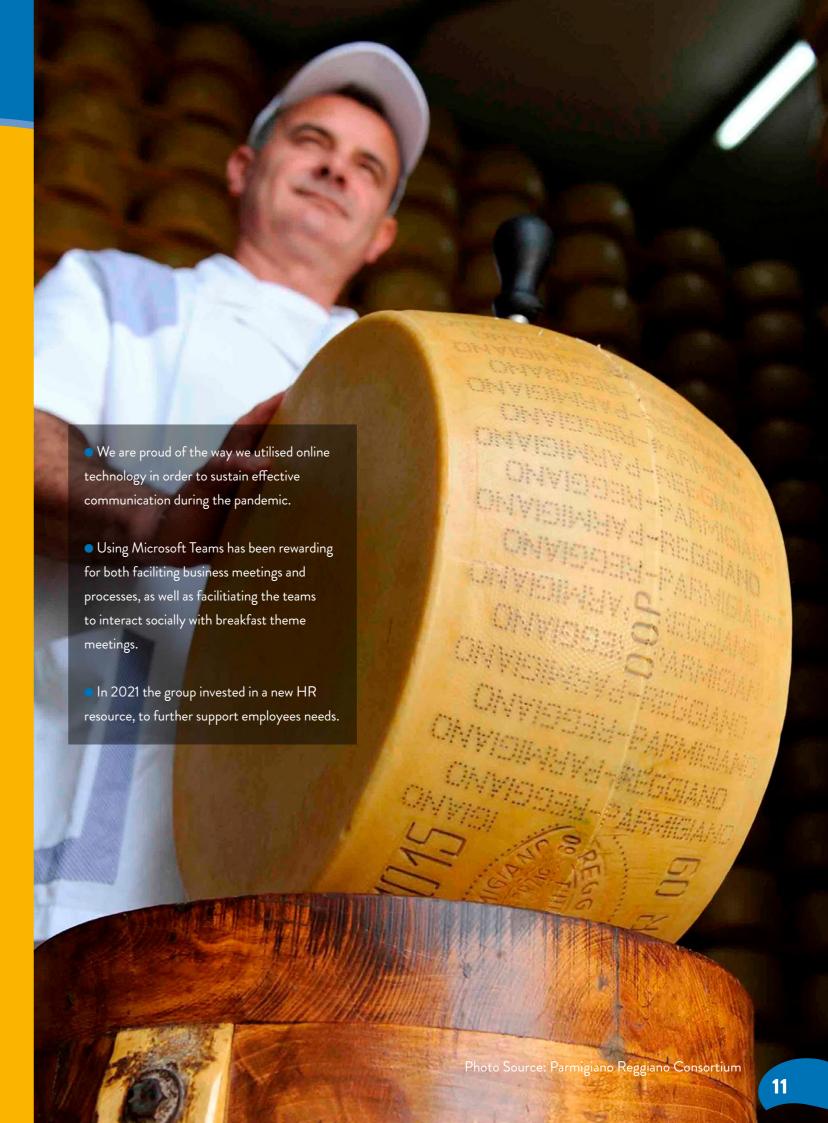
ATTENDANCE		2019	2020	2021
Futura Foods	Actual	98.6%	99.4%	98.9%
	Target	98.4%	98.4%	98.4%

• From a physical health & safety aspect, we have had no RIDDOR reportable accidents for 2019, 2020 and 2021.

We are proud of our health and safety record across the company.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic affected the way we worked in the first half of 2021, with key channels being closed and severe restrictions in social contact between not just businesses but also between our colleagues. Despite this, we have continued to maintain strong relationships with our customers, suppliers and colleagues.

Our focus on well-being and working environment has contributed to maintaining our high levels of attendance. We are pleased to have a lower sickness attendance level than the UK national average. Futura Foods sickness attendance percentage in 2021 was 1.1% in comparison to the national average of 2.2%. (UK Labour Market 2021).



### WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Our employees are at the core of our business and we focus on retention of staff. We are proud of the fact that staff turnover is low and this is important in reflecting our goal as "employer of choice" in the communities in which we operate.

