



Advantages, challenges, and implications of a food systems approach

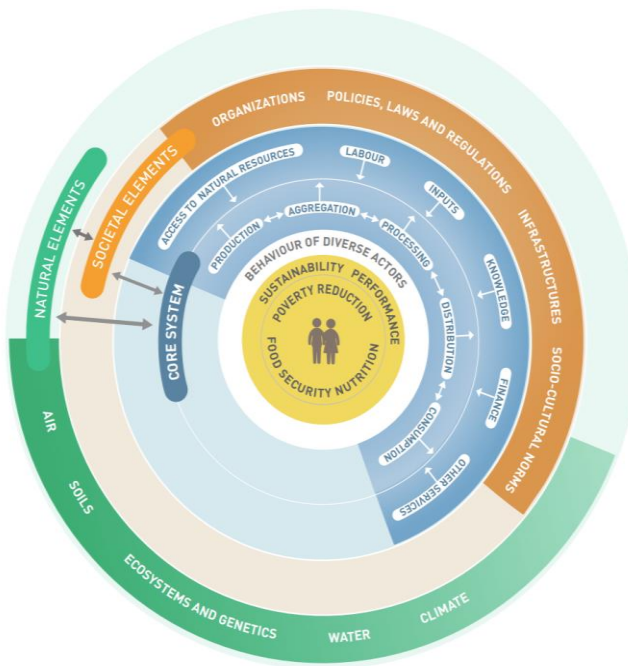
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16 January 2024



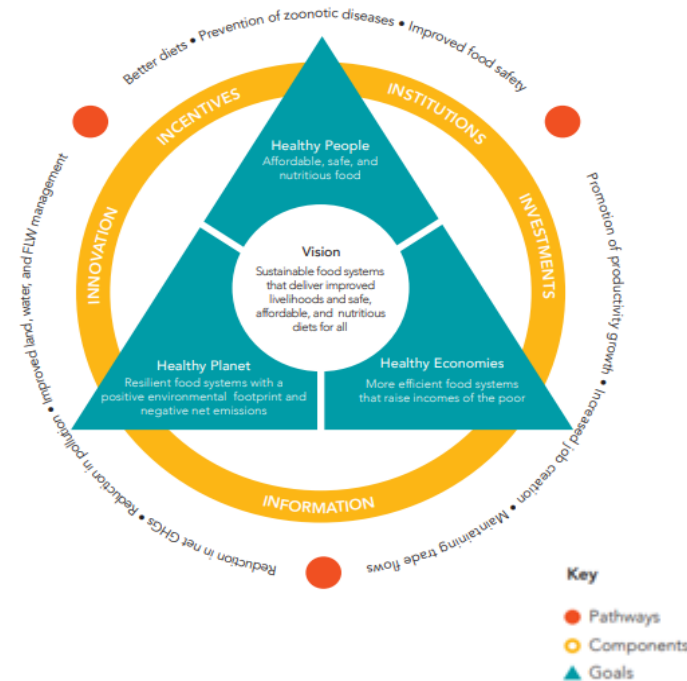
Many Views on Food Systems and Transformation

Food System Wheel



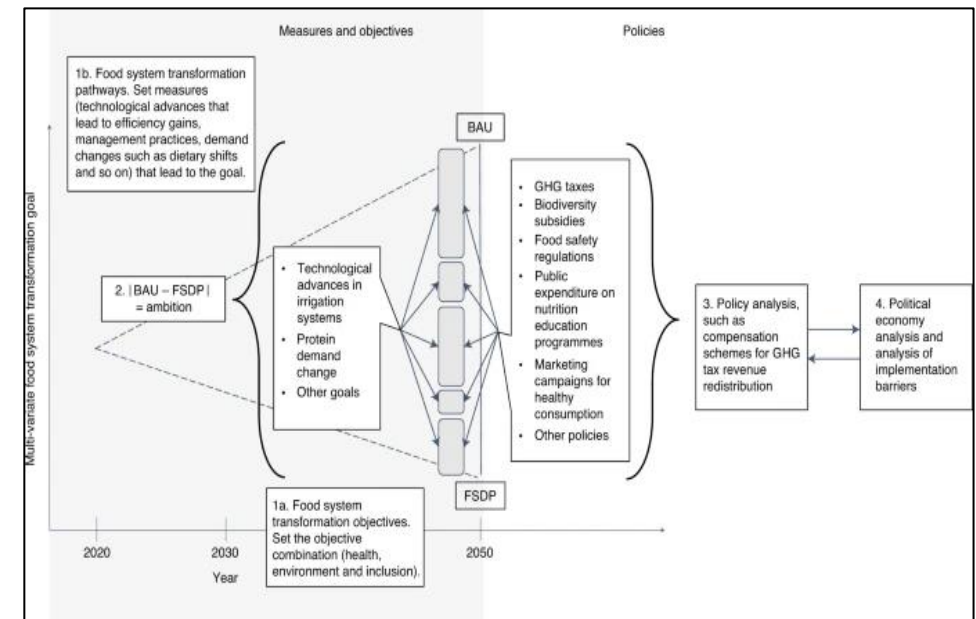
Source: FAO (2018)

