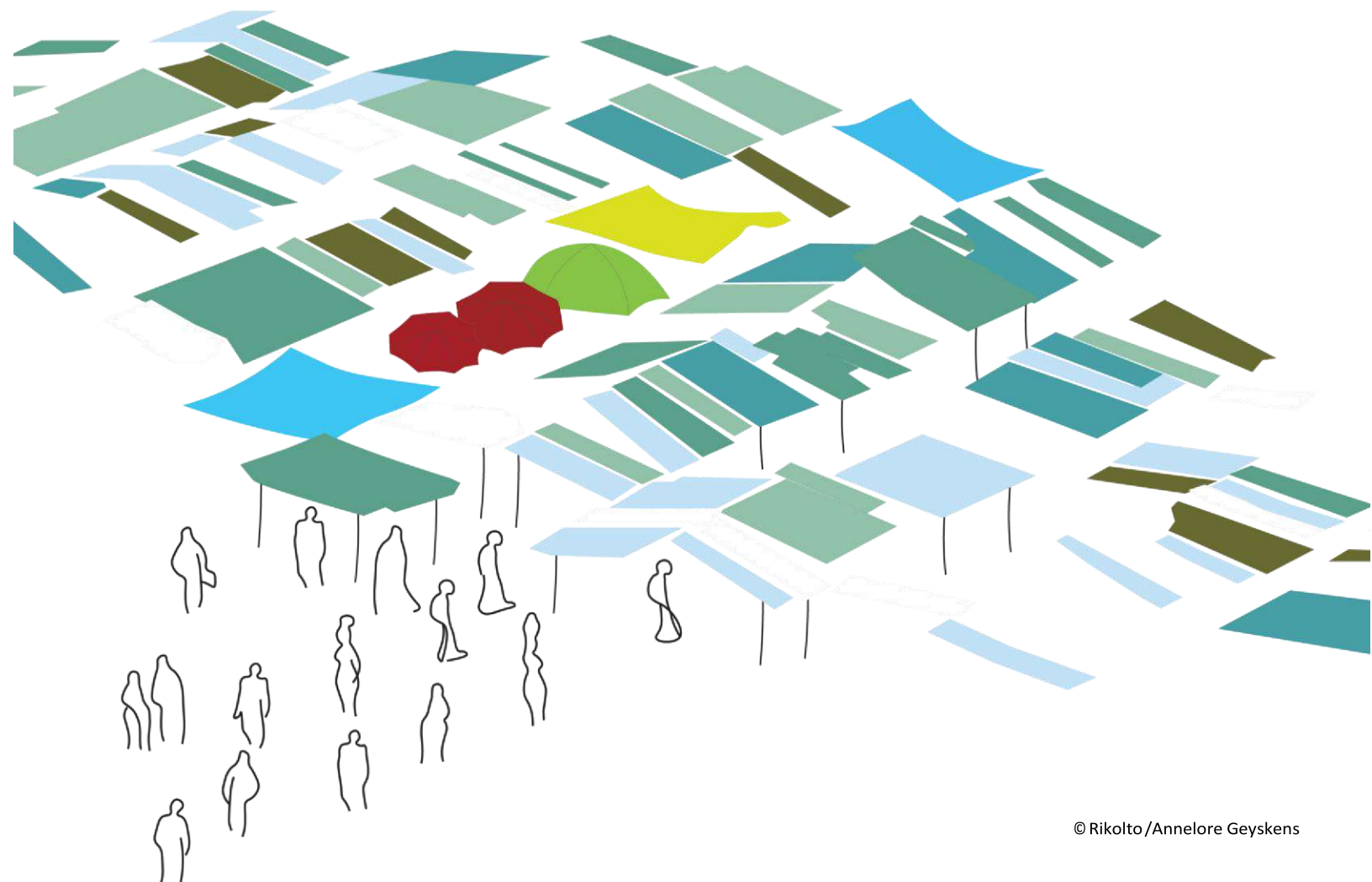




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LEVERAGING LOCAL AND TRADITIONAL FOOD MARKETS AND PUBLIC FOOD PROCUREMENT TO IMPROVE THE AVAILABILITY OF NUTRITIOUS FOOD

Technical workshop –Summary Notes
24 – 26 June 2024 - FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)

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Executive summary

On 24-26 June 2024, over 70 practitioners and researchers from around the world gathered at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations headquarters in Rome for a technical workshop on leveraging local and traditional food markets (LTFMs) and public food procurement (PFP) to improve the availability of nutritious food. The workshop had the triple objective of synthesizing evidence on the role of LTFMs and PFP in contributing to the availability and accessibility of nutritious foods to consumers, delineating challenges and opportunities for realising the potential of LTFMs and PFP to scale up small-scale producers and MSE's role in the supply of nutritious food and reflecting on how LTFMs and PFP can influence other dimensions of food environments and sustainability. The paragraphs below synthesise some of the key messages from three active days of discussion.

- **PFP and LTFMs as public goods:** Public domain markets such as Local and Traditional Food Markets and Public Food Procurement programmes are essential public goods that require a **holistic approach** to improve access to nutritious food and align with sustainability goals, addressing global disparities in food access. Globally, access to essential nutritious food groups—such as fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts, and seeds—falls significantly short of what is needed for everyone to meet recommended dietary levels. This access is also unevenly distributed across populations. As a result, the cost of healthy diets remains high, contributing to widespread malnutrition. Markets play a crucial role in shaping the food environment by influencing both the supply and demand for nutritious foods, while also addressing factors such as convenience and desirability.
- **Leveraging LTFMs and PFPs for broader development goals:** Local and Traditional Food Markets (LTFMs) are a key part of market and food systems, playing a vital role in addressing food insecurity and malnutrition, especially in areas with limited access to nutritious foods and significant income inequalities. On the other hand, Public Food Procurement (PFP) programmes serve as crucial market outlets from the perspective of suppliers, although they have distinct functions compared to LTFMs. Most decisions within PFP programmes—such as what food to purchase, from whom, and what production practices to support—are made within the public domain. This gives public actors a unique opportunity to use these programmes as market tools to increase the availability of nutritious food and to further broader development goals.
- **Enhancing inclusivity and governance in local food markets:** Effective management of Local and Traditional Food Markets (LTFMs) can significantly improve inclusivity for small-scale supply chain actors and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), while also increasing the availability of diverse, fresh, and seasonal foods. Examples from Africa demonstrate the **substantial growth in both the size and complexity of the midstream SME sector**, highlighting increased commercialisation of agriculture, the critical role of wholesale markets, and evolving consumption habits. However, many market participants remain **informal**, making it essential to understand the governance structures that impact nutrition, livelihoods, and resilience. Effective governance relies on implementing **transparent pricing mechanisms**, enhancing **access to financial services**, investing in **infrastructure**, and promoting a diverse range of nutritious foods by supporting their

production (e.g., incentives for organic or agroecological cultivation) and **marketing**. Additionally, optimising markets should take into account logistics, social factors, and cultural norms.

- **More data and research is needed:** Although the data shows that PFP programmes and LTFMs have the potential to significantly enhance access to nutritious food and contribute to more sustainable food systems, measuring their full impact requires further research. A key point of attention is to evaluate the effectiveness of various governance models, particularly by examining **power dynamics**, the **political economy**, and the **necessary resources**—financial, knowledge, and skills—required for driving meaningful change. Experts highlight the importance of reliable data to comprehend market dynamics and their influence on diets. This understanding is crucial for designing and monitoring initiatives aimed at improving nutrition. Both qualitative and quantitative data are vital to form a comprehensive picture of how markets interact with the wider food environment and to identify factors that promote or hinder success. Additionally, significant gaps still exist in data that connects food environments with their effects on diets and overall nutrition. The need for **longitudinal studies**, particularly to strengthen the evidence base on PFP has been stressed.
- **Affordability vs. Inclusivity:** Balancing the needs of small-scale producers and SMEs with the provision of affordable food for low-income consumers is a key challenge, requiring informed, inclusive approaches. Markets must navigate this trade-off through informed approaches that prioritize the perspectives of those directly involved in food systems.

Participants identified several entry points to strengthen the role of PFP programmes and LTFMs in increasing the availability of nutritious food:

- **Policy integration:** Public actors should connect specific policies and legislation to broader frameworks, such as public procurement, urban development, and nutrition policies, all aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Infrastructure investment:** Investing in essential infrastructure, such as transportation and storage facilities, is critical for unlocking market potential and enhancing access to nutritious foods.
- **Stakeholder coordination:** Improved coordination among stakeholders is necessary to advocate for the collective impact of markets and to develop better **knowledge management systems** that identify key actors and policy gaps.
- **Supportive business environment:** Enhancing the business environment by providing basic services—like fresh water, sanitation, and childcare facilities—can improve livelihoods and create opportunities for small-scale producers and MSMEs, especially for women.
- **Practical market interventions:** A practical approach to market interventions is crucial. Solutions should be straightforward and scalable, focusing on systemic engagement with traditional market actors.
- **Consideration of Spatial Factors:** Addressing market success must include considerations of urban planning and the spatial aspects of food distribution to better influence consumer purchasing behavior.

- **Address systemic issues:** Recognising that preferences for processed foods in resource-poor environments often stem from systemic issues (e.g., limited access to resources), rather than mere affordability, is vital for creating effective solutions.
- **Research and data utilization:** Invest in research and data collection to understand market dynamics, which will inform strategies and policies aimed at increasing access to nutritious foods.
- **Creative partnerships:** Foster innovative partnerships between public and private sectors to enhance resource mobilisation and share best practices for improving food availability.
- **Empower small-scale producers:** Provide training and resources to empower small-scale producers and enhance their capacity to supply nutritious foods effectively.
- **Feedback Loops for Improvement:** Establish mechanisms for continuous feedback and learning from market interventions to refine strategies and adapt to changing circumstances.
- **Holistic approach:** Implementing a comprehensive, **systems-thinking**, and **place-based strategy** is essential to achieve sustainable improvements in food systems and overall nutrition outcomes.

Session 1: Introduction to the Technical Workshop

Welcoming speech

Florence Tartanac, Senior Officer (FAO), opened the Technical Workshop with a welcoming speech. She emphasised that the focus of this workshop is to leverage local and traditional food markets and public procurement to enhance the availability of nutritious food. She expressed gratitude to the main partners, Rikolto and GAIN, and stressed the significance of having a diverse group of specialists present. Tartanac highlighted the importance of these contributions in advancing FAO's work and advocating the significance of local and traditional markets and public procurement for healthy diets to various countries and governments. Tartanac's team at FAO has been dedicated to this topic for nearly six years and is eager to receive feedback to ensure they are heading in the right direction. She conveyed well wishes for the event and extended a warm welcome to the city of Rome and FAO.

Opening remarks

Lynnette Marie Neufeld, the Director of the Food and Nutrition (FAO) division, emphasized the central role of healthy diets in the mandate of FAO and in achieving its mission to improve nutrition and food security globally. She highlighted that healthy diets should provide adequate nutrients according to needs, diversity in food consumption, balance in energy sources, and moderation of foods and nutrients associated with non-communicable disease (NCD) risk when consumed in excess. Moreover, healthy diets need to speak to the traditions and preferences of people across contexts as many healthy dietary patterns can exist based on local food. Neufeld acknowledged that accessing nutritious foods is a challenge for billions of people due to factors such as affordability, availability, and convenience. She stressed the need to work together to make healthy diets accessible to everyone, focusing on improving the food environment, local and traditional markets, and public food procurement. Neufeld also emphasized the potential of markets as entry points to influence consumers' preferences and highlighted the importance of addressing knowledge gaps and constraints to enhance the efficiency of markets and public food procurement. She expressed eagerness to understand the implications of the discussions and updates for their work in supporting healthy diets through various channels.

Chris Claes, Executive Director (Rikolto), expressed gratitude to FAO for hosting the technical workshop and to colleagues from Rikolto and GAIN for their efforts in organizing the event. He highlighted the diverse backgrounds and expertise of the attendees, emphasizing the potential for knowledge sharing and collaboration over the course of the workshop. Claes discussed Rikolto's work as an international development NGO, particularly its focus on supporting smallholder farmers and its more recent emphasis on urban environments and food systems. He underscored the importance of addressing access to food for urban consumers and the organization's ongoing initiatives with city governments in over 30 cities. Claes expressed a commitment to sharing and learning from others' experiences and hoped for tangible outcomes

from the conference that would lead to practical changes in food policies and access to nutritious, safe, and healthy food.

Ann Trevenen-Jones, Programme Lead, Food Systems Governance Programme (GAIN) highlighted the significant impact of markets and informal value chains in the food system, particularly since COVID. GAIN's work is focused on addressing the challenges faced by low-income communities in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia where food affordability and livelihoods are major concerns. GAIN's experience showed that it is important to engage diverse expertise, including finance, nutrition, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to address the complexities of food markets. The informal and tacit nature of market activities makes it challenging to capture and understand the various forms of engagement and knowledge exchange that occur within them. Additionally, formal survey methodologies may overlook the richness of information and insights embedded in the everyday workings of markets, especially in the context of SMEs. There is a historical disconnection between people and their food due to industrialization and supermarket culture, which underlines the role of markets in fostering community, culture, and diversity in food procurement. The value-based public food procurement can promote climate-smart and biodiversity-friendly practices, calling for the need to support market diversity and inclusivity. Ann concluded by highlighting the significance of public food procurement in school meal programs and the need for innovative approaches to leverage multilevel governance and partnerships in countries where GAIN is active.

Setting the ground for the consultation: framework, key research questions and organization of the consultation

1. Framework and research questions

*By **Pilar Santacoloma**, Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO*

After the COVID pandemic, malnutrition and hunger increased significantly, exacerbated by the inability of many people to afford healthy diets. The [SOFI \(State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World\) 2023](#) report indicated that 43% of the population worldwide cannot afford nutritious food, with 1.4 billion people in Asia and 712 million in Africa facing this challenge. The cost of healthy diets further increased after lockdowns due to disruptions in markets and logistics, as well as availability of labour force in agriculture.

The driving forces behind the food system affecting healthy diets were analysed in the report, including urbanisation, lifestyle, and income. It was noted that there is an opportunity for markets in the mid-stream to increase the availability of nutritious food, despite challenges such as food deserts and increased production of unhealthy foods.

The FAO strategic framework prioritizes market-led development for nutrition as a key area of focus, as it is directly linked to healthy diets, sustainable urban food systems, and the Sustainable Development Goal 2.1. The workshop aims to **discuss constraints in terms of data, policies, capacities, and different activities and outputs to achieve these goals.**

The role of public procurement as a market mechanism from the supply chain perspective was also emphasized, along with the need to make these markets more inclusive for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The workshop objectives are threefold:

1. To synthesize **evidence on the role of LTFMs and PFP** in contributing to the availability and accessibility of nutritious foods to consumers, and to identify the gaps and constraints that hinder this role
2. To delineate **challenges** and **opportunities** for realizing the potential of LTFMs and PFP to provide scaling-up opportunities to small-scale producers and SMEs for supplying nutritious food.
3. To reflect on how LTFMs and PFP **influence other dimensions of food environments** -accessibility, desirability and convenience- that can affect consumers' demand for more nutritious food while also considering all dimensions of sustainability.

Ultimately, the expected outcomes of this workshop are to share knowledge, build partnerships, identify questions for further research and knowledge products such as policies, papers, and courses to support partners in leveraging the potential of LTFMs and public food procurement (PFP) to increase the availability of nutritious foods.

2. Format of the workshop

By Charlotte Flechet, Global Programme Director – Good Food for Cities, Rikolto

The workshop has been designed to promote exchanges, debates and discussions at its heart. The presentations had to be kept to a maximum of 10 minutes or 15 minutes for the keynotes. Participants were encouraged to have constructive yet friendly conversations and ask difficult questions.

