

Welcome to the Recap of Agriculture & Foodscapes

2025-10-27

Based on content by
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Your recap materials and assignment

Key readings

- Deh-Tor, C.M. 2021. Food as an urban question, and the foundations of a reproductive, agroecological, urbanism, Chapter 1 in: Tornaghi, Ch. and Dehaene, M. 2021. Resourcing an Agroecological Urbanism: Political, Transformational and Territorial Dimensions
- IPES-Food, 2021. A long food movement
- Chapter Agriculture and Foodscapes in Landscape Economy: page 157-176

Background material

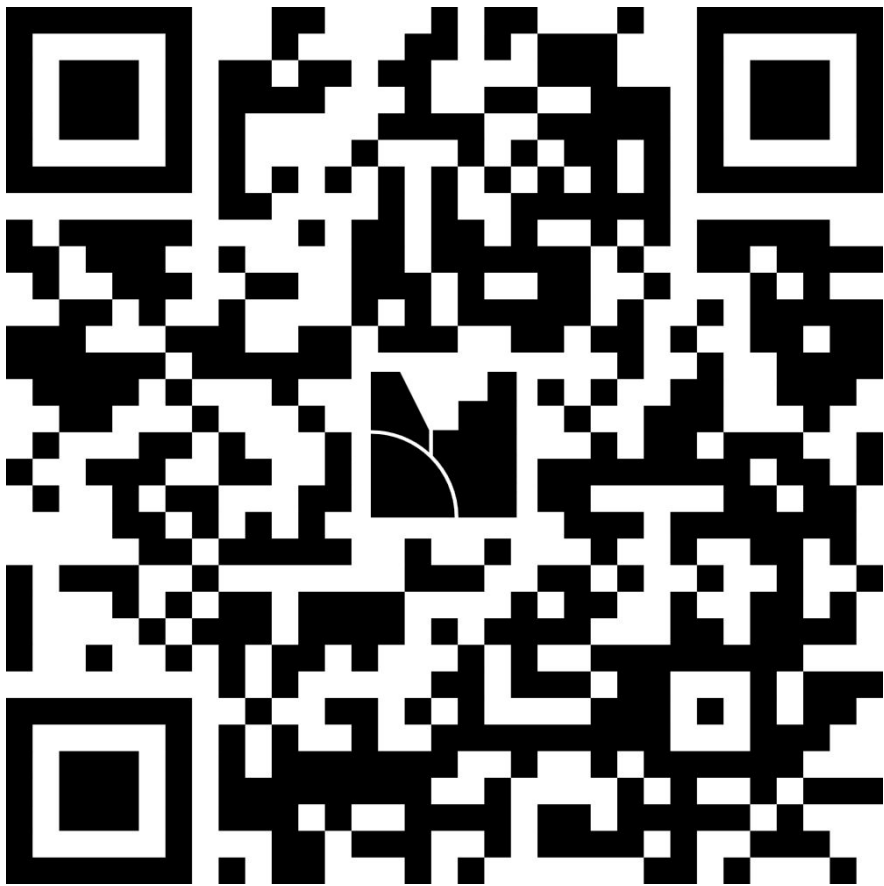
- Sustainable Food Planning Wiki: with presentations, lectures, reading list.

Assignment:

Draft a first system model of how agriculture and food work in your landscape

Question 1:

What do you think is currently the most important challenge for agriculture in your country?



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Or click on the link in
the chat.

Challenges: Environmental impacts:

- Loss of soil and soil degradation, erosion
- Water shortages and flooding
- Pesticides and nitrogen fertilisers -> biodiversity loss, water pollution
- Loss of environmental services pollination
- Carbon and nitrogen emissions

Sources: IPES (2019,), OXFAM 2013,

Challenges: Health impacts

- Hidden cost of cheap food
- Food as a commodity and speculation: 850 million undernourished
- Shift to processed foods (richer in salt, sugar and saturated fats) often less nutritious
- Impact of air pollution by ammonia emissions, surface and drinking water pollution by pesticides and fertilizers
- Antimicrobial resistance and exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals via foods and food packaging.
- Change in diets by industrial processing and marketing result in overweight and obesity (1.5 billion, 300 million diabetes type 2), especially for the poorer population groups.

Sources: IPES (2019,), OXFAM 2013,

Challenges: Socio-economic impacts

- Regional hyper-specialization – for export not for providing food for residents
- Giant agri-food corporations result in precarious working conditions and poor working conditions and livelihood pressures for farmers by power imbalances.
- Techno investments make farmers depending on banks and large companies
- Erosion of traditional food cultures and the emergence of urban lifestyles -> disconnecting people from how food is produced and from concepts such as the seasonality of fruits and vegetables

Sources: IPES (2019,), OXFAM 2013,

Key challenges for an agroecological urbanism

1) URBAN AND METROPOLITAN EXPANSION ON AGRICULTURAL LAND

- ongoing sale of public farmland and farming infrastructure
- fragmentation of farmland
- farmers isolation and residualisation, rural to urban migration of farmless/landless farmers
- ongoing speculative development: systematic undervaluing of healthy farmlands and over-valuing of speculative opportunities on land

2) THE ROLE OF SOIL IN THE FOOD WATER ENERGY NEXUS

- nutrient depletion, difficult to restore circular soil nutrient cycles in peri-urban contexts
- ongoing soil erosion and contamination
- energy and water challenges

3) GAP: AGROECOLOGY vs. URBAN FOOD COMMUNITIES

- urban food strategies / policies overly focussed on consumption side
- rural imaginaries predominant in agroecology community – little mobilization of agroecological communities in urban contexts

Question 2:

How many companies are managing more than 70% of the world trade in grain and fertilizers?

