



FAO/ RUAF Working Group 23

Conceptualising and Assessing City Region Food Systems



Second International Conference on
AGRICULTURE IN AN URBANIZING SOCIETY

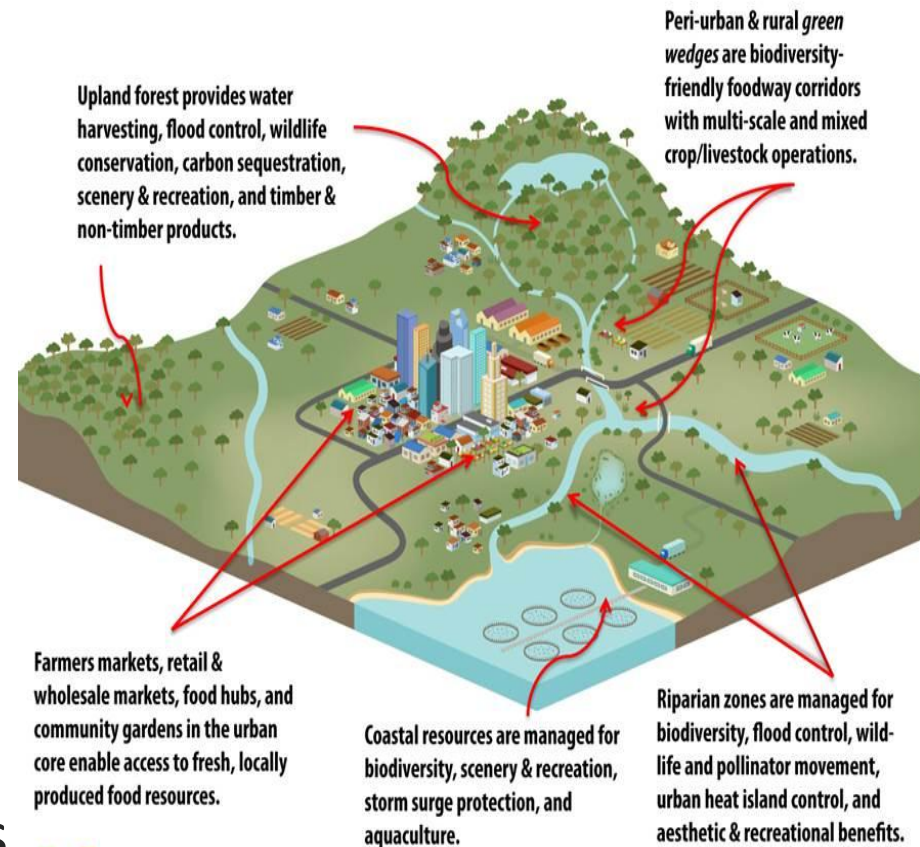
Reconnecting Agriculture and Food Chains to Societal Needs

14 - 17 SEPTEMBER 2015 | ROME | ITALY

City region food systems (CRFS):

Bridging the rural-urban divide through city region food systems

- ❖ production, processing, marketing and consumption
- ❖ urban centres, surrounding peri-urban and rural hinterland that is the “foodshed”
- ❖ exchange and flow of food, people, goods, and ecosystem services
- ❖ urban and rural linkages; nexus between people, agriculture, biodiversity, water and energy



