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# **Sustainable Food Chains**

## **Briefing Paper 4**

### **The English Regional Development Agencies; What are they doing to support sustainable food economies?**

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#### **Issues, initiatives and future work by agencies**

**Advantage West Midlands**

**East of England Development Agency (EEDA)**

**East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA)**

**London Development Agency (LDA)**

**North West Development Agency (NWDA)**

**One Northeast**

**South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA)**

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## The Sustainable Food Chains project

Sustain; The Alliance for Better Food and Farming advocates food and agriculture policies and practices that enhance the health and welfare of people and animals, improve the working and living environment, promote equity, and enrich society and culture. Sustain represents over 100 national public interest organisations working at international, national, regional and local level.

This briefing paper is part of an initiative by Sustain, called 'Sustainable Food Chains' to promote sustainable food, including in public sector catering. More specifically, over the next two years our activities will include;

- Establishing contact with interested bodies at regional, national and European level, currently developing, or planning to develop, policy options.
- Developing policy recommendations for the statutory, private and voluntary sectors to support sustainable food economies, with the future publication of 'Local Food: What are the policy options?'
- Organising a national conference to discuss and develop policy recommendations.
- Producing a technical manual on public procurement with case studies. This will include a 'How to do it' guide on buying and supplying local/fair trade and organic food including legal and contractual aspects, supply chain issues, and ideas for catering options.
- Establishing pilot projects. We intend in tandem with the technical manual and highlight experience gained at local level.
- Producing briefing papers on local food and public sector catering and the potential for sustainable food providing health, farming, and environmental benefits.
- Advising and negotiating with government at European, national, regional, and local level for changes in policy and action to support the public procurement of sustainable food.
- Responding to consultations from national and European government and others on public procurement issues.

'Sustainable food', for the purpose of this paper, refers to food which meets a number of criteria including;

- Proximate – originating from the closest practicable source or the minimization of energy use
- Healthy as part of a balanced diet and not containing harmful biological or chemical contaminants
- Fairly or cooperatively traded between producers, processors, retailers, and consumers
- Non-exploiting of employees in the food sector in terms of pay and conditions
- Environmentally beneficial or benign in its production (e.g. organic)
- Accessible both in terms of geographic access and affordability
- High animal welfare standards in both production and transport
- Socially inclusive of all people in society
- Encouraging knowledge and understanding of food and food culture

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Other briefings available as part of this initiative include;

*Briefing 1 Local Food; Benefits, Obstacles and Opportunities*

*Briefing 2 Public Sector Catering; Opportunities and issues relating to sustainable food procurement*

*Briefing 3 Public Procurement of Sustainable Food; Current, planned and related initiatives*

All documents are downloadable from Sustain's website (<http://www.sustainweb.org>) in pdf format.

Hard copies are available at a cost of £5 plus £1 postage and packaging each or all four for £12, from;

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## Introduction

Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) have an important role to play in the regions, influencing and promoting greater public access to sustainable food, supporting local food businesses, and developing sustainable food economies in their regions. This paper outlines 10 English RDAs and their activities, and makes recommendations for continued and further work in the area.

RDAs have a general role in promoting a specific region including being advocates of regional issues in other spheres of government. Different regions have different economic needs and the RDA's plans and strategies reflect this. These agencies deal with local events and climates to encourage economic development and prosperity and work in relative autonomy from national government.

Their goals, as outlined by the RDAs Act of 1998, are:

- To further the economic development and the regeneration of its area,
- To promote business efficiency, investment and competitiveness in its area,
- To promote employment in its area,
- To enhance the development and application of skills relevant to employment in its area,
- To contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom where it is relevant to its area to do so.<sup>1</sup>

The Act also states "A regional development agency's purposes apply as much in relation to the rural parts of its area as in relation to the non-rural parts of its area."<sup>2</sup>

## Issues, initiatives and future work by agencies

### Advantage West Midlands

The West Midlands has a diverse agricultural sector ranging from sheep and beef farming to grain and fruit production. The remoter parts to the west and northeast are heavily dependent on agriculture. The late 1990s saw serious difficulties emerging in the agricultural sector with the collapse of farm incomes, particularly affecting smaller livestock farms. The rural areas to the east are changing due to their proximity to urban markets. Activities in this area include fruit production in the Vale of Evesham. The intensification of farming poses various environmental challenges and the accessibility of the region's environment has led to migration of commuters from urban to rural areas and an increase in the number of tourists.

