

MEETING URBAN FOOD NEEDS



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

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The task of feeding the world's cities adequately constitutes an increasingly pressing challenge, requiring the coordinated interaction of food producers, transporters, market operators and a myriad of retail sellers. It also requires constant improvements in the quality of transport and distribution systems. Not least, it involves a shared understanding among city officials and national and international development agencies of the common problems and the potential solutions faced when seeking to feed cities on a sustainable basis.

Jacques Diouf

Director-General of FAO

The State of Food and Agriculture, 1998

Meeting urban food needs ...

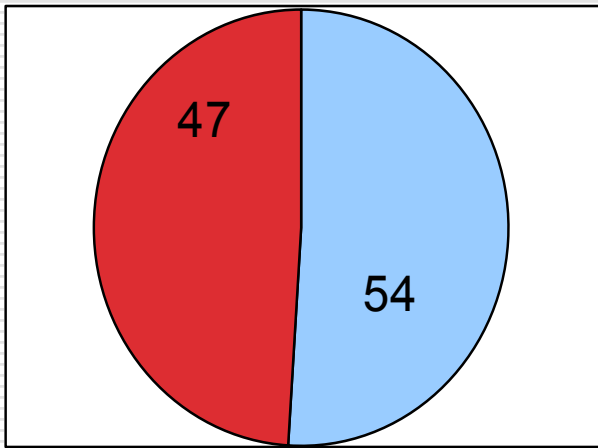
... still receives today insufficient attention while “development” efforts focus on rural areas where consumers do not necessarily depend on the market for accessing food.

For the last twenty years, great reliance on urban agriculture for feeding cities!

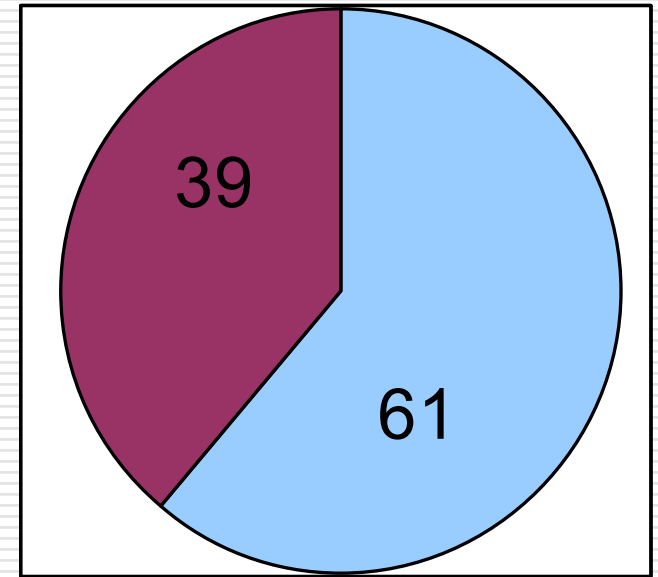
PART I

Urbanisation, poverty and food security

World urbanization pattern



2014, World Bank



2025, UN Habitat

 Rural  Urban

Urbanization facts (Habitat, 2014)

2014:

- Northern America (82%)
 - Latin America and the Caribbean (80%)
 - Europe (73%)
 - Asia (48%)
 - Africa (40%)
 - Close to 50% of world's urban dwellers live in settlements (< 0,5m inhabitants).
 - Only 13% of world's urban dwellers live in the 28 megacities (>10m inhabitants)
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Urbanization facts (Habitat, 2014)

Future:

- All regions will urbanize further over the coming decades
- By 2050: Africa (56%) and Asia 64%)
- Pace of urbanization faster in lower-middle-income countries

Urban poverty

1. The share of urban poverty in the developing world has moved from 17% to 28% in the past 10 years:
 - Eastern Asia: 50%
 - Latin America: 30%
 - Sub-Saharan Africa: 25%
2. In secondary cities and towns the incidence of poverty tends to be higher than in larger cities.
3. In the future, poverty will increasingly be an urban phenomenon.
4. ODI (2014): Current indicators can underestimate the extent of urban poverty.