- Day 1 focused on local and traditional food markets and explored existing evidence, knowledge gaps, and the role of these markets in providing nutritious food.
- Day 2 covered public food procurement and its role in contributing to healthy diets, triggering the production of nutritious food, and its linkages to socio-economic and environmental dimensions.
- Day 3 reflected on the challenges facing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in supplying these markets and how they can contribute to the convenience, affordability, and desirability dimensions of nutritious food environments. The final session discussed the enabling environment and the mechanisms that governments can utilise to boost healthy diets and leverage the potential of local and traditional food markets and public food procurement. Finally participants discussed the way forward to continue the conversation.

Setting the ground for the LTFMs component

By Ana Puhac, Urban Food Systems Specialist, FAO

There are still evidence and knowledge gaps regarding LTFMs. Therefore, this workshop hopes to build a community of practitioners and knowledge actors who can develop a shared perspective on the role of these markets. In her intervention, Ana posed five questions to guide discussions on LTFMs: 1) Why are LTFMs critical for achieving the availability and access of nutritious food for low-income individuals? 2) Why have they been overlooked? 3) What has contributed to the renewed interest in LTFMs? 4) How do we want to frame the discussion on LTFMs and what issues do we want to highlight? 5) What guiding questions need to be addressed for increasing knowledge and translating it into practice? Anna's key points can be summarised as such:

- LTFMs hold **a critical role** in providing access to nutritious foods and supporting the livelihoods of small-scale actors and MSMEs. LTFMs sustain millions of livelihoods and serve as important public social and physical spaces.
- LTFMs are **historically neglected** in agricultural investments, policies, and programs due to the focus on formalized market systems and a lack of data on domestic markets and trade. The modern supermarket trend is likely to grow, but it is unlikely to completely replace LTFMs. The lack of historical evidence and systematized experience, limited knowledge products, and the focus on export markets and value chains have also contributed to the neglect of LTFMs.
- There has been **a growing interest** in local food systems and markets both pre-COVID and during the pandemic due to disruptions in supply chains and increased attention to food environments.
- To keep the momentum, there is a need to discuss **how to define and frame these markets**, develop institutional frameworks, increase investments, and establish market governance modalities that work and are inclusive. It is also important to recognise the **role of government agencies in fostering a streamlined approach** to support these markets and integrate them into the broader food environment discussions.

Session 2: Reviewing evidence on the role of LTFMs in ensuring the availability of nutritious foods to consumers

Objectives of the session

This session aims to:

- Reflect on the current evidence on the role that LTFMs play in enhancing the availability of nutritious food.
- Discuss measurement tools to support decision making and their implementation.

Summary of speakers' presentations

1. Keynote presentation

By *Kelly Verel*, Co-Executive Director of Project for Public Spaces and the Market Cities programme

Project for Public Spaces is a New York-based urban planning and design non-profit, focusing on strengthening communities through public space. They work with over 3,500 communities in 50 countries worldwide, with two main programs: Placemaking and Market Cities. The Market Cities program aims to strengthen connections between markets and relevant groups through training and technical assistance, research, network building, maintaining a resource library, and organizing a bi-weekly newsletter.

Markets can be powerful public spaces, bringing economic, social, environmental, and health benefits to communities. They create vibrant public spaces, attract customers to purchase healthy food from local vendors, and promote social cohesion, economic opportunity, and public health. Market Cities is a concept developed to achieve the full potential of public market systems, aiming to address public goals effectively. These cities seek to create policies, partnerships, and resources to effectively address public goals through market initiatives.

Key attributes of successful market spaces include **sociability, access, comfort, and diverse uses**. However, markets face challenges such as real estate development pressure, insufficient access to land, changing food buying habits, lack of management and vendor capacity, and lack of investment capacity and infrastructure, which can be mitigated through supportive policies, creative partnerships and infrastructure investment. The **Market Cities Approach** emphasises a series of action to celebrate cultural heritage, expand market and product diversity, strengthen distribution networks, increase economic opportunity, invest in infrastructure and leadership, assess and expand impact and engage in collective action. The development of Market Cities and the implementation of supporting policies and partnerships can help bolster public markets, fostering social interaction and community building while addressing the pressing issues of our time.

2. Methods, Tools, and Metrics for Evaluating Market Food Environments in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

By *Nika Larian*, Senior Nutrition Advisor for Food Safety, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Reliable data is crucial for assessing diets, food environments, and food safety. USAID strives to understand food environments, particularly factors such as affordability, availability, and desirability that influence people's food choices in order to design and monitor activities to positively influence diets and nutrition. The Enhancing Local Efforts for Vital, Transformative, and Evidence-Based Nutrition (ELEVATE) programme monitors progress, with a focus on market food environments. Various assessments have been validated and tested in different countries to

effectively **collect data on mapping food markets, seasonal food availability, food diversity, healthy eating index, cost of a healthy diet, produce desirability and food safety in traditional markets**. Initiatives like EatSafe (Feed The Future Evidence and Action Towards Safe, Nutritious Food) in Ethiopia and Nigeria aim to empower consumers and improve food safety. Looking ahead, USAID will continue to support local efforts to implement quality nutrition programs and policies, particularly for women and children, and refining food environment methods, tools, and metrics that support program implementers to collect and use data to monitor progress in shifting food environments to support healthy diets, as well as refining measures of consumer demand.

3. Understanding purchasing patterns and drivers of consumers to improve markets

By Gareth Haysom, Senior Researcher at the African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town

There are strong connections between urbanization and changes in food systems, particularly in the context of cities in Africa and Asia. The focus is on gaining insights into how food moves within urban areas, from the farmers to the markets and finally to households. Therefore, it is required to have a comprehensive approach deploying multiple interconnected methods to understand the **intersection between urban systems and food systems**, using for instance, a state of the city food system report and urban food policy reviews. It also includes conducting various surveys and in-depth interviews to analyse household food and nutrition security, urban food retail systems, and reverse value chain reviews.

In regions lacking market census data, the need for data was addressed through urban food retail system surveys, that involved developing a typology of vendors, conducting a census of vendors, training enumerators and using tools like Kobo toolbox for data collection. Additionally, it is important to **consider spatial aspects** of markets and vendors, particularly in the context of African cities since poor urban planning can negatively impact urban nutrition.

Findings from deploying those research methods include the impact of large food companies on the way farmers engage with markets, the shopping behaviour of low-income households, the influence of vendors on consumer choices and costs, and the effects of energy and water access on food purchases. Findings also show the preference for ultra-processed foods in certain cities despite their lack of nutritional value due to the limited access to energy and water. These studies highlighted transitions in retail stock profiles which are driven by various factors including household infrastructure and storage limitations, increases in costs of associated infrastructure, market infrastructure limitations and poor services, changes to markets that crowd out food vendors and results into moves to informal markets, and changes in supply and wholesale profiles.

Gareth's final message is that **unless we view LTFMs as embedded within wider contextual systems, we will fail to leverage nutritious food system outcomes**. A focus on LTFMs alone will only generate a partial response.

4. Methodology to map territorial markets

By [Marcello Vicovaro](#), Sustainable Markets Expert, FAO

The methodology aims to map territorial markets in order to make local food exchange visible and quantifiable. It seeks to understand the behaviours of buyers and sellers, purchasing patterns, and product characteristics, as well as the rules governing the market and the barriers hindering inclusion. The goal is to increase the availability of fresh, diverse, and nutritious foods and support evidence-based policymaking on market-based approaches.

The methodology has been developed by FAO, research institutions (Wageningen University, INRAE and IRPAD) and civil society organizations, such as La Via Campesina and ROPPA, and has been reviewed by stakeholders and field tested by NGOs. As of today, it has been implemented in 14 countries, covering 73 markets, with 4161 retailers and 5126 consumers involved. This resulted in short reports for 13 countries and a territorial markets dashboard available online.

The food diversity indicator is used to score the availability of varieties in 12 food groups. The correlation between the food diversity indicator, business environment, and producer-consumer relationships is also being examined. For instance, the low diversity observed in Ethiopia in correlation with the producer-consumer linkage variable highlights the need for improvement in market infrastructure and offerings. In contrast, Ecuador's markets are already better equipped, indicating a strong link between the food diversity indicator and producer-consumer relationships.

This methodology suggests that markets can be used as a proxy to understand the weaknesses of the system but emphasizes the need to consider each market individually and as a whole, taking into account overall regulations and context-specific factors.

5. Data on local and traditional food markets in Kenya

By [Hannington Odido Ochieng](#), Researcher and Data scientist, Kenya Agriculture & Livestock Research Organization

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cultural Exchange in Kenya utilizes a **big data system** to collect and distribute data and information to various users. The data gathered is transformed into knowledge that informs digital solutions aimed at improving the availability, quality, safety, and affordability of nutritious food. The ministry offers digital solutions such as e-vouchers and the **Kenya e-Extension Platform** to advise farmers on food production. Additionally, platforms like Jiji, KENTrade, and Kilimo Buzz facilitate trade and market activities. The ministry also focuses on **food price monitoring, traceability** using Global Standards 1, and utilization of food through platforms like Smart Surveys and Glovo. Furthermore, the Ministry is developing a livestock market information system to track animal food sources and implementing systems to track the origin of meat.

The KAMIS platform, short for **Kenya Agricultural Market Information System**, is a comprehensive market information system that operates across 364 markets in 47 counties within

Kenya. The platform aims to improve market access and provide reliable and timely data for producers. It consists of five components for data collection, including a dashboard website, an Android application for data input, APIs, a frontend CMS for displaying reports and trends, and an SMS query system for alerts.

The information collected by KAMIS includes commodity sources, supply volumes, wholesale and retail package units, prices, and classifications. The platform's main goal is to analyse market price trends, seasonality, and trade flows to understand temporal and spatial variations in market prices and accessibility of commodities. However, the system has some limitations, such as the need to integrate an early warning system on price changes, enable the analysis of complex food flows for urban markets, simplify information access, integrate other Market Information Systems (MIS) from different stakeholders, implement livestock management systems for meat traceability, and address issues with consistent and accurate data submission.

6. Data on local and traditional food markets and diet quality indicators

By Kathrin Demmler, Lead Technical Specialist, GAIN

GAIN's research focused on understanding the impact of food environments on vendors and consumers in informal markets in Kenya. The study examined the availability, quality, and convenience of food in these markets and its association with dietary diversity and diet quality of vendors and consumers. The research was conducted in five markets across different counties in the South of Kenya. Mainly quantitative methods were used, including separate surveys for vendors and consumers. The results showed that over 65% of vendors sold vegetables, and that both vendors and consumers had a high dietary diversity score of over 7.0, which is above the average for Kenya. There was a positive association between those vendors selling animal source foods and their own diet quality. Interestingly, there was also a negative association between those consumers purchasing fruits and their dietary diversity. The study highlighted the influence of vendors' food offer on consumers' dietary diversity and quality and that consumer's dietary diversity and quality were influenced by their purchasing behaviour. The findings provide valuable insights into the relationship between food environments, vendors, and consumers in informal markets, contributing to a better understanding of diet and nutrition in such settings.

Discussion

7. Challenging assumptions about local and traditional food markets

The dynamics of wholesale markets in Africa have undergone significant changes in the past three decades, particularly in urban areas. The share of food consumed in urban areas has increased from 20% to 60% over 30 years, indicating **a shift towards non-local and non-traditional consumption patterns**. A study conducted in Nigeria, Tanzania, and Kenya revealed significant transformations in the wholesale market landscape. In Tanzania, urban wholesale markets have tripled in the last decade, with the city of Dar Es Salaam experiencing a substantial increase from 2 to 20 wholesale markets. This shift towards non-traditional markets is exemplified by the growing significance of fruits and vegetables, such as onions and tomatoes, in the diet.

Furthermore, **the idea of the fruit and vegetable supply chain being localized is outdated**, as these products are now distributed across wholesale markets throughout the country. The lengthening of supply chains, proliferation of markets, and urbanization of consumption are indicative of deeply non-traditional trends, paralleling the evolution of supermarkets in the region. These wholesale markets, often operated by private actors (although sometimes perceived to be government-run), are dynamic and integral to the **rapid transformation of the food distribution landscape**.

8. Relationship between LTFMs and healthy diets

In response to a question regarding the relationship between LTFMs and the cost of healthy diets, it was highlighted that the development of the ELEVATE tool aimed to select the most validated and applicable indicators in LMICs from a wide range of assessment tools. Current assessments are primarily focused on high-income countries and primarily examine the external domain of food environments, rather than the internal domain, which is crucial for assessing consumer factors like affordability, desirability, and accessibility, with particular emphasis on affordability.

In addition, it is important to take into account what is considered an unhealthy diet. The cost of a healthy diet is the minimum required to follow dietary guidelines, while an unhealthy diet can vary in cost (no eating does not cost anything). The consumption of unhealthy foods can be much more expensive than following the guidelines for a healthy diet. Establishing relationships between LTFMs and healthy diets depends on what kind of (un)healthy diets are used in comparison.

The KAMIS tool streamlines data collection by working closely with the Kenya Bureau of Statistics to gather commodity-specific information, enabling immediate access to price data. Unlike the KBS, which processes data every three months, KAMIS provides daily statistics, allowing users to make quicker, more informed decisions. Its area-specific data collection offers more detailed insights compared to national-level aggregated data. Additionally, KAMIS geocodes markets, offering both location and pricing information for commodities.

9. Other comments on the presentations

- Public places like markets offer opportunities for combining food and health considerations through cooking demonstrations.
- It's important to differentiate between processed and ultra-processed foods. Food processing may be necessary for food safety, convenience, improved shelf-life.
- **Understanding consumer diversity is crucial for effective interventions**, especially for low-income consumers. We need more granular data.
- **Social relationships and trust** play a significant role in local public markets, for instance by enabling citizens to negotiate prices or get food on credit. We need to zoom into this social dimension. This is hard to gather from a survey.
- Challenges exist in sustainable crop production e.g. when farmers are encouraged to grow certain crops (legumes) but don't have access to the necessary energy and infrastructure for cooking them.

- Making information more accessible and using it to inform policy decisions requires collective effort to see the whole picture and the involvement of market actors. In Columbia the Alliance Bioversity CIAT was able to put together the datasets generated by different ministries.

10. Biggest knowledge gap (question to all presenters)

Which sustainability dimension (i.e. social, economic, environmental) related to LTFMs would deserve more attention and is not yet covered by a lot of evidence, etc.?

- More attention should be given to the **economic dimension** of local and traditional food markets (including livelihoods) due to the lack of data and difficulty in tracking economic impacts.
- Meaningful data, stronger links between qualitative and quantitative assessments, and increased **data accessibility** are needed so that the data can be used to inform policy decisions. We also need to **make better use of the data** we already have.
- We need more and better **knowledge management systems** to capture key actors and policy gaps and invest more in data **triangulation**.
- National governments need to take responsibility for ensuring **accessibility** and **replicability** of data. How do we flip the perspective and see market vendors as knowledge specialists?
- **Standard definitions** and **metrics** are crucial to making comparisons across indicators. We also need better consumer data on their market demand to be able to empower them.
- Sampling and the difficulty in tracking the origin of consumers' diets due to purchases from different markets need to be addressed.

Session 3: Market management modalities and their influence on the inclusion of small-scale supply chain actors

Objectives of the session

This session aims to understand how market management modalities in LTFMs influence market inclusivity for small-scale producers and SMEs and the offer of diverse and nutritious food.