Urban Rural spectrum

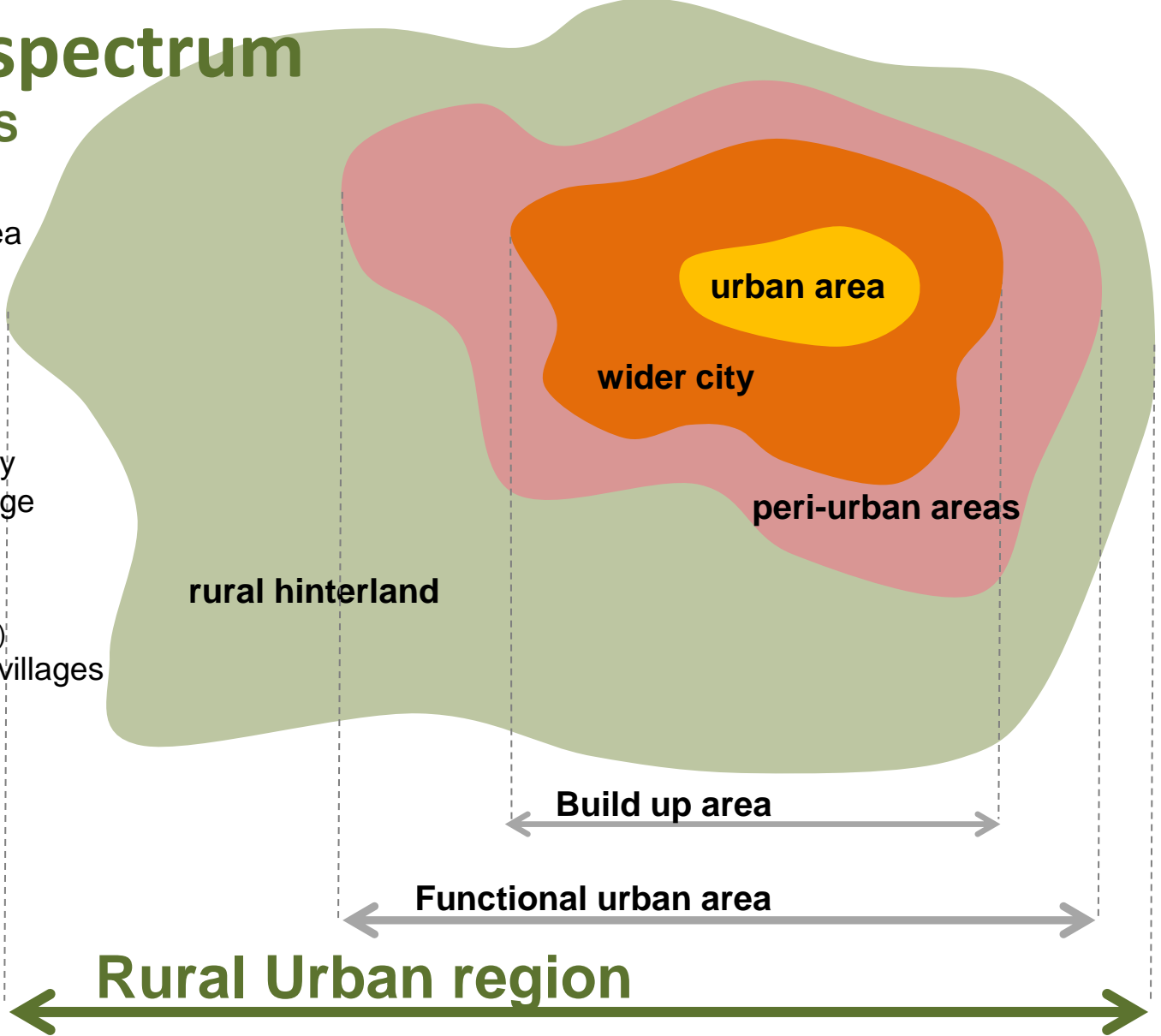
Components of a CRFS

Urban area City centre
Inner urban area

Wider city Metropolitan
area/region

Peri-urban areas Urban periphery
Urban/rural fringe

Rural hinterland Rural areas
(accessible/remote)
Small towns & villages



Exchange and flow of
people, goods
(including food), and
ecosystem services





Integrated approach: Components of a Food System

Food and Agriculture

Agro-biodiversity

Livestock and
aquaculture

Food
markets/supply

Food loss and waste

Natural resource management

Soil and water

Land tenure

Energy

Forest and trees

Socio-economic and health factors

Hunger and malnutrition

Shifting diets and habits
(sustainable diets)

Food safety and
street food

Migration and labour



Required actions for a sustainable CRFS

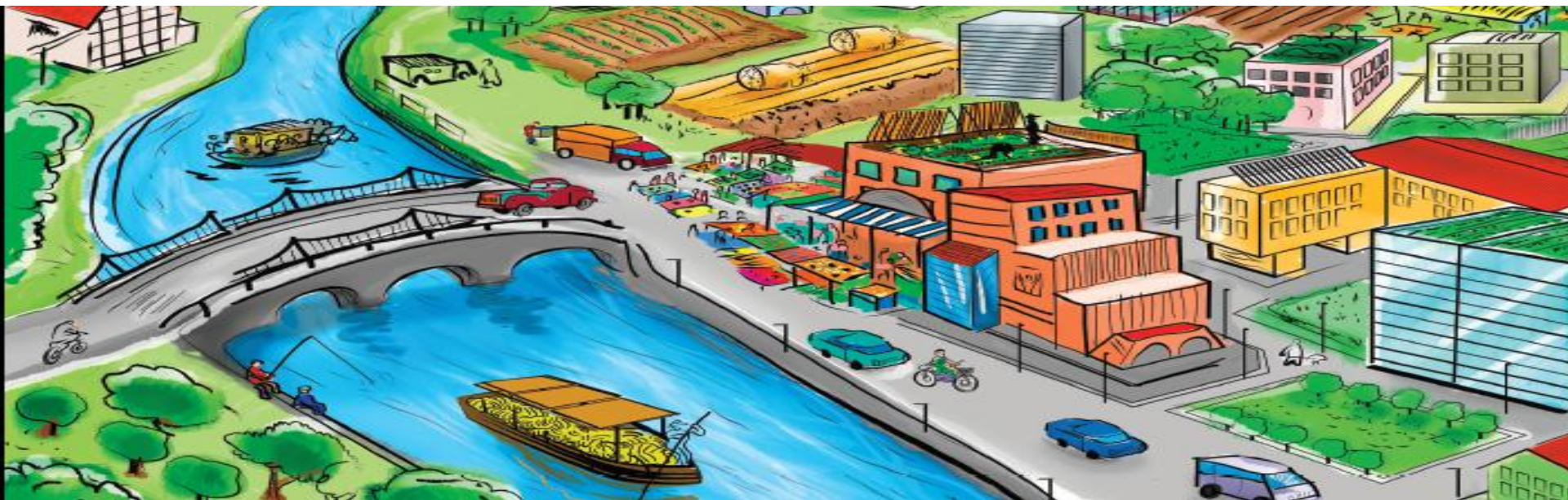
- Political will and policy framework
- Inclusive governance
- Research and information exchange
- Best practices promotion and sharing
- Integration of agriculture and forestry in urban planning and land use policies