Issues and themes:

- Urban and rural areas
- Agriculture
- Food production and tourism
- Market towns
- Innovation and spread of technology in rural and agricultural areas
- Communities

Initiatives and priorities:

- One of the 6 Regeneration Zones (RZs) in the region focuses on rural development to the west of the region. These RZs receive approximately 70% of the RDA's funding.
- Closer links and marketing skills within the agriculture and food sector in Shropshire are being developed by improving IT infrastructure.
- The Market Towns Initiative will receive approximately £2 million over three years from specific government funds. Advantage West Midlands aims to build links between rural producers and urban customers by having country markets in cities.
- There is an initiative to develop a West Midlands Regional Food Network.
- A regional response to the FMD crisis has been launched.

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<sup>1</sup> The Regional Development Act of 1998

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

- The West Midlands Round Table for Sustainability is working on a Regional Sustainability Action Framework.
- Advantage West Midlands is working together with the Environment Agency to assess the ways in which the environmental strengths of the West Midlands can support the economic development of the region.
- Advantage West Midlands is funding Holme Lacy College with Bulmer's Cider to direct the college's main focus towards organic and sustainable agriculture, and supports the college's Project Carrot project, which promotes sustainable land management (<http://www.projectcarrot.org>)

Future priorities and issues:

- There is a proposal to work on organic processing activities in Shropshire.
- Local companies and local distribution networks may be promoted.
- Diversification of rural areas, by focusing on market towns and brownfield sites for mixed-use development could be encouraged.
- Regeneration activities will work with NHS strategies and policies to bring regeneration programmes in line with health initiatives.
- Action to improve infrastructure in rural areas, especially the west of the region.

<http://www.advantagewm.co.uk>

### **East of England Development Agency (EEDA)**

The counties covered in this region are Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk. The region has a rich heritage of small market and coastal towns. However, the closure of rural bank branches, the concentration of many public and business services in larger towns and the growth of out-of-town shopping centres has undermined the sustainability of the communities in these towns.

Agriculture accounts for two per cent of GDP (1.5 per cent in the UK) but its impact in some rural areas is far greater. In parts of the East of England, agricultural-related employment accounts for 20 per cent of all employment. Around 35 per cent of all manufacturing employment is in the food-processing sector. Structural changes in the sector have had a major impact on rural communities. Farm incomes have fallen by 89 per cent over the last five years, with the result that the annual net farm income of an average 500-acre farm dropped from around £80,000 in 1995 to £8,000 in 2000. Forecasts suggest that the agricultural and food processing sector in the East of England will shed a further 10,000 jobs during the next decade, if current trends continue.

Issues:

- Agriculture and food processing - the area has the largest producing and commercial region in the UK.
- Tourism - drawing the second largest tourist market in the nation, EEDA sees this as an opportunity to improve this industry.
- Market Towns, Access to Services and Peripherality - problems with remoteness have been identified as a product of the poor road system of the area.
- Planning-guidance is needed to encourage rural development and farm diversification.

Strategies and initiatives:

- Rural Development Programmes inherited from the Rural Development Commission - continue within the Rural Priority Areas initiative.
- Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) Programmes involved with rural regeneration.
- Market Towns Initiative gain momentum under the Rural Priority Areas project.
- Sectoral Initiatives have been set up within specific sector groups for agriculture, food processing and tourism.
- Taste of Anglia – a regional branch of a locality food group 'Food from Britain', is working with the RDA to

Future priorities and issues:

- Improving business support in rural areas
- Strengthening the region's tourism
- Improving access to services and employment opportunities
- Planning for rural development

<http://www.eeda.org.uk>

### **East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA)**

The northeast of this region is associated with livestock farming and market towns. The east comprises large farms and food production companies. Three cities in the south are experiencing development and growth problems. The issues that span the region are economic restructuring, high dependency on declining industries (agriculture and mining), low wage employment, and poor accessibility.

Issues include:

- Rural tourism
- Rural transport
- Planning, land, property and housing
- Market towns
- Agriculture
- Promoting rural issues

Strategies and initiatives:

- A Rural Action Plan establishes EMDA's role in the rural development of the region.
- The Market Towns Template outlines the number of facilities and the 'health-check criteria' for towns of different sizes. The Market Towns Conference was held in autumn of 2000
- Foot and Mouth Recovery consists of a group to oversee the effects of FMD and develop short and mid-term action to deal with the outbreak.
- Specific rural spending programmes have been outlined for different projects.

