

Food system analysis versus value chain analysis: a conceptual approach for “meeting urban food needs”

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Context

FAO has developed several complex methodological approaches to meeting urban food needs, mainly in countries and regions experiencing food insecurity.

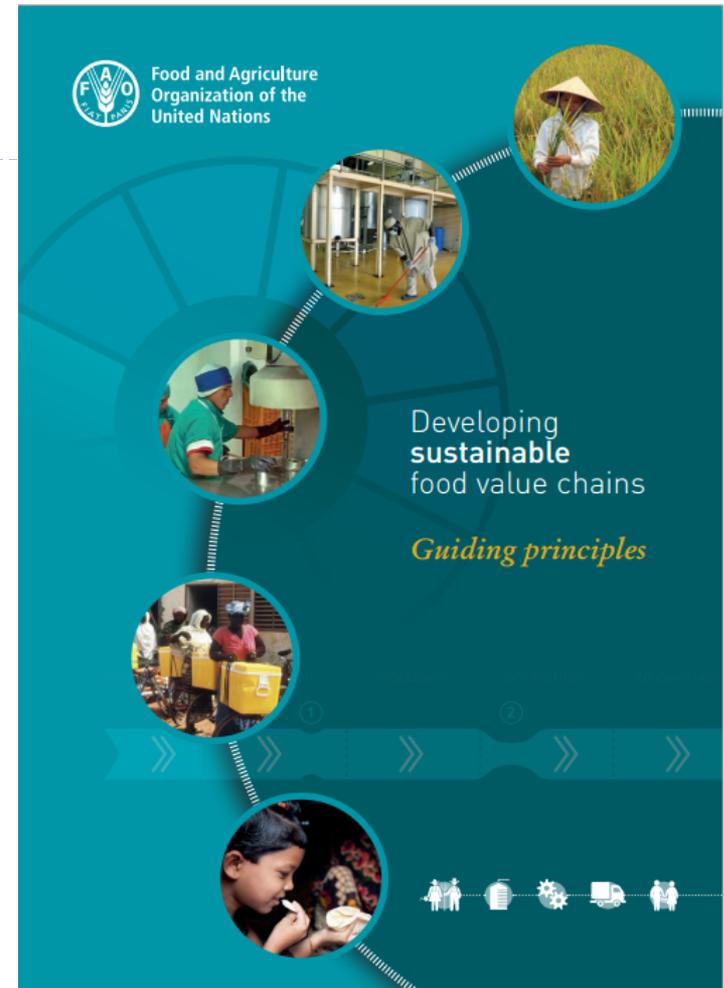
Food Supply and Distribution Systems (FSDSs) approach have been used to achieve the goals of reducing poverty, increasing food supply and improving environmental conditions for wholesale and retail markets within the urban context (by a multidisciplinary approach)

At the same time, the Sustainable Food Value Chain (SFVC) approach attempts to develop value chains for food in a sustainable manner (based in an economic model) while aiming to develop dimensional components such as socio-economics, urban planning and so on.



