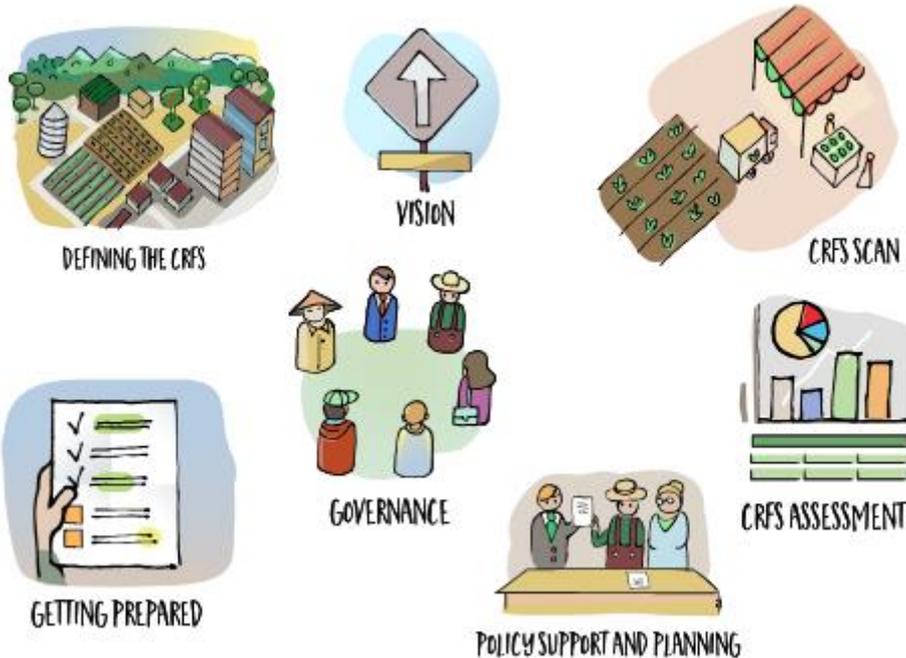




City Region Food System Toolkit
Assessing and planning sustainable city region food systems

CITY REGION FOOD SYSTEM TOOLKIT
TOOL/EXAMPLE



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Tool/Example: Focus group discussions

Author(s): FAO
Project: FAO Food for the Cities

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	A focus group discussion (FGD) is qualitative data collection tool. It was used in Kitwe and Lusaka (Zambia), to identify local priorities and collect data on food production and consumption patterns.
Expected outcome	Collection of qualitative primary data.
Expected Output	Qualitative data and variety of opinion on particular topic.
Scale of application	City region (municipal, district, province)
Expertise required for application	Agronomy/nutrition/value chain/policy depending on the topic discussed. Facilitation skills.
Examples of application	Kitwe and Lusaka (Zambia)
Year of development	2016
References	-

Tool description:

A focus group discussion (FGD) is qualitative data collection tool. It gathers actors from similar experiences to discuss a specific topic of interest. The group of participants is guided by a moderator (or group facilitator) who introduces topics for discussion and helps the group to participate in a lively discussion. FGD relies on allowing the participants to agree or disagree with each other, providing an insight on the range of opinion and ideas, inconsistencies and variation that exists in a particular community in terms of priorities, experiences and practices. FGDs can be used to explore the meanings of survey findings that cannot be explained statistically, or to collect from scratch different ideas and opinion of various stakeholders on a specific topic. In the CRFS Programme, the focus group discussion (FGD) gathered actors from different Ministries, private sector and civil society groups to gather qualitative information on local CRFS priorities. FGD were also organized with farmers, separating women, men and youth,

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to get qualitative data on specific components of the food system.

Examples of application

Kitwe (Zambia)

Three focus group discussions were held, for the 3 different local priorities: agricultural production, food consumption and nutrition, status of environment and natural resources degradation.

Terms of reference

The maximum discussion time was 1 hour using the question checklist provided under each thematic area (case study). Each case study was handled by a facilitator and recorder in a breakaway. Each group constituted a maximum of 15 respondents due to the diverse of the topics being discussed.

The minutes of the FDGs supplemented the findings from the primary data collection and review of policies, strategies and other documentation.

Discussion guide and targeted audience

Case Study #1: Agricultural Production: land availability, access and tenure; competition between urban development and agriculture; production and productivity issues

Discussion topics

- Land availability for agricultural purposes in the city region.
- Difficulties are faced in land acquisition by farmers.
- Land distribution by gender.
- Effect of competition between urban developments and other land uses (e.g. mining), and agricultural land on food production and smallholder livelihoods.
- Who feeds the city region.
- Sources of the food that is consumed in the city region.
- Ability of the city region to feed itself in times of crises- floods, droughts, and animal/plant disease.

