



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Co-funded by
the European Union



PRESS RELEASE

Food Systems Assessment

WORKING TOWARDS THE SDGs

Producing and eating healthy, balanced and diverse food: why is it such a challenge for our world agrifood systems today?

FAO, the European Union and CIRAD, in collaboration with SDG 2 Advocacy Hub and the DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security, will participate in the 50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 50) to be held from 10 to 13 October 2022 to deliberate on the linkages between production and consumption diversity in light of the findings from [Food Systems assessments](#) led in 50 countries.

Rome, 10 October 2022. It is widely recognized that a diverse diet is paramount to live a healthy and active life. Unfortunately, in many places, it is becoming more and more challenging to access diverse, affordable, and nutritious food. Although global food production per capita exceeds nutritional requirements, food availability in many countries is dominated by monocrop cereal production, supplemented with imports of low nutritious energy dense processed foods, compromising the food and nutrition security of the people which is further worsened by exposure to global shocks.

Agrifood systems face multiple threats related to keeping food imports at levels to ensure food security or maintaining production systems highly dependent on inputs and energy, thus increasing the risk from crisis. The existing production systems are unsustainable for the well-being of people and their environment, accelerating natural resource degradation and biodiversity loss while compromising production diversity and food and nutrition security. As a result, malnutrition is rising resulting in increasing food insecurity on one hand along with high obesity rates that increase the risk of chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart diseases.

For this reason, in 2021, the European Union, FAO and CIRAD initiated [Food Systems Assessments](#) (FSA) in 50 countries to explore in a systematic and holistic way the current challenges faced by agrifood systems. In most countries, the preliminary results generated evidence-based analysis that informed the national pathways for the UN Food System Summit and provided an analytical foundation to be used as stepping-stone to advance actions in support of sustainable agrifood systems. The obstacles to more diversified production systems and to healthier diets for consumers are a critical sustainability issue.

CFS 50 features a Global Thematic Event on the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems. In that framework, the FSA team is organizing a 75-minute hybrid and trilingual (English, French, Spanish) side-event on **13 October at 13:30 CET** to discuss the topic of **“Diversified food production and diet: The challenges of transition to more sustainable agrifood”**. This is part of the launch of a subsequent initiative in several countries to accompany governments and key country stakeholders to embark on a long-term transition towards the sustainable transformation of their agrifood systems.

High-level speakers from Government, civil society, academia, producer's organizations, and development partners will interact with the participants to discuss obstacles and opportunities to re-diversify food and production systems, notably in historically export oriented regions. They will deliberate on the linkages between production diversity and dietary diversity, issues related to availability, accessibility, and affordability of nutritious diets, and the role of indigenous foods and pulses (as an affordable protein) in dietary diversity. Speakers will also share insights on the transition to sustainable food systems.

Who are invited to join this session: the press, young people, all public and private actors wishing to know more and act in favor of transitioning to more diversified production systems, producing wider range of food crops and allowing for varied diets and consumption patterns, and to more inclusive, more resilient and more sustainable agrifood systems.

Prior registration is required for:

- ★ *Online participation:* https://fao.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0ucuqvqzwsG9EwNJJXqt3AOz_NALa8gB0g
- ★ *In-person attendance:* [Registration for In Person Participation to CFS SE29: Diversified food production and diet: The challenges of transition to more sustainable agrifood systems \(google.com\)](#)



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