Implications for urban food security

1. Cities expand where there is space, where it is easier, often in an unplanned and unregulated way
 2. Urbanisation give rise to “fragmented” areas and ever larger slums with no infrastructure and services
 3. More and more fresh and processed food/services are required for consumption in urban areas
 4. Uncontrolled urbanization impairs the efficiency of local FSDS, so food transaction costs and prices increase
 5. More people will have increasing difficulties to access healthy and nutritious food
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Challenge

Meeting increasing urban food demand,
possibly reducing food losses and waste and
conveying safe and nutritious food
to urban consumers at reasonable prices,
within an ever expanding urban environment,
while creating self-employment opportunities
– for youth in particular – along the food system
and preserving the environment.

Cities as markets

- Urban areas are the major market for food products produced in periurban and rural areas.
- If the system linking production areas with consumption area is not efficient, then both producers and consumers pay the consequences.
- We should be thankful to intermediaries for their existence.

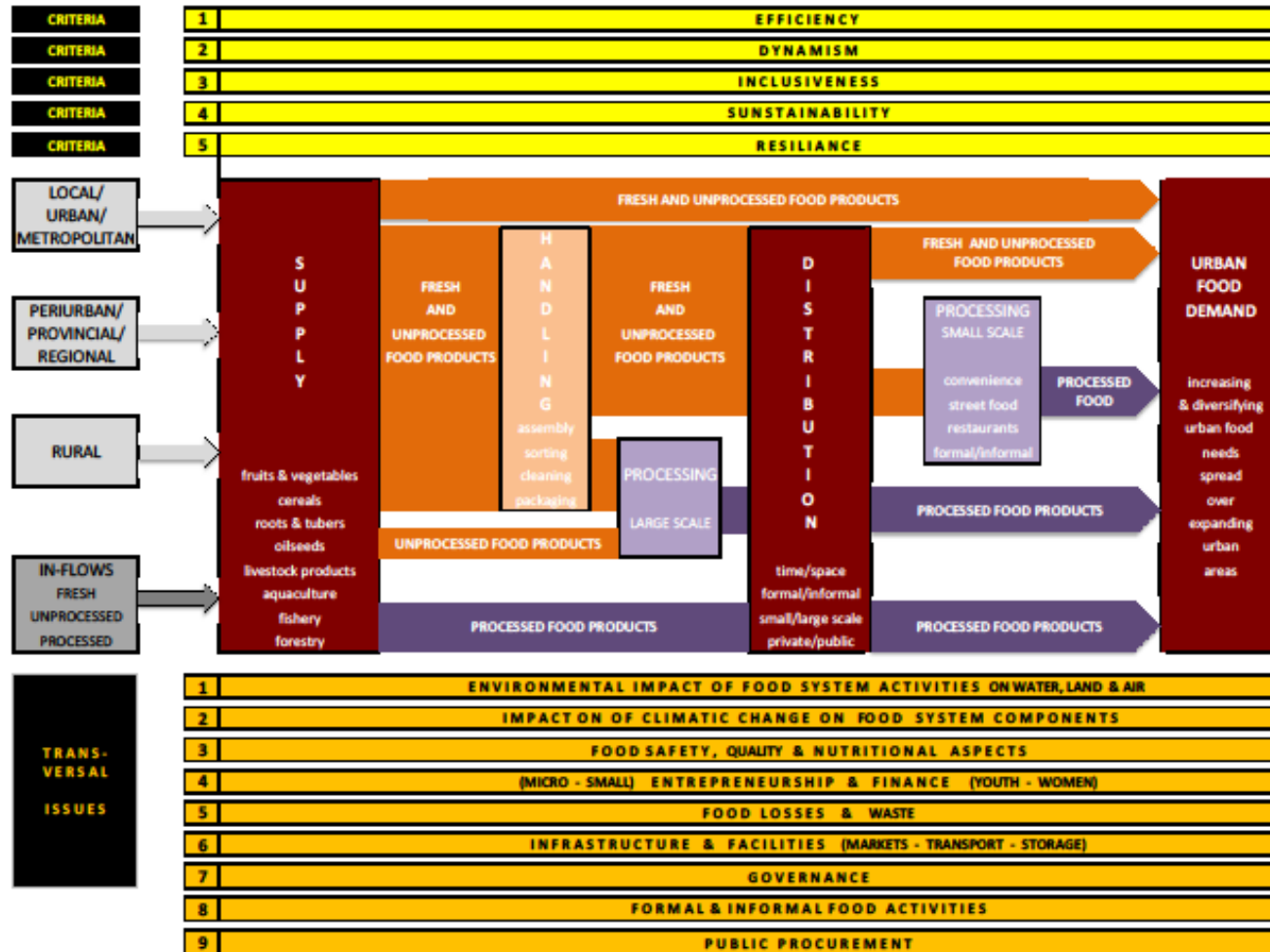
Some key questions

- How much will urban food demand will increase/modify over the next ten years?
 - How many urban dwellers live close to – below poverty line, today/future, and face difficulties in accessing safe and nutritious food? Where are they located?
 - How will the urban area expand/modify?
 - How is the local food system working, its current key constraints?
 - How will the local food system evolve if no involvement by CLAs?
 - How should the food system perform in the future (vision)?
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PART II