- We will promote from within wherever it is feasible to do so.
- Our belief is that people getting together physically is important to generate ideas, aid communication and build effective relationships. However personal flexibility in how we work is important going forward and we will facilitate, where possible, remote working up to one day a week for those staff where the request can be accommodated without disruption to wider activities.
- We have invested in video conferencing facilities for both group and individual meetings, to help aid effective communication and cross functional working with colleagues, customers and suppliers.
- We have strengthened our Human
   Resources function with the appointment of a new HR Manager position.

- We will continue to review and develop our working practices to meet the needs of our business and our workforce.
- We currently utilise our established staff social committee to enhance social wellbeing within our business.
- In 2021, aligning with our parent company Nordex Food Group, we launched an "employee satisfaction and wellbeing" survey, to gauge feedback within this area in an anonymous way. We aim to review and strengthen this further on an annual basis as the business continues to grow, as this is a core step to enhance communication and the sharing of ideas.



Performance Indicators (KPI's), and progress towards our goals is important to us so that the company is efficient and aligned in its activities. We will continue our regular company and team briefings and one to ones for all employees and maintain focus on this area. We conduct annual personal appraisals as well as frequent one to one informal line manager interface.

development and we will support self development opportunities wherever we can. Each employee has a skills and personal development plan agreed as part of the appraisal process. We are committed to building skills and knowledge to equip our teams for the future. We have a strong track record in supporting employees to move within the business to different functional roles in order to develop new skills and to pursue wider career opportunities.



Above: RAGAZZI! Italian cheese range internal launch party.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We aim to play a positive role in the communities we operate in. This is important to our vision as an employer of choice and to recruiting and retaining good people.

#### **Activities 2021**

- We support "FareShare" through the provision of products that would otherwise be wasted.
- The Social Committee also facilitate the appointment of a local annual charity, that we support though small charitable events, such as bake sales.
- In additional to the local charity support, our Commercial team have a monthly 'Fines Board' that we monitor throughout the month, at the end of the month the collected monies are donated to a local charity.









### ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Futura Foods operations in the UK consists of our head office in Dursley, Gloucestershire and 3<sup>rd</sup> party warehousing and distributors in the UK and Ireland.

- We source and supply a wide variety of dairy products from Europe with our main range coming from Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Spain and Denmark.
- We are at the start of our journey regarding measuring and managing our impact on the environment and climate.

  However we are enthusiastic and committed. It is important for our customers, employees and communities that we play our part and take steps to enhance the sustainability of our operations wherever possible.
- The first step is to measure and understand key metrics. The second is to take action where we can to mitigate and improve. We have started both of these steps and will provide more information on our plans in due course.
- We aimed to join our parent company in signing up to the UN Global Compact in 2023, however due to external pressures this is more likely to be our focus in 2024. We will have our framework in place in advance of this date.

There are four areas which we will focus on:

CO2 EMISSIONS
ENERGY CONSUMPTION
WATER CONSUMPTION
PACKAGING USAGE &
SUSTAINABILITY OF PACKAGING

- While we have an initial measurement base for 2020 we will continue to work on how best to measure these key outputs and reconsider our measurement methods where necessary, in the future.
- We are not in a position to measure total supply chain outputs (i.e. from warehouse to consumer), but we are focussing on primary outputs (production and head office usage). In addition we are engaging and encouraging our European suppliers to work with us on establishing lifecyle CO<sub>2</sub> measurement for key product types so we can track the impact for different types of cheese from different locations.

• Reducing packaging and moving to more sustainable packaging formats is currently a challenge. We can only move as fast as the changes in technology allow, whilst ensuring we maintain the integrity, safety and to an extent the shelf life of the products we sell. The challenge of reducing overall plastic content and increasing the recycled content is significant, especially as we work with a diverse range of authentic supply partners, each with varying amounts of focus on this area.

• We are working with our European partners to progress in this area to meet the needs of the UK market. Our aim is to accelerate sustainable initiatives and ensure our suppliers understand what is required as well as changes in the regulatory framework now that the UK is not part of the EU.

#### **METRICS & PLANS**

We are not in a position to establish net zero plans at this time.

