

HLPE-FSN

The High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition

“Where science and policy meet”

**Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and
Nutrition
Report Launch**

Why is it important to address inequalities?

- ❖ Threat to progress on FSN
- ❖ Economic, social and environmental costs
- ❖ Commitment to 'Leave no one behind'
- ❖ Moral and ethical obligation



Outline of presentation

- Report process and content
- Conceptual framework and important features
- Key messages: Inequalities in FSN, Inequalities in food systems, and systemic drivers
- Major action areas for reducing inequalities
- Recommendations



HLPE-FSN 18 Drafting Team



BHAVANI SHANKAR
DRAFTING TEAM LEADER



JANE BATTERSBY



JODY HARRIS



CHRISTINA HICKS



MARIAELENA HUAMBACHANO



SWETHA MANOHAR



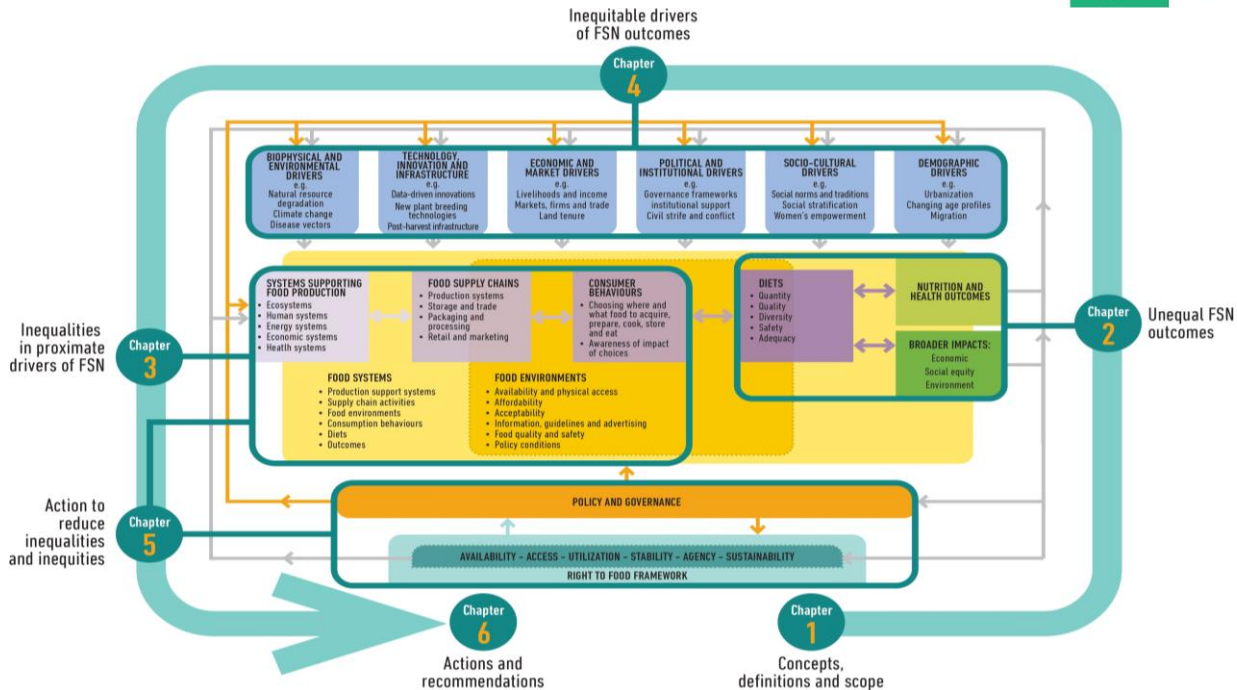
NICHOLAS NISBETT

The journey and its challenges

An aerial photograph of a large, two-story building with a prominent red-tiled roof, situated in the middle of a vast, dense forest of palm trees. The building has multiple balconies and arched windows, suggesting a colonial or historical architectural style. The surrounding forest is thick and green, with the palm trees creating a textured canopy.