Food supply and distribution systems to cities

Food system structure



FSD territorial classification (approximate)

- Regional/Rural
 - areas on which a city relies for supplies of food and water
 - Metropolitan/Provincial/Periurban
 - areas used for food production, wholesale markets, slaughterhouses, city markets, etc.
 - Urban
 - areas used for wholesale and retail markets, hypermarkets, shopping centers, etc.
 - Local
 - areas used for urban food production; food retail outlets serving the inhabitants of a specific neighborhood
 - Inflows
 - food products imported from other regions and countries
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Debate: systems versus chains

- Systems are more than the sum of individual food chains
- First consider the system, then specific food chains

Ref.: Leo Veronez's paper.

Complex FSDS meeting urban food needs

Components

- Urban food demand
 - Food supply to cities
 - Food distribution within cities
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Urban food demand (UFD) (market dependent)

Factors determining or shaping UFD:

- Urban population
 - Income/poverty levels
 - Food culture(s)
 - Urban territory
 - Urban life style(s)
 - Ease of accessing food
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Food supply to cities

Activities to produce and bring food to cities:

- Production (urban, peri-urban and urban)
- Sorting/cleaning
- Packaging
- Processing
- Storage
- Transport

Urban food distribution

Key activities to distribute food within urban areas:

- Wholesaling
- Intra-urban transport
- Retailing
- Street food
- Restaurants

PART III

City and Local Authorities (CLAs) and the policy package

Recognition of CLAs

1. CLAS play an essential role in FSDS development
 2. Decentralization programmes
 3. Until 2010: limited recognition of role of CLAs within FAO
 4. Nowadays: increasing recognition of involvement of CLAs in food related matters
 - Habitat III: Importance of City Region Food Systems in the New Urban Agenda
 - Urban Food Policies. New York and Milan are recent examples.
 9. CLAs are not yet fully recognized as direct beneficiaries of international technical assistance
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FSD policy definition

“Set of goals, objectives and programmes, set within a specified time frame, formulated in collaboration with all stakeholders, that guide CLAs in the use of resources under their control and through private investment to improve access by urban households to stable supply of low-cost, good quality and safe food through more efficient, dynamic, inclusive, hygienic and environmentally sound FSDSs”

FSD policy objectives

□ Economic

- To promote efficient FSDS so as to ensure stable low cost food supplies to urban consumers and generate food production incentives

□ Social

- To minimize food insecurity in poor urban households so as to improve equity, reduce social disruption and increase productive employment (youth)

□ Health and environmental

- To eliminate food-related health problems, improve nutritional status and minimize negative impact of FSDS activities on the environment
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The policy package

- Case study (problem analysis)
 - Strategies (how policy goals and objectives can be achieved)
 - Action/investment plan (what to do, when, who and how much)
 - Monitoring/indicators
 - Evaluation
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FSD policy goal (example)

“Within ten years,
all urban low-income households in my city
will have adequate access to
stable supplies of low-cost good quality and
safe food, through efficient, dynamic,
hygienic and environmentally sound FSDSs”

PART IV

What to do

Local level

1. Case study
 2. Policy framework
 3. Strategy
 4. Action/Investment plan
 5. Monitoring/indicators/
 6. Evaluation
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International level

- ❑ Facilitate information and discussion on FSDS MUFN and urban food security
 - ❑ Provide normative guidance to central and CLAs
 - ❑ Provide technical assistance to CLAs in the design of local policies, strategies, investments and action/investment plans
 - ❑ Promote technically sound decentralized cooperation among city and local authorities in the N-S and S-S contexts to address specific issues and constraints
 - ❑ Conduct information, sensitization and training activities for decision-makers and CLAs staff
 - ❑ Promote and undertake research on relevant topics
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1995 – 2010