#### 2021 Status

#### Futura Foods Head Office

We have measured the impact and consumption in total and per employee.

• 100% of our electricity is from renewable sources.

Futura Foods (2021)	Total	Per Employee
CO2 emission (kg)	12,875	339
Energy electricity (kWh)	55,225	1,453
Water (m³)	193	5.08

Futura Foods (2020)	Total	Per Employee
CO <sub>2</sub> emission (kg)	13,261	349
Energy electricity (kWh)	57,000	1,629
Water (m³)	150	4.29

CO<sub>2</sub> Derived from CarbonTrust calculator

### FINISHED PRODUCT & PACKAGING WASTAGE.

• For imported (stock held) dairy products we work with Company Shop, FareShare and other outlets to ensure that no finished product is destroyed and goes to landfill. We operate to zero waste at our contracted warehouse.











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## TRANSPORT & WIDER SUPPLY CHAIN MAPPING



We are a leading supplier of European dairy products to the UK & Ireland and source products from a wide variety of partner suppliers in a number of countries.

We strive to operate the most efficient supply chain we can and given our scale we can ensure that the vast majority of our products are shipped to the UK in consolidated full containers. For smaller volume requirements we source "groupage transportation" to minimise our carbon footprint.

The same principles apply to outbound deliveries from our storage and distribution partners in the UK.



We have some initial data on emissions generated in transporting some of our core products from Greece and Cyprus to the UK using different transport methods.

As we have become more efficient and have invested in our forecasting and replenishment systems we have been able to increase the proportion of sea vs road routes.

This move is more efficient for us and our customers and while it adds more time into the total supply chain there is a benefit in  $CO_2$  output which we have been able to realise. We will continue to work on this area of opportunity with our supply chain partners.

The more we can do with customers on forecasting demand, the more we can use sea vs road options.

#### Road vs Sea Case Study

Sea containers from core Southern

Mediterranean routes can take 3x as long as road transport but emissions are c 40% of the equivalent road container. Moving from road to sea does mean that we potentially have to hold more stock in the UK with an emissions and cost impact due to the length of the duration of the supply chain but the total emissions impact is positive.

- In 2020 we achieved 86% of our Cypriot volume requirements via sea. We are happy to share that in 2021 this figure increased to 89%. This change in our supply has led to a significant reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> direct emissions on this route.
- We will investigate and expand this research into to other geographical areas of supply moving forward.
- We will continue to investigate alternative transport solutions and work with transport partners in this area.

CHAIN SUPPLY CO <sub>2</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub> per trip (kg)
Road from Greece	3,169
Road from Cyprus	3,385
Sea from Cyprus	1,122

BY NET CHEESE WEIGHT			
	By Road	By Sea	
Greece	100%	N/A	
Cyprus	11%	89%	

### PACKAGING USAGE

The amount and the impact of the types of packaging we use (and associated waste) is a focus area for us. Packaging protects the products we produce and source which is key to enabling the quality and shelf life benefits that we offer.

The demands of UK consumers, customers and the legislative framework on waste and packaging recycling is evolving, we will ensure that we stay on top of packaging developments and continue to strive to find solutions as packaging technologies develop.

We have a company packaging policy that encourages us to move forward. However it is important that the solutions we utilise are the right ones for our customers going forward as well as ensuring that we remain as efficient as we can be. We expect the costs of recyclable content to become more competitive as the market develops.

- We will share knowledge and encourage our European suppliers to find solutions for the UK market. As a first step we are presenting to all our core suppliers on UK packaging requirements and the changing legislation and tax implications. We are also encouraging partners to works with us on CSR projects such as CO<sub>2</sub> mapping for different types of cheese. It is our intention to make progress on this area in 2022.
- We measure our packaging usage and while we cannot yet identify the percentage recycled content in our packaging we aim to compile this data going forward.

	Plastic (T)	Paper (T)	Wood (T)	Other (T)
Total tonnes 2020	805	1023	887	0.7
Total tonnes 2021	1148	1319	1109	1.6



## FOOD SAFETY & QUALITY

The safety, quality & integrity of the products we supply from our group and partner dairies is our priority. We are proud of our performance in this area and feel that the expertise we offer our customers is a differentiator for Futura Foods. We constantly strive to maintain this position and to further develop our product & quality standards.

