

NUTRITION, AGRICULTURE AND COVID-19 NEXUS: *FOOD SYSTEMS FOR HEALTHIER DIETS*

FREE Webinar

"How to transition to nutrition-sensitive and sustainable food systems"



By

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE



- Background

- Food systems summit

- Action tracks

- What is the impact of covid-19 on the food systems transformation agenda?

- Summary

- Bibliography

BACKGROUND

- In 2021 the UN (SG António Guterres) will convene a **Food Systems Summit @People's summit @Solutions summit** as
 - Part of the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs by 2030
 - **Multisectoral transformation** towards healthier, sustainable and equitable food systems “leaving No person or place behind”
 - Guided by five Action Tracks



Dr. Agnes Kalibata is the Special Envoy for the Summit



“
The Summit will only be effective at setting out the pathway to 2030 if we successfully leverage the collective knowledge and experience of the broadest possible cross-section of the population.

UN Special Envoy Dr. Agnes Kalibata

WHAT IS A FOOD SYSTEM?

A paper from the Scientific Group of the UN Food Systems Summit

March 5, 2021

FOOD SYSTEMS

DEFINITION, CONCEPT AND APPLICATION
FOR THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

by

Joachim von Braun*, Kaosar Afsana**, Louise O. Fresco**,
Mohamed Hassan**, Maximo Torero***

(The authors are Chair* and Vice-Chairs**, and an Ex-Officio member*** of the Scientific Group)

- A **Food System** comprises of various activities and actors in food value chains involved in transforming inputs into outcomes. A sustainable food system should ensure food and nutrition security, environmental quality and well-being (World Food System Center, 2013)

2. A GENERAL FOOD SYSTEMS CONCEPT

Theory and Criteria

A practical definition of food systems should meet two essential criteria:

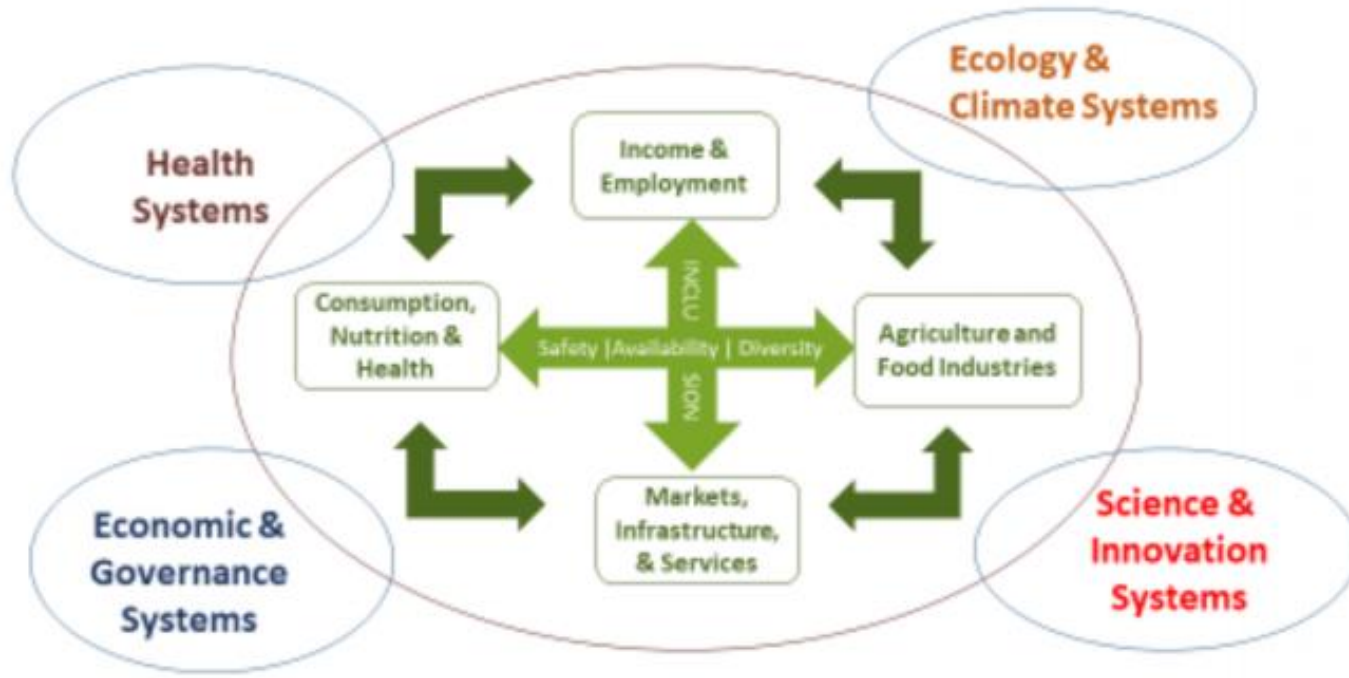
1. it should be suitable for the purpose at hand, which is to support the global and national collective efforts to bring about positive change in food systems, by accelerating progress on meeting the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs; and
2. it should be sufficiently precise to define the domains for policy and programmatic priorities, and it should be sufficiently general to not exclude any aspects of the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainability.



FOOD SYSTEM ELEMENTS

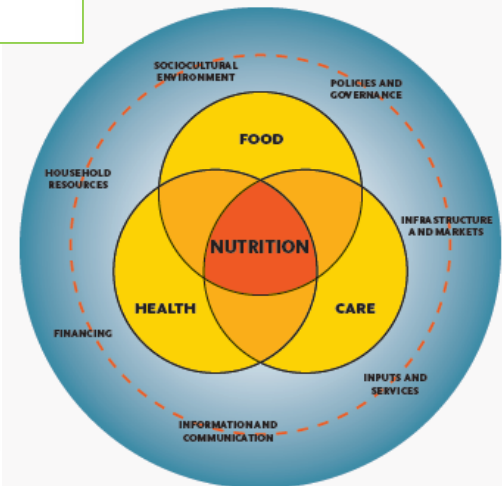
Figure 1: The food system in the context of other systems (positive systems concept)

Source: Adapted from InterAcademy Partnership (2018) and von Braun (2017).