Future priorities and issues:

- 'Single Budget' funding considerations.
- Targeting the areas that have the greatest need and dilapidation and creating a more flexible approach to deal with these areas.
- Continuing the market towns theme and improving physical regeneration.
- Working with The Heart of England (a group of companies involved in entertainment and promotion) to improve rural tourism and gain further funding.

<http://www.emda.org.uk>

### **London Development Agency (LDA)**

Over 10% of Greater London's area is farmland (13,566 hectares<sup>3</sup>) with an estimated 500 farms occupying this area. 500 hectares is under fruit and vegetable cultivation producing an estimated 8400 tonnes per year, contributing about £3 million to London's economy, and providing around 3000 jobs<sup>4</sup>. Horticultural production is mainly in the Lea Valley, beginning on and around the London boundary and extending 20-30 miles beyond central London. Smaller horticultural enterprises are struggling and do not receive any support through the Common Agricultural Policy. Overall the area under cultivation is in decline<sup>5</sup>. The food industry however contributes significantly to the city's overall GDP, and accounts for around 11% of total jobs in the city although these are very often low status, badly paid, and temporary in retail and catering<sup>6</sup>. The dozen or so London farmers' markets contributed over £3 million to the economy last year (2001)<sup>7</sup> and they are growing in number and scale. The LDA is unique in that its board

<sup>3</sup> Agricultural and Horticultural Census, MAFF, June 1997

<sup>4</sup> Labour Market Trends, Table B16, Office of National Statistics, August 1998

<sup>5</sup> State of the Environment Report for London, London Planning Advisory Committee, 1995

<sup>6</sup> Heasman, Getting a Quart from a Pint Pot: Restructuring and the UK Food Industry, The Impact on the West London Food Economy, West London Training and Enterprise Council, 1999

<sup>7</sup> London Farmers' Markets Newsletter, London Farmers Markets, 2001

is appointed by, and reports to, the Mayor of London, rather than the Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government, and the Regions.

Issues include;

- Decline in local production enterprises
- Inadequate access to good food by deprived communities
- Poor pay and conditions within the food sector
- Unhealthy diets and high incidence of diet related disease
- Unsustainability of the food economy

Current initiatives include;

- The promotion of Borough Market, near Greenwich, which includes markets for specialist products.
- Three Mills Farmers' Market and Voucher Scheme. Leaside Regeneration SRB in East London is pump priming a farmers' market combined with a food voucher scheme. The initiative is a partnership between London Farmers' Markets, Lea Valley Park and Bromley by Bow healthy living centre to set up a Farmers' Market at Three Mills. Vouchers will be available from the healthy living centre to enable vulnerable groups to access healthy, affordable food.
- Feasibility study into food clusters in West London.
- Grahame Park, Barnet, Healthy Estate Initiative. This scheme, funded through Grahame Park SRB, is setting up a food co-operative and farmers' market on a deprived estate with limited access to fresh produce. Part of this will include the construction of a community garden plus advice on cultivation and nutrition, to encourage local participation.

Possible future initiatives:

- Support for the regional food link group, London Food Link
- Development of a strategic framework for engagement with the London food economy
- Initiatives identified by the Greater London Authority's work on food access and regeneration

<http://www.lda.gov.uk>

### **North West Development Agency (NWDA)**

Most of this region is rural with contrasts in land fertility. The rural environment is a valuable asset, including its National Park and scientific and conservation attributes. 40% of the Foot and Mouth outbreaks were in Cumbria, making it the hardest hit region. The region has also suffered from BSE. Consequently, this has put a tremendous pressure on the economy of the northwest. Long-term risks are feared, such as movement off the land. The NWDA is suggesting reorganization of the agricultural sector, creation of viable businesses, and environmental diversification. NWDA has also produced the Northern Organic Food Initiatives. Funding for food initiatives is coming from the agency, the England Rural Development Program (ERDP), and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Initiatives for future rural development:

Prior to FMD

- Market towns
- Single Regeneration Budget and business support, and launching a major strategy for the agri-food sector
- Research and special initiatives to specific areas

Specific to FMD

- A Business Recovery Plan (BRP) of £16 million, which includes £4 million from the European Structural Fund programmes.
- Separate action plans for each of the counties under the BRP
- Market towns initiative is planning a response to the foot and mouth crisis
- The development of a comprehensive regional policy