- ❖ A small team in a huge landscape
- ❖ Contested spaces and diverse understandings
- ❖ Large range of relevant agendas
- ❖ Balancing diverse inputs from stakeholders
- ❖ The weight of history... and of the future

Report structure



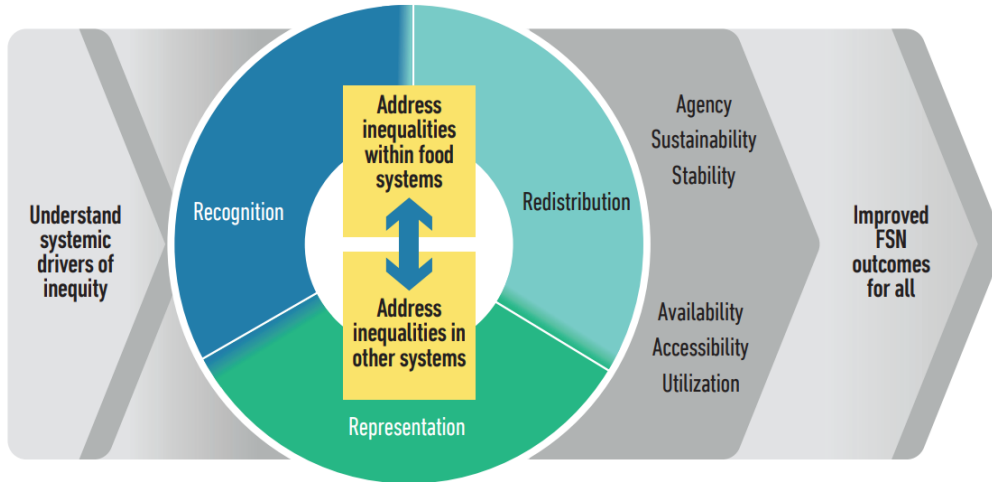
Key definitions

- ❖ **Inequalities** in this context are the observed differences in FSN outcomes or related food system factors (e.g. access to finance or technology) between individuals or groups, based on social, economic, and/or geographical position (e.g. income, gender, ethnicity, indigeneity, remoteness)
- ❖ **Inequities** are the socially, economically or politically driven reasons why systematic differences in food system opportunities or the distribution of FSN outcomes exist.



Conceptual framework

Consider intersectional, intergenerational, interterritorial inequity



Work towards human rights, inclusive knowledges, justice

Key messages: Inequalities in FSN

- ❖ FSN outcomes display large variation *across* regions, but few regions are exempt from a comparatively high burden of at least one form of malnutrition. There is also significant disparity *within* regions.
- ❖ FSN inequality is increasingly concentrated *within countries*, where groups that consistently fare worse include women, those with less education, Indigenous Peoples and poor people.
- ❖ Many important inequalities are intersectional , but insufficient data exist to characterize this intersectionality and to identify those most vulnerable within country contexts.
- ❖ More adequately disaggregated data along social, economic and geographical groupings is required to systematically quantify and track FSN inequalities.



Key messages: Inequalities in Food & Other Systems

- ❖ Large, persistent and often increasing inequalities that constrain FSN exist across the food chain.
- ❖ Size and economic status (e.g. small vs large producers) and gender are major dimensions, but other sources of inequality, such as indigeneity and geographical location, are also frequent constraints on FSN.
- ❖ Food environments provide highly unequal opportunities for FSN, with low-income populations and minority groups particularly impacted by the inequalities.
- ❖ Inequalities in relevant areas beyond the food system, such as education and health systems, contribute to inequalities in FSN outcomes.



Key messages: Systemic Drivers

- ❖ It is essential to understand that inequalities in FSN and its food systems drivers are underpinned by deeper systemic drivers.
- ❖ Systemic drivers frequently act to widen pre-existing inequalities as the most vulnerable are least able to cope or adapt.
- ❖ Systemic drivers may have roots in food systems, setting up harmful feedback loops, e.g. environmental drivers.
- ❖ Economic drivers are increasingly driving consolidation of ownership and power, widening inequality and constraining FSN.
- ❖ Violence and conflict undermine agency, create and widen inequalities to the determinant of FSN.
- ❖ Policies remain siloed, constraining ability to address inequalities.