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- A **food system** includes, is shaped by, and interacts with environmental, social, political and economic conditions and realities which determine how it can function



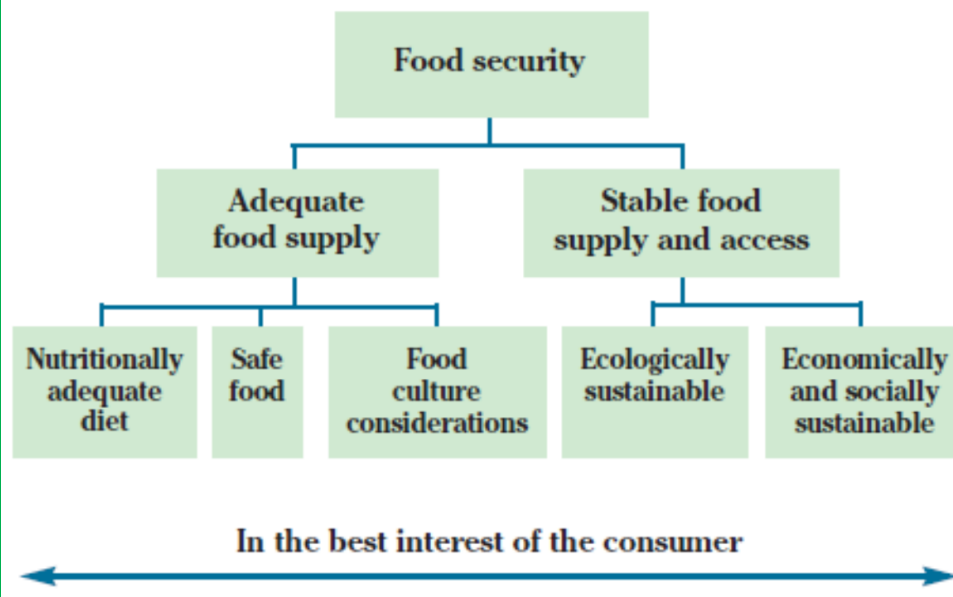
GLOBAL REALITIES

- Our planet – both humans and the natural world –faced four global crises:
 1. Climate change,
 2. Biodiversity loss,
 3. Environmental degradation, &
 4. **Dual burden of malnutrition** – co existence of *hunger, nutrient deficiencies, and over-nutrition (obesity)*
 5. **Then COVID-19 pandemic happened**
- Food systems are both a victim and culprit:
 - “ **As Victim**” –*climate change, is driving down productivity of agricultural systems around the world. **The COVID-19 dimension?***
 - “**As a culprit**” - *agriculture and related land uses accounting for 23% percent of human greenhouse gas emissions and a major driver of habitat and biodiversity loss.*

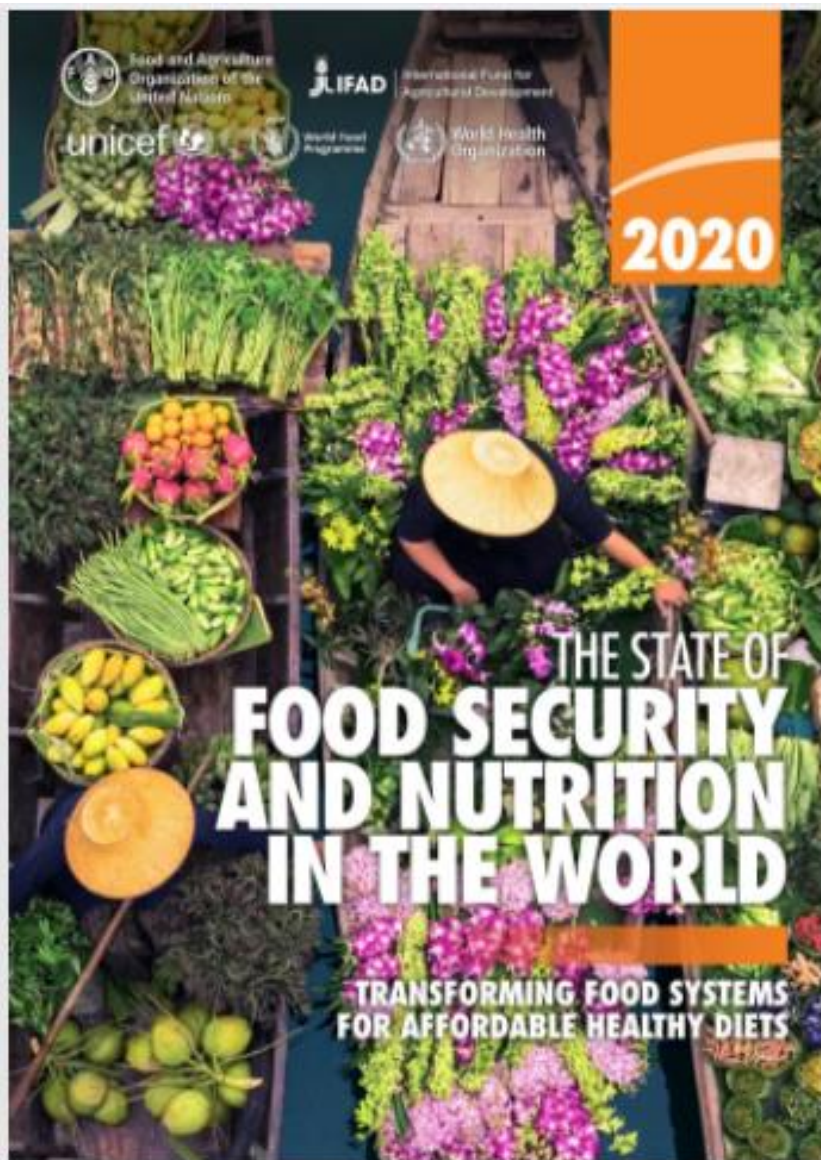
FOOD SECURITY & FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

- A food systems has many domains including:
 - growing, producing, storing, transporting, processing, marketing, retailing, and preparing food
- **Food system transformation** to support impacts on hunger, malnutrition, health, biodiversity, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, nature, livelihoods and resilience

