



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

HIGH LEVEL PANEL OF
THE FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION OF
THE UNITED
NATIONS (FAO)

WITHIN THE GLOBAL
FORUM FOR FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE
2016

SUMMARY

Addressing Urban Food Security
and Nutrition Issues: Harmonizing
global developments with the
need for sustainable food systems

14-16h, 15 January 2016

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BACKGROUND

International context

Security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture development are in the heart of the recently adopted **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. The full range of the SDGs cannot be achieved without rapid progress in eliminating hunger and malnutrition, while SDG 11 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable' explicitly refers to the need for a more robust and resilient food system.

The **UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development** (Habitat III) will be the first UN conference to be held after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, a forum to further discuss the implementation of Goal 11 and how it relates to other key SDGs (1, 2, 3, 13 and 14) through improved rural urban linkages.

Facets of urban food security and nutrition

Urbanisation implies **changes** in how and what people eat. Hunger, obesity, malnutrition and unhealthy diets all coexist in urban areas affecting the poor and the affluent. Access and availability are shaping the diets of urban people. Moreover, a health-focused food system should nourish the environment, help mitigate climate change, promote social justice, create local and diverse economic development and build community. Keeping in mind that there are less and less people engaged in food value chain through migration and globalization, the resilience of the food system must be carefully examined with an integrated lens.

Climate change, climate-related disasters represent serious threats to urban food security. Food security and production systems are seriously affected by these, increasing vulnerability of urban dwellers. Adaptation of the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors, with a focus on improved resilience of production systems and the local communities depending upon them, is of paramount importance in coping with the expected changes in climatic conditions. These actions should be developed in the context of the needed sustainable food systems.

Loss of food nutrients due to the large amounts of **food loss and waste** in cities and suburbs are another area of concern. Programmes for prevention of food losses and adequately reusing waste are on the radar of many governments, but much more needs to be done.

Without de-emphasizing the importance of other spatial configurations of hunger, **urban hunger** has been neglected and thus requires more substantive action from urban practitioners and designers.

Integration of Food into Urban Planning: Proven solutions

Food though a basic physiological and social need, is still highly excluded in urban planning and modernization. However, innovative approaches at the local level are starting to be noticed, subsequently opening opportunities to transmit the best practices to other areas. Technology and better understanding of the power of communities can contribute substantially to this. Increased presence of climate-smart technologies afforded by, and adapted to, small scale holders and households are key for ensuring equal opportunities to participate in the food systems. **Urban and peri-urban agriculture**, including technologies such as hydroponics, vertical farming and low cost/energy green houses, is gaining increased attention globally. This has become an alternative to bring closer food producers to urban consumers, while favoring nutrition education and particularly opening possibilities for the most disadvantaged population groups, such as women and youth. Moreover, recent developments in digital information technologies applied in city supplying food

systems are resulting in more efficient methods in storage and bringing food from producers, to markets, to the end users.

Spatial configurations of hunger and malnutrition are changing. Hunger and malnutrition disparities are no longer mainly a North-South issue but a global one. Without de-emphasizing the importance of other spatial configurations of hunger (i.e. rural hunger), urban hunger has received little attention and thus requires more substantive action from urban practitioners, designers and planners. Articulating connections, interrelations and interdependencies between metabolism of human nutrition and the socio-environmental production and integration of urban spaces for food is crucial. GIS technologies can be useful in analyzing these issues at hand.

Recently, **new governance structures**, such as food policy councils in Canada, US to Europe, are being developed, and multi-dimensional **food security policies** implemented in countries like Brazil. In addition, over 100 cities at global level have just signed the Urban Food Policy Pact led by the Municipality of Milan. The *Fome Zero* program also from Brazil is another successful example of vertical integration that started from local level and scaling up to national level with complementary policies that support family farming and improved food security and nutrition.

City Region Food Systems and Territorial Approaches

The **City Region Food Systems** (CRFS) approach has emerged to unfold the economical, ecological and social complexity of food systems, to better understand the challenges and bottlenecks, and to strengthen rural urban linkages and integration of sectors for a more sustainable food system. CRFS encompass a given geographical territory of an urban centre and its surrounding periurban and rural hinterland - where flows of people, goods, resources, and ecosystem services are integrally managed. FAO's work through various programmes and activities such as Food for the Cities, Meeting Urban Food Needs, Territorial Approach for Food Security & Nutrition and Rural Development, Growing Greener Cities among others have been focusing on gaining local experience and build evidence on technical knowledge and policy processes.