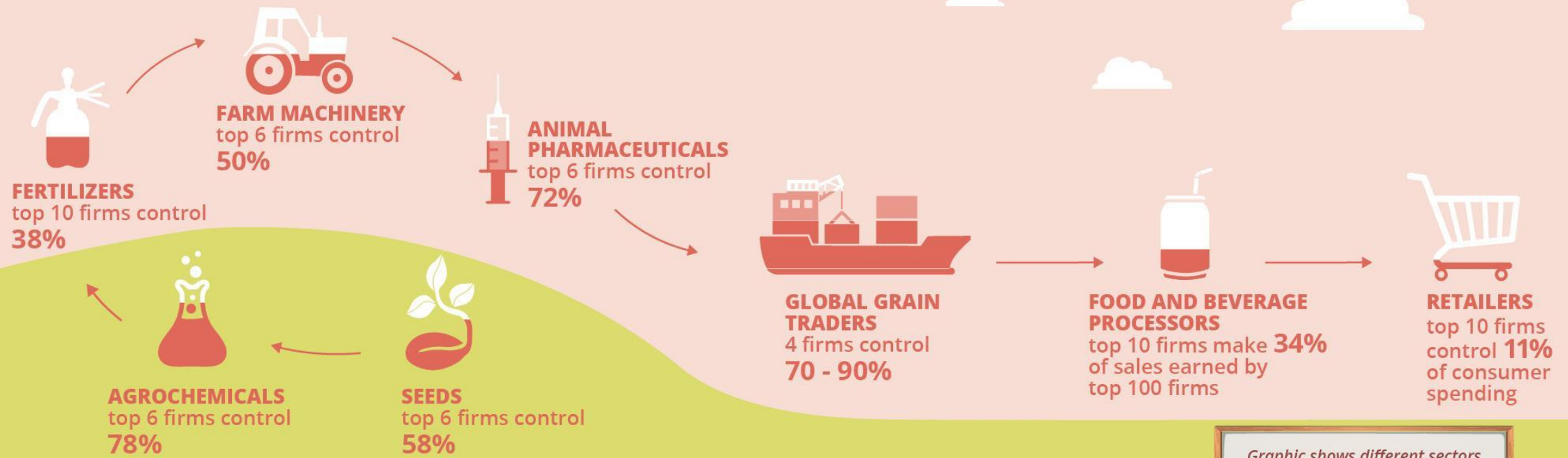


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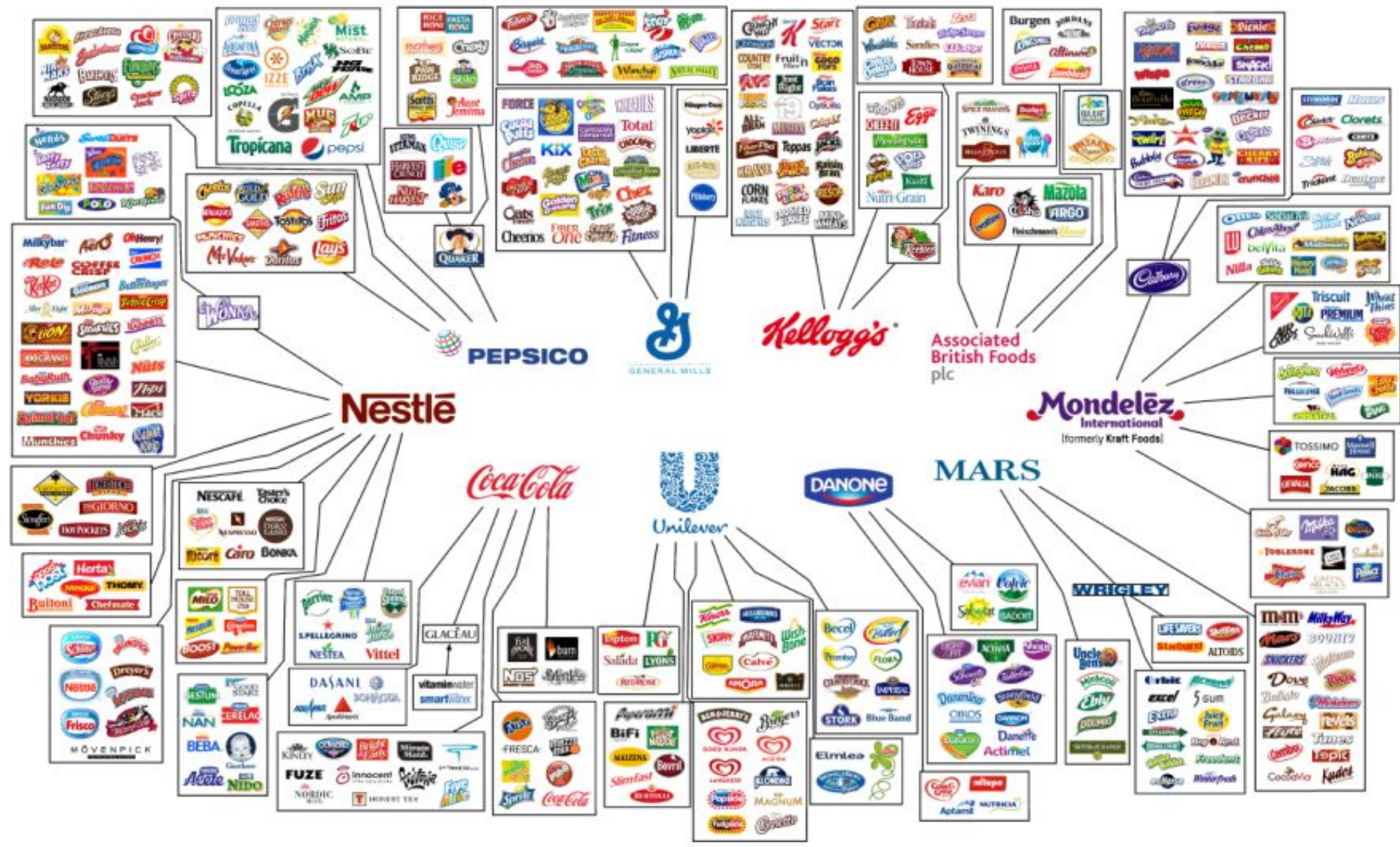
Challenges and background in governance – IPES-Food

Corporate concentration in the agri-food supply chain



Graphic shows different sectors of the agri-food chain and the percentage of the world market that the top firms control

5.6 Where does the food come from? What is the social and environmental impact?



Source: Joki Gauthier for Oxfam 2012. For more information on this figure, and to see it online, visit <http://www.behindthebrands.org>

From Unsustainable Food Systems to Just Transitions: Insights from Recent Global Reports

Key findings on the current unsustainability of food systems:

- Food systems are major drivers of **climate change, biodiversity loss, and social inequality.**
- Unhealthy diets are now the **leading global cause of premature death.**
- Transformation must address **ecological limits** and **social justice** together.

Question 3:

The use of artificial fertilizers is important for the soil, because:....



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Debate on fertilizers

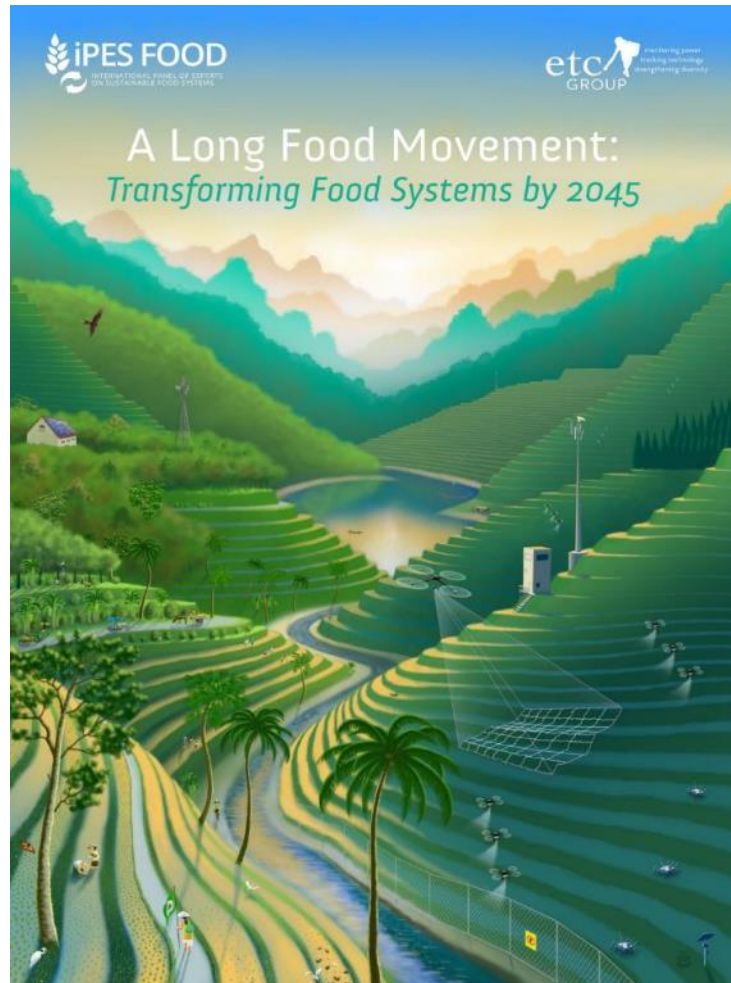
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Agriculture

IPES Long food movement – two scenarios



Looking ahead to 2045: Agribusiness-as-Usual
Looking ahead to 2045: Civil society as Unusual

Four pathways

Rooting food systems in diversity, agroecology, and human rights

Transforming governance structures

Shifting financial flows

Rethinking the modalities of civil society collaboration

Question 4:

IPES-Food states that the world should NOT have a strategy that focuses on Techno-fixes for reducing climate impact, pollution, nitrogen overload. What are the arguments for that?



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Question 5:

The Nyeléni declaration states that agroecology can provide an important pathway. What is agroecology actually?



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the chat.

Definitions of Agroecology

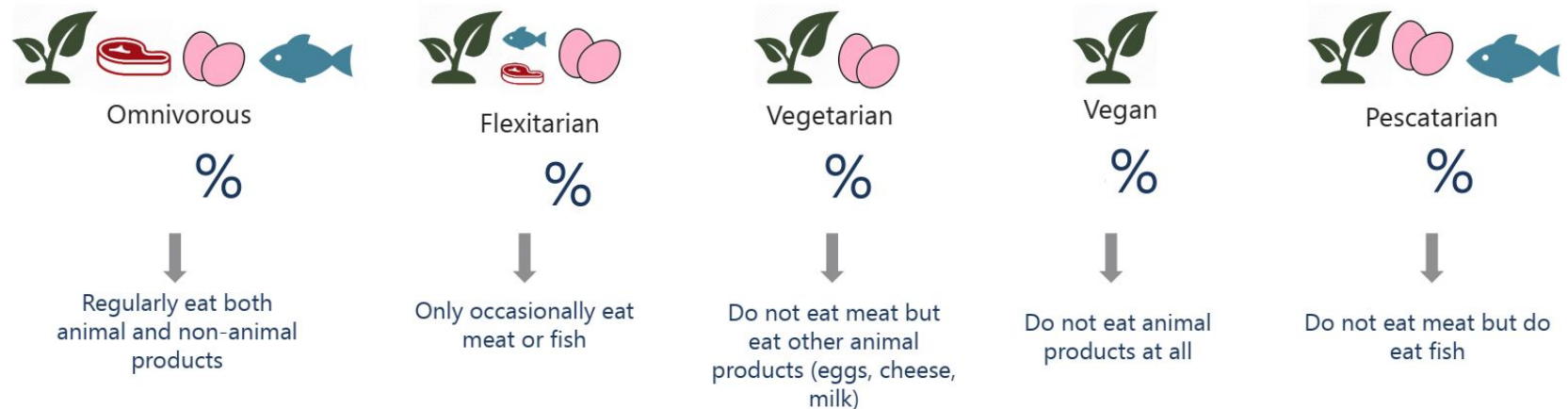
The application of ecological principles to the study, design and management of agroecosystems that are both productive and natural resource conserving, culturally sensitive, socially just and economically viable

Altieri and Toledo 2011; Gliessman 2012; Fernandez et al. 2013.

A practice, a science and a social movement that has been embraced by the international food sovereignty movement through the Declaration of the International Forum for Agroecology

Anderson et al. 2015:3 & Nyéléni Declaration, Mali, 27 February 2015

Question 6: How would you consider your own diet? Select the one that is most appropriate.