#### Dairy Products are Futura Foods' core business and we make sure that:

- Our group owned production facilities and our suppliers across Europe, as a minimum, follow the legislative framework from the food authorities in the respective countries. They are required to supply product to defined standards for supply into our customers. All supply sites must meet the GFSI standard and must be certified. Some customers have specific factory requirements and we work closely with supplying sites to ensure these specific standards are understood, and fully implemented.
  - All suppliers of finished product and raw materials are approved and authorised by Futura Foods Technical team to supply. We aim to work with the most capable suppliers in their product field. Supplier capability can range from artisan product to mass produced volume.
- We operate a bespoke risk based supplier approval and auditing process. We work hard to select partners and develop partnerships with our core suppliers, where we share best practice to drive standards. Our Futura Foods Supplier Performance Review process has been developed over a number of years and provides the confidence we need to work with our partner dairies to supply high quality products to our customers.
- We assess ongoing quality through product benchmarking the core product categories we import. These include PDO Feta from Greece, Halloumi from Cyprus, Greek Yogurt from Greece and core PDO Italian cheeses. We also benchmark where required using external trusted partners, such as Campden BRI.

• We invest in our Technical teams in all operating locations including Dursley as well as Greece and Cyprus, where we have a Nordex Food sourcing and quality team based in Volos. In addition our team are HACCP, VACCP & TACCP trained. We maintain a continuous growth of knowledge and skills through specific training courses, conferences and customer base programmes.

- The Technical Team are fully versed in customer online specification and artwork systems.
- Futura Foods Head Office is BRC AA

  Agents and Broker certified (Issue 2).
- We consistently update our bespoke supplier risk assessment and quality management system to meet the requirements of an expanding customer base.
- We are developing our in house quality and taste benchmarking system vs full market coverage of new entrants and partners, to ensure best quality of our new developing product offer from Futura Foods.
- We operate a bespoke Futura Foods
   Transport Code of Practice and require GFSI
   Storage and distribution accreditation for
   supply chain providers.











## PRODUCT AUTHENTICITY & INTEGRITY

Product integrity, trust and traceability are key requirements for Futura Foods and our quality systems have developed to reflect this strategic objective.

- We understand the products we source and supply. To help us build and maintain this knowledge we operate a Futura Foods "Authenticity and Integrity policy". We use this to understand products, suppliers and manage risks. We are able to audit against the information supplied by our suppliers as required. This bespoke system is UKAS accredited and reflects our focus on this key element of our offer. Our customers need to have confidence in the integrity of the total supply chain.
- We work with PDO authorities and partner dairies to Monitor PDO standards. We have focussed in the last 2 years on Greece and Cyprus and have enabled our key customers to understand products, local market conditions and the PDO requirements through data sharing and presentations to build knowledge.