Summary of speaker's presentations

11. Keynote presentation

By Mamadou Goïta, Executive Director, Institute for Research and Promotion of Alternatives in Development (IRPAD)

Research about market experiences across West Africa, including countries such as Mali, Guinea, Senegal, Ghana, Gambia, Burkina Faso, Niger, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Guinea-

Bissau, Nigeria, and Mauritania have shown that effective market management modalities have significantly enhance market inclusivity for small-scale supply chain actors and SMEs, as well as the availability of diverse and nutritious food. It facilitates access to local, fresh, and seasonal food diversity for consumers.

Local and traditional markets play a crucial role in connecting local production with consumers, but they often face challenges in terms of understanding and access. Different governance structures, including those led by local authorities, powerful traders, and community members, have been identified in various regions, impacting market dynamics and inclusivity. **Efforts to enhance inclusivity have led to changes in leadership mindsets, product variety, investment sources, and the arrival of nutritious, locally produced food.** Inclusive governance structures, transparency in price mechanisms, access to financial services, and infrastructure development have played key roles in improving market quality and inclusivity. Despite these efforts, challenges persist due to lack of infrastructure, posing difficulties for market management.

12. Farmers markets

*By **Richard McCarthy**, President of the World Farmers Markets Coalition*

Considering the market environment and local communities' friendliness towards market development is crucial. It's essential not to overlook the importance of practitioners and creativity. During crises, these innovative methods can help **revitalize local communities** and food systems. Farmers' markets are not only the infrastructure but also a representation of **social movements**.

Farmer's markets are recurring assemblies of farmers who sell produce directly to consumers. These markets are both managed and governed, and they serve as agile systems defined by direct marketing without middlemen. They have emerged in response to system failures, offering transparency, dignity, and learning opportunities. **Farmer's self-interest, consumer-driven agriculture, and community building** are key aspects of these markets. Farmers' markets also offer great opportunities to connect with wholesale markets and promote local foods as part of regional identity. The extension of Farmers Market Nutrition Programs further enhances choice and reduces risks for vulnerable consumers.

The World Farmers Markets Coalition is gaining global prominence, with the upcoming General Assembly set to take place in Rome which will host leaders from around the world. Referred to as one of the ten food coalitions by the FAO, the organization was established in response to the pandemic to tackle climate and food insecurity issues.

13. Wholesale markets

*By **Joao Carapau**, General Manager, Sociedade Instaladora de Mercados Abastecedores (SIMAB)*

SIMAB is a public company in Portugal that manages four main wholesale food markets. These

markets are strategically located in peri-urban areas near farmers' production areas. The company has over 1100 producers, logistics operators, and wholesalers supplying more than 10,000 customers daily. SIMAB also works with municipalities to rehabilitate, revitalize, promote, train, and construct municipal markets and has projects aimed at matching farmers with consumers and providing public services in retail food markets. The company has been actively involved in promoting initiatives such as the "5 a day" program and supporting food banks. Furthermore, the COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the importance of wholesale markets in sustaining the food supply chain. SIMAB has seen a 20% increase in clients compared to the pre-COVID situation, with three out of four markets operating at full capacity. SIMAB operates under two models: a public model with public investment in the markets and a public-private model that involves private investment but includes public policies for farmers in these markets. The company is also part of a national network and is engaged in providing consultancy services to municipalities.

14. *Agroferias campesinas*

By Patricia Flores, Global Academy Manager, International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)

Agroferias Campesinas, a Peruvian initiative, was launched over 10 years ago with the support of renowned chefs. The initiative, originally known as Mistura, aimed to promote Peru as a gastronomic destination and received backing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). Despite initial success, internal issues within the gastronomic sector led to the restructuring of the initiative. As a result, the organizers opted to rebrand and establish their own management structure. The fairs, organized by farmers themselves, emphasize food safety, organic and agroecological practices, and involve strict rules and sanctions to ensure compliance. The initiative not only represents the ecological diversity of Peru but also promotes the nutritional benefits of a diverse diet (all 10 food groups are offered at the fairs). Additionally, it encourages the processing of raw materials to increase the value of produce. Over the years, the fairs have contributed to the education of farmers' children and have garnered consumer support due to the perceived health benefits and quality of the produce. The fairs have also expanded beyond their initial locations, now representing 21 out of 24 departments of Peru.

15. *Municipal food retailing markets*

By Xavier Tezzo, Agrifood System Unit, Enabel (the Belgian Development Agency)

The cattle markets in Niger play a vital role in the livelihoods of pastoralist communities, who rely on livestock for their income. However, these markets face several challenges, including climate change, desertification, water scarcity, diseases, armed conflicts, and inadequate infrastructure. Unlike consumer markets, cattle markets function primarily as **aggregation points** in the supply chain, focusing on governance, tax collection, sanitation, and infrastructure maintenance. Governance is complex, involving both local authorities and **traditional chiefs** who manage disputes and market operations, often leading to less transparent management. The **mix of formal and informal governance**, including the involvement of small, informal businesses,

highlights the need to recognize both economic and sociological aspects in market development. Greater inclusivity, particularly for women and youth-run businesses, and a better understanding of hybrid governance systems are key to enhancing sustainability and equity in these markets.

Group work

16. Question 1: Governance and management modalities

*Which **governance and management modalities** are more likely to generate positive outcomes for small-scale farmers and SMEs and contribute to the availability of nutritious and diverse foods?*

- Governance and management modalities need to be **context-specific**, inclusive, and **locally led** to effectively benefit small-scale farmers and SMEs, while also ensuring access to diverse, nutritious foods.
- Establishing **minimum standards for nutrition, safety, and environmental practices** can guide the governance and management of markets.
- **Multi-stakeholder mechanisms**, involving local governments, traditional leaders, and various value chain actors, are critical to fostering inclusivity and sustainability.
- The role of city and **local governments** is essential, though hybrid systems that incorporate both **formal and informal governance** often work best.
- Effective market management requires balancing public-private and community-driven relationships, with mechanisms for **accountability** and **inclusivity**.
- Ensuring diverse voices in decision-making, including small businesses and consumers, can address power imbalances and create more resilient food systems.
- **Public engagement** is crucial to preserving market diversity and inclusion, but decentralization can be hindered by political dynamics.
- Clear governance standards, **transparency**, and **feedback loops**, alongside professionalized management and **information systems** are vital for sustainable outcomes.
- There is **no one-size-fits-all approach**; governance models should adapt to local contexts, ensuring accountability and participation at all levels.
- Mapping market actors and **power dynamics** is crucial for effective governance and informed decision-making.
- **National legal frameworks** should incentivize the establishment and maintenance of markets while ensuring that internal governance structures are clearly defined and consistently upheld.

1. Question 2: Market management innovations

*From your experience (and readings), which market management **innovations** are potentially the most transformative for simultaneously improving access to nutritious food and inclusivity towards small-scale farmers and SMEs?*

- **Challenge Conventional Approaches:** Traditional market governance often overlooks power dynamics, information asymmetries, and participation barriers, which prevent

marginalized groups from engaging fully. Innovations should address these gaps by enhancing agency and participation.

- **Strengthening Smallholder Agency:** Simply creating space is insufficient; interventions must empower small-scale farmers by addressing time, knowledge, and power constraints, allowing them to engage more effectively.
- **Public Procurement and Policy Support:** Public procurement systems that prioritize smallholder produce, safeguard against market fluctuations, and incentivize sustainable practices are key to supporting both inclusivity and nutrition goals. For instance, programs like Brazil's PFP, which stabilize prices, provide premiums for sustainable practices, and mediate between public goals and local needs, can be replicated to drive nutritious food production and support smallholders.
- **Proactive Tendering Practices:** Structuring tenders to include smallholders by supporting their capacity for logistics, storage, and cold infrastructure ensures their involvement in larger supply chains.
- **Hybrid and Participatory Governance Structures:** Combining public, private, and community-driven systems with flexible policies that adapt to local contexts can ensure inclusivity, sustainability, and resilience in market management. However, multistakeholderism should also be **re-examined in the context of patriarchy**, considering the implications before implementing solutions.
- **Promoting Sustainability and Inclusivity:** Encouraging sustainable practices, supply chain transparency, and inclusive policies with targeted incentives is key to building resilient markets that benefit small-scale farmers and improve access to nutritious foods.
- **Leveraging Technology for Transparency:** Tools that provide real-time pricing information and data-driven insights can enhance supply chain transparency, helping smallholders make informed decisions and access markets.
- **Social and Technological Innovations:** Combining tech solutions with social innovations like community radio, public childcare facilities in markets, and participatory decision-making ensures broad accessibility and inclusivity.
- **Sustainable Infrastructure Investments:** Innovations such as low-cost cold storage, solar drying, and improved hygiene facilities contribute to more stable prices, reduce waste, and enhance inclusivity in market participation.
- **Tailored Training and Needs Assessments:** Prior to implementing technological or infrastructural innovations, understanding local needs and providing appropriate training are essential for sustained adoption and success.
- **Innovations in Gender and Social Inclusion:** Gender-sensitive policies and practices, such as enabling women to sell in markets or creating equitable payment models, can enhance participation and empower marginalized groups.
- **Logistics and Digital Solutions:** While technology (e.g., WhatsApp for market connections) is a powerful tool, integrating logistics and digitalization across scales is critical to making such systems efficient and inclusive.
- **Community-Led Consumer Initiatives:** Strengthening consumer groups and short supply chains can drive demand for smallholder produce while fostering community-driven changes.

These innovations, when adapted to specific contexts and supported by inclusive governance, hold the potential to transform markets into more equitable and nutritious food systems.

2. Question 3: Key levers for change

What strategies can be put in place to encourage the adoption of these promising market

management modalities? Or, alternatively, to break out of negative lock-ins? What are the key levers for change?

- **Foster Social Movements:** Organize and aggregate producers through social movements to amplify their collective voice and influence market practices.
- **Ensure Policy Coherence:** Break down silos between government departments to create coherent policies that avoid inefficiencies and conflicts.
- **Translate Policies into Action:** Develop a group dedicated to converting policy recommendations into actionable, accessible guidance for policymakers.
- **Engage Impact Investors:** Attract impact investors to support private-sector models, and create platforms to pool investment and drive innovation.
- **Implement Safeguards for Public Goods:** When privatizing access to public goods, ensure government safeguards are in place to protect public interests, e.g. prevent private sector incentives from encouraging the consumption of unhealthy foods.
- **Blended Approach to Economics:** Use a blended strategy to assess economic viability, de-risk investments, and secure funding for wholesale markets and hubs.
- **Integrate Land Use Planning:** Incorporate urban and land use planning to ensure markets are zoned properly and support the availability of nutritious food.
- **Promote Transparent Incentives:** Develop transparent, fair incentives for private sector participation while avoiding conflicts of interest.
- **Cultivate Leadership and Training:** Train politicians and local leaders on market management, hygiene, and policies to foster informed and effective governance.
- **Create Multi-Stakeholder Platforms:** Establish platforms for stakeholders to collaborate, share knowledge, and drive incremental changes.
- **Leverage Consumer and Gastronomy Sectors:** Engage consumers and the gastronomy sector to promote local markets, raise awareness, and support nutritious food systems.
- **Regulate the Food Environment:** Implement regulations that encourage nutritious consumption and discourage unhealthy options, while addressing unfair competition.
- **Launch Communication Campaigns and Apps:** Implement government communication campaigns and develop apps to connect vendors with consumers, enhancing market access and transparency.
- **Shorten Producer-Consumer Distances:** Strategize to reduce distances between producers and consumers, promote seasonality, and improve logistics systems for more efficient market operations.

1. Question 4: Main challenges and solutions

What are the main challenges in implementing those strategies? And how could they be overcome?

- **Human-Centric Approach:** Many markets lack a human-centric approach. Overcome by: Prioritizing user-centered design and ensuring that market interventions focus on the needs and perspectives of all stakeholders.

- **Stakeholder Reluctance:** Stakeholders often resist spending money without immediate personal benefit, and governments may view it as inconvenient. Overcome by: Demonstrating clear benefits and aligning strategies with local government mandates to build support.
- **Fostering Inclusivity:** Ensuring broad participation and inclusivity can be challenging. Overcome by: Implementing strategies that are context-specific and locally relevant, and addressing misconceptions about markets and retailers.
- **Lack of Data and Funding:** Insufficient data, funding, and political will hinder progress. Overcome by: Investing in data collection and analysis, and advocating for increased funding and political commitment.
- **Top-Down Decision-Making:** Decisions often exclude stakeholders' voices. Overcome by: Incorporating stakeholder input through participatory approaches and democratizing decision-making processes.
- **Government Reluctance to Support Smallholders:** Governments may be unwilling to procure from smallholder farmers. Overcome by: Demonstrating the value of smallholder inclusion and advocating for supportive policies.
- **Funding Hesitation:** There's a reluctance to direct funds to local municipalities due to low trust. Overcome by: Building trust through transparent and accountable management of funds.
- **Knowledge Gaps:** Decision-makers often lack practical market knowledge. Overcome by: Conducting research to inform decision-makers and making market data accessible.
- **Power Dynamics:** Market power structures at the local level may be overlooked. Overcome by: Engaging with all community stakeholders, including women's cooperatives and local leaders, to ensure inclusive participation.
- **Transparency in Tax Collection:** High tax collection and lack of transparency can be problematic. Overcome by: Implementing transparent processes for tax collection and usage.
- **Informal vs. Formal Sector:** Informal and official traders operate in the same space with issues of recognition and regulation. Overcome by: Improving formal recognition and creating inclusive, transparent regulatory environments.
- **Scaling Challenges:** Understanding and leveraging the role of wholesale actors can be difficult. Overcome by: Utilizing wholesale markets to scale and framing them as public goods.
- **Negative Perceptions:** Wholesalers and traders often face negative perceptions. Overcome by: Reframing their role and highlighting their socio-economic contributions.
- **Political Barriers:** Opposition parties may control certain areas, limiting interventions. Overcome by: Developing alternative strategies or working through peripheral areas.
- **Land Use Conflicts:** Supermarkets and high-value land use can overshadow wet markets. Overcome by: Advocating for the preservation of wet markets and balancing land use policies.
- **Policy Oversight:** Insufficient policing around policy goals and advertising. Overcome by: Establishing stricter regulations and oversight mechanisms to ensure adherence to policy goals.

Plenary discussion and agreement

The discussion underscored the need to **address power dynamics** and **information imbalances** before defaulting to multistakeholder solutions. **Digitalization** was recognized as vital for fostering innovation, enhancing communication, and improving transparency and inclusivity in logistics. However, there are concerns about potential exclusions arising from digitalization and the necessity for clear guidance on economic opportunities. A **human-centered approach** and long-term sustainability in government support and market involvement were highlighted as crucial. Civil society and academic institutions are increasingly involved in market innovations, but these efforts are often marginalized by the public and private sectors.

The conversation also pointed to the need to reassess and support local territorial food markets (LTFMs) for their potential to improve nutrition, create jobs, and promote agroecological practices. Emphasizing the diversity of market challenges and opportunities, the discussion advocated for a collaborative approach to policy advocacy. It stressed the importance of focusing not only on food composition but also on consumption patterns and nutrition education to enhance food security and reduce reliance on highly processed foods. The shift towards supporting intermediary cities, recognizing the role of civil society, and leveraging LTFMs for sustainable development goals were also key points, calling for increased participation and effective governance to drive systemic change.