Source: Ipsos MORI Global Advisor Survey, N=20313 28 countries



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Compared to the world diets



Omnivorous

73%



Regularly eat both animal and non-animal products



Flexitarian

14%



Only occasionally eat meat or fish



Vegetarian

5%



Do not eat meat but eat other animal products (eggs, cheese, milk)



Vegan

3%



Do not eat animal products at all



Pescatarian

3%

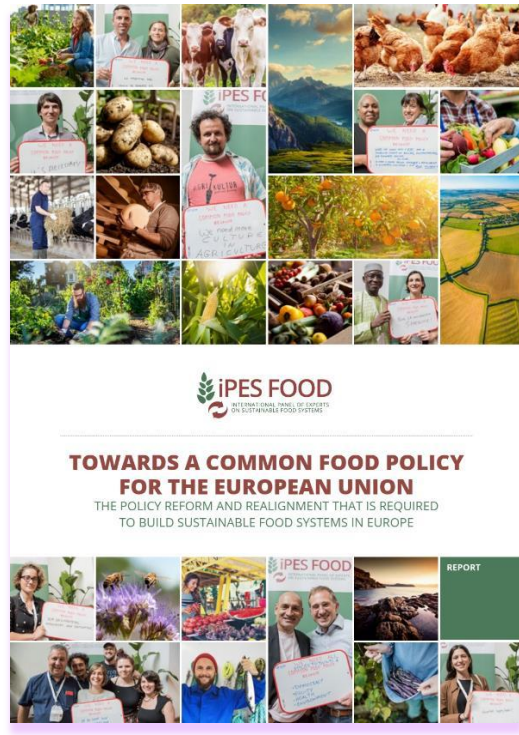


Do not eat meat but do eat fish

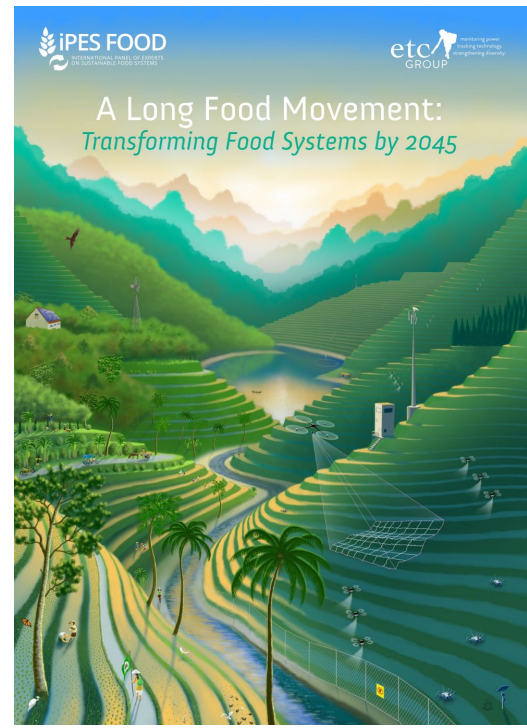
4. Current developments, policies, strategies and research reports for agriculture and food

- European Union new CAP (Common Agricultural Policy)
- New Green Deal (EU)
- Responses by FAO / IPES / Milano urban food policy pact
- Ultra-Processed Foods (UPFs)
- EAT–Lancet Commission (2025)
- Doughnut Economics (Raworth)
- Titans of Agriculture (Clapp)
- FAO 2025 –Systems Integrated Approach
- IPES–Food – Fossil Fuel Addiction

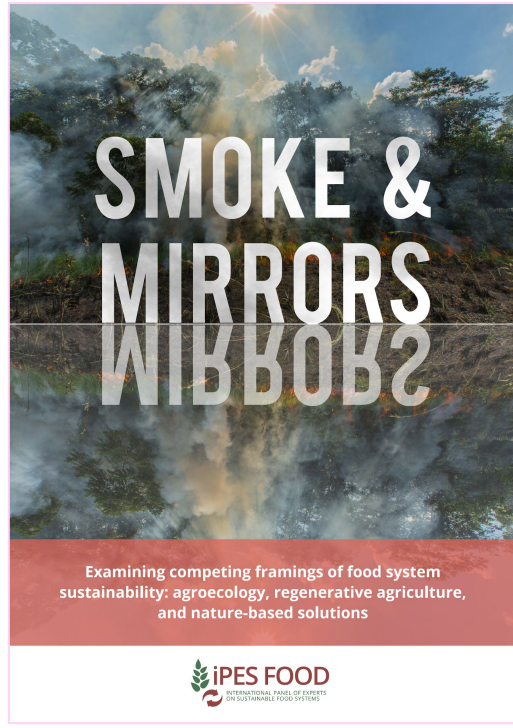
Responses by IPES on the system



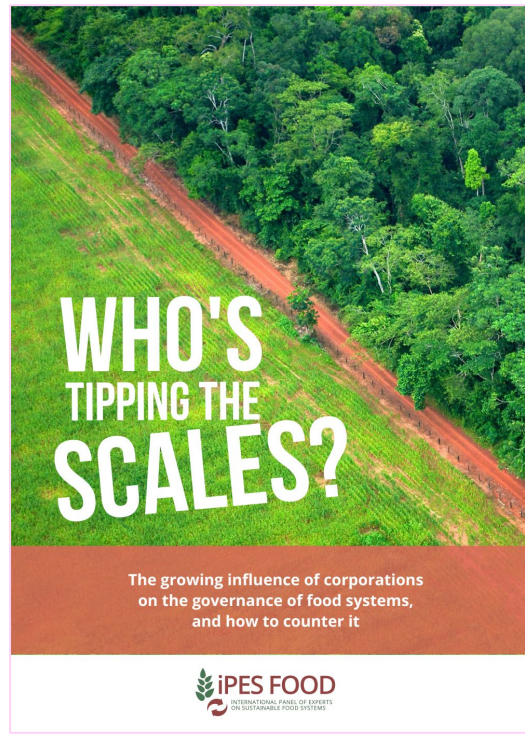
Policy



scenario / movement



framing



corporate power

<http://www.ipes-food.org/pages/LongFoodMovement>

From Unsustainable Food Systems to Just Transitions: Insights from Recent Global Reports

- **EAT-Lancet Commission (2025):** Defines the Planetary Health Diet; shows food systems breaching planetary limits and deepening inequality.
- **Doughnut Economics (Raworth):** Links social needs and ecological boundaries; exposes the global imbalance between North and South.
- **IPES-Food – Fossil Fuel Addiction:** Shows food's deep fossil dependence; urges decarbonisation via agroecology and just transitions.
- **FAO 2025 –Systems Integrated Approach:** Advocates integrated, inclusive, and resilient food systems through multi-level governance.

The EAT–Lancet Commission

The **EAT–Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health** is a collaboration between the medical journal *The Lancet* and the non-profit organisation **EAT**.

It brings together **37 leading scientists** from **16 countries**, working across health, nutrition, agriculture, environmental science, and policy.

Purpose: to define a “**Planetary Health Diet**” – one that ensures both **human health** and the **sustainability of the planet**.

The first report (2019) and its update (EAT–Lancet 2.0, 2024) respond to a growing crisis:
→ unhealthy diets are now the **leading cause of disease and early death**,
→ while food production is a **major driver of climate change, biodiversity loss, and water pollution**.

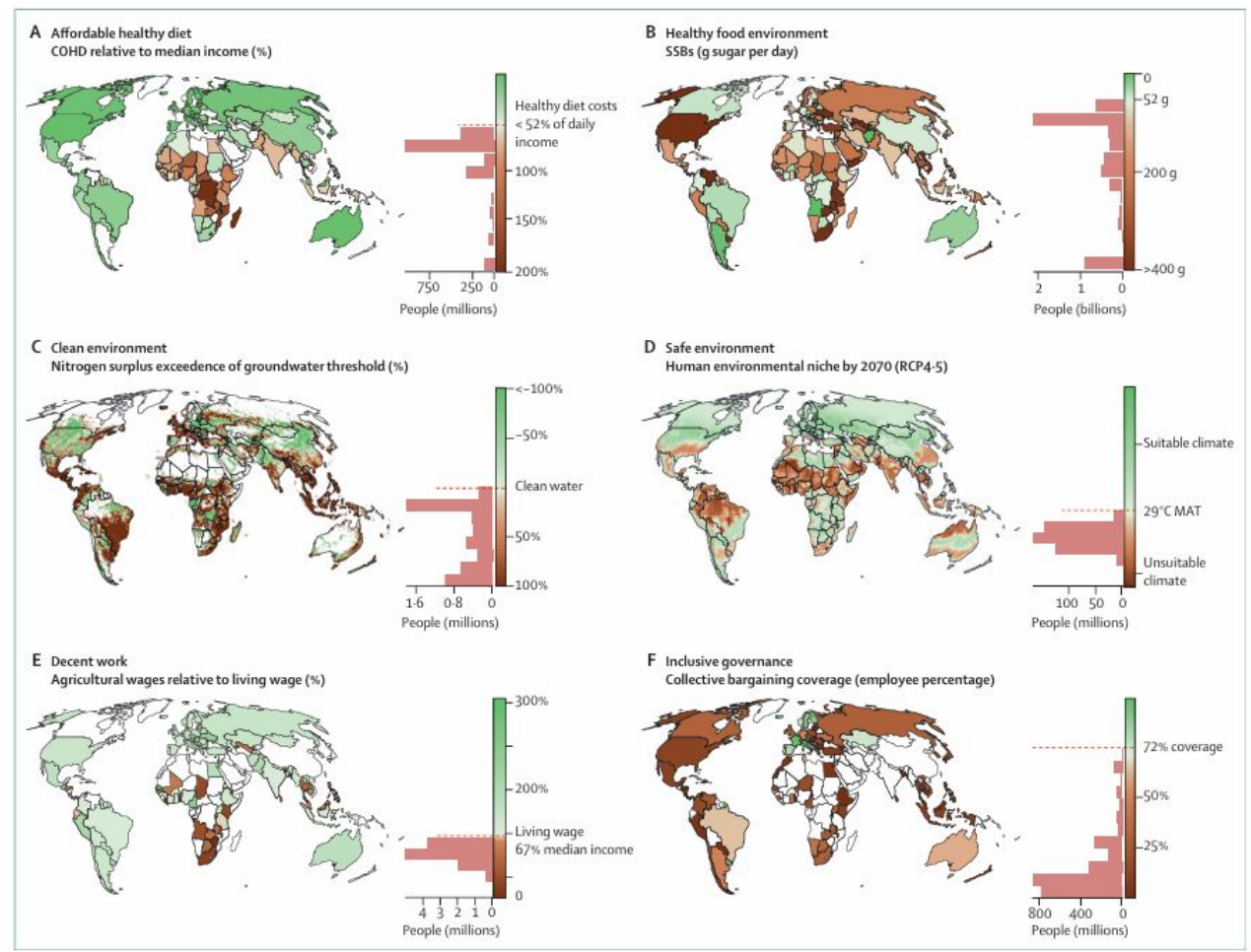
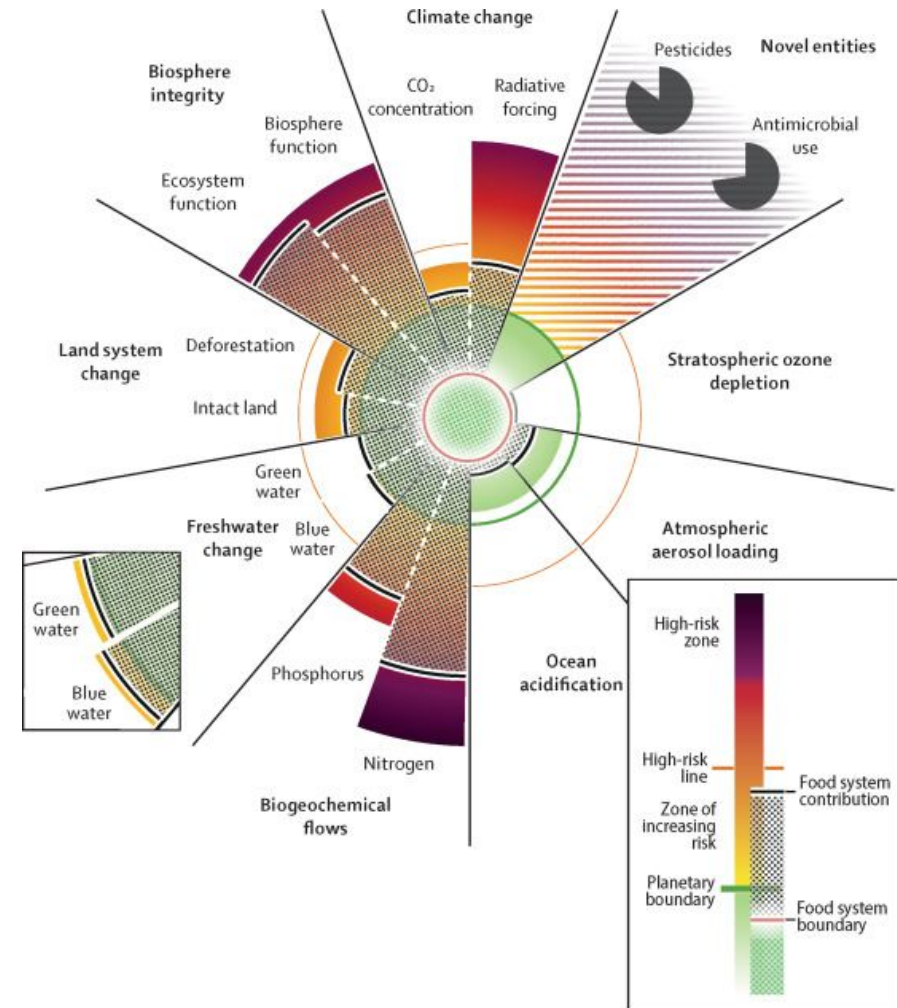


