



Introduction

The global food system is broken. It doesn't work for those who work the hardest – small farmers – and it's a major driver of the climate emergency.

Over the next few weeks, our parish is going to be thinking about the way we grow our food and what we choose to eat based on **CAFOD's Fix the food system** campaign.

Food for thought this autumn ...

Here are this week's two facts to think about and a prayer.

1 Our food system is bad for the planet, our common home

The way we grow, process and transport our food is responsible for around one third of greenhouse gas emissions. Huge quantities of pesticides and fertilisers are made using fossil fuels. Forests are cut down or burned to make huge areas available for rearing cattle for meat and dairy or to grow soya to feed the animals we want to eat. Since 1990 around 420 million hectares of forest have been destroyed. This is 17 times the size of the UK.

2 Small scale farmers have little choice about what they grow

Five of every six farms in the world are under two hectares big. They use around 12% of agricultural land, but produce roughly 35% of the world's food. They are very efficient. But the domination of huge agricultural companies means that they often face little choice about what they grow and how they grow it

Prayer for food justice

Lord Jesus,

You understand what it is like to be hungry. Teach us to have grateful and generous hearts. Forgive us when we make selfish choices or remain silent in the face of injustice.

You welcomed all to your table. May we recognise our interconnectedness, with our common home and our global neighbours, so all are invited to share the feast.

Amen