Closing remarks of Day 1

By Pilar Santacoloma, Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO

The first day discussions highlighted the importance of local and traditional food markets (LTFMs) not only as places for purchasing food but also as **vital social spaces** that benefit both livelihoods and businesses. Key points discussed include:

- **Dual Role of Markets:** LTFMs serve as both food sources and social hubs, facilitating interactions between producers and consumers and generating broad benefits.
- **Need for Common Definitions:** There is no clear agreement on the definitions of "local" and "traditional" markets. Establishing a common ground is essential for enhancing inclusivity and diversity.
- **Integration in Urban Systems:** Markets are embedded within urban settings and connect rural and urban areas. Limitations in the broader system can affect market functionality and increase reliance on ultra-processed foods.
- **Diverse Market Models:** Different types of markets, such as wholesale and farmers' markets, serve distinct roles and functions. Inclusive policies are often in place to support both farmers and SMEs within these spaces.
- **Market Systems and Governance:** Effective communication and governance among various markets within the same territory are crucial. It is important to understand their interrelationships and avoid isolated approaches.
- **Challenges and Tools:** Investment, infrastructure, and information challenges persist.

There are various tools at different scales (e.g., national vs. local) for addressing these issues. Developing a comprehensive toolkit to guide the application of different methodologies based on context is recommended.

- **Catalysts for Broader Change:** Certain markets have significant potential to drive broader changes by supporting sustainable practices and SMEs. Scaling these successful models remains a key challenge.
- **Government Role:** The role of government in encouraging sustainable practices among producers will be explored further. There are many ideas on how to enhance this support.

Session 4: Exploring evidence on the role of PFP programmes in contributing to healthier diets and increasing the availability of nutritious, diverse and sustainably produced food

Recap of day 1

By Pilar Santacoloma, Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO

The first day introduced fresh perspectives and raised important questions about local and traditional food markets (LTFMs):

- **Nutrition and SDGs:** Achieving nutrition goals is essential for societal development within the SDG framework. Without proper nutrition, broader development goals are unattainable.
- **FAO's Mission and Healthy Diets:** Ensuring access to a healthy diet is central to FAO's mission. Improving food environments through market interventions is key to achieving this.
- **LTFMs and SDGs:** LTFMs play a critical role in making nutritious foods more available, supporting both public and private sector efforts toward SDGs. The focus should be on empowering small-scale stakeholders.
- **Social Dynamics of LTFMs:** LTFMs are vital for fostering relationships among consumers, vendors, and producers. Both formal and informal markets exist, and appropriate regulations are needed.
- **Management of LTFMs:** LTFMs can be publicly or privately managed, with different models like farmer's markets or urban markets. Various tools and methodologies are available to measure their performance. Given that these markets dominate food supply, leveraging their strengths is essential.
- **Public Procurement and Nutrition:** Public procurement, particularly in school feeding programs, is an effective market approach to promoting healthy diets. This will be further explored in today's discussions.

Setting the ground for the PFP component

By Luana Swensson, Policy specialisation for sustainable public procurement

Public food procurement (PFP) is increasingly recognized as a powerful policy tool with broad impacts, directly contributing to SDG 12.7 and emphasized during the 2021 Food Systems Summit as essential for accelerating food system transformation. PFP initiatives range from school feeding programs to procurement for prisons and hospitals, offering unique opportunities to support healthy diets. Unlike typical markets, PFP has public actors as consumers, making it a distinct mechanism that benefits both producers and consumers.

Key points include:

- **Strategic Role of PFP:** Public institutions use their purchasing power not only to meet immediate needs but also to address broader social, economic, and environmental objectives, contributing to public goods.
- **Holistic Approach:** PFP can influence food production and consumption patterns, supporting diverse and nutritious diets while driving systemic change across multiple dimensions.
- **Beneficiaries and Challenges:** PFP benefits small-scale farmers, SMEs, and vulnerable groups like women and youth. However, implementation faces significant challenges, including gaps in aligning social, economic, and environmental objectives.

Three critical gaps were identified for further exploration:

1. **Availability and Impact:** Can PFP increase the availability of nutritious, sustainably produced food beyond direct beneficiaries? Understanding the constraints and enablers is essential.
2. **Role of Small-Scale Producers:** How can small-scale farmers and SMEs contribute to nutrition goals? Examining who supplies the food and its impact on diet quality is key.
3. **Linking Objectives:** How can nutrition, social, economic, and environmental goals be coherently integrated? Understanding trade-offs and synergies among these outcomes is crucial for effective PFP.

In summary, PFP has vast potential, but a more integrated approach is needed to fully realize its benefits, especially in promoting healthy diets within sustainable food systems.

Objectives of the session

This session aims to:

- Provide **evidence** on the potential of PFP to contribute to healthy diets (e.g. through increased access and availability of, among others, local, diversified, seasonal, traditional, culturally appropriate, and sustainably produced food).
- Discuss how the strategic use of PFP can trigger the production and supply of more nutritious, diversified and sustainably produced food and **provide opportunities for small-scale farmers and SMEs** to innovate and scale-up their businesses.
- Explore the **linkages** between nutrition and other social, economic and environmental objectives pursued through the strategic use of PFP. Summary of speaker's presentations

1. Keynote presentation

By **Roberta Sonnino**, Professor and researcher, University of Surrey

Public Food Procurement (PFP) is a powerful instrument for triggering sustainability in local governments. Sustainable public food procurement systems have the potential to reduce health-related problems, empower consumers, and create markets for small-scale producers. However, there is a **lack of a robust evidence base, which is scanty, fragmented, and largely collected in the Global North.**

The types of evidence discussed include literature on organic and vegetable catering systems as well as re-localization strategies. An example from Brazil shows that farmers participating in PFP have experienced significant income growth and increased access to new markets. However, **comprehensive analyses and longitudinal studies are lacking**, representing a crucial gap in the literature. An example of a comprehensive analysis points towards school feeding programs in Ghana, which demonstrates positive effects on enrolment, retention, and infrastructure in schools. However, the success of creating markets for local farmers through these programs is questioned due to the lack of capacity among small-scale farmers.

The potential for PFP to promote changes in the food system is tremendous. PFP integrates various actors and assets and intervenes on all pillars of food security, targeting vulnerable social groups such as children, hospital patients, and the elderly. It emphasizes the **relocalisation of food**, which is essential for benefits like climate change mitigation and the multiplication effect on the local economy.

There are debates around the procurement of local food and concerns about bureaucratic processes that make it difficult for local suppliers to participate in PFP. However, creative procurement strategies, such as breaking down contracts into small lots, creative awarding of contracts (e.g. the city of Rome is using the criteria of guaranteed freshness as a way of bringing local food into the system), and emphasizing certified products, can help involve local small-scale suppliers. Additionally, PFP emphasizes both social inclusion and environmental concerns, introducing initiatives such as culturally appropriate menus and incentives to source products from social cooperatives.

Overall, **considering values (plural) for money, rather than the singular value for money when devising procurement strategies and designing contracts could help** shape a food system rooted in ethical values.

2. Integrating seasonality and diversity

By **Betina Madsen**, Chief Advisor in the City of Copenhagen

The public food procurement strategy in Copenhagen, Denmark, focuses on integrating official **dietary guidelines** and a **plant-based plan** into procurement practices. Contracts are designed to reflect these guidelines, with an emphasis on how **small details can drive significant change.** Copenhagen has achieved 90% organic sourcing within budget by teaching kitchen staff **cooking**

skills and incorporating more plant-based foods. The strategy also includes social dimensions, such as respecting traditional foods, promoting diversity, and emphasizing **seasonality**. For example, the city avoids purchasing out-of-season produce like strawberries, thereby reducing imports and waste. **Seasonal calendars** for products like apples and fish have been created to guide kitchen staff, while procurement contracts consider sustainability, including the working conditions of fishermen. A **handbook** was developed for kitchen staff to look up criteria, and knowledge sharing is facilitated through networks and teaching materials. Additionally, Copenhagen is building a **European food procurement officer network** to expand collaboration across Europe. It's also developing an **Inspiration Catalogue**, a resource of green initiatives designed to offer detailed guidance on integrating sustainability into procurement tenders. Continuously updated with new topics, it reflects the latest best practices and innovations in the field.

3. Structuring markets for farm diversification : The case of Southern Brazil

By Vivian Valencia, Researcher Chair in Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Action, Bishop's University

In southern Brazil, local markets are often unstable income sources, making Public Food Procurement (PFP) crucial in creating **more reliable and diverse market opportunities**. Simplified farming systems driven by dominant policies focus on monocultures and specialization, contributing to biodiversity loss, climate change, and homogenized diets. In contrast, **diversified farming systems**, which support agroecological practices and grow culturally relevant, nutritious crops, offer significant social and environmental benefits but face limited support. Institutional markets, like Brazil's school lunch program, play a transformative role by providing predictable demand, stable income, and price stabilization for smallholder farmers. Such programs also incentivize sustainability and gender inclusivity, supporting transitions to diversified farming systems. To strengthen local markets and traditional food systems, it's essential to address the constraints faced by these farmers, particularly those exacerbated by climate change. Structured demand through PFP can help reduce risks, stabilize markets, and create favorable conditions for diversified, resilient farming that aligns with broader sustainability and nutrition goals. For example, Brazil's school lunch program allocates 35% of its budget to small farmers, benefiting both farmers and the community. Additionally, there are gender considerations in how these policies operate, and support from social groups and NGOs is often necessary for farmers to meet these procurement opportunities.

4. Linking nutrition and environmental outcomes through minimum environmental criteria

By Claudia Paltrinieri, Director of Food Insider

Italy places a strong emphasis on the quality of school canteen services, with an **annual survey ranking school menus** and sparking discussions on improvements. Initiatives like Green Food Week aim to promote sustainability and reduce food waste by encouraging the use of sustainable ingredients (e.g. millet and legumes). However, Food Insider's research (which established a

benchmark for monitoring school menus since 2015) shows that the quality of menus has decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic due to simplification. There are various models of school meal menus, with some schools offering organic options and others relying more on processed foods. A recent law introducing minimum environmental criteria into procurement has contributed to increase the use of organic foods, promoted biodiversity, reduced red meat consumption, and minimized processed foods, while also encouraging the involvement of parents in promoting healthy and sustainable eating habits. With the application of the new law, the **score of menus has increased** (more organic food, local recipes, cereal varieties, legumes as main proteins, and less meat). The changing economy and landscape, including the cultivation of ancient grains, reflect the evolving priorities in the country. Overall, the key conditions for successful changes include stakeholder involvement, increased awareness and competence, and clear communication of the benefits to all involved.

5. Promoting nutrition-sensitive agriculture through the localized engagement of small-scale producers

*By **Samrat Singh**, Head of Programmes School of Public Health, Imperial College London*

Small farm systems are multifaceted and can vary widely in terms of land size, ownership, labour, and revenue. **Nutrition sensitivity** in farm output involves incorporating a variety of macro- and micro-nutrients throughout the agricultural calendar, especially in rainfed agriculture systems. Localized engagement in agriculture entails structured **procurement systems that target small farms** through various mechanisms, such as focusing on women farmers and nutrition-sensitive agriculture or considering geographic preferences.

There is an **evidence-based linkage between human and planetary health**, which highlights the importance of nutrients and nutrition-sensitive agriculture in promoting planetary health. Enabling nutrition-sensitive agriculture in small farm systems involves structured demand, particularly through school feeding programs, hospitals, public health services, defence and military supplies, and national food reserves. School feeding programs in all countries have a clear nutrition mandate, making it easy to align nutrition objectives with farm engagement. For instance, in U.K, the NHS spending on hospital food underscores the potential of hospital and public health services in driving nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

Several key considerations support the implementation of nutrition-sensitive agriculture. **Gender equity** is crucial to sustaining nutrition-sensitive agriculture, as women's participation in food production and consumption at the household level is significant. **Social equity** can be promoted through interventions involving marginalized and economically struggling communities and addressing food hierarchies that categorize nutritious foods as inferior. Additionally, promoting **climate-smart foods** and ensuring the **right to food and food sovereignty** are essential elements of nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

To sustain nutrition-sensitive agriculture, participatory approaches are vital in designing school menus, procurement systems, and involving various stakeholders in the process. Examples from the U.S and Nepal demonstrate the potential impact of nutrition-sensitive agriculture in the context

of school feeding programs. In the US, the USDA Farm to School Programme – incorporates local and traditional foods in the National School Lunch Programme and other related programmes. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 farm bill) promotes geographic preference in school procurement to promote unprocessed locally grown foods. In Nepal, 18 neglected underutilized species are included in school feeding supply chains through home-grown school food (HGFS) compared to 4 in the non-HGFS model. However, challenges such as **high costs**, capacities in key areas such as agricultural extension, and **fragmentation** need to be addressed for nutrition-sensitive agriculture to be effectively implemented in diversified forms.

Group work

Question 1: Existing evidence on the potential of PFP

*What **existing evidence** do we have on the **potential of PFP** to contribute to healthy diets and in particular to the availability (increased production and supply) of nutritious, diversified and sustainably produced food?*

Existing evidence:

- **Key Influences:** Factors affecting children's eating habits include the home environment, peer influence, and role modeling by significant adults.
- **Safety Nets Impact:** Evidence shows social safety nets positively affect children's nutrition and education, with varying impacts across different age groups.
- **Procurement Impact:** The effects of opening procurement programs to large suppliers and international trade require careful consideration due to potential implications on local markets.
- **Case Studies:** Copenhagen has measured environmental impacts of PFP, but linking these to food production and dietary outcomes remains a gap.

Evidence gaps:

- **Measurement Challenges:** It is difficult to measure the impact of public food procurement (PFP) on healthy diets due to the complexity of dietary recall and the time required to see measurable effects. There are challenges in information sharing, emphasizing the need for diverse types of evidence beyond just "hard evidence."
- **Limited Data:** There is very little evidence available because diets have not been effectively measured, although ongoing research aims to address this, particularly in schools.
- **Longitudinal Gaps:** There is a lack of long-term studies to show how PFP affects taste profiles and dietary habits over time.
- **Hunger vs. Nutrition:** In some regions, like Cape Town, school meals are crucial for hunger relief, but evidence on their impact on nutrition is less clear.
- **Evidence Fragmentation:** Evidence is often fragmented, with a lack of comprehensive studies from low- and middle-income countries compared to high-income countries.

- **Certification Issues:** Small-scale farmers face barriers such as certification costs and delayed payments, affecting their participation in PFP.
- **Knowledge Gaps:** There are gaps in understanding how PFP can incentivize local and marginalized producers, and how procurement choices impact broader food systems.
- **Documentation and Sharing:** Many promising practices are not documented or shared widely, contributing to the perception of a lack of evidence.

Question 2: Entry points / strategies to maximise PFP's potential

*What are the **main entry points/strategies** to maximise PFP's potential to strengthen the availability of nutritious, diversified and sustainably produced food?*

Holistic and Systemic Approaches

- **Holistic Approach:** Integrate PFP within a broader package including territorial planning, social agreements, and networks.
- **Municipal Support:** Strengthen farmers' organizations and cooperatives through municipal budgets and public policy packages.
- **Social Protection:** Incorporate small producers into social protection measures, beyond just school feeding programs.
- **Context-Specific Strategies:** Adapt strategies based on whether procurement is national or municipal, and align with regional policy approaches.

Improving Procurement Practices

- **Criteria for Procurement:** Include nutrition and environmental criteria in procurement contracts.
- **Improving Menus:** Enhance school feeding menus and public procurement practices to support nutrition objectives.
- **Direct & Indirect Purchases:** Develop programs connecting producers and buyers through direct and indirect purchases and create macro programs that integrate these elements.
- **Training & Inclusion:** Provide training for minority firms, strengthen farmers' organizations, cooperatives, and associations through municipal budget and social protection measures for small producers and incentivize farmer inclusion through quotas.