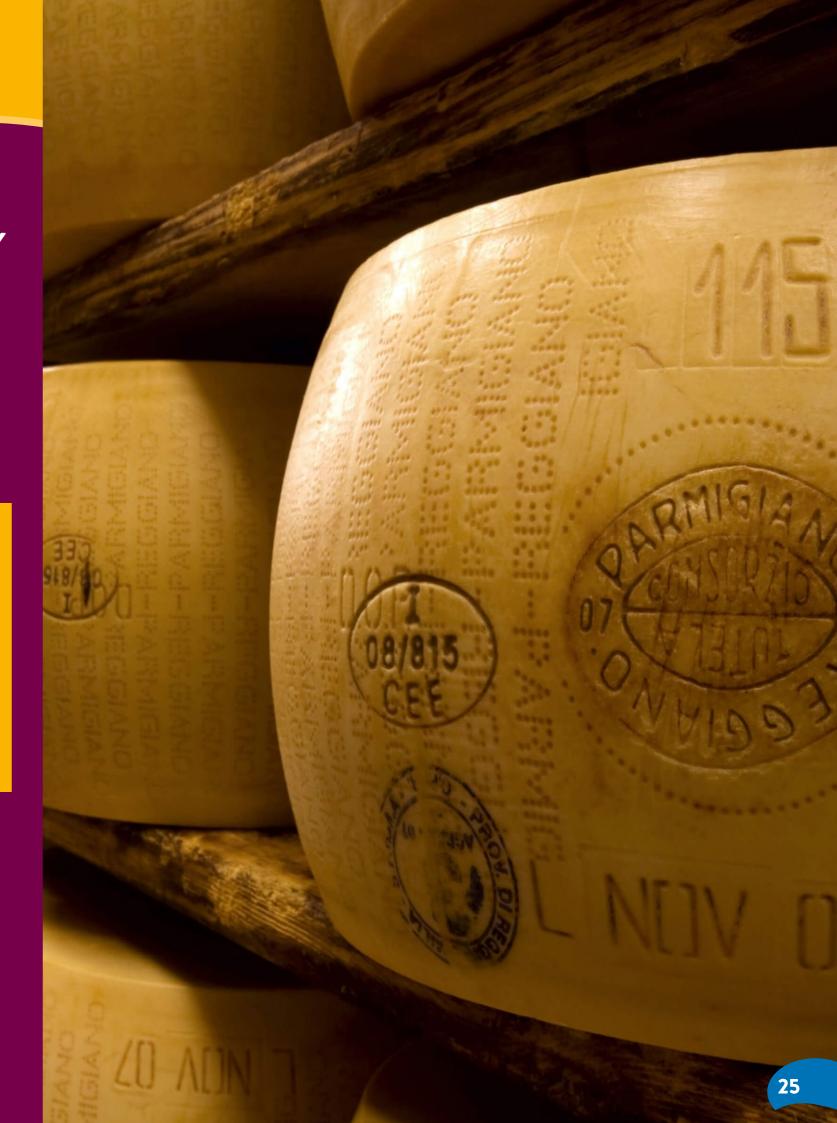
#### Futura Activities

Milk Species testing and product integrity
is a "hot" topic. We have taken a lead in this
area with external testing of core products and
utilising our in country quality team covering

Greece, Cyprus and Italy. We aim to increase focus on this area in 2022.

We have developed a new "continental dairy" species testing database to verify species and location origin testing. This technology has been developed with a leading player in food isotope testing and we aim to make the programme and the insights available to customers, suppliers and regulatory authorities in 2022/23. This industry leading initiative will be launched in 2022 so watch this space for more details!

Our parent company Nordex Food has developed Nørager Gården (Gården" is the Danish word for "Farm"), it is a quality system for milk suppliers in Denmark. it is a quality system for milk suppliers in Denmark). The programme was started in 2020 and is an improvement system securing a close and ongoing cooperation between dairy farmers and Nørager dairy. We will watch with interest and see if elements of the programme can be utilised in the UK or with partner dairies.



## **ENSURING INTEGRITY**& WORKING WITH PDO



PROTECTED
DESIGNATION OF
ORIGIN (PDO)



PROTECTED GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION (PGI)



TRADITIONAL
SPECIALITY
GUARANTEED (TSG)

Provenance, authenticity and integrity are important to our customers and consumers. We place significant resources into ensuring our products meet our standards and believe we offer added value to our customers in the way we monitor and share our expertise.

PDO Accreditation processes can be helpful to understand the products they choose to buy from Futura Foods (UK) Ltd.

**PDO/PGI/TSG** are important for sustainability and integrity of local knowledge. It protects the best suppliers and product pricing to get fairer prices for a quality product and safeguards that the authentic product is delivered to customer.

PDO protects a geographical area, defined within European Union law, in order to protect regional agricultural products, processes used to make the product, with recognised local know-how.

**PGI** protects agricultural products and food stuffs in a region, where only at least one of the stages of manufacture takes place in that area.

**TSG** protects the traditional characteristics of the product, or the process of making that product.

These trusted statements and 'approved stamps' builds a high quality reputation which Futura Foods monitor and assure through a variety of methods and tools.

Science plays a major role in testing the parameters in these cheeses and routine factory audits to confirm authenticity of our supplying partners.

We confirm compliance by holding a current site certification from all relevant suppliers issued by the authorising PDO body.