Figure 3. The global status of several food systems indicators.

EAT Lancet 2.0 on health, sustainable and just food systems

- The **2025 EAT-Lancet Commission** presents the **most comprehensive scientific assessment of global food systems** to date.
- Food systems are now the *single largest contributor to the transgression of five planetary boundaries* (climate, biodiversity, land, freshwater, nutrient pollution) *of the six breached boundaries.*
- Even if fossil fuels were phased out entirely, **current food systems alone could still push global warming above 1.5°C.**
- Less than **1% of the world's population** currently lives in the **"safe and just space"** — where everyone's food needs and rights are met within planetary limits.
- **The richest 30%** of the global population drive **over 70% of food-related environmental impacts.**



Key Findings

- **Dietary transformation** could prevent up to **15 million premature deaths/year**.
- Food systems contribute around **30% of global greenhouse gas emissions**: transformation could **cut this by half**.
- Around **32% of food system workers earn below a living wage**, showing that inequity is embedded across the system.
- Global diets still **lack fruits, vegetables, nuts, legumes, and whole grains**, while containing **too much meat, dairy, sugar, and ultra-processed food**.
- The updated **Planetary Health Diet** is **plant-rich, culturally adaptable**, and **emphasises equity and justice**, not only calories or nutrients.

A Just and Sustainable Transformation

Transformation must address both **planetary boundaries** and **social foundations**, ensuring that:

- Everyone has the **right to food**,
- Food system workers have **decent livelihoods**,
- Environmental burdens are **shared fairly**.

Even small dietary shifts combined with **better production, reduced waste, and fair labour practices** could yield an annual **return of \$5 trillion**, far exceeding the investment needed.

Food is recognised as **central to human and planetary well-being**, not only as a commodity.

8 Pathways for Action

1. **Protect and promote traditional healthy diets.**
2. **Create accessible and affordable food environments** that encourage healthy eating.
3. **Implement sustainable production practices** – carbon storage, biodiversity, and water protection.
4. **Halt agricultural expansion** into intact ecosystems.
5. **Reduce food loss and waste** at every stage.
6. **Ensure decent working conditions** across the food chain.
7. **Give voice and representation** to food system workers.
8. **Recognise and protect marginalised groups.**

Each of these is supported by **policy, economic and cultural levers**:

- Integrating traditional foods into dietary guidelines.
- Supporting **local seed systems and agroecological practices**.
- Redirecting **subsidies** to make healthy foods more affordable.
- Building **coalitions and financing mechanisms** for transformation.

The Doughnut: A Compass for Human Prosperity

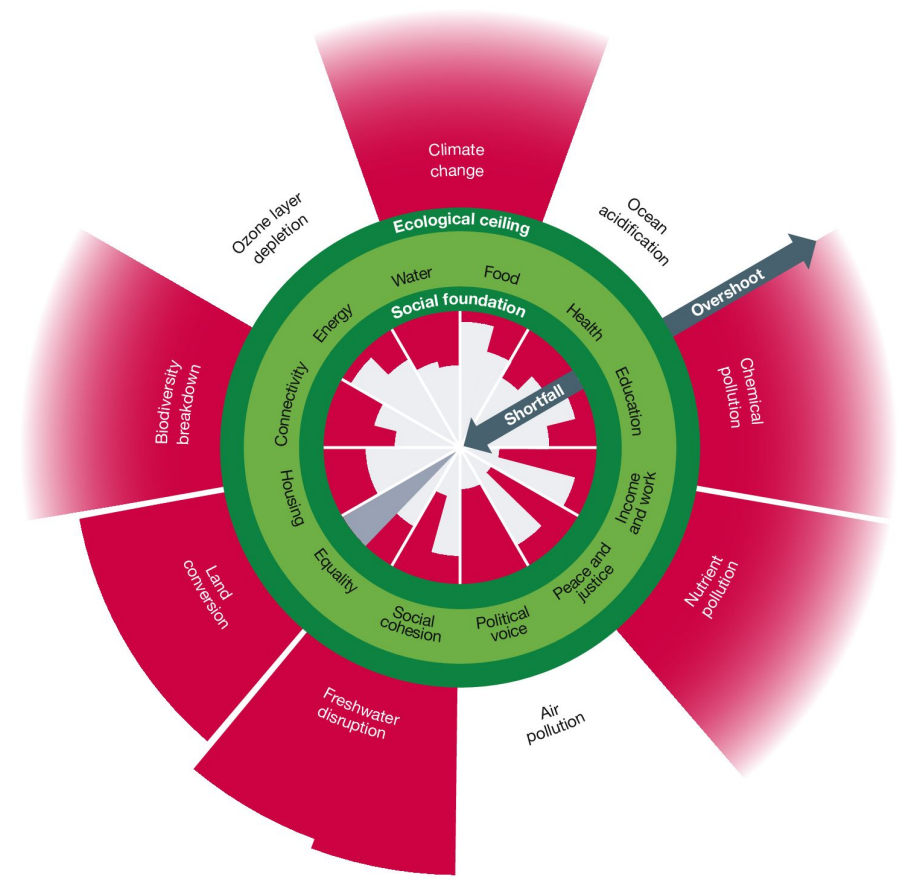
Developed by **Kate Raworth**, the **Doughnut Economics framework** defines a **safe and just space for humanity**.

It integrates **two concentric rings**:

- **Inner ring** – the **social foundation**, below which people face deprivation (food, health, housing, equality, education).
- **Outer ring** – the **planetary boundaries**, beyond which Earth’s life-support systems are destabilised (climate, biodiversity, freshwater, pollution).

Between these rings lies the **“safe and just space”** where **human well-being and ecological integrity** can coexist.

The 2023 update by **Fanning & Raworth** provides the most detailed global monitoring of this balance.



A World Out of Balance

Latest data shows:

7 of 9 planetary boundaries exceeded (climate, biodiversity, land use, water, nitrogen, phosphorus and ocean acidification).

No country currently meets all social needs **within planetary limits**.

The **Global North** overshoots ecological limits, while the **Global South** remains below the social foundation.

This reflects a **double injustice**:

- ecological degradation driven by high-income consumption,
- social deprivation persisting in low-income regions.

The Doughnut reveals how **economic growth models** fuel both inequality and environmental overshoot.

Implications for Food Planning and Policy

Food systems sit **at the core of the Doughnut**, linking social and ecological domains.

Applying the Doughnut lens means:

- Ensuring **food security and decent livelihoods** within local ecological boundaries.
- Reducing **agricultural emissions, waste, and land pressure**.
- Promoting **fair access to nutritious food** for all communities.
- Embedding **justice, regeneration, and circularity** in planning processes.