Target

- Councils (Ndola, Mufulira, Chingola, Masaiti, Kitwe)
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Civil Society (ZLA, ZNFU, WVI)
- Forestry Dept
- Fisheries Dept
- Ministry of Lands
- Chamber of Commerce
- 1x Livestock & livestock products producer (Golden Lay/Zambeef).



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Case Study #2: Food consumption and nutrition at City Region level

Discussion topics

- Causes and drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition.
- Physical access to the markets for the dwellers.
- Where do people buy their food (vegetables, meat, fish, milk, eggs, fruits: bananas/mangoes/oranges).
- Affordability of food (vegetables, meat, fish, milk, eggs, fruits: bananas/mangoes/oranges).
- Quality and diversity of the food available.
- Seasonal availability of diverse food item (vegetables, meat, fish, milk, eggs, fruits: bananas/mangoes/oranges).
- Quality of food in terms of safety and nutritional value (vegetables, meat, fish, milk, eggs, fruits: bananas/mangoes/oranges).
- Knowledge and awareness on sustainable and healthy diets.

Target

- Community Development/Social Welfare dept.
- Ministry of Health
- WVI
- ZNFU
- Marketeer representative (NATMAZ)
- Councils (Ndola, Mufulira, Chingola, Masaiti, Kitwe)
- Livestock & livestock products producers (Golden Lay/Zambeef)
- Fisheries dept.
- Ministry of Agriculture

Case Study #3: Status of environment and natural resources degradation

Discussion topics

- Implications of unsustainable practices and other activities (e.g. mining; unsustainable agriculture) on main natural resources, soil, water and forests, and on food production.
- NR legislation support to agriculture practices.
- Existing state of the environment and natural resources (land, water, air, forests, biodiversity).
- Effect of population growth on food production & the environment.

Target

- Water utility (CopWaste, Nkana Water, Mulonga Water, etc)
- Water Board/Affairs
- Forestry dept.
- ZEMA
- ZLA (i.e. KDLA)
- Councils (Ndola, Mufulira, Chingola, Masaiti, Kitwe)
- Livestock & livestock products producers (Golden Lay/Zambeef/agro-Trader)



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- Fisheries dept.
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Lands
- Mining company

Lusaka (Zambia)

Three series of focus group discussions were held, for the 3 different local priorities: agricultural production (farmers and farmers organizations), food supply/processing/distribution (businesses), and consumption and food security (consumers).

Terms of reference

For each of the 3 priorities, three FGD comprising twelve (12) members were organized and conducted. To take care of gender, one FGD comprised only males and the other comprised females. The last FGD was with youth (age from 18 years to 25 years).

Discussion guides

#1: Agricultural production

- Let's start by stating whether land for food production can be accessed and the steps involved in accessing it.
- List the various avenues of accessing land form food productions.- probe into customary versus titled land, size of land holdings.
- Let's also list the categories of vegetables, meat, fish and fruits in your community. (Probe to include community-level organizations not just industry.)
- Where is the food produced in this community sold? What is your level of involvement with the local food system? (Probe- e.g. sold in Lusaka, at local outlets or in open air markets.)
- What types of production methods do you use (Probe for crop rotations, organic, use of fertilizers and pesticides).
- Do you think that farm workers whether family labour or hired labour adhere to occupational safety (probe to include protective clothing, disposal of chemical containers, availability of toilets/change rooms at farm)
- Do you think there is that the level of food waste is at acceptable levels? How are products that have gone to waste handled?
- Are farmers in this area aware of climate change (Probe use of CSA practices e.g. conservation farming, water harvesting)
- What changes can you suggest that would improve the sustainability of the local food production system?

#2: Food supply, processing and distribution

- Let's start by listing where the food consumed in Lusaka CRFS comes from?
- Let's also list all the local food producers, processors, and distributors in the community. (Probe to include community-level organizations not just industry.)





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- What is your involvement with the local food system? (Probe for selling food through it, buying food through it, providing financial or other organizational support.)
- What types of resources exist to help make locally produced food available to the community?(Probe for direct marketing outlets [such as farmers' markets, roadside stands, pick-your-owns] and contract sales to local food stores, restaurants, schools, colleges, hospitals, or prisons and CSA programs.)
- Do you think there is local government support for community efforts such as farmers' markets, community-supported agriculture, community gardens, etc.? By this I mean political and economic support?
- What is the role of the middle men in the food chain?
- How are food losses and waste handled throughout the value chain?
- What are the major barriers to making the community food system as successful as possible?
- What changes can you suggest that would improve the local food system?

#3: Consumption, food security and nutrition

- Let's start by listing the most consumed commodities in the CRFS in terms of meat products, dairy, fruits, vegetables and staples (food demand)?
- What is the nutritional and food security status of the CRFS's dwellers?
- What are the different diets existing by social, economic and cultural groups?
- What are the drivers for food insecurity and malnutrition?
- Can they access food produced in the city region and where?
- How can city region food security, availability, safety, appropriateness, utilization and transparency be enhanced?

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