Utilise latest food science processes to confirm the product has the right attributes, for example, acidity and moisture content.

We routinely use DNA testing to ensure the product has not be adulterated. For example Feta cheese can only be produced with local sheep and goat's milk. Cow milk is not permitted.

We have trained staff to taste product for high quality standards and flavour profile.

 Sharing knowledge and expertise about our products and the PDO processes is an added value service that many of our customers utilise. At Futura Foods we are investing in technology to push testing methods into new dairy categories. This technology is utilised more extensively in other food categories (wine in particular). We are at the forefront of initiatives such as finger printing cheese to verify its origin.

#### Mitigating Risks in our Supply chain

Managing Risk is a key priority for Futura Foods and our customers.

Some of the methods we employ are :

- Using scanning tools designed to track global emerging issues in real time.
- Investing in Industry Intelligence, being close to the labs that report results.
- We are members of the industry brain
   Campden BRI and have close links to
   membership forums.

- Risk assessment of our supply chains and measuring the stresses on them that could damage product integrity.
- Concentrate on areas at risk, for example animal health and the impact of price fluctuations of milk on the motive to adulterate product.
- Where science cannot help detect any fraud, we complete factory audits to ensure our supply chains are secure. The table below shows how the PDO is applied in different countries.

Feta GOCERT	Parmigiano Reggiano PREGGIAND	Manchego  QUESO MANCHEGO  Encyls Regulator fo in Demonstration of Original Conference on Conference	
Milk and cheese quantities counted on mass balance checks.  Volumes pre allocate with Consortium for the checks.		Volumes agreed and certified post production by allocation of on pack identifiers.	
Certified every 3 years.	Certified from date of issue.	Annual certification.	
One certificate for manufacture, packaging and selling.	Separate certificates for manufacture, portioning and further processing.	Certified for manufacture, packing and selling.	
PDO Control Body = Annually and infrequently.	Consortium Visit = Every 6 weeks or during processing.	Consortium Visit = Every 15 days.	

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### ANIMAL WELFARE

We have added animal welfare to our CSR framework. As Futura Foods we recognize the importance of animal welfare in the production and supply of dairy products.

We expect all our suppliers of milk based product to follow animal welfare legislation in their respective countries.

Our animal welfare policy is based on the 5 freedoms from the "World Organisation for Animal Health".

#### FREE FROM

hunger, malnutrition, thirst, fear & distress, heat stress, physical discomfort, pain, injury and disease

> FREE TO express normal patterns of behaviour

• We aim to share and encourage best practice. In addition:

We encourage our suppliers to complete farm audits on a regular basis and if the organisation can support it, the employment of a Milk Zone Manager to work with their farmers.

In the UK we follow Red Tractor as a recognised Dairy Standard to aspire to. It has realistic standards and helpful examples of how to measure these standards. Embedded in the standard are also helpful guidelines to nurture and drive standards. We use this as a reference of good farming practice – and encourage its principles with our European suppliers where appropriate.

- o In 2021 Nordex Food began to implement "HJERTEMEALK" a Danish animal welfare standard. We will monitor this initiative and intend to review what more we in Futura Foods can do in this area in due course.
- We aim to understand our supplying sites milk supply management processes and support/encourage the raising of standards and best practice.





## FUTURA FOODS WALES 2021

Futura Foods Wales, a BRC AA accredited and Red Tractor certified site, specialists in cutting, blending and packing multiple product formats, as well as flavoured propositions that are made from extruding cheeses and other selected ingredients.

Futura Foods Wales continued to make progress with it's support of our CSR agenda in 2021.

- 100% of electricity supply was from renewable sources.
- We continued to develop and explore mono-materials and RPET solutions towards our packaging agenda.

- We continued to follow and were accredited to Red Tractor Dairy Standards.
- The addition of our new HR Manager was a positive addition to the team.

Nordex Holding took ownership of Futura Foods Wales in December of 2021, until the sale of the business to a Joseph Heler Group Company on 30 July 2022.





We hope you have found our second CSR report interesting and if you have any questions please contact us via email: enquiries@futura-foods.com or call us on 01666 890 500



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