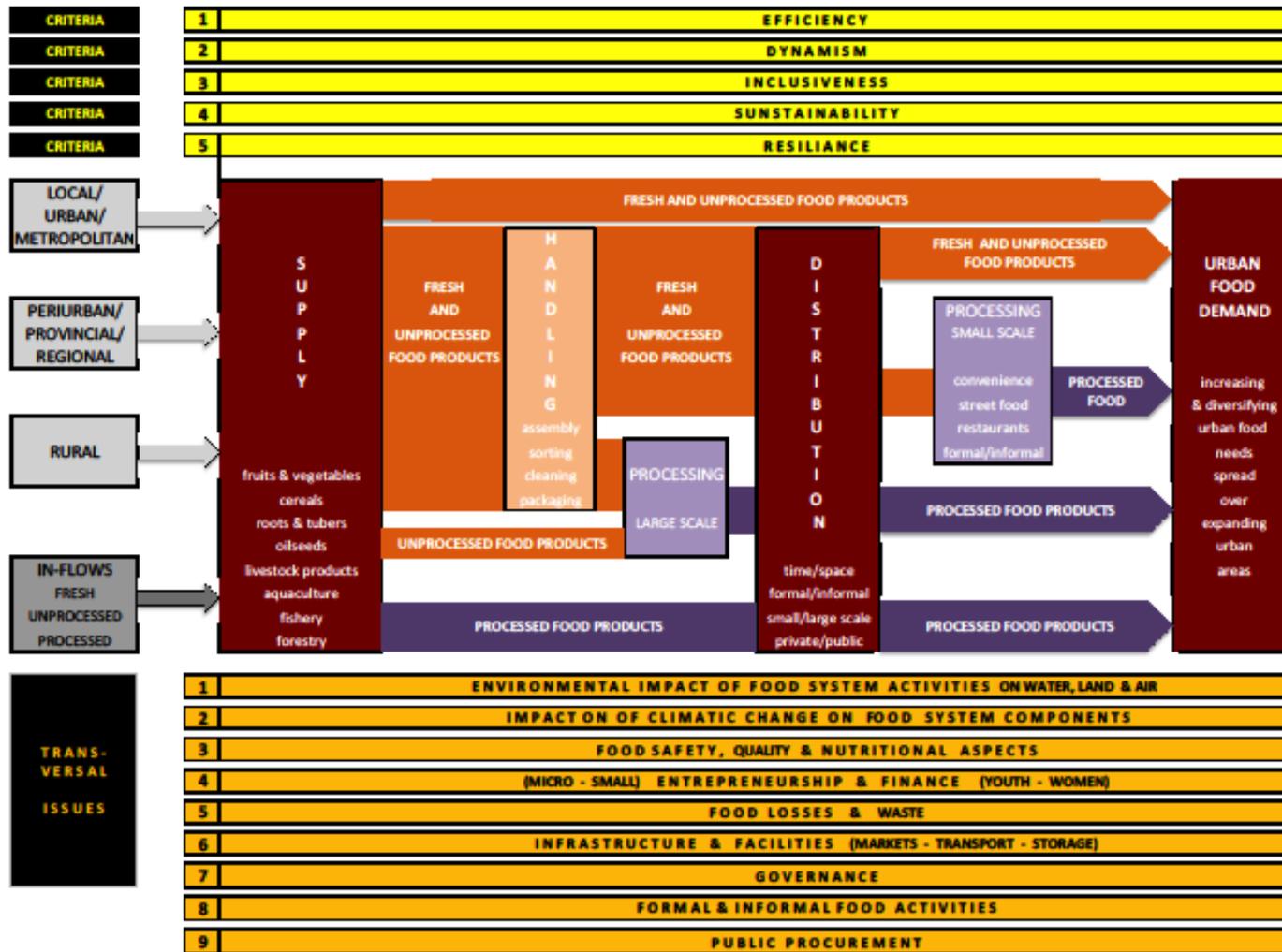


Aragrande, M. & Argenti, O. 2001. **Studying food supply and distribution systems to cities in developing countries and countries in transition**. Methodological and operational guide. “Food into Cities” Collection, DT/36-01E, FAO: Rome.