Consumer and Market Dynamics

- **Consumer Empowerment:** Strengthen consumer capacities and address gaps between production and consumption.
- **Marketing & Pricing:** Curb junk food advertising, promote healthy food champions, and establish price protection mechanisms for small-scale stakeholders.
- **Initial Investments:** Support logistics and distribution hubs with initial investments (from governments, NGOs, funders), then aim for financial sustainability.
- **B2B Platforms and Payment Systems:** Utilize B2B platforms to manage supply, fill gaps, and address payment delays for farmers. Address challenges related to late payments for farmers and explore how B2B platforms can manage supply and financial delays.
- **Food Banks:** Utilize **food banks** and similar initiatives to link schools in vulnerable areas

with food surplus sources, but be cautious of potential inefficiencies in the food system.

Policy and Education

- **Dietary Guidelines:** Use changes in dietary guidelines to influence public procurement decisions.
- **Policy & Education:** Implement supportive policy provisions, and provide nutrition education for children, teachers, and parents.
- **Right to Food:** Recognize and legislate the right to nutritious food as essential for a prosperous life.

Data and Infrastructure

- **Data & Traceability:** Encourage food source tracing and data monitoring through public procurement.
- **Market Research:** Conduct market research before procurement to bridge communication gaps between procurement officers and farmers.
- **Food Service Companies:** Engage food service companies in the discussion to enhance procurement strategies.

Question 3: Linkages and feedback loops between different objectives

*What are the key **linkages and feedback loops** between the nutritional objectives and the inclusion of small-scale farmers and SMEs? And between other socio, economic and environmental objectives? What are the main co-benefits and trade-offs?*

- **Focus on Logistics:** Difficulty replicating the Brazilian success in Latin America due to resistance around food safety and organizational concerns. Need for logistics/distribution hubs or intermediaries like wholesalers or NGOs.
- **Social Movements:** The role of social movements, NGOs, and external facilitators in Brazil may not be present elsewhere, creating challenges in building similar systems.
- **Market Access vs. Small Producers:** Trade-offs between including small-scale farmers in the market and the impact on their market stability and effectiveness. This includes balancing short-term projects with long-term goals.
- **Political Factors:** Influence of politics and elections on food policies, potentially affecting the effectiveness and sustainability of programs.
- **Commitment vs. Impact:** The gap between public declarations of commitment to small farmers and the actual concrete impacts achieved.
- **Land Allocation:** Importance of working with municipalities to allocate vacant land to small farmers, which can improve their access to markets and their ability to serve schools.
- **Reliability and Cost:** Small farmers may be less reliable and potentially more costly to include in supply chains, necessitating backup from larger catering companies to ensure consistent service.
- **Short Supply Chains:** The focus on short supply chains to address food safety concerns and support small farmers.
- **Health and Environment:** Foods that are good for health often align with environmental sustainability goals. Implementing nutrition and sustainability considerations in

procurement processes can provide co-benefits.

- **Balancing Efficiency:** Ensuring that nutritional objectives do not compromise efficiency, with a need to avoid compromising calories for effectiveness.
- **Co-Benefits:** Linking nutrition objectives with environmental and socio-economic goals can enhance overall system sustainability and support small-scale farmers.
- **Trade-Offs:** Balancing the inclusion of small farmers with the need for reliable and cost-effective food provision. Trade-offs include potential higher costs and less reliability from small-scale suppliers versus the benefits of supporting local economies and improving sustainability.

Question 4: Knowledge gaps

What are the main evidence and knowledge gaps in relation to the questions above?

See evidence gaps already listed under question 1. In addition, consider the following:

- **Indigenous Issues:** Limited exploration of indigenous roles in public procurement and related challenges.
- **Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss:** Impact of climate change on public procurement, including food production, biodiversity, and land use, is emerging but needs further integration. Limited research on sustainability impacts, including transport.
- **Food Waste:** Research focused on reducing food waste and improving food system efficiency.
- **Sectoral Gaps:** Lack of evidence from non-school sectors
- **Context-Specific Data:** Need for localized data addressing rural vs. urban and north vs. south differences. Lack of evidence from non-high-income countries.
- **Supplier Data:** Insufficient data on suppliers beyond income metrics.
- **Program Quality:** Unclear why children might dislike school food; issues may involve quality and consumption.
- **PP Officer Knowledge:** Public procurement officers often lack nutrition knowledge and understanding of dietary guidelines.
- **Retailer Knowledge:** Insufficient evidence on the role of retailers in public procurement.
- **Nutritional Guidelines:** Need for well-defined nutritional guidelines for procurement programs.
- **Tracing and Sourcing:** Gaps in effective tracing and sourcing practices within procurement systems.
- **Small Producer Supply Chains:** Insufficient evidence on integrating small producers into public procurement.
- **Evidence to Policy:** Unclear how to translate evidence into policy and workable models, and how to address working conditions of small producers.
- **Governance:** Debate on whether more evidence is needed or if existing evidence can be better utilized through governance and policy mechanisms.

Plenary discussion and agreement

- **Evidence Needs:** Scientific evidence serves national and global policymakers, while field practitioners need operational evidence. It's crucial to ensure that practice-based evidence informs scientific research, not the other way around, to avoid overburdening field practitioners.
- **Procurement Complexity:** Procurement officers need to see how integrating nutrition or sustainability criteria can improve efficiency and save costs. Demonstrating that criteria like reducing waste and extending shelf life can save money is essential for gaining their support.
- **Evidence Utilization:** The lack of evidence is often used to sideline potential interventions. It's important to explore and address food system challenges even if complete evidence is not yet available.
- **Procurement Measurement:** Many procurement officers focus on legal compliance and budget. Incorporating nutrition objectives into procurement mandates and measuring their impact could enhance accountability and effectiveness.
- **Efficiency vs. Diversity:** Balancing efficiency with diversity and sustainability in procurement is challenging. For instance, offering diverse types of apples might be less efficient but more beneficial in the long run. Converting sustainability goals into economic terms can help.
- **Procurement Mission:** The goal is to provide healthy food at reasonable prices. Combining healthiness and sustainability is possible, but metrics often fail to track whether food is actually consumed, leading to inefficiencies.
- **Small Farmer Resilience:** Small farmers are crucial for resilience in public food procurement. Accessibility improvements and technology can help achieve this goal, but effectiveness needs to be monitored.
- **Territorial Approaches:** Biodistricts and organic districts, as seen in Italy and Portugal, engage multiple stakeholders in discussions about healthy and sustainable procurement. True cost accounting of food is also important.
- **Market vs. Procurement:** There's tension between the market and procurement communities, each viewing their approach as superior. A holistic approach involving both sectors is necessary.
- **Long-Term Relationships:** Short-term evidence is less useful than fostering lifelong relationships with food, particularly with children. In rural areas, involving farmers directly in schools and markets can help build these relationships and create a more holistic food culture.

Session 5: Leveraging PFP programme to scale up opportunities for small-scale supply chain actors to increase the availability of nutritious, diverse and sustainably produced food

Objectives of the session

This session aims to:

- Identify key enablers and constraints for unlocking the potential of PFP to provide scaling up opportunities for small-scale producers and SMEs and to increase the availability of nutritious, diverse and sustainably produced food to consumers.
- Discuss how specific enablers can contribute to enhancing synergies and tackling the trade-offs between nutritional and other social, economic and environmental outcomes of PFP programmes.

Summary of speaker's presentations

1. Keynote presentation

By *Karine Santos*, General Coordinator of the National School Feeding Program, National Education Development Fund (FNDE)

The **Brazilian National School Feeding Program**, known as PNAE, is a government initiative that invests in small-scale farmers, providing them with an additional R\$1.6 billion in support. Over the past 15 years, the program has been established in 150,000 schools, promoting a learning curve and fostering connections with 40,000 producers, some of whom are organized in associations. The program emphasizes the **right to food** and aims to provide healthier food baskets, while also focusing on links to universities and sustainable development. Civil society participation is crucial, as it provides inputs and guidance. Additionally, the inclusion of food-related topics in school curricula is seen as essential.

Purchasing from small-scale farmers is vital for providing fresh, local, and traditional food to the school feeding program. The program also aims to respect the diversity of marginalized communities and support sustainable development. In 2023, a law was passed to **prioritise purchases from indigenous and women farmers**, working towards gender equity (Law no. 14.660/2023, stipulates that the purchase from individual smallholder farmer families not organized in groups must be made in the name of the woman for at least 50% of the purchased value.) The PNAE law also stipulates that 30% of the funds transferred by the federal government must be invested in the direct purchase of products from smallholder farming. In the PNAE, the purchase of smallholder farming products is carried out through a purchasing method called public call, which aims to make the selling process easier and more accessible for smallholder farmers.

Efforts are in place to encourage farmers to supply to the program through capacity building programs and credit access. Administrative processes have been developed to facilitate farmer participation, focusing on the quality and origin of the produce. The program promotes guidelines to reduce processed foods and increase the provision of organic and agroecological products. In the public call, price is not a criterion for sale. The **main criterion is the locality of the farmer**, and among the sales projects received, those of formal groups that include farmers from traditional peoples and communities are prioritized. However, the PNAE faces challenges in expanding the procurement of foodstuffs from smallholder farming for the PNAE, facilitating the access of traditional peoples and communities to PNAE's institutional markets, and promoting compliance with the requirement of having 50% of sales made in a woman's name.

The future direction of the program includes increasing purchases from small-scale farmers and collaborating with international initiatives such as the Finland-France coalition for school feeding. Other projects in the Caribbean region are also being supported to progress similar feeding programs.

Follow up Q&A:

The education and agriculture ministries have several collaboration mechanisms in place to foster interactions. These include a **ministerial chamber, informal collaboration, and collaboration groups for school feeding**. The proximity of production sites to schools is an important factor in purchasing from local farmers, but flexibility is allowed based on federal guidelines. The institutional framework encourages social participation, with a National Council for Food Safety and Nutrition providing oversight. Technical knowledge is emphasized to ensure the continuity of programs despite changes in the political environment.

2. The role of policy and legal frameworks

By Najla Veloso, Executive Secretary of the Sustainable School Feeding Network – RAES

The **Sustainable School Feeding Network** (RAES) is an initiative focused on improving nutrition and promoting healthy diets, particularly in countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) where malnutrition prevails. The program aims to provide nutritious, tasty, and colourful meals to all students, with a focus on sourcing food locally and sustainably. With a platform that showcases their work and available materials, RAES operates in several countries including the Dominican Republic, Brazil, and Peru. The program emphasizes **direct purchases from local farmers** and the promotion of sustainable schools and committees. Legislation and regulations play a crucial role in defining food purchases and ensuring access for small-scale family farmers. Additionally, the program encourages the inclusion of food and **nutritional education** in school feeding laws. However, implementing these practices can be challenging, requiring coordination with school managers and addressing infrastructure limitations such as lack of internet and access. RAES members reported the following common difficulties: 1) Definition of public procurement policy at the highest level of government; 2) Lack of legal guidelines for public procurement; 3) Difficulties in promoting intersectorality among government actors, especially with the agricultural sector; 4) Lack of mapping of producers and available production, 5) Joint management and planning of

short chains, and 6) Logistical capacity constraints (roads, internet access, information channels, digital technologies). Overall, the initiative underscores the importance of incentivizing small-scale production and integrating sustainable practices into school feeding programs.

3. The role of procurement officers

By Tamara Bruning, Head of the Division Cleaning and Catering Services, City of Ghent

The role of **procurement officers** is quite complex, especially when it comes to sustainable food procurement. They have to work with various stakeholders and sectors while also considering important frameworks such as the SDGs, food safety, nutrition, and accessibility. The traditional view of procurement based solely on economic advantage is shifting towards a more balanced approach that prioritizes quality alongside cost-effectiveness.

Policy objectives and stakeholder involvement add to the challenges faced by procurement officers. Nutrition guidelines and portion sizes for various age groups are often not effectively utilized, leading to food waste. The involvement of multiple stakeholders, both internal (environment, health, facility, and governance) and external (universities, NGOs), adds to the complexity of the procurement process.

Procurement officers also require **detailed manuals** to guide them through the specialized requirements of procurement processes. Establishing a **network of procurement officers** at regional, national, or international levels to share best practices and strengthen each other is considered essential. This network also serves as a means of influencing politicians and creating a more stable long-term baseline for procurement practices.

Procurement officers face challenges related to market maturity, supplier availability, customer needs, customer commitment, and budget constraints on the buyer's side. On the supplier's side, challenges include farmers' preference for direct consumer business, navigating complex procurement laws, financial risks, lack of experience in dealing with buyers, and adapting to digitalization and volume mismatches.

In essence, the role of procurement officers is multifaceted, involving intricate interactions with diverse stakeholders, complex policies, and various challenges on both the buyer's and supplier's sides.

4. The role of participatory processes in policy/project formulation

By Tia Schwab, Policy Advisor, NYC Mayor's Office of Food Policy and Becca Jablonski, Co-Director of the Food Systems Institute at Colorado State University

New York City is making significant efforts in developing sustainable food policies that prioritize the well-being of its residents. With over 19 billion pounds of food distributed annually, the city is taking action to address food-related emissions and insecurity. The Office of Food Policy was established to guide leadership on food issues, and the city has invested heavily in supporting agricultural practices and conservation easements to ensure clean drinking water. Additionally,

the city has initiated a **regional food working group to improve supply chain resilience** and has committed to increasing its **purchases from local farmers and minority- and women-owned businesses**. To further enhance urban food policies, the City Food Policy Project (CFPP) has been collaborating with stakeholders, researchers, and practitioners to analyse the impacts and trade-offs of potential policy actions. This collaborative effort includes engaging with local growers and producers to understand the implications of different policy actions, such as price preferences and certification requirements, on their products and marketing decisions. In addition, the project aims to build lasting power by **strengthening the linkages between urban and rural areas in New York**, with the ultimate goal of creating a **healthy and sustainable regional food system**. The recent passing of the **Good Food New York Bill** in the state legislature reflects the commitment to advancing sustainable food procurement. Overall, New York City's initiatives show a strong dedication to connecting urban policies with the broader region and building resilient, sustainable food systems.

5. The role of implementation models

By Aulo Gelli, Senior Research Fellow, Poverty, Gender, and Inclusion Unit, IFPRI/CGIAR

Public procurement, such as school meal programs, serves various social objectives (education, sustainable agriculture, nutrition & health, enterprise development, etc.) and involves multiple target groups. The process is complex and involves **trade-offs** that need to be managed. While we understand the impact of school meals on children, there is less insight into the procurement process and the supply chain. While rigorous evidence is sometimes available on the impact of school meals on education and nutrition, there is less rigorous evidence at the level of its impact on agriculture chains and enterprise development. School meal programs are part of a structured hierarchy and have specific requirements to meet objectives. The method of procurement is critical and can vary, requiring coordination and potentially incurring costs. Compliance with **standards**, such as nutritional requirements, is crucial in the procurement, provision, and delivery of meals. **It is essential to use various tools and data, including real-time food recognition**, to ensure the system functions effectively. Artificial intelligence can be used to collect real time data on **food recognition**, therefore partially addressing the challenge of food recalls. Data is also necessary to address issues related to governance, financial accountability, and to understand what is happening in reality.

Follow up Q&A:

The objective of food recognition is to accurately identify the type and quantity of food on a plate using computer technology (AI) to assess the food items and their proportions. By utilizing the area to estimate the weight, the data can then be compared to predefined metrics. This approach has the potential to reduce costs significantly, even though initial computer training is necessary. This can reduce food recognition costs by 500-fold despite the need to train the computer. Moreover, it can provide valuable insights for improving school feeding programs.

Group work

Question 1: Entry points

What **entry points** should be prioritized to support governments in designing PFP programmes that effectively include small-scale farmers and SMEs and boost the availability of nutritious, diverse and sustainably produced foods?

