



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



FAO-Food for the Cities Multidisciplinary Initiative

International Sustainability Unit, Prince of Wales' Charitable Foundation

**City region food systems:
Sustainable food systems and urbanization**

CFS41 Side Event

17 October 2014 – FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Final Summary Note



Background and focus of the event

The “City region food systems: sustainable food systems and urbanization” was an one-hour Side Event held in Rome on October 17th, 2014 on the occasion of the 41st Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 41). The CFS Side Event was organized by the FAO-Food for Cities Multidisciplinary Initiative (FAO-FCIT) and the International Sustainability Unit of the Prince of Wales’ Charitable Foundation (ISU).

Food and nutrition security in the context of rapid global urbanization, especially in developing countries, has brought attention to the rural impacts of rapid urban development and the importance of sustainable urban food systems. Climate change, disasters, biodiversity loss, price volatility, agricultural value chain dynamics and the impacts of protracted crises and migration all impact both the rural and urban poor in interrelated ways.

The side event focused on new global collaboration to strengthen the rural urban nexus and city region food systems in helping to end hunger, eradicate poverty and achieve food and nutrition security for all.

Speakers on the discussion panel included representatives from FAO-Food for the Cities, International Sustainability Unit (ISU), Milan Food Policy Technical Team, IFAD, Global Food Security Cluster (WFP), Bioversity International, Mazingira Institute, Eating City and the World Organization of Regions (ORU-FOGAR).

Summary note of panel discussions

In his opening address **Mr. Paul Munro-Faure** informed the participants of the themes of this year’s CFS discussions which included important topics such as the principles for responsible agricultural investments, the agenda for action for addressing food insecurity and protracted crises and the tenure perspective with the voluntary guidelines on the right to food. With urbanization being one of the major global trends that we face today, it seemed very appropriate amongst all these important topics to include the topic of urbanization and sustainable food systems. The City Region Food Systems (CRFS) approach enables us to look at sustainable food systems in the context of rapid urbanization at a scale and a context that is both relevant and connected.

Mr. Munro-Faure underlined that zero hunger and malnutrition will not be achieved by single sectoral approaches such as increasing production, or by just improving distribution and infrastructure. There is a need to tackle these issues with multi-disciplinary approaches, taking into account all stakeholders in order to come up with environmentally, economically and socially sustainable solutions. The City Region provides an appropriate scale of operation for a balanced approach to rural and urban development, by strengthening the linkages and flows of people, goods and services between rural and urban and the spaces in between.

This is what the City Region Food System approach enables, and what FAO's Food for the Cities multi-disciplinary initiative has been promoting over the years. Through the Food for the Cities global network, FAO makes part of a group of institutions and organizations, many of which were present at the Event, joining forces with many others on this important agenda.

Mr. Munro-Faure expressed his appreciation to the International Sustainability Unit of the Prince of Wales' Charitable Foundation for their partnership in this effort, and for co-sponsoring the event. This collaborative effort reflects FAO's interest and commitment under its mandate to ensuring food security in the framework of urbanization.

Mr. Munro-Faure also extended special thanks to the speakers of the discussion panel, these being David Edwards (ISU-International Sustainability Unit), Andrea Calori (Milan Food Policy Technical Team), Karim Hussein (IFAD), Marina Angeloni (Global Food Security Cluster, WFP), Stefano Padulosi (Bioversity International), Davinder Lamba (Mazingira Institute), Maurizio Mariani (Eating City) and Claude Poulet (ORU-FOGAR). The speakers were invited to present their perspectives and experiences on how city region food systems are relevant and important to their work, providing in this way a better understanding of the CRFS approach.

Mr. **David Edwards** described the role of the ISU, noting in particular its work in support of a new global effort to generate cooperation amongst stakeholders seeking to transform food systems through actions at the city region level. The ISU is a programme established in 2010 dedicated to finding consensus on solutions to global sustainability standards by making better understanding of the issues at stake in order to demonstrate the advances of normal sustainable approaches. Over the last years this approach has been successful in mobilize action on a range of issues from deforestation to sustainable fisheries.