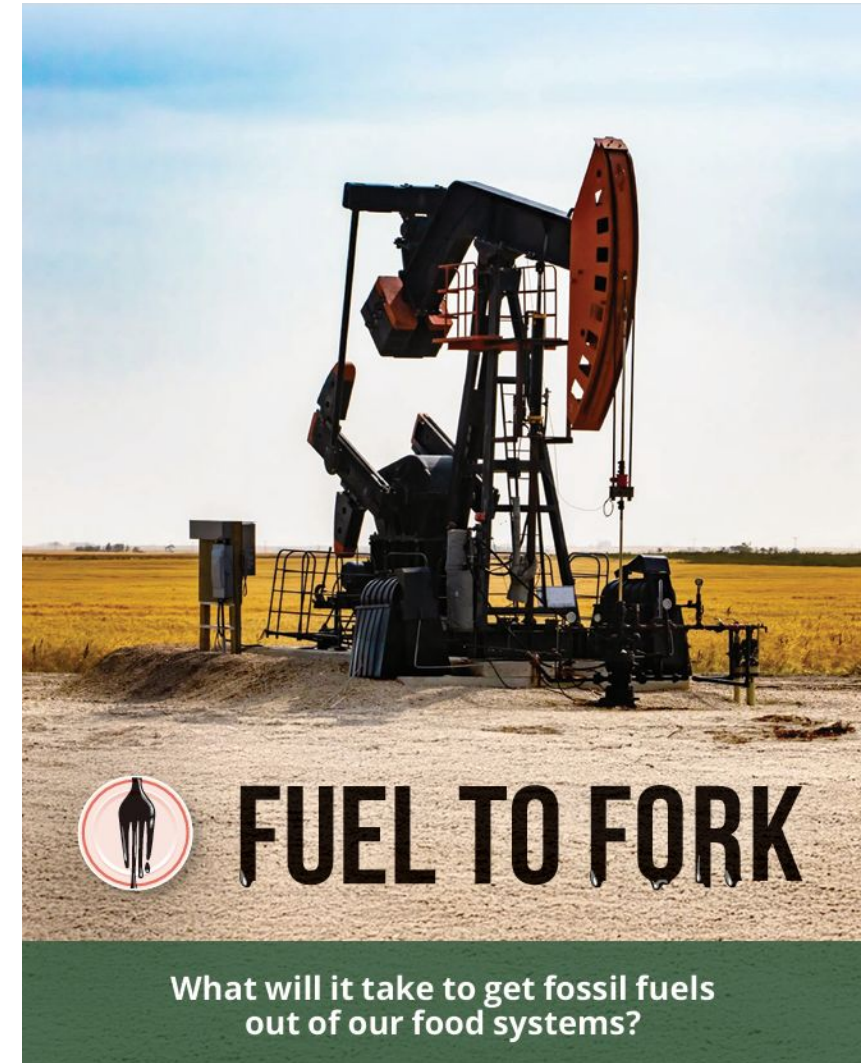
For planners: the Doughnut as a **decision-making compass** to design **place-based food systems** that respect both **people's rights** and **planetary limits**.

IPES-food: The Fossil Fuel Addiction in Food Systems

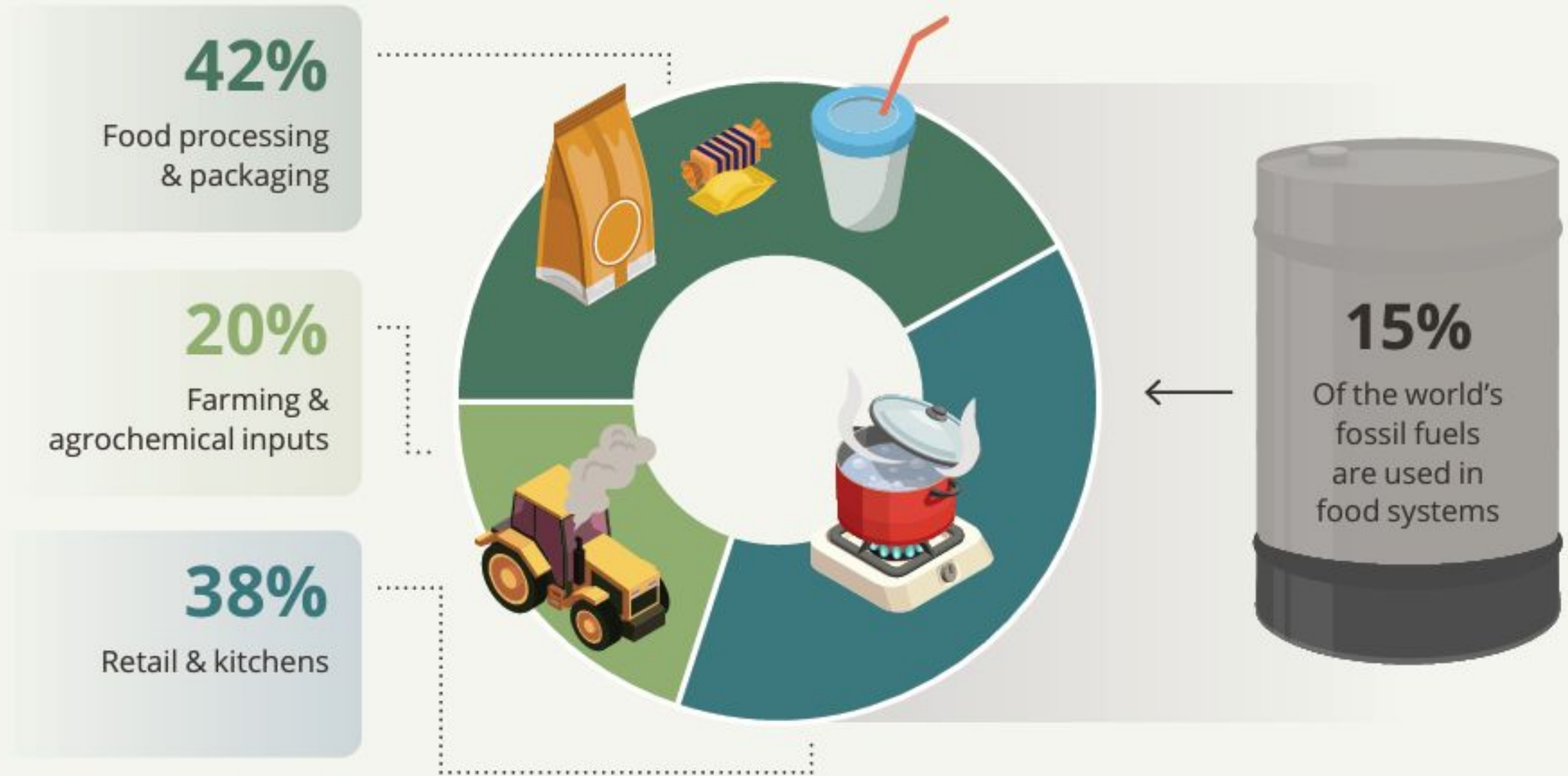
The industrial food system now **consumes ~40 % of petrochemicals** and **15 % of fossil fuels** globally.

- Fossil fuels are embedded at every stage:
- Fertilisers & pesticides (nearly all derived from oil/gas)
- Plastic packaging, ultra-processed foods
Cold storage, transport, long supply chains

This deep dependency locks food systems into **carbon-intensive, fragile, and inequitable pathways.**



