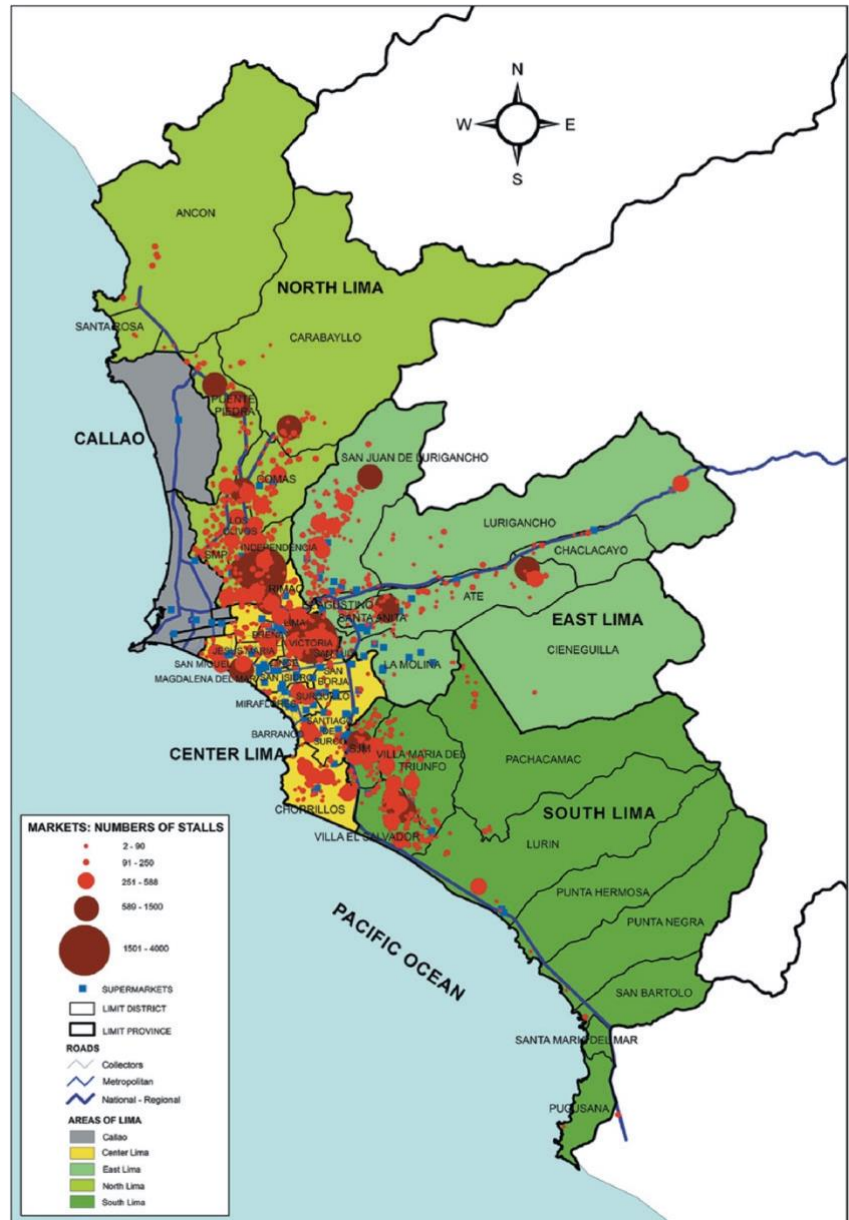


A case study on sustainable urban food development in Lima, Peru

Historical context

Since the 2000s, the Peruvian economy entered a period of **economic growth that led to an increase in rural-urban migration** leading to growing urban development that disrupted previously established peri-urban agriculture activities in surrounding areas. The city's food landscape is characterized by traditional food retail markets and neighbourhood shops (called bodegas) where 90 percent of the population prefer to purchase their food.

Increasing incomes led to a growing middle class in urban areas and the food distribution market adapted to meet these trends. In some areas in the city, large supermarkets and retail outlets that stock local and imported products expanded their presence, in some cases displacing traditional local farmers' markets that used to supply more affordable products.



In recent years, the city started to record rising rates of **adult and childhood obesity**, with two in three adults considered to be obese. **Urban agriculture is limited**. Only 2 percent of the food consumed in the city is produced within the city's territory.

For many years, the city lacked any clear policy instruments to support the development of urban agriculture. Not until the early 2000s did various non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities, cooperation agencies and district municipalities take steps to promote **urban agriculture** both within the city and on the outskirts. A series of **policy instruments and urban food development programmes** were introduced to respond to the changing food landscape of the **rapidly growing metropolitan area**.

By 2011, the municipality developed an overall strategic vision of **sustainable urban development** and approved the Metropolitan Environmental Policy. The policy brought with it several changes among them:

- investment in urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) on rooftops, walls, schools, home and productive green areas on available private and municipal property; and

- ii) support for other environmentally sustainable practices.

The policy provided guidance on what constitutes UPA and agricultural practices to produce food and non-food plants, as well as, procedures for raising small livestock in compliance with zoning and animal health laws.

The NADHALI project

To respond to the challenges in the Lima urban food system, in 2016, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched a pilot project on "**Developing Sustainable Food Systems for Urban Areas**" also called the **NADHALI project**. The project took a three-pronged approach:

1. initiated the development of the Rapid Urban Food Systems Appraisal tool — RUF SAT — aimed at identifying hotspots and creating holistic evidence for prioritizing food systems intervention;
2. established multi-stakeholder food systems platforms to support municipal decision-making and facilitate effective and inclusive food systems planning and problem solving; and
3. supported the development of a food strategy that links food systems analysis to governance.

Under the NADHALI project, the city carried out a Rapid Urban Food Systems Appraisal using the RUF SAT, in collaboration with the University of Lima. The rapid appraisal revealed a number of **food systems challenges**, among them:

- high costs of logistics and transport resulting from poor coordination among food system actors;
- low knowledge of food safety;
- high prevalence of poor nutrition and obesity in various districts of the municipality which could be attributed to consumption habits; and
- socio-economic inequality between urban and rural residents.

NADHALI worked in partnership with the Economic and Social Development Department of the Lima Municipality to facilitate a shift from a **sectoral to a systemic approach** to improving the urban food system. Some key achievements under the project include:

- the institutionalization The Food Liaison Advisory Group (FLAG) as a Food Policy Council; and
- the establishment of a Food Security section within the Municipality.

In 2018, the city of Lima signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) and was awarded the "Challenging Environment" prize.

Your role

The NADHALI project is coming to an end, and the Lima municipality is looking to engage stakeholders with knowledge of sustainable food systems development to be part of a follow-up project. You have been selected to be part of the panel of experts that will draft the successor to the Lima Food Strategy.

Reference list

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