Government Frameworks and Coordination

- **Brazilian Model:** An enabling framework in Brazil involves multiple government sectors working together with harmonized tools and approaches, resulting in relatively uniform effectiveness across the country.
- **Subsidy Coordination:** Transforming subsidies to support SMEs requires robust coordination, as seen in Brazil, where effective facilitation aids in achieving common goals.
- **Regulatory Framework:** The lack of a regulatory framework in LAC presents challenges in maintaining public procurement programs.

Operational Efficiency and Innovation

- **Innovative Solutions:** Research and development, along with new technologies, can facilitate easier setup of production practices.
- **Evidence-Based Practices:** Public procurement practices must be grounded in the best available evidence, addressing government hesitancy to act due to lack of scientific consensus.
- **Broker Value:** Well-connected brokers who can expedite decision-making processes are crucial for overcoming obstacles.
- **Informal Networks:** Intrapreneurs and informal networks play a vital role in facilitating change and innovation.

Communication and Coordination

- **Translation Needs:** Effective communication between farmers/suppliers and procurement officers is essential for smooth operations.
- **Gender Considerations:** Implementing gender-transformative incentives, such as in public procurement tenders, is important for addressing land rights and market access.
- **Communication Barriers:** Improving communication to incentivize change is important for program success.

Capacity Building and Local Development

- **Municipal Capacity:** Large municipalities have teams to handle procurement, but smaller cities require capacity building for effective management.

- **Territorial Development:** Scale and planning are crucial for local production, with considerations for infrastructure and safety checks for meat and other products.
- **Collection Centres:** Allocating public spaces for collection centers helps facilitate the delivery and receipt of products, especially in areas with limited connections.

Expertise and Knowledge Gaps

- **Agroecology Expertise:** Successful agroecology programs require knowledgeable individuals with technical experience rather than just anyone interested in the job.
- **Social Participation:** Involving social participation in monitoring and managing procurement helps ensure effectiveness.
- **Managerial Roles:** Dedicated managers or buyers with market knowledge and specialized roles are needed to bridge gaps between sectors. Recruit professionals with knowledge of both legal requirements and the food market

*What are the **constraints** for unlocking the potential of Public Food Procurement (PFP) to provide scale-up opportunities for small-scale farmers and SMEs?*

Operational and Technical Barriers

- **Farmers' Skills:** Limited business skills among farmers, such as negotiating prices and participating in tenders, can hinder their involvement in public procurement.
- **Supply Limitations:** The amount of supply from small-scale farmers is often insufficient to meet the needs of procurement programs.
- **Technical Assistance:** Farmers need more technical support to harmonize their practices and meet procurement requirements.
- **Bureaucracy:** The tendering process is often too bureaucratic for SMEs, impeding their ability to compete effectively.
- **Infrastructure Needs:** Inadequate infrastructure for food preparation and lack of school kitchens can affect the quality and delivery of meals.

Financial and Economic Constraints

- **Payment Delays:** Slow payment processes can create financial challenges for small-scale suppliers.
- **Financial Barriers:** Additional capital investment is often inaccessible, and microfinancing solutions are needed for SMEs to participate.
- **Pricing Issues:** Small-scale farmers may not receive adequate payment, making the market less attractive to them.
- **Price Fluctuations:** Managing price adjustments and flexible budgeting is necessary to handle fluctuations and maintain market stability.

Market and Supply Chain Challenges

- **Supply Chain Coordination:** Small farmers often struggle with logistics and require

dedicated distribution solutions, such as municipal food hubs.

- **Competition and Prejudice:** Competition from junk food and prejudice against indigenous foods can undermine public procurement goals.
- **Scale Issues:** Excessively large procurement contracts can be out of reach for small farmers. Breaking them into smaller lots can increase inclusivity but requires more staff and time.
- **Quality Consistency:** Standardized and predictable quality and quantity are essential for reliable procurement.
- **Labour Challenges:** Labour issues across the system need to be managed to ensure effective procurement processes.
- **Logistics Separation:** Separating logistics from supply can help small farmers manage distribution challenges more effectively.

Governance and Policy Issues

- **Decentralization Needs:** In large countries like Brazil, decentralized governance is crucial for effective procurement and supporting small-scale farmers.
- **Legal and Regulatory Gaps:** The lack of comprehensive regulations and anti-monopoly laws can limit the effectiveness of procurement programs and disadvantage smaller producers.
- **Governance Fragmentation:** Inadequate local governance and expertise can hinder the successful implementation of procurement programs. Fragmentation, inadequate rural infrastructure, and skills gaps affect medium-scale enterprises.
- **Model Adaptation:** Governments often selectively adopt parts of successful models, which can undermine their overall effectiveness and replicability.

Social and Capacity Building

- **Women Empowerment:** Empowering women, who often need to form groups to participate effectively, is crucial for inclusive procurement practices.
- **Trust Issues:** Distrust between farmers and government can be mitigated through platforms that facilitate better interactions and reduce perceived risks.
- **Local Capacity Building:** Smaller municipalities require capacity building to manage procurement effectively, especially in rural areas. Providing training and support for local managers and procurement officers can help bridge gaps and improve overall program effectiveness
- **Price Fluctuations:** Flexible budgeting and price adjustments are necessary to manage price fluctuations effectively.
- **Procurement Law:** The lowest bid procurement law may impact quality and requires careful consideration.

Key enablers

Policy and Governance Enablers

- **Enabling Frameworks:** Successful models, like Brazil's coordinated approach across government sectors, demonstrate the importance of having aligned tools and strategies.
- **Decentralized Governance:** Locally adapted approaches, policies, and legislation are more effective than centralized models, allowing better alignment with local needs.
- **Supportive Regulations:** Policies preventing unhealthy food sales in schools and national laws that promote smallholders (e.g., indigenous foods) can push forward sustainable practices.
- **Integrated PFP Systems:** Linking various public food procurement programs under one body can enhance coordination and efficiency.

Financial and Economic Enablers

- **Subsidy Transformation:** Targeted subsidies to SMEs and coordination efforts are key to ensuring a functioning system. Price policies that cover market differences can also encourage farmers to participate.
- **Investment in Mid-Scale Infrastructure:** Supporting mid-scale production, processing, and transport is crucial for building resilient local food systems.
- **Flexible Contracts:** Contract language accommodating price fluctuations and demand flexibility can help stabilize supply chains and support small-scale suppliers.

Social and Capacity-Building Enablers

- **Education and Communication:** Coupling changes in school meals with education for both children and food service staff strengthens program impact. Effective communication for change and inclusive governance mechanisms are also critical.
- **Gender Transformative Incentives:** Governments should introduce incentives in PFP tenders that address gender-related barriers like land rights and market access.
- **Informal Networks and Brokers:** Leveraging well-connected brokers and intrapreneurs can unlock difficult situations and speed up decision-making processes.

Sustainability and Innovation Enablers

- **Evidence-Based Practices:** Applying the best available evidence and innovative solutions, including R&D and new technologies, ensures that production practices are sustainable and scalable.
- **Integration with Broader Goals:** Using SDGs as an umbrella framework can help convince politicians and align PFP efforts with broader global objectives, gaining more political traction.

Operational and Logistical Enablers

- **National Buffer Stocks:** Linking national food reserves with school feeding programs can enhance food security and procurement reliability.
- **Adaptability of Supply Chains:** Ensuring flexibility in logistics, like separating supply from distribution and creating food hubs, can support small farmers in navigating logistical

challenges.

Challenges to key enablers

Governance and Coordination Challenges

- **Local Governance Expertise:** Local governments often lack the necessary expertise and capacity to effectively manage PFP programs. Strengthening these governance structures is essential but remains a persistent challenge.
- **Regulatory Gaps:** While anti-monopoly laws and civil society watchdog roles are critical to preventing large wholesalers from dominating markets, these measures are often underdeveloped or poorly enforced.
- **Decentralization vs. Centralization:** Balancing the benefits of decentralized approaches, which allow for locally adapted solutions, with the efficiency of centralized systems is difficult. A lack of coordination between different governance levels exacerbates this issue.

Financial and Economic Constraints

- **Insufficient Funding:** Funding remains a significant barrier. While there are examples of successful models that could be replicated, the tendency to start from scratch wastes resources and limits scalability.
- **Cost-Benefit Misalignment:** The cost and benefits of investments, such as school kitchens, are not always calculated holistically, leading to suboptimal resource allocation and underfunded initiatives.

Operational and Logistical Barriers

- **Scalability and Infrastructure:** The logistical demands of scaling up smallholder participation are challenging. Decentralized food hubs and flexible distribution systems are often lacking, creating inefficiencies.
- **Bureaucratic Complexity:** The tendering process is overly bureaucratic for smallholders and SMEs, limiting their ability to engage with public procurement programs.

Social and Equity Issues

- **Power Imbalances:** Large wholesalers often dominate markets, pushing out smallholders despite policies aimed at supporting inclusivity. Addressing these power dynamics is crucial but difficult.
- **Capacity Building:** There is a need to enhance the capacity of local governance structures and smallholders to navigate complex procurement processes, but progress in this area remains slow.

Implementation and Replicability

- **Learning from Existing Models:** Rather than leveraging existing successful approaches, there is a tendency to develop new systems, leading to inefficiencies and missed opportunities for scaling effective solutions.

- **Coordination and Communication:** Ensuring timely and effective dialogue between small producers, procurement officers, and other stakeholders is often lacking, creating delays and misunderstandings.

Question 2: Mechanisms

*What **mechanisms** can be put in place to ensure coherence and better navigate trade-offs between different desired outcomes (nutrition, environment, support of the local and small-scale food production)?*

Local Data, Metrics, and System Thinking

- **Build Capacity on Systems thinking:** train civil servants and relevant PFP decision-makers and stakeholders on the food system approach
- **Context-Specific Data and Indicators:** Locally tailored data collection and metrics, led by local governance structures, provide the evidence base needed to make informed decisions, advocate for sustainable practices, and monitor outcomes effectively.
- **Environmental and Social Footprint Studies:** Promoting research on the local environmental impact of nutritious diets and social footprints (e.g., labor conditions, land use) is vital to understanding trade-offs and maximizing synergies between nutrition, environment, and local food production.

Governance and Coordination Mechanisms

- **Terminology and Mindset Shift:** Redefining "value for money" to incorporate sustainability and social outcomes ensures coherence between affordable food and fair prices for farmers.
- **Aggregation and Coordination Actors:** Food hubs, SMEs, or food distribution platforms can play a critical role in logistics coordination, risk reduction, and market facilitation, helping to balance trade-offs.
- **Translation Support:** Third-party facilitators (civil society, government departments, service providers) can bridge the communication gap between procurement officers and suppliers by translating dietary guidelines and best practices into actionable procurement terms.
- **Multistakeholder Platforms:** Platforms for exchange between regulators, suppliers, and procurement officers can help align objectives and practices, providing a space to “walk the talk” and develop scalable models from the local level upward. However, address barriers and disparities in multi-stakeholder platforms and take measures to address power imbalances.
- **Set-up Funds for Food Systems Facilitation:** National and local governments should set up funds to cover the cost of multi-stakeholder coordination for PFP.

Financial and Market Support

- **Market Diversification:** Encouraging farmers to supply multiple buyers beyond PFP reduces dependency and enhances resilience, supported by mechanisms like access to insurance and finance.
- **Price Protection and Certification:** Ensuring fair pricing for smallholders and government-backed certification schemes, especially where the cost of certification is prohibitive, are key to equitable participation in PFP.
- **Subsidies and Financing Access:** Financial support and protection against delayed payments ensure that participation in PFP remains economically viable for smallholders and SMEs.

Regulations, Standards, and Best Practices

- **Well-Established Legal Frameworks:** Strong laws that incorporate family farmers and protect smallholder interests (e.g., food safety standards, agrochemical regulations) help maintain quality while supporting inclusivity.
- **Government-Led Certification:** Government-provided certification for smallholders can address the high cost barrier, making it easier for them to meet procurement criteria and participate in PFP programs.

Scaling and Adaptation Models

- **Blueprints and Adaptive Models:** While countries like Brazil offer successful examples of PFP systems, creating adaptable blueprints that consider different contexts is crucial for broader implementation. Lessons learned from movements in Brazil and other regions can inform flexible models that accommodate varying political and social landscapes.
- **Decentralized Approaches:** Decentralized systems linking schools with local markets can provide a more context-sensitive, scalable solution, reducing logistical challenges while supporting local economies.

Social and Cultural Considerations

- **Promotion of Indigenous Foods and Practices:** Supporting the inclusion of indigenous and underutilized foods within PFP frameworks not only enhances nutrition but also preserves cultural heritage and biodiversity.
- **Addressing Agrochemical Practices:** Improvements in agricultural practices, such as reducing agro-toxic use, are essential to ensuring that nutritional quality is not compromised during food production.

Question 3: Assumptions

*What **assumption(s)** do we make about public food procurement and the inclusion of small-scale farmers and SMEs that may not be evidence-based*

Note: only one group was able to answer this question

- Public food procurement and inclusion of small-scale farmers and SMEs may not be evidence-based
- Obesity epidemic and climate change are major factors influencing public food procurement
- Organized regional school feeding networks are promoting healthy eating habits for children
- Each country has its own process for initiating changes, such as removing sugary drinks and adding nutrition education

Overestimating Long-term Dependence on Public Procurement

- **Assumption:** Public food procurement is sometimes framed as the end goal for small-scale farmers and SMEs.
- **Reality:** In practice, these programs should be viewed as starting points rather than endpoints. The goal is not for producers to remain dependent on government contracts indefinitely. Instead, the assumption overlooks the importance of an exit strategy where farmers and SMEs expand to other markets after establishing themselves through government sales. Evidence shows that up to 75% of subsequent sales occur in alternative markets like fairs and private buyers.

Uniformity in Implementation Across Regions

- **Assumption:** Public procurement models can be uniformly implemented across different regions and countries.
- **Reality:** Each country and region has its own unique process and context. For example, Brazil's model, rooted in a specific historical movement for food security, cannot be directly replicated in places like Colombia, Africa, or India without considering local dynamics. The assumption that one model fits all is not evidence-based.

Overemphasis on Single Issues

- **Assumption:** Obesity and climate change are the primary drivers behind public procurement programs.
- **Reality:** While obesity and climate change are central issues, public procurement and school feeding programs need to be integrated within broader systems that include nutrition education, family farming, and regional networks. The assumption that focusing solely on these issues is enough disregards the complexity of the challenges.

Simplified View of Nutrition Integration

- **Assumption:** Implementing straightforward nutritional guidelines, like banning sugary products for children, is enough to improve outcomes.

- **Reality:** While setting standards is important, they need to be part of a broader strategy that includes regional networks, education, and stakeholder collaboration. The assumption that regulations alone will lead to improved nutrition misses the need for deeper systemic approaches.

Public Procurement as a Standalone Solution

- **Assumption:** Public procurement programs are isolated interventions to support small-scale farmers and SMEs.
- **Reality:** These programs must be integrated with other initiatives, such as local networks and education systems, to be effective. The assumption that public procurement alone can drive change ignores the interconnectedness of food systems and the need for comprehensive strategies.

Plenary discussion and agreement

In many contexts, local governments face limited budgets, yet school meals remain essential, sometimes being the only meal a child receives. The ecological production of these meals may be secondary to simply ensuring children are fed. Local governments cannot address these challenges alone and **require support at the state level** while also empowering **civil society**. Public food procurement (PFP) involves public funds, and in many Latin American countries, inefficient use of these funds stems from corruption and a lack of knowledge. Enhancing **transparency** and promoting **open data policies for food procurement** is crucial. Evidence shows that PFP, particularly in school feeding programs, can effectively connect big cities with small farmers if managed efficiently. **Digitalization** can reduce logistical costs and improve smallholder participation, especially in large urban markets where impact can be substantial. Focusing on larger markets initially can help build legitimacy before expanding to smaller locations. Having a timeframe for a gradual approach with year-to-year targets is important for a sustainable evolution.