FIGURE 1 — FOOD SECURITY: A COMMON GOAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION



“ How can we come up with the big moon-shots for **food system transformation**? I prefer to talk about **pathways** to food system transformation, pathways that will be different for each member state because there is **no one size fits all**. ”



CONTENTS

FOREWORD	vii	ANNEXES	163
METHODOLOGY	xi	ANNEX 1A	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xii	Statistical tables to Part 1	164
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	xiv	ANNEX 1B	
KEY MESSAGES	xvi	Methodological notes for the food security and nutrition indicators	190
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	xvii	ANNEX 2	
		Methodologies Part 1	202
PART 1		ANNEX 3	
FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION		Description, data and methodology of Section 2.1	214
AROUND THE WORLD IN 2020	1	ANNEX 4	
1.1 Progress towards hunger and food insecurity targets	3	National food-based dietary guidelines (FBOGs) used to compare the cost of a healthy diet	231
1.2 Progress towards global nutrition targets	26	ANNEX 5	
1.3 The critical link between food security and nutrition outcomes: food consumption and diet quality	40	Additional tables and figures to Section 2.1	236
1.4 Conclusions	60	ANNEX 6	
		Definition of country groups	241
PART 2		ANNEX 7	
TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS TO DELIVER AFFORDABLE HEALTHY DIETS FOR ALL	63	Description, data and methodology of Section 2.2	242
2.1 The cost and affordability of healthy diets around the world	65	ANNEX 8	
2.2 The hidden health and environmental costs of what we eat	93	Health and climate-change costs related to dietary risks	248
2.3 What is driving the cost of nutritious foods?	115	ANNEX 9	
2.4 Policies to reduce the cost of nutritious foods and ensure affordability of healthy diets	138	Glossary	253
		NOTES	258

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE TRANSFORMATION AGENDA?

2021

GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES

JOINT ANALYSIS FOR BETTER DECISIONS

IN BRIEF

The magnitude and severity of food crises worsened in 2020 as protracted conflict, the economic fallout of COVID-19 and weather extremes exacerbated pre-existing fragilities. Forecasts point to a grim outlook for 2021, with the threat of Famine persisting in some of the world's worst food crises.

Contents

- “By the end of 2020, the global goal of achieving ‘zero hunger’ by 2030 seemed increasingly out of reach.
- This follows another annual rise in the numbers of acutely food-insecure people in need of urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance.”

FOREWORD	2	Eswatini	135
GRFC 2021 IN BRIEF	3	Ethiopia	140
Acknowledgements	5	Guatemala	145
How to use this report	6	Haiti	150
Acronyms	7	Honduras	155
1. GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF FOOD CRISES	9	Kenya	160
Introduction	10	Lesotho	166
The GRFC 2021 methodology at a glance	11	Madagascar	171
Global food crises overview, 2020	14	Malawi	177
Major drivers of global food crises in 2020	22	Mali	182
Food crises forecast for 2021	25	Mozambique	187
Table of acute food insecurity estimates, 2019-2021	29	Niger	192
2. REGIONAL OVERVIEWS OF FOOD CRISES	33	Nigeria (15 states and Federal Capital Territory)	197
Central and Southern Africa	34	Pakistan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)	203
East Africa	45	Palestine	208
West Africa and the Sahel (incorporating Cameroon and Libya)	56	Sierra Leone	213
Central America and Haiti	66	Somalia	218
Eurasia – Eastern Europe, Middle East and South Asia	77	South Sudan	224
3. COUNTRY-LEVEL OVERVIEWS OF MAJOR FOOD CRISES	88	Sudan	231
Alghanistan	90	Syrian Arab Republic	236
Angola	95	Uganda	241
Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar)	99	United Republic of Tanzania	247
Burkina Faso	104	Yemen	252
Burundi	110	Zambia	258
Cameroon	115	Zimbabwe	263
Central African Republic	120	TECHNICAL NOTES	268
Chad	125	BIBLIOGRAPHY	287
Democratic Republic of the Congo	130		

2021

GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES

JOINT ANALYSIS FOR BETTER DECISIONS

IN BRIEF

Figure 4
Numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent by key driver in 2020



- The 2021 GRFC highlights the remarkably high severity and numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above)
- This is driven by persistent conflict, pre-existing and COVID-19-related economic shocks, and weather extremes.

Global Network against Food Crises



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Global Nutrition Report Retweeted



Global Network Against Food Crises @fightfoodcrises · May 5

Conflict, climate change and COVID-19 impacts on rising acute food insecurity. The poorest continue bearing the burden of global challenges.

How can we transform agri-food systems so that no one is left behind? Joint Statement to #Fightfoodcrises bit.ly/3el0caB

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION AGENDA?



AGRA - Growing Africa's Agriculture @AGRAAlliance · May 5



Farmers are facing reduced availability and/or higher prices of inputs, services and labour, which compounds the challenges they were facing even before the pandemic.

Learn more about the impact Covid-19 is having on food systems resilience here bit.ly/3tbYxZ1.



ACTION TRACKS IN THE FOOD SYSTEMS



Action Track 1

Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all



Action Track 2

Shift to sustainable consumption patterns



Action Track 3

Boost nature-positive production



Action Track 4

Advance equitable livelihoods



Action Track 5

Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

1. Enabling people to be well nourished and healthy

2. Promoting and creating demand for healthy and sustainable diets, reducing waste

3. Acting on climate change, reducing emissions and regenerating and protecting ecosystems and reducing food loss and energy usage, without undermining health or nutritious diets