- Creating ideal conditions for the diversification of the rural economy
  - High value attraction and low volume business
  - Improve the condition of sites and premises
  - Better business and skills support systems

#### Delivery, Co-ordination and Capacity Resources

- Active involvement in FMD crisis, and development of programmes to address it
- NWDA sees itself as a facilitator, putting the responsibility for delivery on the local partnerships
- Integration of policy and action in rural areas
- Addressing the issue of capability of many delivery agencies in the area. Many of them are understaffed or inexperienced
- Opportunities for product development and marketing in rural areas

<http://www.nwda.co.uk>

### **One Northeast**

The urban areas of this region are some of the poorest in the nation. Thus rural development has not been of focus. The rural areas are populated with small towns that serve as community centres for the population that is reliant on agriculture. The food and drink sector contributes over £2 billion to the regional economy, and sustains over 25,000 jobs. The region has a wide range of quality food and drink manufacturers, retailers, and distributors from multinationals to innovative home-grown companies.

#### Issues:

- Land based businesses - development of the local food chain in a coherent way, focusing on market opportunities, local and traceable foods, renewable energy and stewardship of the countryside.
- Rural tourism - development of niche markets and improvement of the tourism infrastructure.
- A diversified rural economy - deliver business support, training and skills development to micro-businesses in the region.
- Developing new ways of working - establish a better connection between public and private bodies.

#### Strategies and initiatives:

- Foot and Mouth - the North East was hit by FMD. After the first outbreak the RDA was given £2.5million to support businesses and their recovery. Three grant schemes were introduced: Interest Relief, Investment Support and Marketing.
- Northern Rural Network (NRN) - this network was introduced in autumn 2000. It serves to bring private businesses and public spheres in contact with academic research to focus on rural issues and needs.

#### Future priorities and issues:

- The execution of the Rural Action Plan is a key priority for One Northeast.
- Rural Proofing is developing a system of methods that are congruent with regional strategies.
- Four sub-regional partnerships (Tees Valley, County Durham, Tyne and Wear, and Northumberland) will develop their own three-year action plan along side the larger, more general Rural Action Plan.
- Piloting Integrated Rural Development is an initiative to invent area-based strategies that will work with local people to develop the economic, social, and environmental aspects of the region.

<http://www.onenortheast.co.uk>

### **South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA)**

In general terms this region is prosperous and accessible, yet there are significant problems of disadvantage, with pockets of rural deprivation and great disparities in rural incomes and lifestyles, particularly to the east of the region. The agricultural and horticultural sector is relatively small, yet highly

diverse and vital to successful countryside management. As with other regions, competitive pressures and the ageing demographic profile of the region have affected farming in the southeast. The Foot and Mouth crisis undermined consumer confidence in local meat consumption. Within SEEDA's Regional Economic Strategy a key objective is boosting rural tourism through local produce. This includes the support of farmers' markets and monitoring on training and quality issues.

Issues:

- Agriculture and horticulture
- Rural development
- Land-use pressures - housing, business and transport infrastructure
- Local produce promotion
- Market towns

Strategies and initiatives:

- In July 2001, SEEDA held a seminar with the FSA to give consumers in the southeast an opportunity to have their say on food issues from farm to fork.
- SEEDA and partners on the Regional Rapid Response Team (RRRT) have developed a support package following the FMD crisis, delivered as follows:
  - SEEDA has set up an Economic Recovery Fund with £850,000 of its own funds. The package has three elements: tourism marketing campaign; support for individual businesses hit by FMD; support for the local produce sector.
  - SEEDA has set up a Business Recovery Fund of £1.5 million to give grants to individual businesses affected by FMD.
- The Livestock Revival Action Plan has been established to help revive the livestock sector.
- SEEDA is working with farmers groups, local food groups and other agencies to promote the development of local food products from more sustainable land management through the South East Food Group Partnership.
- The region has 6 Business Link outlets, which provide advice and information to rural businesses.
- Research into the extent of regional abattoir closures (results due October 2002)

Future priorities and issues:

- SEEDA intends to develop 30 new Enterprise Hubs across the region.
- SEEDA has only a limited budget to fund market towns initiatives, yet small sums of money have been a catalyst for support for community-based projects in market towns.
- Farm diversification will be an important focus of activity, as will the integration of agriculture.