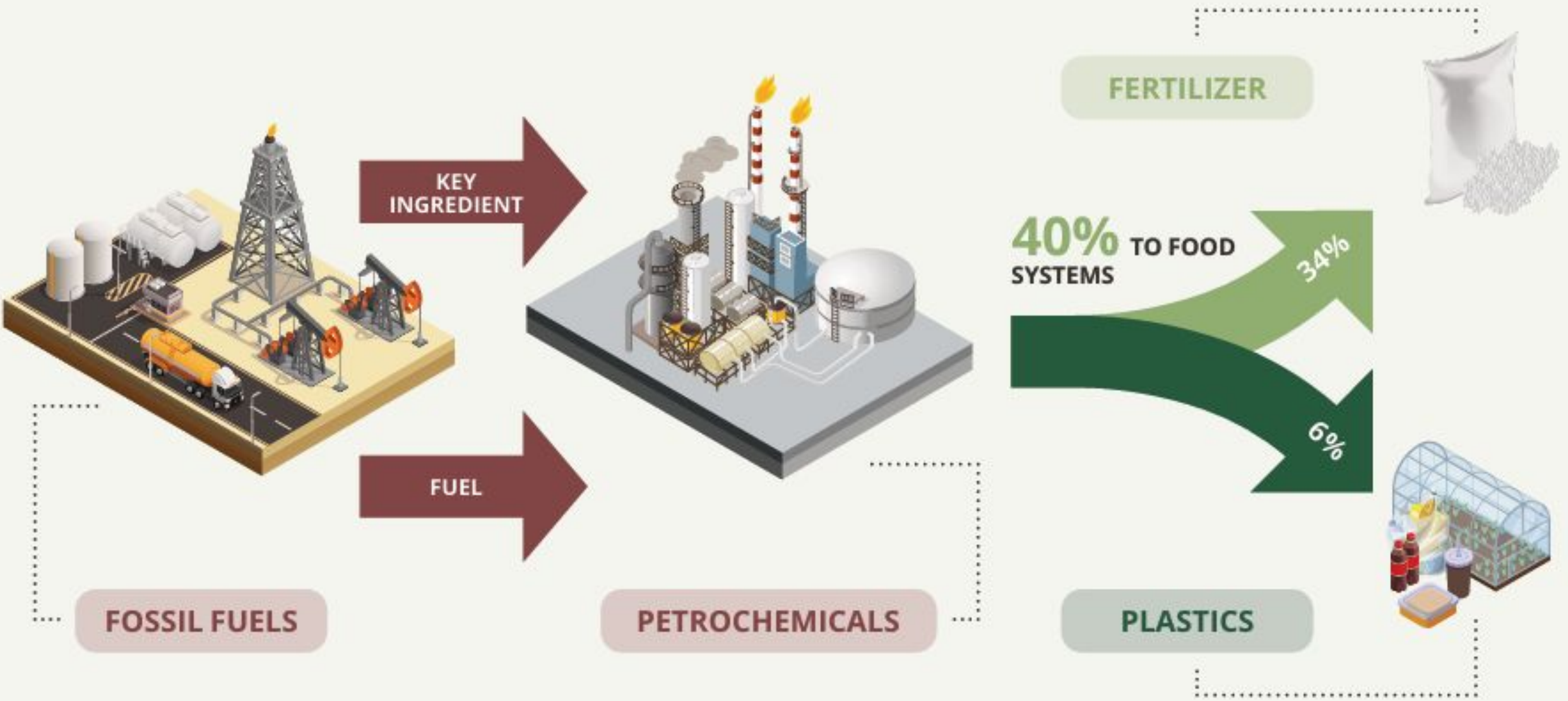
FOOD SYSTEMS CONSUME 15% OF GLOBAL FOSSIL FUELS



Source: Global Alliance for the Future of Food. (2023). [Power shift: Why we need to wean industrial food systems off fossil fuel.](#)

FIGURE 2

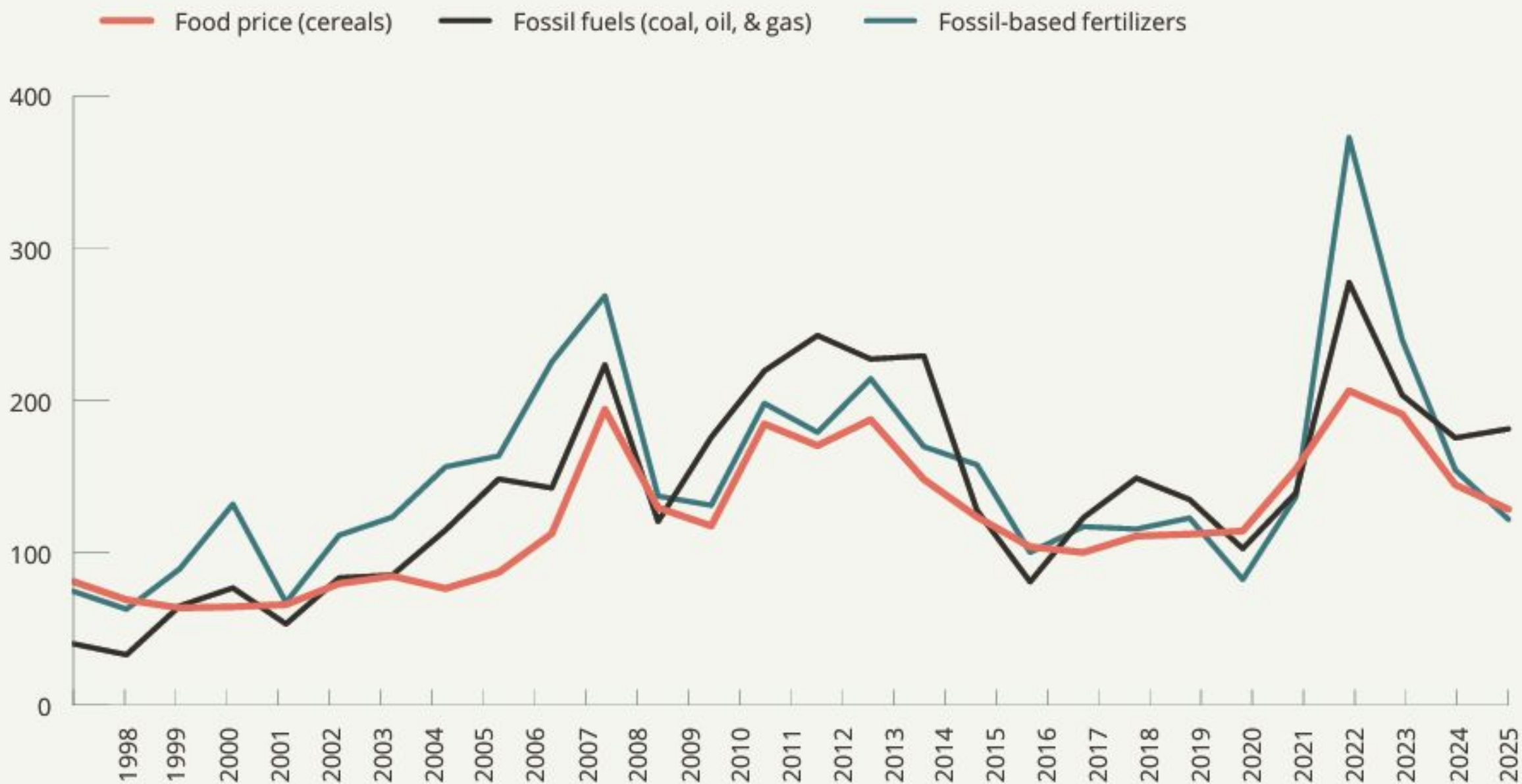
FOOD SYSTEMS EAT UP 40% OF GLOBAL PETROCHEMICALS



As of 2014, 40% of global petrochemical production is used in food systems, including the synthetic fertilizers and plastics used in food packaging.

FIGURE 3

FOOD, FERTILIZER, AND FOSSIL ENERGY PRICES ARE DEEPLY INTERLINKED



Pathways to Decarbonise Food Systems

Reject false fixes – e.g. “blue ammonia”, digital intensification, or carbon capture schemes that deepen fossil reliance.

Promote agroecology and regenerative farming – rebuild biological cycles, reduce synthetic inputs.

Shorten supply chains and relocalise – support territorial food systems to cut transport emissions and dependence.

Reform policy and economics:

- Phase out fossil fuel subsidies in agriculture.
- Regulate plastics, packaging, and fossil-based inputs.
- Support just transitions for farmers and food workers.

Vision: a food system where **production, diets, and governance** are decoupled from fossil fuels — **sustainable, equitable, and resilient.**

FAO 2025- Why a Systems Approach to Food Systems?

- The **Agrifood Systems Integrated Approach (AIIIC)** by FAO promotes **systemic transformation** to achieve the SDGs.
- Recognises food systems as **interconnected networks** of production, distribution, consumption, and governance.
- Core challenges:
 - Persistent **hunger and malnutrition**.
 - **Climate and biodiversity crises**.
 - **Inequalities** in access, income, and power.
- Vision: **healthy, inclusive, and sustainable agrifood systems** that work for both people and planet.



Core Principles of the AIIIC Systems Approach

- **Integration across sectors** – linking agriculture, health, environment, and social equity.
- **Multi-level governance** – from local communities to global institutions.
- **Inclusivity and participation** – empowering farmers, women, youth, and indigenous peoples.
- **Resilience and circularity** – reducing waste, improving soil, water, and biodiversity.
- **Evidence-based policy** – using data and foresight to guide transitions.
- The approach moves from *sectoral interventions* to **coordinated, system-level change**.

Pathways for Action







For food planners:

Apply **systems thinking** to link food, land, water, and health.

Design **territorial and participatory food policies**.

Build bridges between **science, governance, and citizens** for just transitions.

OVERVIEW: EXAMPLES OF PRACTICAL ACTIONS IN COUNTRIES

	ACTION	COUNTRY	PAGE	*
 SYSTEMS THINKING: MINDSETS THAT SEE SYSTEMS	Co-creating national visions guides new policy thinking	ETHIOPIA	33	●●●
	Identifying strategic entry points stimulates cross-sector governance	ALBANIA	33	●●●
	Convening spaces for systems thinking helps navigate tensions for shared solutions	CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, KENYA	34	●●●
 SYSTEMS KNOWLEDGE: DATA AND EVIDENCE FOR SYSTEM-CHANGE	Modelling trade-offs and synergies across policy outcomes informs development planning	INDONESIA	38	●●●
	True cost accounting (TCA) creates transparency about costs across agrifood system outcomes	SWITZERLAND	38	●●●
	Cross-sectoral knowledge strengthens capacity to manage residues of veterinary drugs in foods	PAKISTAN	39	●●●
	Mapping food flows facilitates system thinking for urban-rural cross-sectoral planning	COLOMBO, SRI LANKA	39	●●●
 SYSTEMS GOVERNANCE: JOINED-UP EFFORTS ACROSS SECTORS	Distributing leadership involves establishing cross-sector leadership mechanisms for agrifood systems	BRAZIL, CAMBODIA, COSTA RICA, FRANCE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UGANDA, VIET NAM	43	●●●
	Joint planning supports integration of nutrition and further outcomes into agrifood strategies	RWANDA	44	●●●
	Building coalitions rebalances power dynamics in developing a law on the right to food	MEXICO	44	●●●
 SYSTEMS DOING: IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS THAT HARNESS INTERCONNECTIONS	Addressing interconnected barriers in coffee agroforestry lays ground for longer-term resilience	EL SALVADOR	47	●●●
	Mutually reinforcing actions build bridges at the humanitarian-development nexus	AFGHANISTAN	47	●●●
	Aligning food procurement budgets and processes delivers multiple co-benefits	NEW YORK CITY, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	48	●●●
	Balancing trade-offs in crop production supports more sustainable growth and investment	SIERRA LEONE	48	●●●
	Managing trade-offs builds trust in fisheries management	UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	49	●●●
 SYSTEMS INVESTMENT: RESOURCES DIRECTED TO LONG-TERM TRANSFORMATION	Re-allocating investments across agrifood system portfolios fosters multiple policy objectives	MOROCCO	53	●●●
 SYSTEMS LEARNING: CONTINUOUS LEARNING AND ADAPTATION	System-based evaluation of agroecological transitions reveals benefits of interlinked actions	ROSARIO, ARGENTINA	56	●●●
	Co-learning across cities facilitates the development of integrated food policies	BRAZIL	56	●●●
	Expanding peer learning in farmer field schools enables collective action	BURUNDI	57	●●●

