

# SE25: “Just in time” or “just in case” food systems? Managing trade-offs and building resilience from local to global

Organized by: HLPE-FSN, Government of Brazil, CFS PSM, GLOPAN, IPES-Food.

## Summary of the side event

The [High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition](#) (HLPE-FSN) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), in partnership with the Governments of Brazil and Sierra Leone, the PSM of the CFS, the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition and the IPES-Food, hosted a side event at the 52nd session of the CFS on 24 October 2024.

The event, “*Just in time*” or “*just in case*” food systems, moderated by Global Panel Director **Sandy Thomas** and [Iain Wright](#), Vice-Chairperson of the HLPE-FSN, built on the CFS MYPoW theme *Building Resilience in Food Systems*. It focused on food system resilience, from production to supply chain management, exploring how sustainable food system transformation can bolster resilience at various scales. Attendees discussed future challenges and options, while exploring practical next steps.

The event was opened by [Akiko Suwa-Eisenmann](#), Chairperson of the HLPE-FSN, who described how our understanding of food systems has evolved from one of economic efficiency, where natural resources were considered infinite, to one where they operate in a more fragile context, with limited or degraded resources, and subject to multiple shocks, underlining that we need food systems that are able to operate just in case disruptions happen.

“Given the increased frequency of shocks to agriculture and food systems in recent years, given also the impact of agriculture and food systems on land and sea degradation, biodiversity decline, and climate change, it is imperative to explore how food systems can be made more resilient – that is, more capable of recovering, adapting, and transforming in the face of shocks – as well as more equitable and sustainable, so that they are able to support all dimensions of food security,” explained Suwa-Eisenmann.

**Patrick Kormawa**, the Director of Climate Change and Food Security in the Office of the President in Sierra Leone and former FAO Regional Director, then gave a presentation describing the current collaboration on food systems resilience in Sierra Leone, highlighting that, despite many challenges, there was strong political will at the highest levels.

This was followed by a presentation from **Lilian dos Santos Rahal**, National Secretary of Food and Nutritional Security at the Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger in Brazil, and Gates Foundation 2024 Goalkeepers Champion, who demonstrated how initiatives coordinated by her department were helping to create a more equitable and resilient food security framework in Brazil, building on the country's previous success in reducing stunting.

**Nicholas Jacobs**, Consulting Director of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food), presented the IPES-Food' latest report, Food from Somewhere: Building Food Security & Resilience through Territorial Markets. He highlighted the importance of putting local networks at the heart of planning for future shocks.

In addition, **Tyler Short**, a representative of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism for relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security (CSIPM), spoke on behalf of civil society and Indigenous Peoples groups, emphasizing the need to integrate local voices and Indigenous Peoples knowledge into resilience-building strategies.

**Corinna Hawkes**, Director of the Food Systems and Food Safety Division at FAO, addressed the role of regulatory frameworks and food systems to enhance food safety, food security and resilience across global and regional networks. She stressed the fact that significant progress is being made around the world in the development and delivery of policies, interventions, innovations, and investments to transform agrifood systems and that it is only by connecting these into an integrated, systems approach that we will achieve the transformative impact we need.

**Christian Vousvouras**, Public Affairs Manager at Nestlé and representative of the CFS Private Sector Mechanism (PSM), brought the private sector's perspective to the discussion. He emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships in building resilient food systems and highlighted how businesses like Nestlé are working to adapt supply chains and invest in sustainable practices to mitigate risks. Vousvouras underscored the private sector's role in supporting both local and global

food security initiatives, aiming to enhance resilience and sustainability in alignment with broader food systems goals.

A **variety of perspectives and opinions** were showcased in a provocative and constructively stimulating way, bringing together voices from academia, government, civil society, private sector and international organizations. This diversity enriched the dialogue, highlighting the complexities of food systems resilience and fostering a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges in transforming food systems to meet present and future needs.

The event provided a **rich exploration of actions needed and trade-offs** involved in adopting a resilience framework for food systems, offering valuable input for the HLPE-FSN drafting team working on resilient food systems following online.