Consensus highlights

Luana Swensson, Policy Specialist for Sustainable Public Procurement, FAO

Markets belong to the **public domain** and also fall under the category of **public good**, signifying that they provide value that goes beyond economic benefits (such as environmental benefits, etc.). These markets are not impartial. For example, procurement and purchasing procedures are complicated and not favourable for small-scale producers. **Efforts to improve the availability of nutritious food need to be aligned with other sustainability objectives.**

Marcello Vicovaro, Sustainable Markets Expert, FAO

It is important to have a comprehensive approach to public food procurement (PFP) and local and traditional food markets (LTFMs) as a part of the **food environment**. Public policies and

interventions should address various dimensions of the food environment, not just the availability of nutritious food. This includes aspects such as marketing, advertising, information, labelling, convenience, food safety, and quality. It is also crucial to take a **holistic approach**. The next steps in programmatic planning should start from these points.

Additional points from the plenary discussion:

- There is a need to redefine the roles of the state, market, private stakeholders, and civil society, emphasizing **new governance structures** where these actors collaborate effectively.
- Different stakeholders bring varied perspectives, emphasizing that markets are not just financial spaces but **social and environmental systems** that require **holistic management**.
- Governance must involve a **regional approach**, recognizing that each area will find its own best practices and solutions for sustainable development.
- A bottom-up, **territorial approach** focusing on existing resources and structures at the local level is essential for achieving more sustainable development.
- The concept of markets is evolving, with a shift from physical infrastructures to **online platforms** where pricing data can offer insights into market dynamics.
- Schools and markets are key entry points for understanding food systems, but it's crucial to trace where food comes from and ensure it supports **livelihoods** while remaining accessible to those in need.
- Consumer behavior and consumption patterns are central to food security; it's not enough to have nutritious food available, but **vulnerable populations** must also be empowered to consume it.
- Global circumstances, such as **trade regulations** and **international prices**, impact local markets and need to be accounted for, especially in contexts where countries are net importers.
- **Social norms, dietary patterns, food culture, and political systems** (e.g., federal vs. local) significantly influence how public procurement programs can be designed and implemented.
- **Political will, social movements**, and governance structures are crucial to the successful implementation of public food procurement programs, as seen in Brazil's experience of building from zero with strong civil society involvement.
- Despite 15 years of discussions, there is a need to push for real change, considering global challenges like obesity and climate change while adapting solutions to each country's specific context.

Session 6: Challenges for small-scale food supply chain actors and SMEs to supply nutritious food to LTFMs and PFP programmes

Objectives of the session

This session aims to:

- Identify the main challenges faced by small-scale producers and SMEs in supplying nutritious food to LTFMs and PFP programmes.
- Identify possible solutions to overcome these challenges.

Introduction and recap of day 2

By Pilar Santacoloma, Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO

The discussion shifted focus from local and traditional food markets (day 1) and public food procurement (day 2) to SMEs, emphasizing their crucial role in enhancing the availability of nutritious food. SMEs are the backbone of global food systems, producing 30-65% of the world's food and 85% in Sub-Saharan Africa, where 95% of value chain players are SMEs. These enterprises are involved in all stages of the supply chain, especially in key areas like fruits, vegetables, and animal products. Over the past few years, FAO's work has included developing resources, e-learning materials, and running projects in countries like Kenya, Vietnam, and Malawi, while also facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues on supporting SMEs.

Summary of speaker's presentations

1. Keynote presentation

By Thomas Reardon, Distinguished Professor, Michigan State University

The small-scale food supply chain is a key aspect of food security that is often overlooked. In Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, supermarkets have a small market share, with long-term food markets and **wholesale channels being the primary sources of food distribution**. The market dynamics have been rapidly evolving, with **food distributed through markets becoming the major source of food** and subsistence farming becoming increasingly rare. Both rural and urban areas play a significant role in the food market. In Africa, there has been an 800% increase in the volume of rural-urban supply chains in 25 years, alongside a huge growth in the volume of urban wholesale markets. 85% of all food consumed in Africa is purchased: 60% is urban consumption (nearly 100% purchased) and 40% is rural consumption (about 60% purchased).

Contrary to common beliefs, the market is not failing but rather evolving rapidly, with **wholesale markets experiencing significant growth**, particularly in SSA. For example, in Nigeria, the number of wholesale markets has increased substantially, yet these developments are not always

recognized by the government. There has also been a significant increase in food traders, many of whom do not own their own transportation. There is a significant demand for logistics services, with **third-party logistics providers** (3PLs) playing a crucial role in the supply chain and often bypassing village aggregators and traders. However, during COVID, governments underestimated the importance of 3PLs and considered them non-essential, leading to a halt in the market. This was due to a lack of awareness about how the market dynamics had evolved.

Additionally, the **value chain has become more complex**, with farmers now selling their produce through various intermediaries and wholesalers buying directly from farmers through different means of transportation. In Africa, there are emerging areas of commercial food production, with around 200,000 small farmers in Zambia transitioning to commercial vegetable farming independently. This trend is seen in other countries as well, highlighting the rapid growth of grassroots clusters without donor involvement, suggesting that large-scale agroparks may not be necessary or effective. The **definition of “traditional food” in Africa is also evolving, with a shift towards longer supply chains** and increased market interactions.

Small farmers are now purchasing the majority of their food from the market, indicating a significant change from the past, which is often overlooked by governments. Moreover, there is a strong interdependence between small farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with SMEs providing upstream supplies and supporting small farmers in product distribution.

Key success factors for improving food production and distribution include **access to good resources** (especially water), **infrastructure** like highways and wholesale markets, and investments in security (against banditry, bribes, conflict) which significantly lower transaction costs and risks, particularly for small farmers, as seen in China. Other important factors are **governance** (for better security) **finance** (notably for upgrades despite existing self-financing), existing organizational efforts, and **information**, along with policies that impact input costs such as import duties (Thomas emphasised that the liberalization of imports of fuel, irrigation pumps, and vehicles is crucial).

2. Policy approaches to informal and small-scale actors

*By **Alejandro Guarin**, Principal researcher, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)*

Alejandro emphasised that in light of Thomas's points, the general recommendation is to **avoid intervention** unless absolutely necessary, as the **current informal systems are functioning** effectively. Informal markets, prevalent in both urban and rural areas, often operate based on family labor and minimal regulation due to resource constraints. These markets provide affordable, nutritious food and employment to the poor and are unlikely to disappear. However, policies often unfairly target informality as outdated and problematic, leading to a **misguided push for formalization** that does not reflect market realities. As a result, informal markets are absent from strategic plans (e.g. 10-year visions), marginalised from public policy, are subject to (unrealistic) formalisation pushes and approaches that range from confrontation to oblivion. There is a need for distinct levers of change: Inadequate certification and value chain governance can

lead to ineffective investments and a mistrust of external interventions. Additionally, informal market organizations often conflict with government institutions, making external help less effective. Instead of imposing formal structures, engaging with and supporting these informal systems through **light-touch upgrades** might be a more practical approach.

3. Small-scale producers and SMEs' access to finance

By Roberta Bove, Programme Lead, Nutritious Food Financing, GAIN

In Africa, SMEs account for approximately 90% of all companies and 70-80% of the food consumed in Africa is handled by SMEs. There is a \$140 billion **finance gap** in the SME sector, with 40% of SMEs mentioning limited access to finance as a constraint to their growth. Financing is essential for sustaining day-to-day operations, accelerating growth by investing in productive capacity, and adapting to changing environments. This **gap exists between traditional large-scale finance and microfinance**. Lack of financing leads to a significant number of SMEs failing in their first year, impacting the availability of nutritious foods. Roberta introduced the concept of **Catalytic Capital** as a very flexible mode of financing that allows other investors to participate. N3F (the Nutritious Foods Financing Facility) was given as an example of fund that is involved in various steps of value chains. N3F for instance provides capital investment and technical assistance for a cold chain logistics SME to scale up, leading to increased impact with other sources of finance contributing as well.

4. Small-scale producers and SMEs' access to capacity development and technology

By Xolile Mkhize, Senior Lecturer, Mangosuthu University of Technology, Durban, South Africa

South Africa has a significant number of smallholder farmers, but they lack necessary support. The current ratio of extension advisors to farmers is far from ideal, making **capacity building** essential. A big government project, NSNP, aims to address these challenges. One of the main issues faced is the **lack of storage** for fruits and vegetables. The project has focused on training 200 farmers, developing production plans, and arranging transportation to cold storage. Street vendors in the area sell both cooked food and fresh produce but lack understanding of their role in providing nutritious foods. By **educating smallholder farmers** about the importance of producing nutritious foods and providing training in agroecology to adapt to climate change, the project aims to transform them into **conscious business operators**. They are also tackling the surge in seed costs post-COVID and providing education on nutrition through NSNP. Street vendors, who have seen opportunities shrink due to changes in government social income grants, are being provided support through tech innovation, including the use of mobile technology for both street vendors and smallholder farmers.

5. How trade dynamics affect the ability of small-scale producers and SMEs to deliver nutritious food to LTFMs and PFPs

By Jason Clay, Senior Vice President, Markets and Foods World Wildlife Fund

Absent due to illness.

Summary of the discussions

Informal markets play a crucial role in the market system, but they come with downsides such as vendors' vulnerability to harassment and uncertainty about their earnings. When considering wholesale markets and business-to-business transactions, it raises questions about the destination of the substantial amount of food flowing through these channels. One important issue is the **lack of government awareness and involvement** in the growth of these markets. The debate often overlooks the **hidden middle** - the wholesalers, logistics, and growers. These wholesalers supply the small retailers, indicating that the farmers are not the primary source for these retailers. There is a consensus that things are functioning on the ground, but there's a need for recommendations on the role of public policy and interventions. It was argued that current policies overstate the risk of food safety issues, particularly in informal markets. Empirical evidence shows that despite the perishability of dairy, informal traders effectively manage food safety through quick sales and established trust with retailers. He suggests that focusing solely on formalization may push these traders further into the black market. Public policies should be more nuanced, recognizing the vital role of informal markets and avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach. **The integration of both informal and wholesale markets into policies is lacking**, and issues such as **monopolies** need to be addressed. Government intervention is necessary, considering the concentration of power and the political economy behind these markets. There is a strong argument for the importance of **public policies**, especially concerning infrastructure and food safety, as seen in the context of events like the Covid-19 outbreak in China.

A participant raised the issue that SMEs face **challenges in targeting low-income groups** due to high business costs. Issues such as expensive imports of inputs, climate change affecting yields, and the need for cold storage and energy add to the financial strain, meaning it's easier to target middle- or high-income consumers. Despite receiving investment, accessing finance remains crucial. The discussion delved into the impact of policies on food safety and the role of informal markets in ensuring safe food practices. The conversation emphasized the challenges faced by SMEs in focusing solely on low-income consumers without subsidies and highlights the need for infrastructure and governance improvements. However, by targeting middle-income markets, they can use **cross-subsidization** to make nutritious food accessible to lower-income consumers through other channels. The example of Ethiopia's investment in wholesale markets and infrastructure demonstrates how competition can positively impact profit margins for farmers. The importance of striking a balance between formality and informality, along with the positive impact of public policies in creating secure conditions for small farmers, was also stressed.

The last question discussed the influence of macroeconomists on food policy, emphasizing the need to consider fresh food and vegetables alongside staples. The issue of **cross-border trade** was raised, distinguishing it from smuggling and highlighting the importance of **territorial markets**. The disparity in earnings for producers of maize and vegetables was highlighted, as well as the significance of traders in the agricultural economy. In reality, fruit and vegetable consumptions are heavily neglected, despite accounting for 15%—more than the combined consumption of rice and wheat, and two-thirds of maize. Additionally, 10% of processed foods are

ultra-processed. However, the majority comprises minimally processed foods, such as milled grains, which helps save women's time.

Session 7: Influencing food environments: Leveraging LTFMs and PFP programmes to enhance the accessibility, desirability, and convenience of nutritious foods

Objectives of the session

This session aims to discuss the potential of LTFMs and PFP programmes to contribute to all dimensions of food environments.

Summary of speaker's presentations

6. Keynote presentation

By Anna Herforth, Senior Research Associate, Harvard University

The keynote highlighted the significance of food environments, including what people purchase, cultivate, and access through social programs. Global food supply data shows adequate availability of grains, fats, and oils, but **other food groups fall short of dietary guidelines**, particularly in countries like Pakistan. Addressing availability is crucial for enabling healthy diets. However, **affordability remains a major issue, with the cost of a healthy diet exceeding the global poverty line** leading to food insecurity for over three billion people. This is particularly due to high prices for **fruits, vegetables, and animal-source foods, which are often excluded from social safety nets**, especially in LMICs. Anna brought up the topic of a **least-cost healthy diet** where food group proportions stay constant (share of kcal) but where individual food items are substitutable allowing to select the cheapest items within good groups. These items would vary across seasons and markets. Taste, preference, and convenience add to the cost and would raise the number of people who cannot afford a healthy diet. The presentation also covered the **disconnect between school meals and student preferences**, showing that free school meals in Massachusetts are not consumed due to poor food quality and environmental concerns. Finally, a case study from East Africa illustrated how traditional foods projects increased demand for nutritious produce, transforming farmer attitudes, promoting cultural pride, and boosting both income and vegetable consumption. The takeaway stressed the need to consider not just affordability, but also **convenience** and **desirability**, in making public procurement and food programs effective. Changes in **program metrics** are needed to capture these factors and ensure effective delivery of healthy diets, particularly in feeding children in LMICs, with an extended focus on **sustainability** aspects (e.g. plastic waste and food waste). Food affordability and how to navigate the trade-off between the need for sustainable livelihoods for small-scale producers and SMEs and the need for affordable food for low-income consumers.

7. Governance considerations for optimising LTFM food environments for accessibility, desirability and convenience of nutritious foods for all

By **Mark Lundy**, Research Director, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT

The issue of trade-offs in food systems governance is a complex one. While much attention has been given to larger scale governance issues at the public policy level, there has been a lack of focus on the specific spaces and actors involved in these systems. The presentation focused on the inherent trade-offs in optimizing food systems, particularly the balance between efficiency gains and equitable distribution between consumers and farmers. **Decision-making, especially by governments, often lacks a nuanced understanding of the governance structures within local markets.** Top-down approaches often focus on macro-level policies and miss the dynamics within markets themselves.

Effective governance in food systems requires engaging directly with the market actors who have established their own governance models, often independent of formal policies. Understanding these models involves **sociological and anthropological methods**, recognizing that markets are not driven by external policies but by the actors within them. It's crucial to **ensure that the voices of smallholder farmers and retailers in local and traditional markets are taken into account in governance decisions.** External actors often struggle to understand these spaces, leading to proposals that may not be practical or effective.

Therefore, it's important to adopt an **inside-out approach** that considers the perspectives and needs of those directly involved in these food systems. We **need to adopt a humble and open-minded approach** to understanding and working with diverse governance models in local and traditional food markets. Policy interventions should be based on **deep knowledge of existing governance structures**, including how they impact nutrition, livelihoods, and resilience. When discussing the optimization of markets to deliver specific outcomes, it's important to consider various perspectives, not just economic factors. This includes **logistics, efficiency, social aspects, cultural norms, and actor's interests.** The emergence and effectiveness of different governance models under difficult conditions are key questions that require further exploration. Before taking interventions, it's important to assess the performance of these models, understand their alignment with policy decisions, and identify costs, benefits, synergies, and trade-offs associated with different interventions.