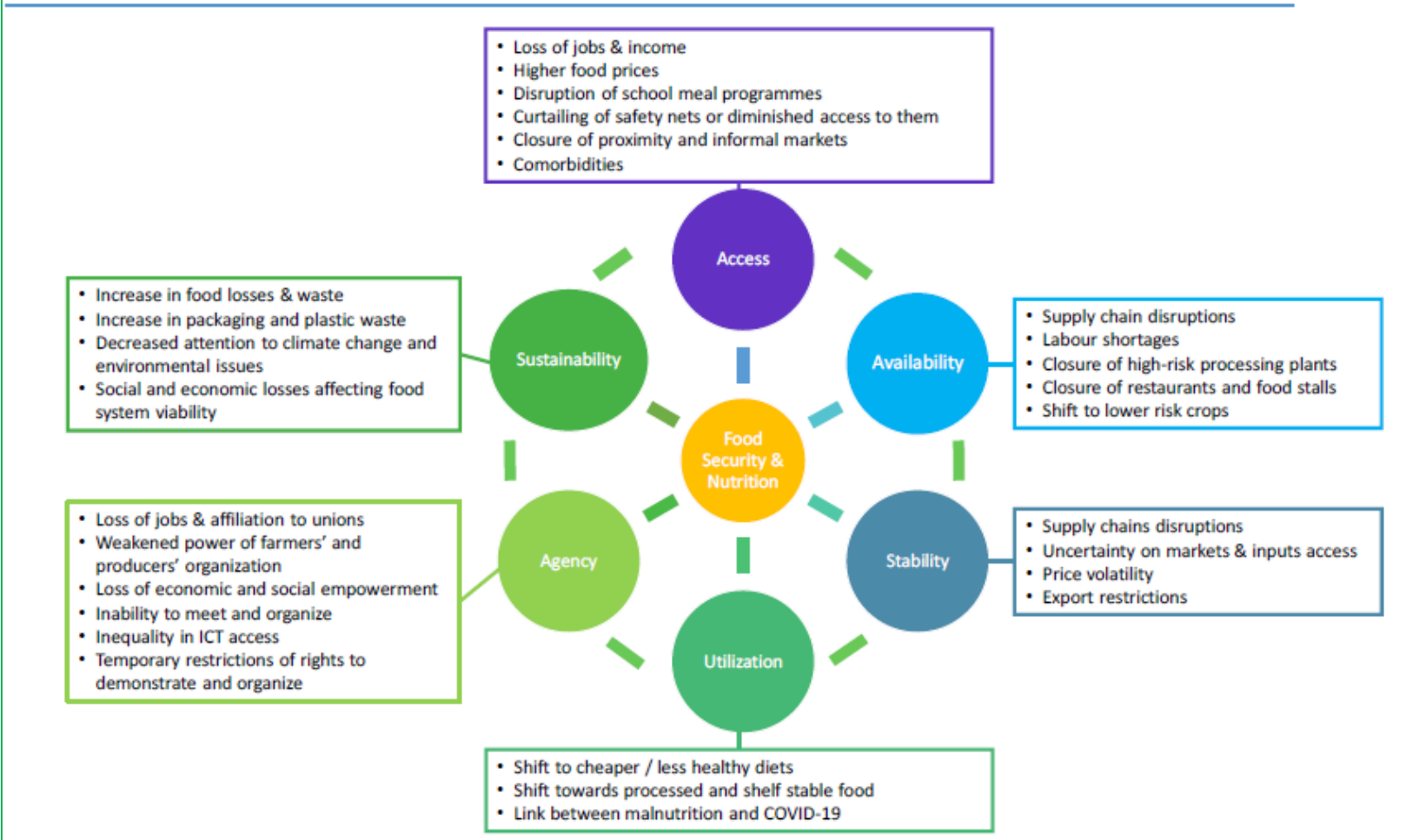
4. Raising incomes, distributing risk, expanding inclusion, creating jobs

5. Ensuring the continued functionality of healthy and sustainable food systems

○ *These are not standalone but interrelated food system components*

COVID-19 AND FOOD ACCESS

FIGURE 3 | The impact of COVID-19 food system dynamics on the six dimensions of food security



○ More than any other dimension of food security, **food access** has arguably been the most affected by the COVID-19 crisis

AGRA-COVID-19 AND FOOD SYSTEMS 1



BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation



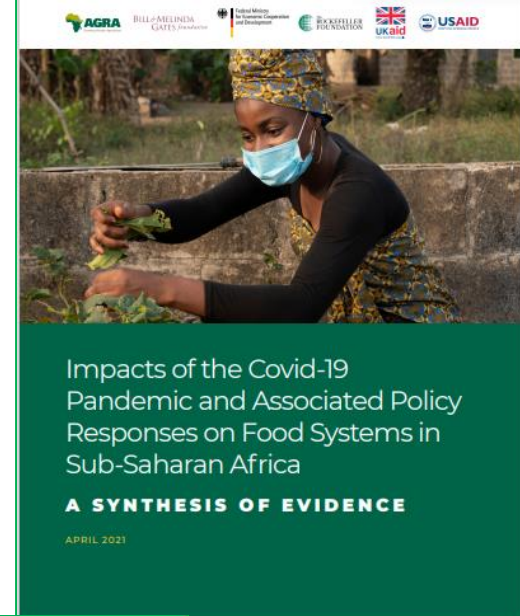
POLICY BRIEF

Impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic and Associated Policy Responses on Food Systems in sub-Saharan Africa

A SYNTHESIS OF EVIDENCE

APRIL 2021

Authors: Andrew Agyei-Holmes, Ayala Wineman, John Olwande, Emmanuel Mwakiwa, Orcidia T. Chiziane Vilanculos, Amy Faye, Iredele Ogunbayo, Tinashe Kapuya, and Thomas S. Jayne



Impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic and Associated Policy Responses on Food Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa

A SYNTHESIS OF EVIDENCE

APRIL 2021

Figure 1: Covid-19 impact pathways on food systems in SSA

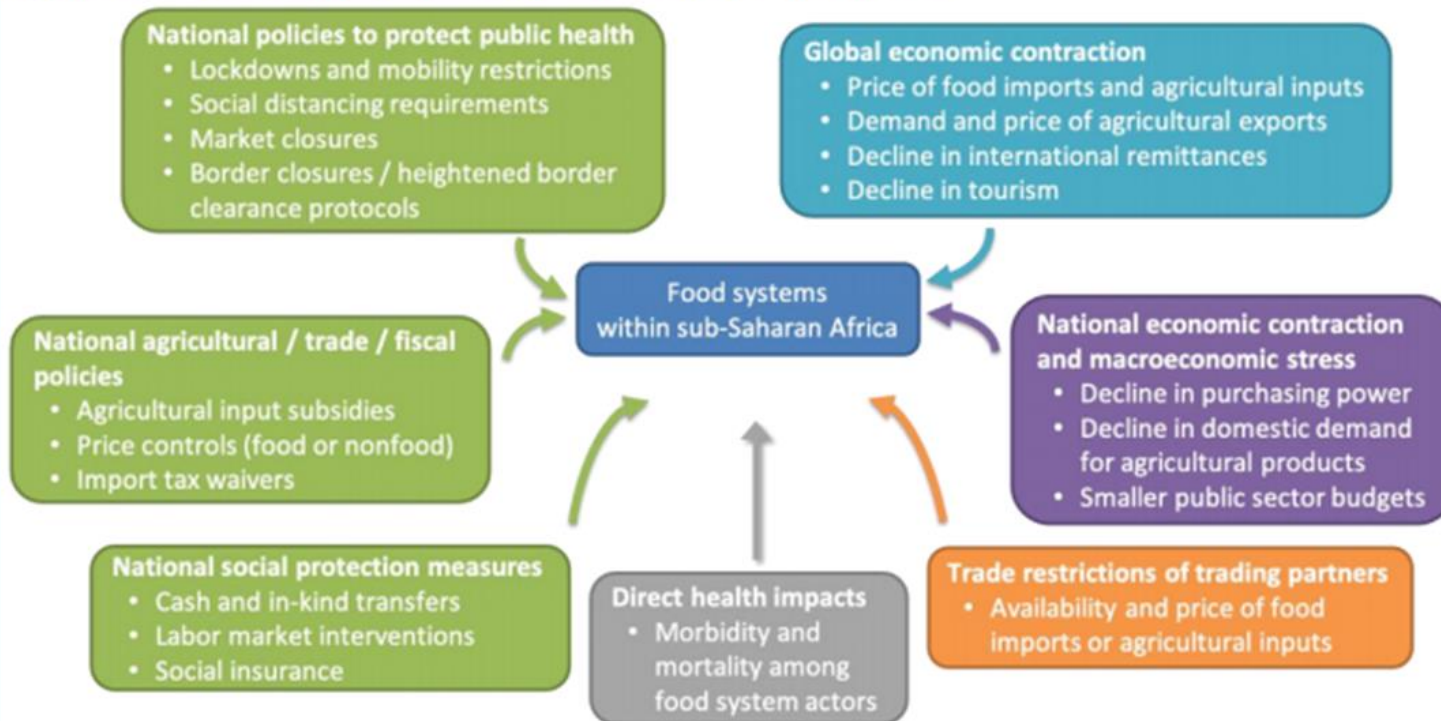


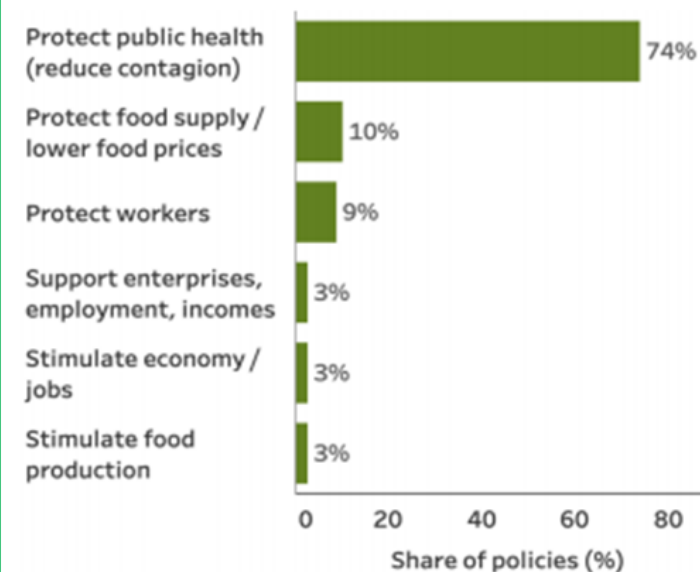
Table 1: Evidence of impacts of Covid-19 and associated policy responses on food systems in SSA

Domestic Food Value Chains	
<p>Agricultural inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some evidence of decline in supply, increase in prices, and reduction in domestic purchasing power among potential buyers. <p>Producers and agricultural production</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some evidence of disruption to agricultural production, especially where farmers were limited by mobility restrictions. Mixed evidence regarding labour availability. Some evidence of fewer traders/buyers and lower farmgate prices. Volatility in agricultural prices due to mobility restrictions, producing both winners and losers. 	<p>Trade, transport, processing, and storage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of decline in transportation options and increase in transport costs due to mobility restrictions. Roadblocks extend the time spent in transport, which is especially detrimental to perishable products. Evidence of difficulties in moving food between farm, processor, port, and market, affecting food supply and retail prices. <p>Wholesalers and retailers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of difficulties sourcing food due to high prices or few suppliers. Closures of, or restrictions on, informal markets lead to massive income disruptions for retailers and food vendors. Decline in business due to social distancing requirements or restrictions on non-economic activity that reduced foot traffic.
Regional (intra-African) and international food trade	
<p>Trade flows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of declines (and/or volatility) in regional trade due to heightened border clearance protocols and road congestion at border crossings. <p>Impacts on traders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of livelihoods for informal cross-border traders where such trade was prohibited. 	<p>Prices of imports and exports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some evidence of price increases for imported food items. Mixed evidence regarding price effects for exports traded internationally, with some reports of price declines and other evidence of price stability.
Food and nutrition security	
<p>Availability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly stable availability of staple foods Reduced availability of specific items, particularly imported foods, perishable foods, and animal-sourced foods. <p>Dietary quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence that households have shifted from more nutritious and expensive foods, such as vegetables and dairy products, toward cheaper foods. 	<p>Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced economic access due to reduced income and increased food retail prices. Reduced physical access due to bans or restrictions on informal markets or street vending. Reduced social access due to the covariate nature of the Covid-19 shock, which disrupted informal safety nets. Reduced frequency and quantity of consumption.