- FAO/AGS “Food supply and distribution systems (FSDS)” initiative
 - FAO seen as a “rural” organization
 - No dialogue with CLAs possible
 - Extremely limited funds from FAO
 - External funds from France
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Biennium 2014 – 2015

- FAO/SO4 «Meeting urban food needs» project
 - Extremely limited funds from FAO
 - No external funds
 - Duplication of efforts with SO2 «Food for the cities»
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Key activities

- ❑ Interdisciplinary «methodology» (analytical framework)
 - ❑ Technical documents
 - ❑ Promote external research – calls for papers
 - ❑ Video “Food for the cities”
 - ❑ Regional conferences, subregional and national workshops in many countries and in UN-NY
 - ❑ Field projects
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Nowadays, increasing

- ❑ ... attention to «food systems» approach but still reliance on promoting urban agriculture to feed cities (confusion between economic and social/nutritional objectives)
 - ❑ ... interest for «food into urban planning»
 - ❑ ... concern for system «sustainability» (economic and environmental)
 - ❑ ... concern for «inclusiveness» (reaching poor households, job creation)
 - ❑ ... concern for «reducing food waste and losses»
 - ❑ ... appreciation of role of CLAs
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PART V

FAO's framework

Aragrande & Argenti, 1999.

Studying food supply and distribution systems to cities in developing countries and countries in transition. A methodological and operational guide.

FAO, Rome

From:

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/003/x6996e/x6996e00.pdf>

To:

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/003/x6996e/x6996e10.pdf>

Analytical criteria

- Methodological and operational aspects
 - Approach: interdisciplinary, intersectorial, interinstitutional
 - Intertemporal: today v. tomorrow (5-10 years)
 - Concerned with system:
 - Efficiency
 - Dynamism
 - Inclusiveness
 - Sustainability (economic and environmental)
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Key limitations

- ❑ Rather academic
- ❑ Not user friendly
- ❑ Failed to include “complex” systems analytical perspective

FAO framework needs to be revised and simplified.

Calls for papers (2014)

CP1 “Understanding complex food systems meeting urban food needs”. Methodological approaches and disciplinary contributions

CP2 “Improvement of food-related infrastructure at wholesale and retail levels”. Good practices and lessons learnt

CP3 “Complex-systems dynamics principles applied to food systems”

Expert Meeting at FAO (8 July 2015)



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Thank you

What CLAs should do (1/3)

1. Acknowledge the importance of efficient, dynamic and inclusive FSDSs
2. Acquire an understanding of local FSDS and their constraints
3. Formulate a technically sound food policy, strategy and investment plan
4. Integrate FSD aspects into urban management and planning (ref. Cecilia Marocchino's presentation)

What CLAs should do (2/3)

1. Develop transport and wholesale/retail market and related facilities as well as slaughterhouses, and/or upgrade them, ease access to them to reduce operational costs.
 2. Monitor formal and informal food processing and distribution activities
 3. Promote productive (self) employment in FSD activities (youth)
 4. Promote private investments along FSDSs
 5. Promote private sector organizations and dialogue with them
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What CLAs should do (3/3)

6. Regulate public land occupancy and construction
7. Levy municipal taxes from markets and reinvest them into markets
8. Food quality control, food sale points hygiene
9. Adequately dispose of organic waste from markets and slaughterhouses
10. Support informal food trading activities
11. Train market users and municipal staff at all levels

Constraints faced by CLAs

1. Decision makers are not aware of the issues
 2. Too many problems
 3. Increasing responsibilities not matched by resources
 4. Cumbersome financial disbursement procedures
 5. Pressure exerted on the urban space for competing use
 6. Insufficient and/or inadequate infrastructure
 7. Unclear role of municipal agents
 8. Insufficient technical staff
 9. Inadequate technical skills with respect to FSD issues
 10. Inadequate interinstitutional co-ordination
 11. Inadequate dialogue between CLAs and private sector
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Topics of special importance

- Dynamic FSD system analysis
 - Food into urban planning
 - Informal food sector support policies
 - Micro-small food youth-led enterprises development
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Topics for discussion and research

- Complex food systems analysis
 - Some areas requiring research and policy advice:
 - Informal food sector
 - Youth entrepreneurial opportunities within local food systems
 - Public versus private interventions/investments in FSDS development
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