FAO/ RUAF Programme

**City Region Food Systems:
building sustainable and resilient
city regions**





Overall purpose of the programme:

- ❖ Develop **methods** and **tools** to conduct comprehensive and participatory **CRFS assessment**
- ❖ **Strengthen capacity** of local authorities and other stakeholders within a **local food system** to improve food and nutrition security of urban dwellers
- ❖ **Reinforce urban-rural linkages** for more inclusive, efficient and resilient activities of small scale agriculture within a local food system





Why looking at city region food systems?

- Why should cities think about food and take responsibility for **food provisioning**?
- Why should cities look **beyond** their own **administrative boundaries**?
- What does an **ideal** sustainable and resilient city region food systems look like?
- How can city regions **improve** their food systems?
- Why doing a city region food system **assessment**?



Understanding and assessing CRFS:

- **Who feeds the city region;** where does the food come from; what and how much food is produced locally in the city region?
- **Food processing and manufacturing:** which companies prepare/manufacture the food consumed in the city region?
- **Food wholesale and distribution:** who supplies the food to businesses/markets that sell food to the consumers?
- **Food marketing, catering and retail:** where do citizens buy their food?
- **Food consumption:** what do people in the city region eat?
- **Food and organic waste:** where and how much food and organic waste is generated along the food chain and how is it managed?
- What are the **strengths** and **vulnerabilities, priority areas** and **critical issues** of the city region food system
- To what extent is the current food system **resilient** to shocks?

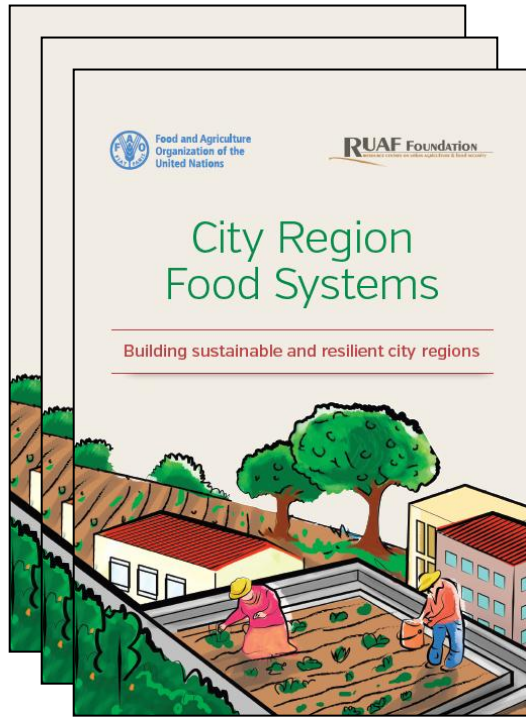


Cities engaged in the programme

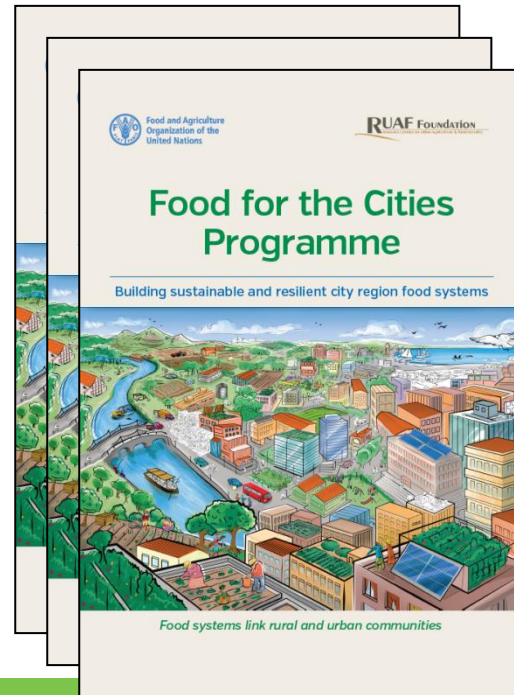




City Region Food Systems Booklet



Food for the Cities Programme Brochure



Copies available





Key questions for the Working Group:

- How to identify **weaknesses** in existing food chains, **gaps** and **bottlenecks** for more resilient and inclusive food systems?
- How to **improve access** to adequate **food** for poor urban population, and enhance **market access** for the smallholder farmers?
- How to support **local governments** and **multi-stakeholder bodies** in taking informed **decisions** and to make the CRFS more sustainable and resilient?