AGRA-COVID-19 AND FOOD SYSTEMS

2

Figure 2: Distribution of policy intentions among responses to Covid-19, as discussed in the literature





Contents

FOREWORD	3
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	5
CHAPTER 1 Beyond the Pandemic: Transforming Food Systems after COVID-19	6
Johan Swinnen, John McDermott, and Sivan Yosef	
Financing the Transformation to Healthy, Sustainable, and Equitable Food Systems	20
Eugenio Díaz-Bonilla, Johan Swinnen, and Rob Vos	
CHAPTER 2 Resilience: From Policy Responses to Resilient Policy Systems	24
John McDermott, Danielle Resnick, and Nichola Naylor	
CHAPTER 3 Nutrition: Transforming Food Systems to Achieve Healthy Diets for All	36
Marie Ruel and Inge D. Brouwer	
CHAPTER 4 Natural Resources and Environment: Governance for Nature-Positive Food Systems	44
Ruth Meinzen-Dick, Claudia Ringler, Wei Zhang, and Channing Arndt	
CHAPTER 5 Toward Inclusive Food Systems: Pandemics, Vulnerable Groups, and the Role of Social Protection	54
Neha Kumar, Agnes Quisumbing, Aulo Gelli, Ugo Gentilini, and Sara Shapleigh	
CHAPTER 6 Food Supply Chains: Business Resilience, Innovation, and Adaptation	64
Thomas Reardon and Rob Vos	

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS	74
Africa	76
Samuel Benin, Kwaw Andam, and John Ulimwengu	
Middle East and North Africa	81
Kibrom Abay, Clemens Breisinger, Dalia Elsabbagh, Hosam Ibrahim, Ahmed Kamaly, and Mariam Raouf	
Central Asia	86
Kamiljon Akramov, Roman Romashkin, and Jarilkasin Ilyasov	
South Asia	91
Shahidur Rashid, Akhter Ahmed, and Abdul Wajid Rana	
East and Southeast Asia	97
Kevin Chen and Yue Zhan	
Latin America and the Caribbean	102
Eugenio Díaz-Bonilla and Valeria Piñeiro	

“It is imperative that food systems start contributing not only to providing enough calories to feed the world, but also to supporting achievement of high-quality diets that promote optimal health and nutrition, all while having a small environmental footprint and supporting livelihoods.”

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION AGENDA?

- COVID-19 has affected national & global food systems thus derailing progress towards SDGs 2030 agenda
- Lessons and momentum from the world's response to the COVID-19 pandemic can be leveraged to stir food system transformation
- The IFPRI 2021 Global Food Policy Report explores the impacts of the pandemic and government policy responses to date, particularly for the poor and disadvantaged,
 - *Implications on food system transformation to be healthy, resilient, efficient, sustainable, and inclusive*
- IFPRI's & partners discussed the report's findings and its implications for Africa's food systems transformation efforts in the context of COVID-19
- In 2021 a high-level governmental and ministerial panel will discuss the themes developed in the report
 - What are the initiatives of national and regional partners in the context of transforming food systems in the post-COVID-19 era?



IFPRI @IFPRI · 1h

★ #HappeningNow @IFPRI Africa Regional Discussion of the #GFPR2021: Transforming #FoodSystems After #COVID19 ★

Live Event (French): bit.ly/3vSdH7I
Live Event page (English): bit.ly/33rQDjH

@IFPRI_WCAO @Jo_Swinnen @UNFSS1 @jemimah_njuki

SAVE THE DATE

GLOBAL FOOD POLICY REPORT
2021

TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS AFTER COVID-19

AFRICA VIRTUAL LAUNCH EVENT
MAY 10, 2021 | 13:30 - 15:00 GMT
[#GFPR2021](https://twitter.com/IFPRI) [#ifpriLIVE](https://twitter.com/IFPRI)

1

CHAPTER 1

Beyond the Pandemic

Transforming Food Systems after COVID-19

JOHAN SWINNEN, JOHN McDERMOTT, AND SIVAN YOSEF

Johan Swinnen is director general of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington, DC. **John McDermott** is director of the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health, IFPRI, Washington, DC. **Sivan Yosef** is a senior program manager in the Director General's Office, IFPRI, Washington, DC.

KEY MESSAGES

- Before the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, our food systems already faced serious challenges in achieving equitable access to healthy, nutritious food for all; environmental sustainability; and resilience to shocks. COVID-19 has put the world further behind in reaching the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- COVID-19 caused widespread loss of livelihoods and incomes, threatening the food security, health, and nutrition of poor and marginalized people around the world. Countries implemented a variety of measures to mitigate these impacts, including expanded social protection; but some impacts will be long-lasting.
- Food system transformation must be pursued to regain this lost ground and achieve the SDGs by 2030.
- Yet the pandemic and associated policy responses exposed weaknesses and inequalities within food systems, including among different world regions, rural and urban communities, rich and poor populations, and disadvantaged groups such as women.

- Some food systems and sectors were more resilient than others, depending on their structure, governance, and roles of the public and private sector.
- 2020 offered lessons, innovations, and opportunities that can help make food systems more resilient to future shocks and more inclusive, efficient, sustainable, and healthy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