He stated that a number of economic, social and environmental concerns require a more harmonious relationship between rural and urban development, and cooperation and coordination on this agenda. We are now seeing a dramatic increase in innovation in food systems and in food policy at the city region level while there is an increasing interest amongst international organizations to support local governments and local stakeholders including the family farmers.

Mr. Edwards stressed the importance of advancing towards a more systems-based approach to food security, addressing the need for those working in city region food systems to work together to ensure that these approaches are more coordinated, and information on how to support them is shared and further developed. Such coordination is important not only to ensure that these approaches are better shaped to accommodate such sub-national approaches but also to begin to demonstrate the practical benefits of a balanced approach to rural and urban development.

To this end the ISU has been helping a diversity of organizations to formulate a joint CRFS platform¹ that could bring together all stakeholders, from research organizations to philanthropies, from farmers organizations to city mayors and international organizations to better coordinate their action and to exchange knowledge. The first phase of this platform is a Call to Action on the city region food systems with has been published online with the objective of raising awareness and supporting this agenda.

Mr. Edwards concluded that the CRFS approach might not be the perfect solution to food security but it can further reinforce and provide a real opportunity for people to begin building a future they want.

Mr. **Andrea Calori** gave a presentation stressing the importance of the role of local authorities in the development of city region food systems. He emphasized the key policy fields that are connected directly or indirectly to food, including urban and territorial planning and property rights, local economies and trade, and environmental aspects such as the management of waste.

Mr. Calori stressed the need for local authorities to identify and recognize the different roles and duties they have in understanding and empowering the different demands emerging at the grassroots level. For example, he referred to an increasing demand from individuals and social movements to understand sustainable production and consumption, and connect the multiple dimensions of food. He also highlighted the importance for local authorities to explore ways to define better the role they can play in addressing these needs. A more dedicated focus of international policy making documents in local authorities could help in this.

He also pointed out the importance of connecting and visualizing available socio-economic dynamics within their territorial context.

Mr. Calori further described the formalized process to define a local food policy in the Milan metropolitan area, as local authorities work as regulatory bodies but can also work as facilitators to support social processes and innovation. He stated that a comprehensive assessment process to understand the urban food dynamics at the territorial scale is underway.

The presentation looked also at the efforts of developing an “Urban Food Policy Pact” amongst a large number of cities worldwide, including the process of discussions in their effort to develop urban food policies.

¹ www.cityregionfoodsystems.org

Mr. **Karim Hussein** in his remarks highlighted the critical importance of a balanced approach to urban and rural development. He pointed out that growing urban sectors need rural areas around them, including close and distant rural hinterlands, to ensure economically, environmentally and socially sustainable urbanization. He noted that the dynamics between rural and urban areas need to be better understood, for example how these areas are connected through agricultural value chains, ecosystem services, urban consumption, labor and migration, and other services such as transport, infrastructure and energy.

Mr. Hussein discussed the impacts of urbanization on agriculture. Urbanization impacts smallholders and rural development opportunities and challenges. This transformation process can be done well, being inclusive and fostering synergies; or, he argued, can be done badly, with consequences for the economy, society and equality. In this context, the city region food systems approach provides a useful conceptual framework to examine the key aspects of rural urban linkages related to food production, consumption, food value chains, in both urban and rural areas.

Mr. Hussein acknowledged that the actors are critical to this process and need to be engaged. Rural actors, especially producers and farmers, need to be engaged as well as urban-based groups such as consumers' associations.

Mr. Hussein also informed that IFAD is engaged in this agenda in the context of the post 2015 development debate. A policy brief is published on leveraging the rural urban nexus, which emphasizes the fact that rural and urban areas are interdependent in many ways and a mutually beneficial urban rural nexus is critical to achieving development goals. Indeed, urbanization relates to a set of policy issues and choices that reach far beyond the urban space and touch on rural areas and rural people who are critically concerned, and their environment is shaped by these policy choices and decisions.

Mr. Hussein concluded that it is important the post 2015 development agenda include goals, targets and indicators that focus attention on reducing rural-urban inequalities, investing in the rural space, and promoting better rural-urban connectivity, to better take advantage of urbanization to spear rural transformation.