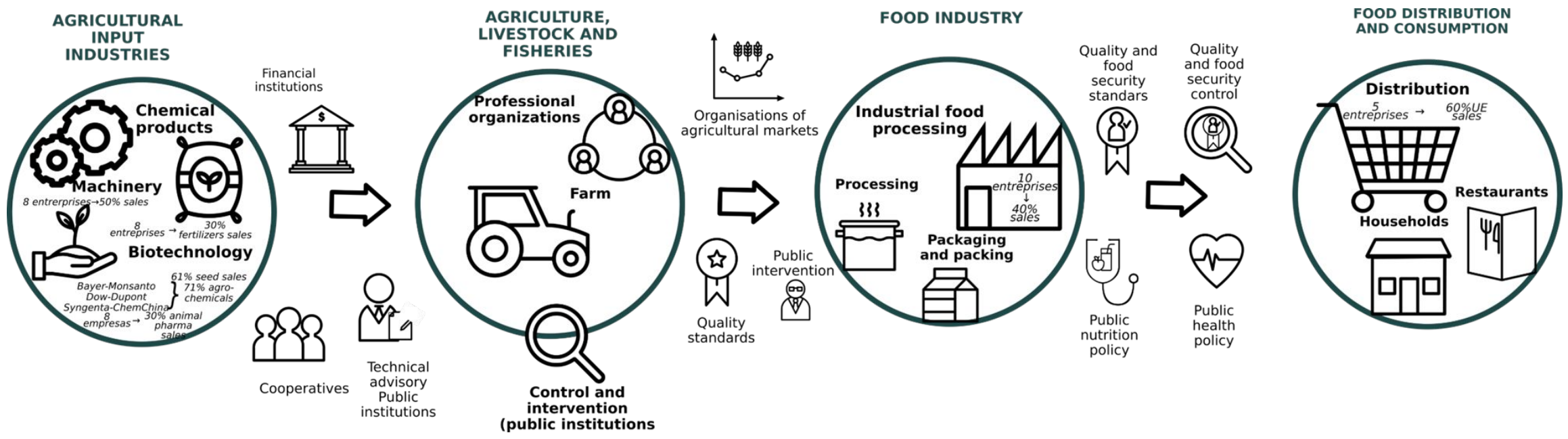
* FURTHER FEATURED ELEMENTS: ● Systems thinking ● Systems knowledge ● Systems governance ● Systems doing ● Systems investment ● Systems learning

Food systems

- Food systems encompass the entire range of activities involved in the **production, processing, marketing, consumption and disposal of goods that originate from agriculture, forestry or fisheries**, including the inputs needed and the outputs generated at each of these steps.
- Food systems also involve the **people and institutions** that initiate or inhibit change in the systems as well as the sociopolitical, economic and technological environment in which these activities take place.

Source: FAO, 2013.

Food system: the food chain from inputs to consumers



Molero Cortés et al, 2018. Based on Whatmore, 1995

Some questions for you on agriculture and foodscape system approach

- Which role does food play in your study/project area or in your study or work?
- Are there already transformative initiatives existing or would you like to propose some?
- Who could be the participants / actors in the development?
- Who would benefit, who should contribute, who should regulate?
- How would you measure the change: which key performance indicator to use?

MATERIAL FOR REVIEW
BY LEARNERS

References

IPES, 2021. *A long food movement*.

Agriculture

IDS & IPES-Food, 2022. Agroecology, regenerative agriculture, and nature-based solutions: Competing framings of food system sustainability in global policy and funding spaces.

FAO. (2018) City Region Food System Toolkit, Assessing and planning sustainable city region food systems, publication of FAO, RUAF and Wilfrid Laurier University.

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/food-for-cities-programme/toolkit/introduction/en/>

FAO, RUAF, MUFPP. 2021. The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Monitoring Framework - A practical handbook for implementation. Rome:

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb4181en>

<https://www.fao.org/in-action/food-for-cities-programme/overview/crfs/en/>

“Titans” of Global Agriculture

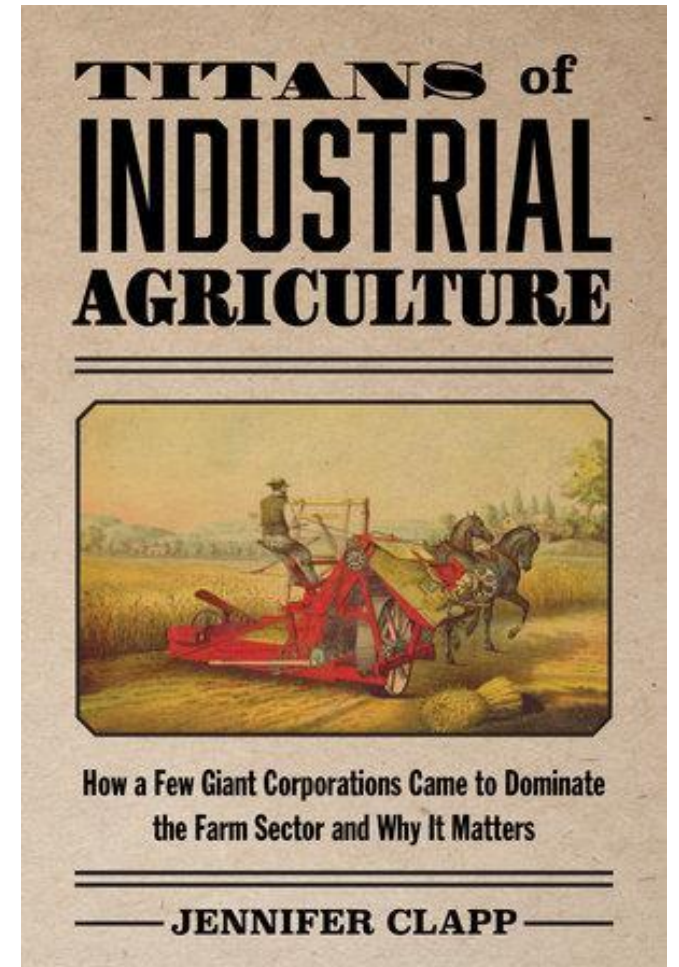
Jennifer Clapp (University of Waterloo, Canada) is a leading scholar on **global food politics and power structures**.

In *Titans in Agriculture* she describes how a **handful of powerful corporations** dominate every link in the global food chain:

- Seeds and agrochemicals
- Grain trading and processing
- Retail and food delivery
- Finance and digital platforms

These “titans” control flows of **capital, data, and knowledge**, shaping what, how, and for whom food is produced.

The result: **highly concentrated corporate power** that undermines food sovereignty and environmental sustainability.



Background information

Agriculture

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<https://archive.ruaf.org/news/city-region-food-system-indicators/>

<https://ruaf.org/assets/2019/12/FAO-MUFPP-Indicator-framework-Tel-Aviv.pdf>

<https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/the-milan-pact/#6categories>

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/soil-and-land/soil-strategy_en

The Architecture of Power

4 interlocking dimensions of power in food systems:

- (1) **Structural power** – corporations set the terms of trade, finance, technology.
- (2) **Instrumental power** – direct political influence through lobbying & partnerships.
- (3) **Discursive power** – shaping narratives about “innovation”, “efficiency”, and “feeding the world”.
- (4) **Material power** – control of land, inputs, logistics, and digital infrastructure.

These powers reinforce one another, creating **path dependency** and **corporate capture** of sustainability agendas.

Rethinking Food System Transformation

Clapp warns that current transitions — “green”, “digital”, or “climate-smart” — risk **deepening concentration** rather than challenging it.

Real transformation requires:

- **Democratising governance** of food and agriculture.
- Supporting **diverse, territorial food systems** and **public goods**, not private monopolies.
- Re-embedding food in **social, ecological, and local economies**.
- **Accountability** for corporations profiting from environmental and social harm.
- For food planners: examine **who holds power, whose knowledge counts, and whose interests shape policy**.

City Region Food Systems



Agriculture

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A food system is the complex set of activities and relationships in the food cycle: growing, producing, processing, distributing, marketing, retailing, storing, preparing, consuming and disposing (City of Hamilton 2014).