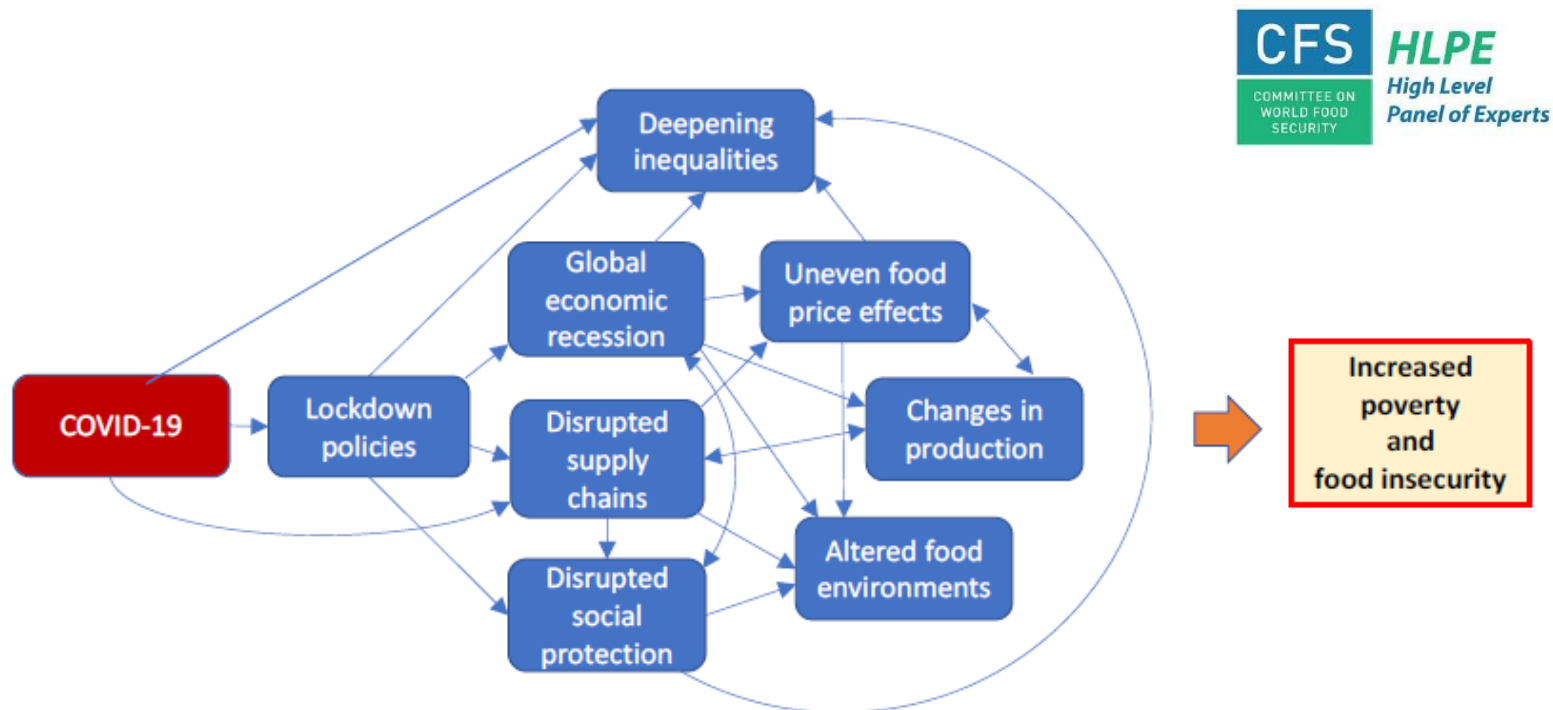
- Seize the opportunities opened by the pandemic – including growing momentum and lessons learned – to transform food systems to be resilient, healthy, efficient, sustainable, and inclusive.
- Use global events planned for 2021 – including UNFSS, COP26, and the Nutrition for Growth Summit – to put food system transformation prominently on the development agenda.
- Increase resilience for all food system actors through actions that limit the frequency and severity of shocks,

FIGURE 1 Food system transformation goals



Source: Based on S. Fan et al., "Food Systems for Human and Planetary Health: Economic Perspectives and Challenges," *Food System Economics* (forthcoming).

FIGURE 1 | The dynamics of COVID-19 that threaten food security and nutrition



- overlapping and reinforcing dynamics have emerged that are affecting food systems and food security and nutrition:
 - disruptions to food supply chains; loss of income and livelihoods; a widening of inequality; disruptions to social protection programmes; altered food environments; and uneven food prices

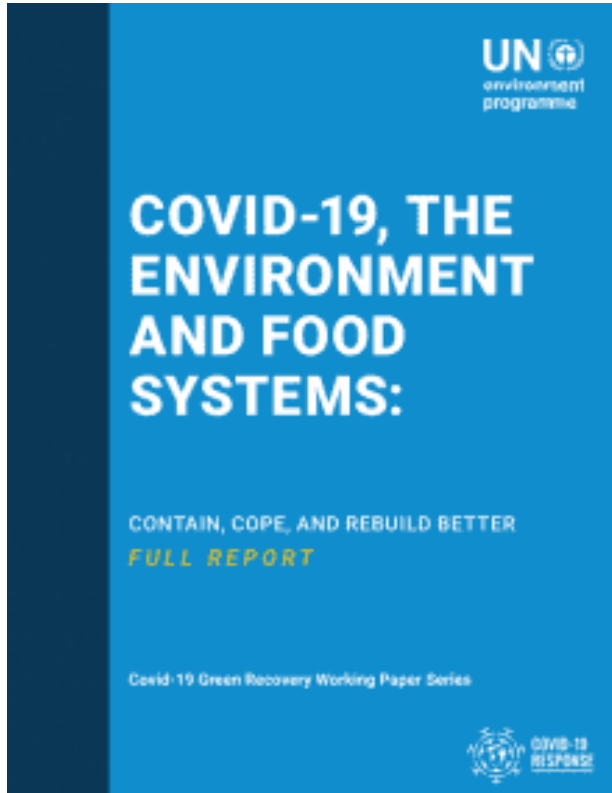
Climate change and COVID-19: reinforcing Indigenous food systems

Carol Zavaleta-Cortijo • James D Ford • Ingrid Arotoma-Rojas • Shuaib Lwasa • Guillermo Lancha-Rucoba • Patricia J García • et al. [Show all authors](#) • [Show footnotes](#)

Open Access • Published: August 07, 2020 • DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196\(20\)30173-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(20)30173-X)



- Indigenous populations are at high risk from COVID-19
 - because of factors such discrimination, social exclusion, land dispossession, and a high prevalence of multiple forms of malnutrition.
- Climate change is compounding many of these causes of health inequities
 - undermining coping mechanisms that are traditionally used to manage extreme events such as pandemics, and disrupting food systems and local diets.
- Addressing underlying structural inequities and strengthening Indigenous knowledge systems offer opportunities for building resilience
 - to compound socioecological shocks, including climate effects and pandemics like COVID-19.



