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City Region Food System Toolkit
Assessing and planning sustainable city region food systems

CITY REGION FOOD SYSTEM TOOLKIT

TOOL/EXAMPLE



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Tool/Example:

Entry points into a CRFS assessment and planning process

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Project: FAO Food for the Cities/ RUAF CityFoodTools project

Introduction to the joint programme

This tool is part of the City Region Food Systems (CRFS) toolkit to assess and plan sustainable city region food systems. The toolkit has been developed by FAO, RUAF Foundation and Wilfrid Laurier University with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation.

Link to programme website and toolbox

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/food-for-cities-programme/overview/what-we-do/en/>

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/food-for-cities-programme/toolkit/introduction/en/>

<http://www.ruaf.org/projects/developing-tools-mapping-and-assessing-sustainable-city-region-food-systems-cityfoodtools>

Tool summary:

Brief description	This tool describes the various entry points and the overall CRFS assessment and planning steps followed in different city regions
Expected outcome	Defining the entry point for a CRFS assessment and planning process
Expected Output	Contribution to context analysis and work planning
Scale of application	City region
Expertise required for application	Understanding of the local context and policy processes
Examples of application	Quito (Ecuador); Medellín (Colombia); Bristol (UK); Kitwe and Lusaka (Zambia); Colombo (Sri Lanka); Toronto (Canada)
Year of development	2016

Tool description:

Depending on the local context, the policy and institutional dynamics and interests, other ongoing research and policy initiatives that a CRFS assessment could connect to or build on, and the availability of existing data and information, a city region needs to determine its own entry point to the CRFS process. This tool describes how different cities followed either a sequential approach (starting from a rapid CRFS scan to in-depth assessment to policy information and formulation) or entered the CRFS assessment and planning from the point of in-depth assessment or policy planning, building on locally available data and policy support and processes.

Examples of application:

Quito (Ecuador)

The Metropolitan District of Quito (Ecuador) has long been known for its 15 year urban



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agriculture programme. The city realised however the need to expand from an urban agriculture programme to a food programme and from a city focussed programme to a territorial programme that takes into account Quito's food system linkages with its wider peri-urban and rural area. For this reasons, Quito joined the RUAF CityFoodTools project to analyse its territorial food system (*see CRFS Scan in the toolbox*). Based on this assessment it formulated with a wide group of stakeholders a Vision for a more Sustainable and Resilient Food System in the Quito city region (*see Visioning phase in the toolbox*). A food strategy was formulated, identifying clear outcomes, targets, base line indicators and strategies (*see Policy support and Planning in the toolbox*). This led to further work on actual collection and visualisation and baseline data that can be used for future policy monitoring (*see In-depth assessment in the toolbox*).

Medellín, Colombia

In the city of Medellín, Colombia the CRFS assessment, which started in summer 2015, has, from the start, been influenced by a number of specific contextual factors. At the start of the implementation of the CRFS project, the city of Medellin and the region of Antioquia already did have a **strong political and policy basis** for urban and regional food policies, resulting in active local and regional government engagement from the start of the process. The need to further develop the territorial integration between policies and the need for a stronger vertical coordination between governance levels (**creating synergies between the local authorities of the municipality and the region**) were considered important challenges for advancing food policies for the city region and focusses CRFS assessment activities and multi-stakeholder dialogues (*see Governance section in the toolkit*).

Another important factor has been the local political calendar, with elections taking place for both the Municipal government and the Regional government of the Gobernacion of Antioquia on 25 October 2015. This resulted in a change in political representatives and policy teams working on food policy , hence the need for an adjustment in the timing of different CRFS project phases and specific attention required **to facilitate institutional engagement and stakeholder dialogue and to consolidate policy plans and proposals** (*see Policy and planning in the toolkit*) to enhance the likelihood that these are taken up by new administrations.

Thirdly, in the case of the city region of Medellin, and certainly in comparison to other cities in the CRFS assessment project, data on some of the key aspects of the CRFS were quite readily available. The **coordination and integrated analysis of data at the territorial city region scale** was considered the main challenge in advancing an understanding of the CRFS, rather than data collection itself.

Bristol, UK

The City of Bristol (United Kingdom) asked in 2011 for an external assessment of their food system to help them build a resilient food plan. A 2011 Who Feeds Bristol report (**using available data and stakeholder interviews**) provides a snapshot overview of Bristol's food system (*see CRFS Scan in the toolbox*). It is primarily a descriptive analysis of the food system serving Bristol. In addition, there is a discussion of resilience in



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relation to inputs, outputs and threats. It includes an analysis of the positive powers that cities have in shaping their food system, and it makes suggestions for action. The report informed a vision and Food Plan for Bristol City (*see Visioning and Policy Planning*). This enabled identification of 10 strategic elements of the food system that required more attention and the formulation of expected outcomes and related indicators (*see CRFS in-depth assessment*) and further data collection on baseline data to monitor changes from implemented strategies (*see Policy support*).

Kitwe and Lusaka (Zambia) and Colombo (Sri Lanka)

The cities of Kitwe and Lusaka (Zambia) and Colombo (Sri Lanka) did not yet have a clear policy commitment to design a more comprehensive food system agenda at the start of the project in 2015. Nonetheless, all cities had worked on specific food system components before, such as health and nutrition and waste management in Colombo, while in Zambia local/regional production has always been one of the paramount elements of the food system agenda. Kitwe has specifically worked on urban agriculture. In order to gauge further political and stakeholder interest and commitment, it was imperative to start with **a comprehensive diagnosis** of the city region food system (*see CRFS Scan in the toolbox*), followed by **more in-depth assessment and policy discussions** (*see CRFS in-depth assessment*).

Toronto (Canada)

1. Toronto (Canada) has a long history of food policy and programmes to improve access to healthy food; enhance urban and regional agriculture production; foster food markets, nutrition education and food skills, food business promotion, and localised consumption. As Toronto began to realise its food security is also dependent on preserving rural farmland in surrounding areas, since 2012 the Toronto Food Policy Council has expanded its scope of collaboration to include the Greater Golden Horseshoe area surrounding the city – an area of rapid population growth and diminishing agricultural lands. To support this work and make food a more visible part of the urban and regional system, further assessment of these territorial linkages were needed (*see CRFS Scan and in-depth assessment*). The CRFS assessment was implemented by a multi-stakeholder task force made up of representatives from the Toronto Food Policy Council and existing organisational networks at regional scale, such as the Greater Golden Horseshoe Alliance. This led to the identification of the need to emphasise food as a critical part of its territorial infrastructure that requires planning and coordination, as well as intentional interventions to improve sustainability, access and equity. Toronto's policy and planning work focussed on these aspects accordingly with specific attention to the creation of food hubs (*see Policy support and planning in the toolbox*).