In addition, the **Federal Government of Germany** is currently supporting FAO in implementing a project in various local contexts aiming at developing a methodology and tool kits to assess city region food systems and strengthening capacity of local stakeholders and is generating experience and knowledge from the ground on the implementation process.

THE PANEL

Objective of the event

The ultimate goal is to **raise awareness** on urban food security and nutrition issues, and to **discuss** ways to improve current food systems by **identifying opportunities** and approaches that target sustainability, resilience, inclusiveness and urgent needs of the most vulnerable.

Specific objectives are:

- establishing a preliminary dialogue with different actors at international, national and local level to get a clearer picture on their roles and perspective in working towards eliminating hunger and malnutrition through promoting sustainable food systems;
- discussing how to support the integration of food into the urban agenda by applying a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectorial approach, and having SDGs and the New Urban Agenda in mind

Key messages

- 1) Cities are diverse when it comes to sustainability and inclusiveness of their food systems. Developing **urban food policies** should then be a tailored and inclusive participatory process, bringing together all stakeholders and sectors: This process requires **inclusive governance**, a horizontally integrated approach to ensure a common vision on sustainable food systems and vertical interaction between local, national and international levels to keep local priorities aligned with global (e.g. SDGs).
- 2) **Food** must be a core element of urban planning. Strategic, spatial and sectorial planning are essential to this end, considering production areas in and around cities, public spaces such as markets and food hubs, and natural resources management including land/soil, water and forests. Innovative spatial planning tools can ensure more effective and stronger **rural-urban linkages**. The **city region** scale, where urban centres are connected with surrounding rural areas, can be the practical scale where innovations and solutions can be best applied.
- 3) **Nutrition** must be central to urban food policies. Planning for food should encompass not only adequate quantity of food but also quality in terms of safety and nutrition. The double burden of malnutrition – hunger and obesity – must be dealt with urgently in urban areas where targeted interventions can be made by promoting **sustainable diets** (healthy, diverse, safe, culturally appropriate, environmentally friendly and rights-based).
- 4) Global food trade and industrialization should be attuned with **alternate food systems** to ensure sustainability, equality and diversity for resilience. **Value addition** is an important effort toward economic transformation. However, there is a need to ensure that safe and nutritious value-added products can reach the urban poor and other vulnerable groups. Opportunities for entrepreneurs and for income generating activities in the food system are numerous in cities. This can provide a vibrant and sustainable food economy and fair/decent jobs by strengthening social relations between consumers and producers and promoting **inclusiveness** of smallholder producers and vulnerable groups across the supply chain both in rural and urban areas.
- 5) Knowledge exchange platforms on urban food systems should be better supported. Sharing of experience and best practices on all levels can pave the way for efficient learning and effective evidence-based decision making.

PARTICIPANTS (to be confirmed)

The panel will be opened by Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General of FAO and moderated by Yves Cabannes, urban planner.

The panel might include:

Kátia de Abreu, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, Brazil

Giuliano Pisapia, mayor of Milan, Italy

George Nyendwa, mayor of Lusaka, Zambia

Duminda Dissanayake, Minister of Agriculture, Sri Lanka

Stineke Oenema, economist and nutrition expert

Luca Ruini, Health, Safety, Environment & Energy Vice President at Barilla G.R.F.lli

PROGRAMME (to be confirmed)

Time	Tentative content of intervention	Tentative Speakers (to be confirmed)
14.00 – 14.15	Welcome address and introduction to the session: Addressing Urban Food Security and Nutrition Issues: Harmonizing global developments with the need for sustainable food systems	Maria Helena Semedo FAO Deputy Director-General
	Moderator: Yves Cabannes	
14.15 – 15.00 (7-8 min per presentation)	Developing and implementing policies aiming at increasing urban food security: the National <i>Fome Zero</i> programme	Kátia de Abreu Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of Brazil
	The experience of the Urban Food Policy Pact (UFPP) Process	Giuliano Pisapia , mayor of Milan, Italy
	The experience of Lusaka in developing policies to alleviate urban food insecurity	George Nyendwa , mayor of Lusaka, Zambia
	The experience of Sri Lanka in addressing nutrition aspects in national policies	Duminda Dissanayake , Minister of Agriculture, Sri Lanka
	The role of private sector in contributing to urban food security and sustainable urban food systems	Luca Ruini , Health, Safety, Environment & Energy Vice President at Barilla G.R.F.Ili
	Governance, stakeholder participation and exchange	Stineke Oenema , economist and nutrition expert
15.00 -15.45	Open moderated discussion: How to achieve urban food security ensuring sustainable food systems?	
15.50 – 16.00	Synthesis of the discussion and closing remarks	Moderator