An ideal CRFS fosters four interconnected elements through out the food chain:

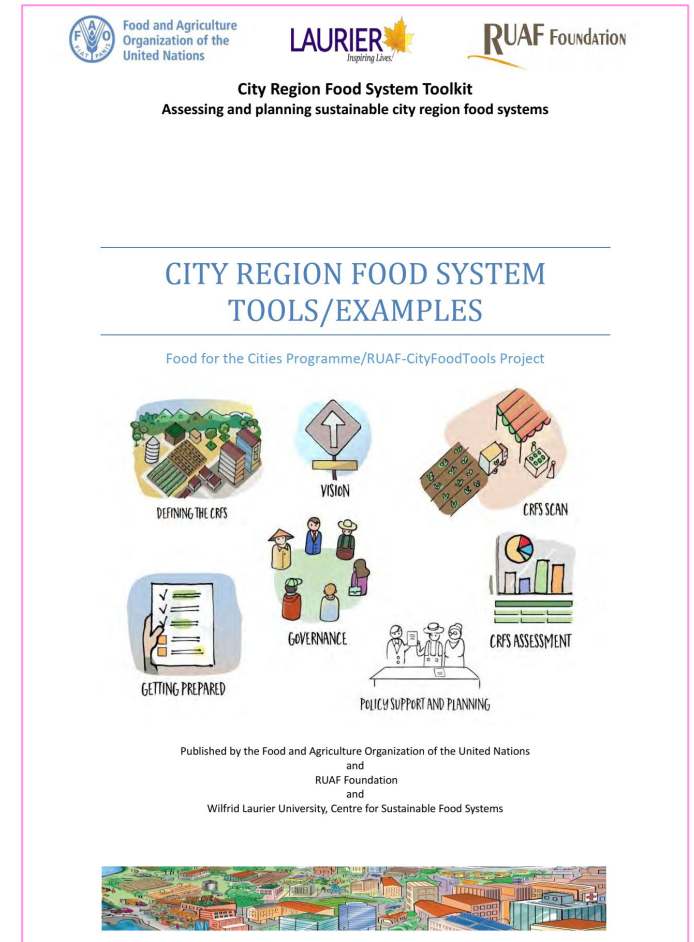
- (1) food security and nutrition;
- (2) livelihoods and economic development;
- (3) sustainable natural resources management;
- (4) social inclusion and equity (FAO and RUAF 2015).

Better connections among cities and towns and between them and their rural surroundings

6.2 City – region policies and approaches – MUFPP and FAO City region food system



- 270 cities, 450 million inhabitants
- Voluntary commitments *"for the development of sustainable food systems and the promotion of healthy diets »*
- Adoption of a framework of recommended actions (governance, social and economic equity, support to production, local supplying...)
- Exchange of good practices



- City region approach focused on transforming food systems



Two sources where you could retrieve indicators from City region Food System (CRFS) and MUFPP

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City Region Food System Toolkit Assessing and planning sustainable city region food systems



- The MUFPP indicator framework is a short version of CRFS.
- Focused on the city and the urban food system
- Tailored to align with local government urban policy priorities and data availability.



Governance



Sustainable Diets and Nutrition



Social and economic Equity



Food Production



Food Supply and Distribution



Food Waste

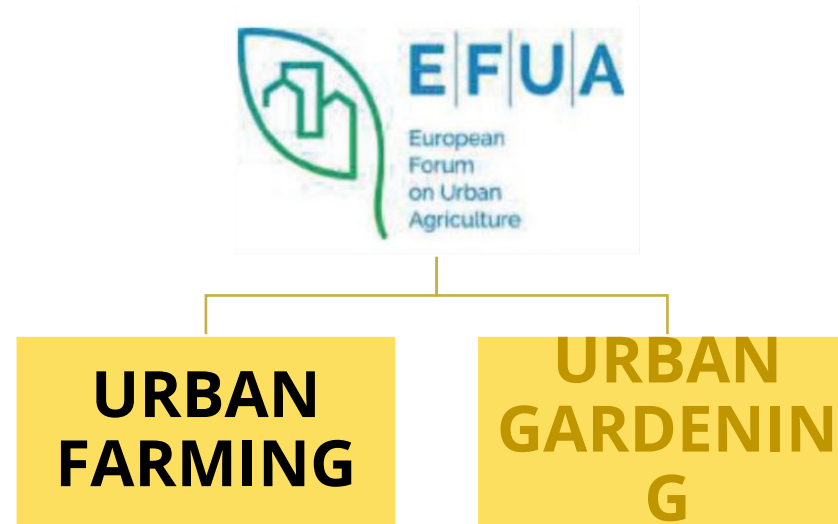
Source: <https://archive.ruaf.org/news/city-region-food-system-indicators/>

<https://ruaf.org/assets/2019/12/FAO-MUFPP-Indicator-framework-Tel-Aviv.pdf>

<https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/the-milan-pact/#6categories>



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Urban farms/farmers:

- ❖ Mostly ineligible for funds including **Direct Income Supports** – 1st pillar
Why?
- ❖ Farmer should have at least **1 hectare** of farm land (0.3 ha in Hungary, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Cyprus and 0.1 ha in Malta)
- ❖ Supports to varied urban farms would not contribute general objectives of the CAP – relevant to the market supply and regulations



Agriculture

GREEN DEAL

- **Directs Income** Supports – conditional to biodiversity applications in **3 %** of arable lands
- **25 %** of total funding and **35 %** of rural development funds to environment friendly eco-schemes measures

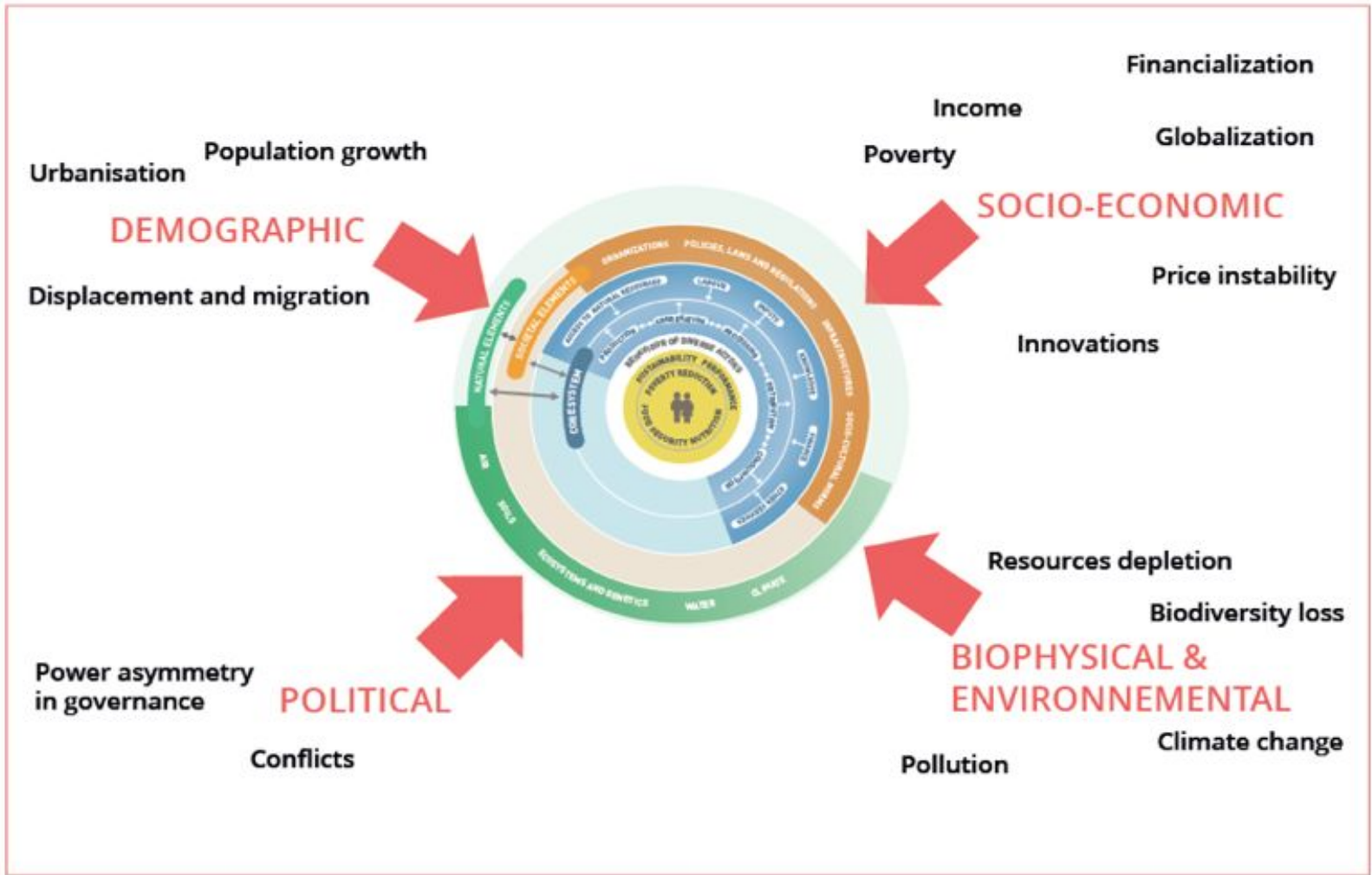
Via:

- Sustainable production schemes with **minimum input use**
- **Natural production** as possible for regeneration
- **Monitoring food** industries
- **Horizontal and vertical integration** for efficiency – Convergence across and within countries.
- Sustainable **consultancy** services
- Gender and age balances
- Social conditionality – labour acts and and standards

5.1 Various drivers are shaping / challenging food systems

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Agriculture



spatial, legal, economic, social, and environmental indicators



SOCIAL:

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% people benefiting or participating in social aspects of food production (urban agriculture, community gardens, care farms, allotment gardens),

% of people who have access to healthy food (not living in food deserts)

ENVIRONMENTAL:

Contribution of agriculture and the farmers to the preservation and improvement of environmental values and assets (carbon sequestration, water retention, ecological connectivity, biodiversity, etcetera,

% of land use surface for organic farming, % of land use by circular or nature inclusive farming.

spatial, legal, economic, social, and environmental indicators



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SPATIAL: % of access to land for farmers, access to land for recreation, and connectivity of the land affected by communal regulations and use

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LEGAL and POLICIES: Degree of implementation of the new goals of the CAP and the F2F strategy, regulations of land ownership and agricultural land reserve, establishment of a food strategy for city region.

ECONOMIC:

% of the farmers who receive a fair income,

% of land use by community supported agriculture (CSA), economic activity developed within communal structures (social economy, cooperatives, etcetera) and value of the products that are regulated and managed in a communal way

% of food for the city region produced locally