Ms. **Marina Angeloni** presented the work of WFP's Global Food Security Cluster, in particular the Urban Working Group of the Cluster, which brings together NGOs, UN agencies and research institutions aiming to identify solutions and food security responses in urban settings, as they identified this gap in the humanitarian sector.

Ms. Angeloni outlined a number of ways in which the Working Group and the Cluster can contribute in supporting the CRFS approach, starting from knowledge sharing among their community of practice, participating in advocacy and awareness raising events, and most importantly, providing evidence and practical case studies.

Ms. Angeloni explained that the Working Group is developing a specific set of assessment tools and guidelines to respond to humanitarian needs in urban contexts, including food insecurity, emergencies and chronic food insecurity. The Cluster's work currently focuses on cities such as Harare in Zimbabwe, and other chronic food insecurity urban scenarios in countries such as Colombia, Myanmar and Lebanon. Through this work they aim to identify and share the lessons learnt and highlight the link between rural and urban linkages.

Mr. Stefano Padulosi championed biological conservation in food production, marketing diversity and the benefits of diversified crop species as part of the city region food systems approach.

Through a project experience shared with the panel discussants and the participants of the side event, Mr. Padulosi promoted the increased use of underutilized grains and traditional crops, such as quinoa, in improving health and nutrition of rural and urban populations, and adaptation and resilience to climate change.

Mr. Padulosi stated that there is a dramatic genetic erosion of traditional crops due to the globalization but he also noted the presence of a 'cultural erosion' which raises concerns on people losing their connection to their food culture, which leads to unsustainable and undiversified diets. He underscored the strategic importance of working at the smallholder level, not only by providing quality inputs but also linking smallholders to markets and raising awareness among consumers. Safeguarding these traditional crops ensure consumers connect to their food cultural identity.

Mr. Padulosi stressed the importance of working with the local authorities to conduct public awareness campaigns on nutrition and food education. He brought as an example the contracts established with small municipalities in rural areas of Bolivia to hold annual fairs to celebrate the diversity of food culture.

One final point that Mr. Padulosi considered as a key aspect of this endeavour is the private-public partnership. To do that, municipal authorities need to support and engage in multi-stakeholders platforms where all the actors can work together in addressing food security issues.

Mr. Davinder Lamba brought the attention on the civil society engagement and mobilization, describing the work of the Mazingira Institute, a civil society organization placed in Nairobi, Kenya and focusing on the Habitat International Coalition which deals with human settlements.

Mr Lamba stated that the constituencies he represents are very aware of the many issues and dynamics encountered in the rural urban continuum. Bringing social actors and processes where decisions are taken, but also their contents, working methods and militancy is the strength that these coalitions convey to the CRFS approach. He explained that the

Habitat International Coalition coordinates the urban food and nutrition constituency in the coordinating committee of the Civil Society Mechanism for CFS. Also, the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty brings together several organizations representing fisher folks and small and medium scale farmers, the youth, the landless, agricultural workers and indigenous peoples. This constituency works with the right to food, food sovereignty, local food systems and all the politics and tensions connected thereto.

Mr. Lamba portrayed also the nature of the Mazingira Institute as a multi-stakeholder platform and network of urban and peri-urban farmers and described its activities related to agricultural training of urban farmers. The Mazingira Institute is working with the Nairobi City Council to develop policies on urban and peri-urban agriculture and livestock in relation to food security. He stressed the importance of the agenda setting in decision processes and the opportunity to working with local authorities on orientation on food systems and on lessons learnt exchanged between local authorities of other cities engaged in such processes.

Mr **Maurizio Mariani** presented the work and scope of the Eating City international platform which is a learning community created in 2010 with a view to exchange experiences and shared vision on public food development strategies.