- This paper analyzes impacts from COVID-19 at the nexus of food systems and the environment.
- Recommendations for governments and partners to promote the resilience and sustainability of food systems through policies and investments that:
 1. Account for environmental thresholds and trade-offs;
 2. Promote food security and healthy diets;
 3. Enhance and protect rural livelihoods;
 4. Address the inequalities and injustices that have emerged as the world grapples with COVID-19 pandemic

○ *The **COVID-19** pandemic is increasing **poverty** and threatening **food security***

MULTI-SECTORAL NATURE OF MALNUTRITION

*"Research suggests that the **nutritional context is more complex than previously thought** and over- and undernutrition in individuals and populations present, most prominently, the emergence of the **“dual burden”** of not a particular challenge **The ability to address this dual burden requires a systems approach** that is inclusive of all agencies and stakeholders throughout the chain including effective and **integrated interactions among health, agricultural, and economic systems.**"*

>>>>(p. 101, Vélez et al. 2014)

CONCLUSIONS

- The COVID-19 pandemic is increasing poverty and threatening food security
- The pandemic has highlighted the importance of food security in times of shocks and crises
 - COVID-19 has exposed interconnected weaknesses of food, social and economic systems
 - **Lockdowns** disrupt food production and food-related logistics and services, posing a challenge for the ability of the system to provide sufficient, affordable, and nutritious food for everyone
 - The consequences affect the poorest and most vulnerable members in communities
- Building food systems that are resilient to shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic requires collective action along the entire agri-food chain, including policymakers “**Multi-sectoral Systems Approach**”

CONCLUSION



“

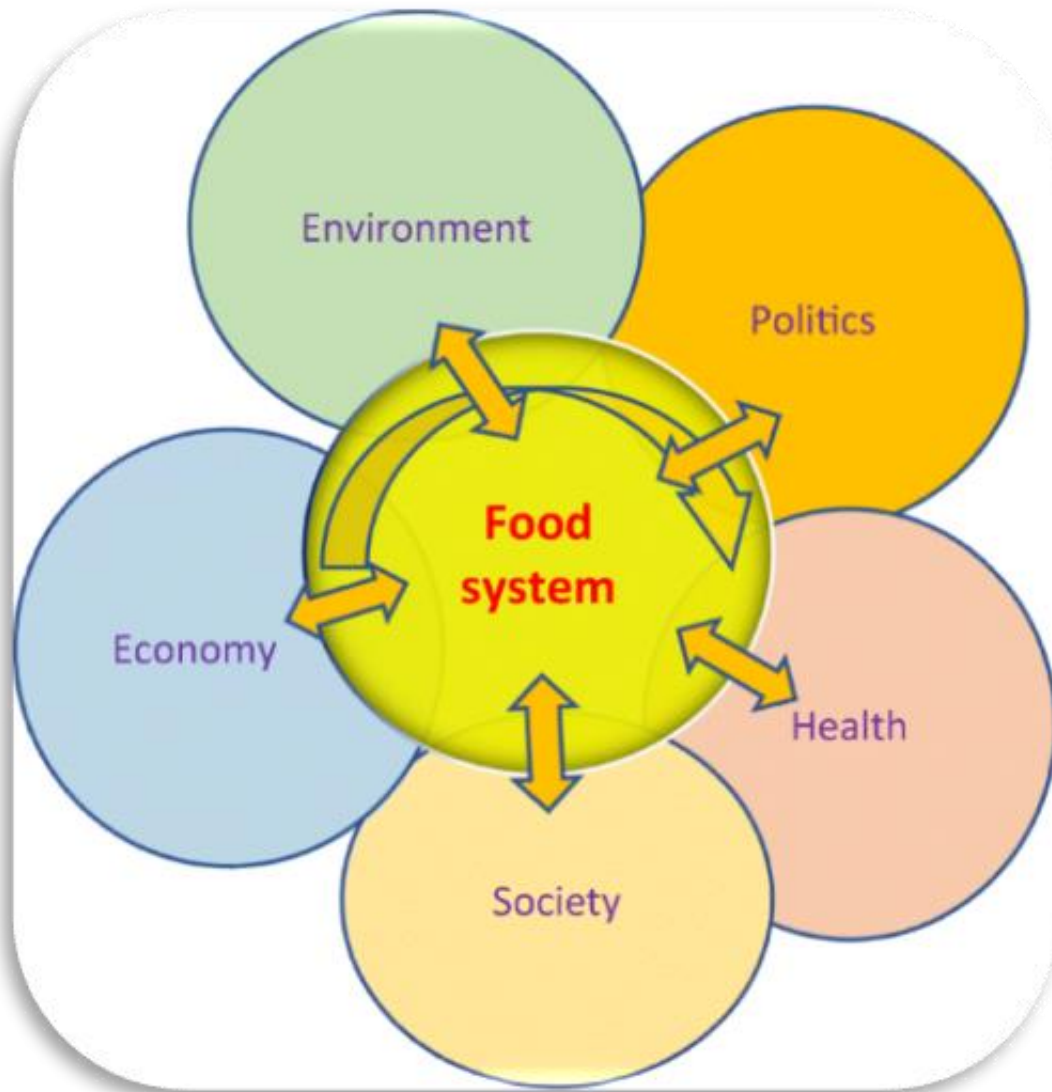
It is unacceptable that hunger is on the rise at a time when the world wastes more than 1 billion tonnes of food every year. It is time to change how we produce and consume, including to reduce greenhouse emissions. Transforming food systems is crucial for delivering all the Sustainable Development Goals. As a human family, a world free of hunger is our imperative.

– Secretary-General António Guterres

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Research and evidence generation is central to the transformation of food systems and the elimination of malnutrition in our lifetime

THANK YOU!!



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FOR GROWTH**
SUMMIT 2021
Diet, Health, & Prosperity for All



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FURTHER READING

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