<http://www.seeda.co.uk>

### **South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA)**

The South West is a predominantly a rural region which, for instance, hosts over one third of all English Farmers' Markets. Thus, rural development is a core element of SWRDA's activities. The region is extremely diverse, with some rural and urban areas suffering high levels of deprivation and low health levels. On a national scale, however, the region as a whole performs very well in these areas.

Issues:

- Tourism – lack of capacity restrains further tourism development
- Lack of IT infrastructure limits economic development of the region's rural areas
- Economic viability of farming – is precarious due to the high age profile of farmers and high cost of entry into sector
- Food and drink – particularly the development of the organic sector
- Market and coastal towns regeneration

Strategies and initiatives:

- FMD Business Recovery Fund is an £11 million package of funding by Business Links.
- The Organic Information Service, funded by DEFRA, is greatly involved with this region.

- Due to the large number of small scale, low intensity farms in the region, it is suited to organic management. An example of this is Riverford Organic Vegetables Ltd., which has set up an award-winning vegetable box scheme, which is distributed throughout the Home Counties. SWRDA is also working with the Soil Association on research projects into organics.
- SWRDA has adapted the Farm Business Advice Service (FBAS) model for businesses ancillary to farming, in order to give advice to those businesses as part of its FMD Recovery Plan.
- The Agrinet initiative promotes the use of IT in adapting and diversifying the agriculture sector.
- SWARD (South West Agricultural and Rural Development) deals with the adaptation of rural sectors, and has established various local groups, including a group of organic producers.
- Redundant Building Grants Scheme is helping to bring disused buildings back into productive use, providing farmers with a potential new source of income.
- Sectoral initiatives in Food and Drink and Tourism promote local purchasing and the use of local produce by hoteliers.
- SWRDA is working with Dorset Food and Land Trust to expand their Food Links Project and they are funding the South West Local Food Partnership for 2002 to set up a regional network and support for all food link projects in the region.

#### Future priorities and issues:

- Where pressure for growth is high, the aim is to be sensitive to potential negative effects of growth.
- Sustainability is a high priority for SWRDA; involvement of local Agenda 21 groups will be sought.
- Support and assistance for rural businesses and for tourism development is important
- There are possible opportunities for expansion of initiatives such as Agrinet to encourage agricultural adaptation and diversification
- SWRDA is working with relevant bodies to achieve appropriate and favourable outcomes with structural funds and CAP reform.

<http://www.southwestrda.org.uk>

### **Yorkshire Forward**

Yorkshire and Humber has a variety of assets and potential, with some 21% of the land designated as National Park (the highest percentage of any region). Yet, other areas have been degraded as a result of intensive farming and industry. Poor land quality, especially in the north, has led many farms to diversify into tourism. The decline of pig farm incomes has greatly affected the economy in rural areas.

#### Issues:

- Tourism - Yorkshire is a top tourist market in the UK, but has seen a huge drop as a result of FMD.
- FMD - a large number of farmers have had livestock culled.
- Structural funds - South Yorkshire has Objective 1 status and suffers from economic decline due to industrial restructuring.
- Market towns - Yorkshire and Humber was selected to pilot the market towns initiative.

#### Strategies and initiatives:

- The Market Towns Initiative promotes the development of market towns and currently involves 18 market towns in the region.
- The Rural Development Programme aims to develop environmental, social and economic themes in an integrated manner.
- The Rural Renaissance agenda helps to align Yorkshire Forward's activities to the regional economic strategy and raises the profile of rural activities.
- Rural Priority Areas are to go. Yorkshire Forward expects funding allocated to rural development activities to increase as a result of the move to single pot funding.
- Rural Recovery Action Plan has been developed as a result of FMD
- The Rural Economic Task Force is chaired by Yorkshire Forward and has helped produce the Rural Recovery Action Plan.

Future priorities and issues:

- Inter-RDA working: The three most northern RDAs have worked together on some issues, including the market towns initiative and organics. There is scope for more synergy between different RDAs.
- Market towns health checks: Yorkshire Forward would like every market town to go through a health-check.
- The research on organics and local food networks in partnership with Northwest RDA and One Northeast has been completed. It is unavailable to the public. The agency had identified that the food and drink sector is one of the five sectors that is going to be developed fully in the next five years.

<http://www.yorkshire-forward.com>

## Recommendations

The original RDA legislation is weak in terms of obliging the agencies to consider sustainability criteria when developing strategies and plans. The inclusion of '*where it is relevant to its area to do so*' in the RDA Act does not place any obligation on the RDAs to contribute to sustainable development. We would argue that all the RDAs need to be at the forefront of the *sustainable* development of their economies and lead by example.