Mr. Mariani stressed that there needs to be a paradigm shift within the food system, shifting food from the concept of a 'commodity' to a 'common good'. He explained that it is possible and advantageous for the public food service to be used as a lever for this shift. The public food service is an important component of the food system, holding a large share of the market in Europe and concerning around twenty per cent of the European citizens. Mr. Mariani also agreed and emphasised the key role that local authorities can play in this process, given that many food service facilities and infrastructures are managed by local authorities. It was stressed that clear rules are needed in order to encourage more sustainable public food procurement. A common metrics system aiming to identify clear concepts on sustainability, as well as tax incentives would help businesses in the catering industry to engage in public food procurement better and more efficiently.

With regard to food policy processes, Mr Mariani suggested that there should be a balanced bottom up approach with engagement from the private sector.

Mr. **Claude Poulet** highlighted the work of ORU-FOGAR, which works at the local level in 900 regions across the world, to help addressing food security and climate change impacts amongst other issues. Their focus on the fight against food insecurity in the urban rural continuum uses the framework of 'territorial food systems'.

Mr. Poulet expressed the interest of ORU-FOGAR in governance of food systems, and building partnerships with all stakeholders active in the field of CRFS to make their efforts more effective.

Summary of participants' comments and recommendations

Some general comments and suggestions on the general concept and implementation aspects of city region food systems were made during a lively plenary discussion session that followed the panel discussion.

One participant commented on the institutional involvement of local authorities in the food system planning, stating that it is indeed a very important issue. However, this could have been reflected in international policy documents in a more decisive manner. It was mentioned that it is essential that donors fund United Nations agencies and other international institutions to work at the local level with local authorities.

Some other participants also emphasised the importance of breaking down single sectoral boundaries and taking holistic view on food systems.

Other participants conveyed an appreciation of the diversity of approaches presented at the event and stated that this enriched the discussions. It is important to garner the political impetus to advance the CRFS agenda. A prerequisite of this is gaining consensus on main policy changes that are needed to enable the success of CRFS initiatives.

One participant highlighted the importance of developing methodologies to assess the CRFS approach that takes into consideration the diverse economic, social and cultural situation of the city region. It was stated that the FAO recognises the importance of this need and looks forward to collaborating with various institutions and city regions with similar endeavours and experiences on this matter.

It was also suggested that CRFS approach should also be making projections for the future within the framework of wider planning policies in order to help build more sustainable cities.

Wrap up and the way forward

The overall feedback provides strong support for further enhancement of rural-urban linkages in the city region food systems approach. We need to find common ways to consolidate what is being done at the present being, and also maintain a dynamic dialogue and exchange with all stakeholders on possible future ways to work on this approach. This provides a good basis for FAO who is moving forward to having a vision on food systems and urbanization. On going results of FAO projects will be shared.



City Region Food Systems Sustainable Food Systems and Urbanization

17 October, 2014

Lebanon room (D209)
FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

FINAL AGENDA

08:15	Coffee
08:30	Opening remarks Paul Munro-Faure , Chair-FAO Food for the Cities Interdisciplinary Initiative
	Introduction to the Global City Region Food System collaborative effort by David Edwards , International Sustainability Unit
08:40	The role of local authorities and urban food system for a sustainable world Andrea Calori , Milan Food Policy Technical Team
08:50	Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karim Hussein, IFAD • Marina Angeloni, Global Food Security Cluster, WFP • Stefano Padulosi, Bioversity International • Davinder Lamba, Mazingira Institute • Maurizio Mariani, Eating City • Claude Poulet, ORU-FOGAR
09:15	Q & A – moderator: Paul Munro-Faure , FAO
09:25	Wrap up next steps and call for cooperation

Short biographical notes of speakers



David Edwards is Assistant Director of the Prince of Wales' International Sustainability Unit with particular responsibility for their work on Food Security. Over the past four years this work has sought to advance a more systems-based approach to food security based upon efforts to improve economic understanding of the environmental and social underpinnings of food security and its relationship to water, energy and physical security.

In recognition of the importance of sustainable smallholder and family farming, the ISU is now playing a key role in helping to galvanise a new global effort in order to generate cooperation amongst stakeholders seeking to transform food systems through actions at a city region level.

In his spare time David advises international philanthropies on their work on sustainable agriculture and is trustee of the UK's new "Food Foundation".

