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This report looks at the following areas:

- Recent launch activity around functional benefits and opportunities for 2022.
- Healthy eating intentions and sources of advice used on healthy eating.
- Benefits people would most want from their diet.
- Food/drink people would be most likely to consume if looking for functional benefits.
- · Consumer behaviours and attitudes related to healthy eating.

Many consumers are looking beyond modern science and putting their faith in the medicinal properties of ingredients discovered and used by our ancestors. Half of under-35s (49%) would be interested in food/drink with healthy ingredients based on 'ancient wisdom'. Ancient wisdom offers a route for brands to benefit from positive associations outside explicit health claims.

The COVID-19 outbreak has increased many people's emphasis on healthy diets. However, the income squeeze will hamper these, due to both perceptions that it is harder to eat healthily on a budget and heightened demand for comfort foods. This will also encourage more scratch cooking, and increase demand for budget-friendly healthy meal ideas.

Media coverage on research findings suggesting harmful impacts of ultra-processed foods on health has added to widespread wariness over these. Six in 10 adults (61%) say ultra-processed foods are bad for health. As well as spelling more bad news for unhealthy processed food categories, this will likely see the level of processing of foods with a strong nutrient profile come under more scrutiny.

Underpinned by the rise in eco-consciousness, the prevailing 'holistic health' ethos is increasingly extending to that of the planet. Two thirds of adults who try to eat healthily agree that it is important to them that their diet is both healthy and good for the planet. Therefore, human and planetary health should not be



"Propelled by the pandemic-driven rise in both eco- and health- consciousness, the prevailing 'holistic health' ethos is increasingly extending to that of the planet, and a very powerful proposition will be created through bringing together benefits around both."

– Emma Clifford, Associate Director

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treated in silos by food and drink companies, as a very powerful proposition will be created through bringing together benefits around both.

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