Although a number of the RDAs are contributing to the development of sustainable food economies in their areas including local food events, directories, farmers' markets, organic production, and diversification, many of the regions have been afflicted by the Foot and Mouth Disease crisis. Predictably measures have been in response to the crisis and focused on the short-term. The recovery from the outbreak ironically presents an opportunity to develop a more sustainable food economy and culture at a regional level. The RDAs need to seize this opportunity.

There are concerns that some of the RDAs have been particularly uncommunicative and unhelpful towards organisations attempting to develop sustainable food economies in their regions. There are also concerns that there has been more emphasis placed on regional *locality* foods for export rather than *local* foods for meeting the needs of communities in the regions. These issues need to be addressed by the RDAs if they are to gain the confidence of agencies and business groups involved in sustainable food and farming in their areas.

Specific measures:

- The RDAs should produce clear and comprehensive regional food economy strategies that encompass environmental, social, health, and economic goals.
- RDAs should play a leading role in developing sustainable regional food systems through grant allocation, technical support, and marketing advice. All RDAs should include local food economy targets in their strategies and support and development of local food networks and partnerships, farm shops, farmers' markets, and producer cooperatives.
- RDAs should attract investment into the *sustainable* regional food economies especially into the regional food infrastructure, including processing and manufacturing industries and enterprises such as abattoirs and on-farm facilities. They should not attempt to attract investment from large, multi-national food companies where the returns to the regional economy and community are minimal or negative.
- RDAs should develop sustainable food purchasing policies for their in-house and outside catering contractors. These should include applying the proximity principle, using organic and fair-trade products, and using products which are associated with better animal welfare standards where possible.

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# Relevant Publications

## Advantage West Midlands

- *Creating Advantage - The West Midlands Economic Strategy*, Advantage West Midlands, 1999

## EEDA:

- *'East of England 2010: Prosperity and Opportunity for All'* is a revised economic strategy for the region. Chapter 7 deals specifically with market towns, EEDA
- *Moving Forward - A Strategy for the East of England*, EEDA, 1999
- *The Business Plan 2000-2001 – moving EEDA forward*, EEDA, 2000
- The *FMD Recovery Plan* identifies the allocation of £400,000 to develop Business Recovery Plans, EEDA
- *Action Plan for Farming* includes the Redundant Building Grant and the Farm Business Advisory Service, EEDA

## EMDA:

- The *Rural Action Plan*, EMDA outlines eight issues. For each issue the current situation is assessed, what is already being done and what needs to be done is identified, and the action program is developed.
- *East Midlands prosperity through East Midlands people*, EMDA, 1999
- The *Pathfinders Prosperity Report—Food Chain Group* gathers the reports of 11 'Pathfinder' sector groups. It also included a report from the Food Chain Group that identified food companies that supplied the food chain.

## LDA:

- *Success through diversity*; London's Economic Development Strategy, London Development Agency, 2001
- *Towards the London Plan*, Greater London Authority, 2001

## NWDA:

- *England's North West – a strategy towards 2020*, NWDA
- The EDRP puts forth the goal for the NWDA "to create a thriving and diverse rural economy which improves the living standards of the people, safeguards and enhances the countryside and its environment, and better integrates the rural and urban communities of the North West."
- *Agri Food Sector - Strategy for the North West*, RMCM Enterprises, April 2001
- The *Regional Rural Recovery Plan* outlines nine points to restructure the agriculture system of the northwest.

## One Northeast:

- *Unlocking Our Potential - Regional Economic Strategy for the North East*
- *England Rural Development Programme*, as stated by the EDRP, 'to promote and enhance the natural and cultural assets of the rural North East; to improve the quality of life for those living and working in local communities and encourage the growth of the economy with the principles of sustainable development.'
- *Rural Action Plan*:

## SEEDA

- *Building a World Class Region, An Economic Strategy for the South East of England*, SEEDA, 1999

## SWRDA

- *Regional Strategy for the South West of England 2000-2010*, SWEDA, 1999

## Yorkshire Forward

- *Regional Economic Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber 2000-2010*, Yorkshire Forward, 1999

For more publications on RDAs please see;

The RDA Act; <http://www.hmsso.gov.uk/acts/acts1998/19980045.htm>

List of reports (University of Nottingham) <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sbe/planbiblios/bibs/strategic/1.1.html>

# REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES: ENGLAND