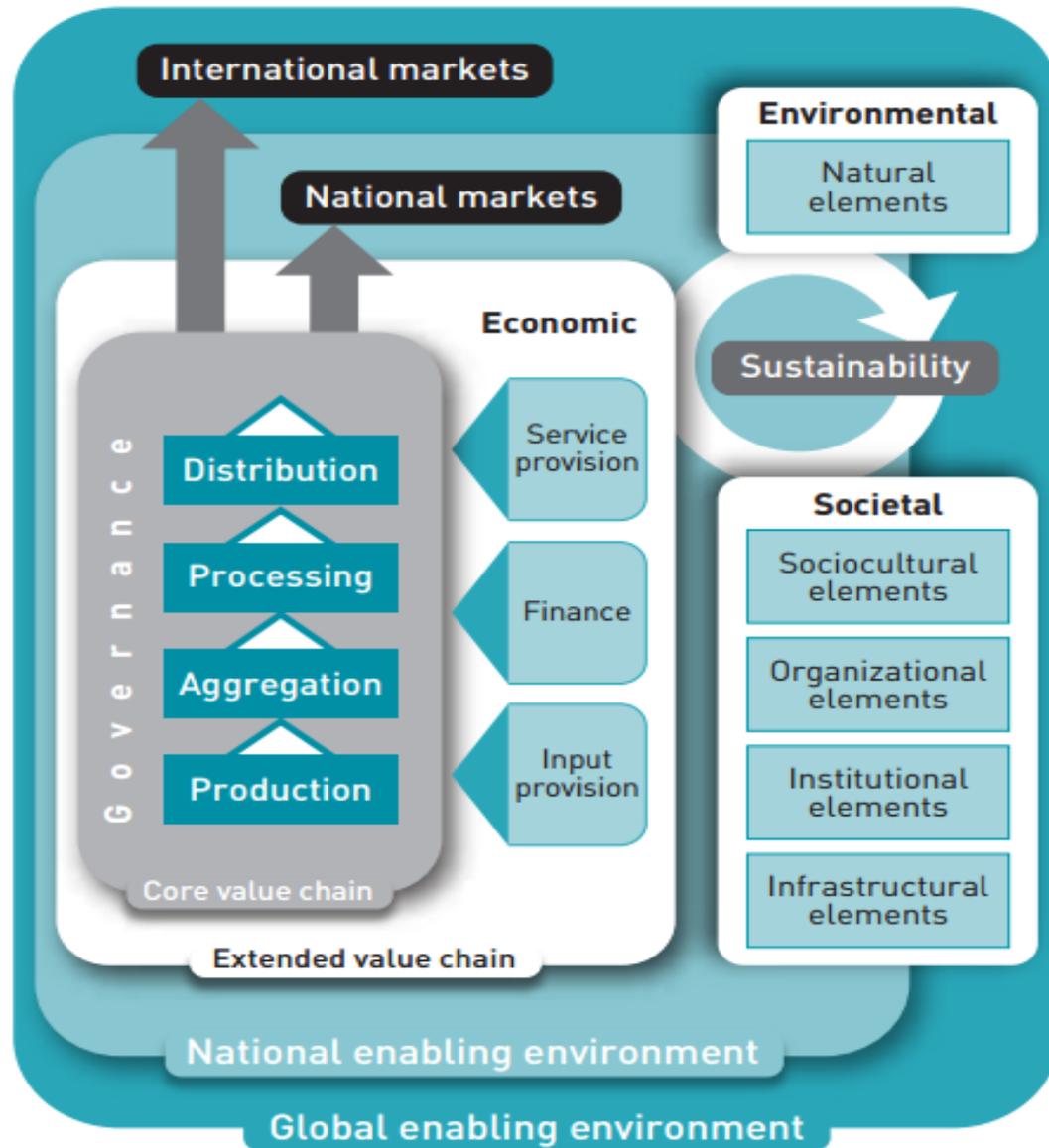


FAO. 2014. **Developing sustainable food value chains – Guiding principles**. Rome

FSDSs' framework



SFVC' framework



The aim of the paper

... is to discuss the **conceptual approaches** of FSDSs and SFVC in terms of increasing food availability in cities at lower prices, especially for poorest groups/cities.

To achieve this, the paper offers a critical approach towards the **concepts and epistemological elements** of each method.

Comparing by key elements/concepts:

Objectives

Paradigms

Instruments

Inclusiveness

Economic Sustainability

Limits

Negative Externalities



Results

	FSDSs	SFVC
Objectives	physical inputs non-financial services financial services Economic sustainability social matters urbanism matters environmental issues	physical inputs non-financial services financial services Economic sustainability
Paradigms	environmental externalities economic growth x economic development complex systems approach	Economic, social and environmental negative externalities "invisible hand" technological progress x labour productivity
Instruments	case study socioeconomic development urban development systemic efficiency	Economic approach neoliberalism market efficiency
Inclusiveness	by the Market and wage growth (economic) public policies positive externalities	by the Market and wage growth (economic)
Economic Sustainability	Achieved by market efficiency neoliberalism systemic approach	market efficiency neoliberalism "invisible hand"
Limits	dependence of local authorities and public policies for social matters urban planning in food system	everything not controlled by Economics models dependence of local authorities and public policies for social matters
Negative externalities	inputs concentration unequal income distribution	inputs concentration unequal income distribution

Final Remarks

On the one hand, SFVC could play an important role in the medium term by encouraging the development of one or more value chains for first-order foods when there is a lack in infrastructure or market competitiveness for a local or regional production.

On the other hand, FSDSs could have wider effects in the long term. This would enable it to create the elements needed for the expected dynamism of the market in the face of changes to the supply and demand of food and the strategies of economic agents.

As such, both models catch market alterations and socio-economic, political and spatial changes in different ways and over different time (they could be complementary). As such, each model is capable of generating contextual responses within its own capacities and analytical limitations of intervention.



Further development (weaknesses)

It is necessary to develop an empirical research for both models among different cities (in terms of: socioeconomic context, urban planning, economics powers, income concentration, culture, poverty, geographical scale and so on) because both models are too academic.

(and probably more than that)



Obrigado
Grazie
Thank you