Andrea Calori has been working since the nineties on local and self-sustainable development policies, citizens' participation, and territorial and rural development policies. He has a long experience in teaching and research on Territorial Planning and Local Development at the Polytechnic School of Milan, Italy.



He has been working both on the field and in theoretical and methodological researches with social and economic actors and networks and with many institutions at different levels (local authorities, regions, national government, OECD, EU Commission, Council of Europe, FAO, UNDP, etc.). He is the President of Urgenci, the world coalition of regional and national networks of Community Supported Agriculture.

Currently he is responsible for the methodology, the assessment and the research connected to the Urban Food Policy of Milan.



Karim Hussein is Strategic Policy Analysis and Knowledge Management Officer at IFAD, where he is working on rural-urban linkages and food systems.

He represented IFAD in the Habitat III preparatory committee and the HLCP Working Group on a new 'UN urban agenda', emphasizing the need for a mutually beneficial and balanced effort to support rural, particularly smallholder agricultural development, alongside sustainable

urbanization given their inter connectedness.

He also contributes to IFAD's engagement in Rome-based agency and international policy processes, such as the CFS on family farming, food security and nutrition in protracted crises and resilience. Prior to this, he was Technical Advisor in the Africa Partnership Forum at the OECD, Regional Economist in Western and Central Africa Division, IFAD, and Principal Administrator / Head of the Agriculture Unit at the OECD Sahel and West Africa Club.

Marina Angeloni is a consultant for the World Food Programme and has been working with the Global Food Security Cluster for the past two years focusing, among other issues, on urban food insecurity, cash coordination and protection issues. She manages the Urban Working Group of the Cluster and co-manages the joint WFP/gFSC urban assessment project.



Stefano Padulosi is an Italian agronomist with PhD in Biological Sciences from the University of Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium. He joined Bioversity International in 1993 to coordinate a Project on Mediterranean underutilized species. From 1998 until 2006 he worked in Syria to coordinated Bioversity's activities in the CWANA Region.

He is now based at Bioversity HQ where he leads the Marketing Diversity Research Theme and he is currently implementing an international IFAD-funded Project in Bolivia, Nepal and India, covering inter alia an innovative holistic value chain approach for the use enhancement of traditional crops.

Davinder Lamba is Executive Director of the Mazingira Institute based in Nairobi, Kenya where he coordinates a local agri-food system initiative and the Nairobi and Environs Food Security, Agriculture and Livestock Forum (NEFSALF), a multi-stakeholder network of urban and peri-urban farmers. He is the former President of the Habitat International Coalition, and on its behalf, Davinder also represents the Urban Food and Nutrition Constituency on the Coordinating Committee of Civil Society Mechanism for CFS and the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty.



Maurizio Mariani is an expert of economy and environment related to agribusiness and foodservices and works as a Business Consultant at international level. He is the President of the Consortium Risteco, and member of the “Groupe de Bruges”, an EU Think Tank fully dedicated to the AGRI Business, and the Sustainable Food Lab (USA).

Founder of the Social Cooperative Nanà, which manages in Piedmont (Italy) some assets confiscated to the mafia, and developing a new model of social economy in the field of restaurants-bars and sales of organic food. He is also founder and member of the Advisory Council of the MCA (Mediterranean Citizen Assembly) since 2008.

Within the Forum Cina Europa, he is running the dialogue on sustainable food chains. Amongst numerous activities, Maurizio has designed the Risteco handbooks (“Quaderni di Risteco”), and the projects of “il Pranzo Sostenibile” (“The Sustainable Meal”) and “Eating City”. Co-Author of the Book “La Ville qui Mange” edited by ECLM – Paris – France.

Claude Poulet is a long standing diplomat, at present head of the international relations of the Regional Council of Champagne-Ardenne. He is also the diplomatic Counsellor of the food security core group of ORU-FOGAR, an association of territorial governance.

He has previously worked as Advisor for Cooperation and Cultural Action in the Embassy of France in Tanzania, Iraq, Egypt, Mexico and has served as Director General of the Centre International d'Accueil et de Formation (CIAF).



The plenary during the CFS41 Side Event “City region food systems: Sustainable food systems and urbanization”