Food Systems 2030



Source: World Bank (2021)

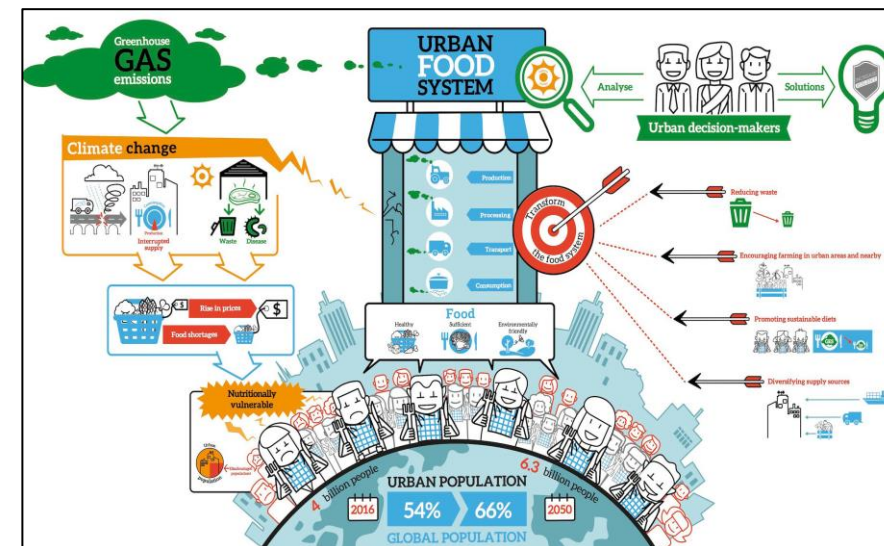
Food System Transformation Framework



Source: Gaupp et al. (2021) of Food System Economic Commission

Advantages of Food System Lens

- **Reflects inter-subjective lived experience** of many individuals, households, and communities
- Traverses rural-to-urban continuum, **multiple entry points for policy change** and broader set of partners
- Facilitates coalition building to **overcome political economy obstacles**, drawing on wider repertoire of framings
- Elevates attention to **processes of inclusion and accountability** as well as outcomes



Source: Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future

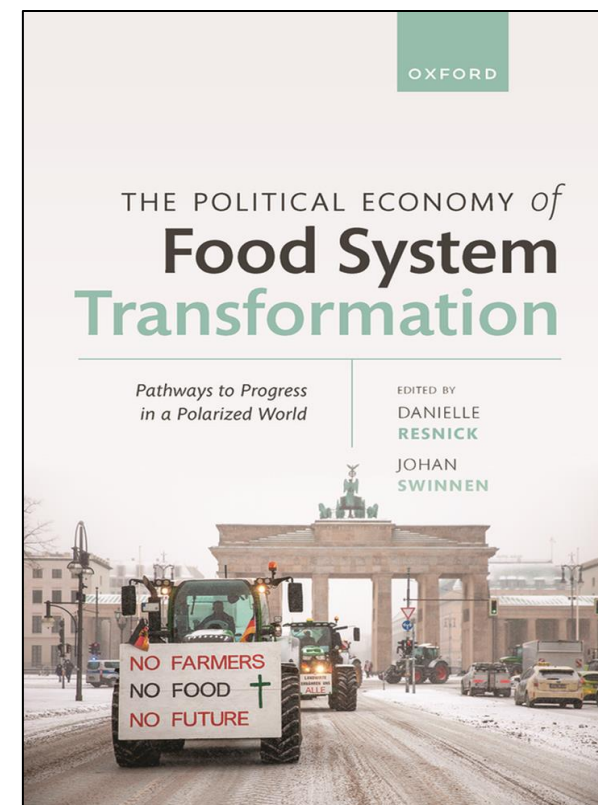


Source: FSCI. 2023. The food systems countdown report 2023

Challenges of Food System Lens

- Expands the constellation of relevant economic interest groups, **obscures winners and losers from reforms**
- Societal expectations of food system are **more expansive**
 - Food systems are a lens for power struggles over racial justice, gender equality, sovereignty, and human rights
- **Territorial externalities are unclear**
 - Cross-border impacts on food systems (e.g. EU Farm to Fork strategy on South African farmers, US Inflation Reduction Act)

New book examines political economy of transformation



Challenges of Food Systems Lens

▪ Lacks clear policy home

- UNFSS Food System Transformation pathways were largely aggregation of sector-oriented strategies and policies
- Convenors for pathways dialogues and implementation predominantly from Ministries of Agriculture

Ministry/Department Convening National Food System Pathways



Source: Calculated from FAO UN Food System Hub

Implications for the CGIAR

- **Even more complex!**
 - CGIAR is about agri-food systems and land and water systems
- **Lack a unified theory of change** about how food systems change occurs and the piece of the puzzle that each research initiative informs
- More than 30 research initiatives but **still siloed** into different technical, regional, and/or methodological areas of competence
 - **No assessment of coherence** across initiative policy recommendations vis-à-vis the five main impact areas
- Opportunity to look at **public sector institutional models, socio-political factors, participatory approaches** that are more (less) promising for advancing innovation uptake
 - Role for **advancing global governance** mechanisms for food systems