Action areas for reducing inequalities

Discussion of a set of 17 priority action areas relating to:

- ❖ **Food Production:** (i) more equal access to land, forests, livestock and fisheries (ii) agroecological principles (iii) inclusive producer organizations (iv) equity-sensitive public agri-food systems research and other rural public investments.
- ❖ **Food supply chains:** (v) inclusive value chain approaches; (vi) labour-protection policies, (vii) territorial approaches in planning (viii) equity-sensitive storage, food processing and distribution infrastructure; (ix) information systems.

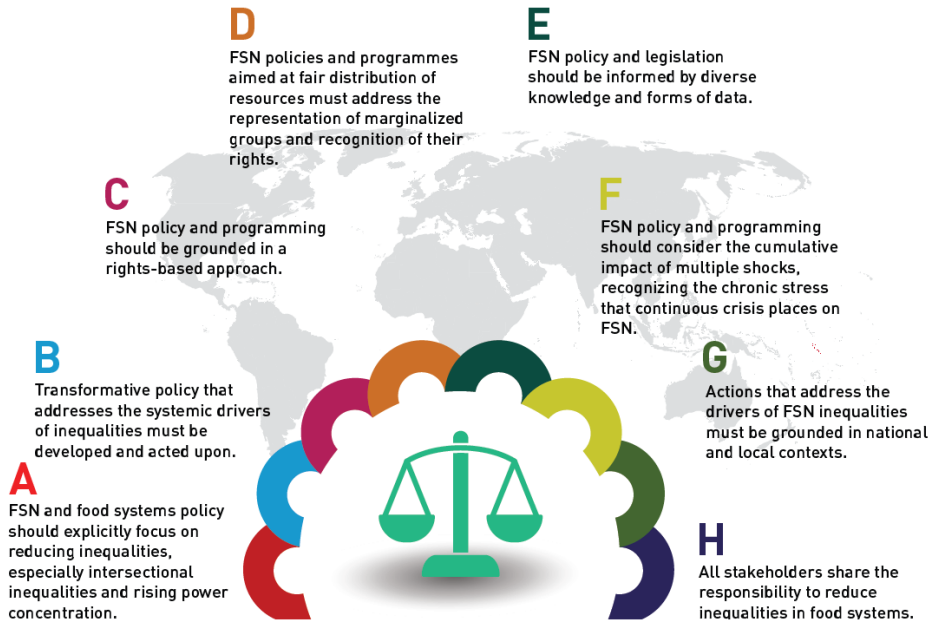


Action areas for reducing inequalities

- ❖ **Food environment & consumption:** (x) food-environment planning and governance; (xi) behavioural food policy (xii) social protection
- ❖ **Enabling environment & governance:** (xiii) food & nutrition-sensitive policy and planning (xiv) addressing corporate power asymmetries (xv) universal health care integrating nutrition (xvi) a holistic approach to climate and sustainability (xvii) inclusive growth for FSN



Principles for action



Source: Author's own elaboration.

Recommendations (1)

A. Tackle inequalities within food systems

1. Enable more equitable access to resources, applying rights-based approaches.
2. Facilitate the organization of disadvantaged stakeholders and build inclusive institutions and partnerships to improve representation.
3. Make equity-sensitive investments in supply chains and in disadvantaged areas.
4. Plan and govern food trade, retail, processing and food environments with an equity focus.



Recommendations (2)

B. Tackle inequalities in related systems

5. Ensure universal access to services and resources that have a direct impact on FSN.
6. Embed an equity focus into trade, investment and debt governance related to FSN.

Recommendations (3)

C. Tackle social and political drivers of inequality

7. Leverage SDG 10: Reducing inequalities in policy and programming
8. Embed equity principles into policy.
9. Take into account the context of climate, ecological, political and economic crises in all FSN-related actions.

D. Strengthen data and knowledge systems to enable improved understanding and monitoring of equity in FSN-relevant domains

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*My drums beat out the message
And the rhythms never change.
Equality, and I will be free.
Equality, and I will be free*

– Maya Angelou

