



CITIES CALL FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION TO TRANSFORM OUR URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS

Currently, food systems are failing to achieve food security for all, and the environmental and climate impacts of food production, processing, transport, distribution consumption, loss and waste are unprecedented. The COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns have demonstrated the importance of food system resilience. There is an opportunity to rethink the governance of food systems. Cities are vital to this process given rapid urbanisation, the linkages with built environment, consumption and nature, and because local governments are best placed to implement policies and approaches that reflect local conditions and their residents' needs.

5 STRATEGIC AREAS FOR URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

Leading up to the UN Food Systems Summit, we convened independent food dialogues with 1000+ people from 26+ cities around the world, and asked local and regional governments, urban practitioners, researchers, business owners and food system stakeholders what they thought were the most important drivers of urban food system change. This infographic shares the outcomes of their reflections.

EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE PROCESSES

The people who face the most inequities in our cities are often the voices least heard. An equitable food system requires deliberate and differentiated action to guarantee everyone full participation in decision making and access to nutritious, safe, affordable and culturally appropriate food. This has been a fundamental consideration in discussion that cuts across all strategic areas.

NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL FOOD GOVERNANCE

National and sub-national governments must work together to better coordinate policies, planning and interventions.

FOOD AND URBAN PLANNING

Integrated planning must consider the use of space, infrastructure and funding mechanisms while entrenching food policy across municipal government and ensuring effective stakeholder engagement.

EMERGENCY PLANNING, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Food must be part of any emergency response plan. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted vast inequities and structural failures of food systems. Cities must develop informed emergency food response and recovery plans that recognize that crises can be recurrent, have long-term structural impacts, and amplify existing stresses such as chronic food insecurity.

HEALTHY AND RESILIENT FOOD ENVIRONMENTS

Resilient food environments support efficient urban food value chains, through formal and informal economies, ensuring access to nutritious, safe and culturally relevant food, while regenerating natural environments.





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10 CRITICAL ACTIONS FOR TRANSFORMING URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS

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DEVELOP COHERENT, INTEGRATED FOOD POLICIES AND INVITE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

to provide clear **vision** and **guidance**, while **equipping actors** to effectively implement policy recommendations, and practice inclusive governance.



FOSTER TERRITORIAL LINKAGES

to shorten or simplify **supply chains**, leverage neighboring logistics capacities, support **local investment**, grow regional food economies, and promote **nature-positive** food supply.

INTEGRATE FOOD INTO PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN

to build **food environments** that facilitate **access** to land, market space, and healthy, sustainable and culturally appropriate food.

ADOPT ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE FINANCE SYSTEMS

to guarantee **credit** and ensure **cash-flow for farmers and small businesses**, improve local **government revenues** and enable infrastructure development.

LEAD CLIMATE ACTION

to foster **mitigation and adaptation strategies** by introducing stress tolerant crops and livestock, making use of climate information services and offering insurance services, as well as by supporting afforestation, reducing food miles and sharing sustainable agricultural practices.



STRENGTHEN PUBLIC FOOD PROCUREMENT

to drive **sustainable markets**, facilitate short supply chains, promote good nutrition, boost the local economy and support school meal programmes.

SUPPORT DATA COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT AND DISSEMINATION

to map food system interactions, identify gaps and enable **evidence-informed decision making**.

INVEST IN CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGIES

to improve **efficiency** and **safety** across the food value chain, ensure access to **nutritious** food for consumers, connect producers with markets, promote economic development and enhance value addition.

PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE URBAN AGRICULTURE

to encourage healthy diets, **connect communities**, supplement incomes and bring nature into the city.

REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND LOSS

to protect natural ecosystems, lower greenhouse gas emissions, **use valuable resources** responsibly and bring all food produced to market.