Additionally, there are **power dynamics** and the **political economy** within these spaces. The concerns raised revolve around supporting the **agency, voice, and leadership** of the actors involved, identifying entry points for engagement and considering scale and resources. Especially, resources not only imply financial aspects but also include **knowledge, skills, attitudes, and practices** needed to drive meaningful change.

8. Increasing the availability and desirability of nutritious food through investments in cold chain infrastructure

By **Amy Murgatroyd**, Professional Office Urban Food Systems, ICLEI Africa

ICLEI Africa is a network of 450 municipalities in Africa aiming to promote sustainability in cities. Many wholesale markets, such as in Lilongwe's Musungri market, face critical issues like poor infrastructure, food waste, limited storage facilities, and lack of direct water access, leading to significant waste. While **cold storage** has emerged as a promising solution for reducing food loss, enhancing food safety, and increasing the consumption of nutritious foods, its adoption is not straightforward. Vendors often prefer to sell fresh produce daily rather than store it, and consumers generally lack access to refrigeration and have a preference for fresher produce. Additionally, cold storage systems are primarily beneficial as business models for SMEs, but their effectiveness is limited by seasonality and climate change, which reduce the volume of produce passing through markets at certain times. The presentation emphasized the need to carefully **evaluate assumptions** and **consider the context** when introducing such solutions, and to **broaden the dialogue** to include more voices in addressing these challenges.

9. Increasing the desirability of neglected/indigenous foods

*By **Danny Hunter**, Principal Scientist, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT / University of Sydney*

The presentation focused on promoting the **desirability of neglected, indigenous, and socio-biodiverse foods**, emphasizing their nutritional value and cultural importance. It highlighted the influence of external factors on food choices and the need to first map the availability of these foods in different countries. Examples from Brazil and Kenya showed how incorporating these foods into social programs and school feeding programs by focusing on their nutritional value can increase their acceptance. In Brazil, partnerships with researchers and government agencies have led to initiatives promoting agroecological products from small farmers, women, and other local producers. Efforts there led to the establishment of a platform on socio-biodiversity involving 3,000 researchers, while tools to monitor the quality of meals in schools have been developed, offering higher scores for including local and biodiverse foods. The importance of working with nutritionists, dieticians, and chefs to strengthen the **desirability** of these products was also emphasized. In Kenya, traditional foods like African Leafy Vegetables (ALVs) are increasingly integrated into home-grown school feeding programs, though they face challenges in acceptance, as they are sometimes perceived as "food for the poor." The presentation also briefly mentioned similar initiatives in Turkey and Sri Lanka, with further details available in a downloadable book.

10. Participatory food safety system to bring locally produced safe food to traditional markets

*By **Charlotte Flechet**, Global Programme Director – Good Food for Cities, Rikolto*

This presentation highlighted efforts to improve food safety, affordability, and desirability in traditional markets across three different contexts: Vietnam (Phu Ly), Tanzania (Arusha), and Uganda (Mbale). The approach involved engaging market managers, vendors, local governments, and consumer associations to enhance the quality and safety of food while maintaining affordability and improving the consumer shopping experience. Key strategies included adopting a **low-cost participatory food safety system** that also includes wholesalers

and transporters, leveraging trust-based relationships, and introducing branding and traceability measures. The focus was on shorter supply chains to balance fair profit distribution throughout the chain with maintaining affordability while ensuring key service delivery to chain actors, better agricultural practices, and safe food handling. In Arusha, the project involved 250 traders and led to safer food sales and waste reduction. The initiative also explored innovative models, such as creating a more pleasant shopping experience, information-sharing kiosks, better stock management to reduce losses, and improved vendor spaces. While partnerships and local engagement were crucial, the challenges of scalability and sustainability were noted, as complex interventions can be difficult to replicate widely. The presentation emphasized a practical, rather than research-based, approach, and stressed the importance of **systemic engagement with traditional market actors** and the need for a clear business case with simple innovations that can be scaled.

Plenary discussion

The Q&A session highlighted several important points related to food markets, affordability, visibility, and governance. Participants emphasized that while markets are a key factor, the ultimate goal is to improve diets and nutrition, suggesting the **need for more focus on consumer behavior**. It was noted that while there is a high share of sellers offering fruits and vegetables, consumers are not consuming a proportionate amount. The **affordability** of nutritious foods in comparison to local income was highlighted as a significant factor influencing consumer choices. The importance of considering informal markets and local income in assessing food availability and affordability was emphasized. The session also brought attention to the necessity of taking a **territorial and context-specific approach** to understanding food security and nutrition issues since what (doesn't) work in a context may be different in a different context. Similarly, participants called for more **context-specific evidence** and highlighted the importance of including food security dimensions, livestock production systems, and factors such as biodiversity and highly processed foods in discussions. The need for greater collaboration across different stakeholders—academics, donors, field workers, and evidence generators—was underscored. Below are some of the key points discussed:

- **Connecting the dots** is essential, but there are not enough people and organisations looking at evidence and what it means for our work on the ground. We need to collaborate more with **knowledge brokers** and partners to translate research into action.
- The **invisibility** of informal market actors was highlighted, stressing the need to involve these actors in decision-making processes and **balance power dynamics**. At the same time, informal actors may want to remain invisible to avoid potential harassment from authorities.
- In the context of “doing nothing is best”, international organisations could focus their efforts on setting frameworks, exchanging lessons, increasing access to key resources and infrastructure, and promote an equitable distribution of power in discussions. But informal and vulnerable actors must be onboard in a truly meaningful, non-harmful and participatory way.
- **Supply chain issues**, particularly **logistics**, were identified as critical in managing costs

and reducing food waste, with examples from Kenya where secondary sales mitigate food loss.

- We need to consider **food loss and waste** more seriously, as it is often linked to market inefficiencies and trade-offs when prices rise due to increased demand for previously neglected crops. When examining food loss and waste more inclusively, we also need to consider secondary markets, where much of the food that appears as waste may actually be utilized. For example, in Colombia and Kenya, there are thriving businesses around food waste, such as reusing fish bones and heads. We also need to recognize the temporal aspect, where prices are better and fresher in the morning, resulting in higher prices. Conversely, as quality declines later in the day, prices decrease, making the market more inclusive. Cold storage could unintentionally become an exclusionary factor for low-income consumers.
- There is a need to focus on **social protection** for informal workers but it's often difficult to find local expertise on this issue in the (smaller & intermediary) cities where we work. The Kiosk model promoted by Rikolto and partners shows potential because the model has been widely replicated by non-supported market vendors without any further investment.
- The hidden costs of diets, such as **health and environmental impacts**, need to be integrated into cost assessments.
- The cost of a healthy diet indicator is straightforward. It measures the cost in local currency of purchasing the cheapest items from food-based guidelines. If this cost is too high, there will be **hidden costs** from unhealthy diets such as non-communicable diseases. The indicator focuses on the least costly items, but factoring in other considerations can increase overall costs. For instance, while canned beans may be cheaper than dried, prioritizing cost alone risks overlooking issues like labor exploitation and environmental harm.
- The high cost of food in LA and the Caribbean might be attributed to an internal export market for tourism, resulting in limited availability of food for local communities.
- **Desirability needs to be a part of the metrics used to assess food environments**, as overlooking this aspect could result in wasted efforts. For example, in schools, fruits are often thrown away because they are not appealing to students.
- There are various entry points in the political economy, and it is crucial to be as open and **inclusive** as possible when applying these tools. This inclusivity should involve formal and informal actors and leaders.

Session 8: Creating an enabling environment for LFTMs and PFP to drive the transition to sustainable food systems

Objectives of the session

This session aims to understand how LFTMs and PFP programmes can be used by governments as entry points for policies and programmes aimed at transitioning toward sustainable food systems.

Keynote presentation

By **Sergio Schneider**, Full Professor of Food and Rural Development Studies, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)

The key message of the presentation highlights the problems and opportunities within food markets, emphasizing how they fail to serve small farmers and consumers effectively due to **structural imbalances**. The main issues include **market concentration, policy gaps, and the exclusion of small businesses**, leading to a situation where both farmers and consumers are squeezed by powerful intermediaries such as supermarkets and large corporations. The presentation advocates for a **diversified system of markets** that integrates short chains, regional markets, corporate chains, and public procurement, all governed by **inclusive, multi-scale governance structures** that recognize the diversity and interdependence of these market types.

Sergio Schneider emphasized the need for **territorial markets** that bridge rural-urban divides and provide multiple market channels to farmers, reducing their dependency on single buyers and increasing resilience. He also stressed the need to lower transaction costs, prevent losses, and promote collective action within these markets. There is a need for **better public spaces** to organize logistics, offer public procurement as an option for farmers, and bridge rural-urban gaps through improved connectivity. Examples from Brazil illustrate how well-coordinated market systems, such as agroecological circuits, can bypass concentrated corporate chains and directly connect producers to consumers. However, the success of such systems requires **appropriate infrastructure, supportive policies, and the recognition of market diversity**. The presentation concludes with a call for a better understanding by policymakers of the potential of territorial markets, the importance of providing more evidence on their impact on healthy diets, and policy reform to support sustainable and inclusive market systems that can withstand challenges such as climate change and **enable diverse markets to coexist**. Final recommendations include the importance of infrastructure (e.g. distribution centres in cities, access to internet, clean water, electricity, roads, etc.), funding programs (incl. public purchasing schemes to buffer stocks and regulate prices; transportation and storage), reframing of (food safety) regulations with differentiated regulations and certification schemes for small-scale producers, remuneration for sustainability-produced products, and long-term policies. The disruptions caused by climate change and the threat they pose to markets call for measures to address the impact of climate change on market stability. Sergio provided a damning report of the climate disaster that affected Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil in May 2024 and which caused loss of production, soil and access to outlets, destruction of key infrastructure, disruption of food supply and demand flows and mental and psychological distress on people.

Panel discussion

1. Question 1

Do you have any (good or bad) examples of strategies and policies that use(d) markets (LTFMs of PFP) as entry point to catalyze the overall food systems transformation?

- *What can we learn from these policies?*
- *Which ones appear to be overrated or ineffective?*
- *How did these strategies and policies tackle the missing middle?*

Mariana Santarelli, CONSEA member

Mariana Santarelli's answer highlighted the importance of **participatory governance in food systems**, using the Brazilian example of CONSEA (National Council for Food and Nutrition Security) as a model. Comprising two-thirds civil society and one-third government ministries, CONSEA plays a crucial role in shaping policies and systems related to food and nutrition security. The focus is on incorporating the perspectives of marginalized groups and advocating for their rights. With the election of Lula, there was a shift in policy approach, with an emphasis on **using PFP as a catalyst** for change by engaging diverse stakeholders. Programs like PNAE (the National School Feeding Program which targets 40 million students across 50,000 schools and over 5,570 municipalities) were central, with regulations requiring at least 30% of food to come from family farmers and vulnerable groups while restricting ultra-processed food purchases. The emphasis is on promoting fresh, sustainable, and locally produced food, especially from minority groups. In 2017, More than half (54%) of fruits and vegetables supplied to PNAE nationally were produced by family farmers. Even before formal regulations, many municipalities had already reduced ultra-processed food in school meals and increased direct purchases from family farmers, reflecting the desired systemic transformation toward healthier, more equitable food systems.

Lujain Alqodmani, Director of Global Action and Project Portfolio, EAT Foundation

Lujain Alqodmani's presentation outlines several successful initiatives that demonstrate the impact of leveraging public food procurement (PFP) as an entry point for systemic change. In Sweden, the government aims for 30% of farms to be organic by 2030, with over 60% of public kitchens purchasing organic food by the same year. This shift is intended to improve soil health, support local farmers and economies, and enhance the quality of food available to school children. In the Philippines, UNICEF's response to COVID-19 involved distributing 4.1 million food packages and creating a "**market on wheels**" to connect consumers with fresh produce, especially in remote areas. This approach highlighted the importance of **integrating and coordinating efforts from production to consumption**, maintaining **adaptability** in crisis situations, and engaging local communities for effective policy implementation. Key lessons include the need for **strong community engagement**, institutional support, and **digital infrastructure** to improve market information systems. Additionally, providing financial and technical support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) is crucial for successful implementation of such initiatives.

Laura Michéle, Coordinator Sustainable Food Systems Programme, FIAN International

Laura Michéle highlighted the advocacy efforts of FIAN, which focus on the right to food and emphasize holistic, participatory approaches. Despite the global trend of right-wing governments and increased corporate lobbying reducing participatory spaces, there is a notable **rise in local**

food policy initiatives in Europe. In Germany and broader Europe, food has traditionally been overlooked in policies. However, since 2016, there has been a strong push from local communities to include food on public policy agendas. This has led to the formation of food policy councils, which integrate various actors and give communities a voice in shaping food policies. Local governments, such as those involved in the Milan Food Policy Pact, have recognized these efforts, leading to **comprehensive food strategies** that address everything from seed and soil to cultural heritage and culinary practices. These local and territorial strategies often leverage tools like local food markets (LTFM) and public food procurement (PFP) to drive food system transformation and economic benefits. For instance, initiatives in Portugal focus on constructing regional food policy councils that involve producers and other local stakeholders. Laura Michéle also noted the risks associated with **multistakeholderism**, which can increase corporate lobbying and limit public participation. Overall, the shift towards regional and local food systems is seen as a positive development, promoting local food and giving preferential treatment to regional products.

Nika Larian, Senior Nutrition Advisor for Food Safety, USAID

USAID's EATSAFE program in Nigeria and Ethiopia aims to empower consumers to demand safer food and improve the capacity of food vendors to meet that demand. In Nigeria, the program led to the creation of AFSEN, a non-profit organization advocating for food safety and nutrition. AFSEN includes consumers, vendors, private sectors, and academia to raise awareness and promote food safety. In Ethiopia, efforts focused on creating market improvement initiatives with a plan to improve traditional market infrastructure, raise consumer awareness, and establish food safety management systems. In Nigeria, a voluntary EATSAFE Brand was created for vendors to opt into, involving food safety training and compliance checks. The brand includes a ranking system known as "Food Safety Olympics," which provides varying levels of branded materials. Consumer awareness campaigns revealed that 90-99% of consumers prefer the EATSAFE brand and are willing to pay more for it. The program also advocated for specific language around food safety inspections in markets in the 2023 Nigerian Food Safety and Quality Bill. Additionally, efforts were made to create Codex guidelines for traditional markets, educate vendors, and build food safety awareness structures. Codex Guidelines for Traditional Markets are now recommended for approval by the Codex Alimentarius Commission during their November 2024 meeting. It advocated for the recognition of the role of different stakeholders and need for coalition building, capacity strengthening, and monitoring and evaluation.

Kristie Daniel, Livable Cities Program Director, Health Bridge Foundation

In 2011, the local government of Hanoi (Vietnam) proposed converting traditional local markets into shopping malls to modernize the city and increase land value. However, this move would have displaced vendors into the informal sector, impacting food access, livelihoods, and community cohesion. A campaign allowed residents to voice their support for preserving traditional markets. As a result, the government revised its policies to protect these markets. The project led to a national decree recognizing and regulating market management, including provisions for outdoor markets and irregular vendors. It also mandated that cities and provinces develop market development plans with allocated budgets. Advocacy for implementation

continues, but the remapping of markets has been successful in revitalizing these vital community spaces: 98 markets were saved, saving an estimated 24,000 jobs and ensuring 2.5 million people can still access fresh food close to home.

2. Question 2

Which additional policy areas need to be addressed to complement policies on LTFM and PFP in order to transition toward sustainable food systems?

Mariana Santarelli, *CONSEA member*

In Brazil, while there is a strong vision and significant laws supporting local food systems, there are critical gaps in complementary policies that need to be addressed to fully implement these goals. In Marajó in the Amazon, a local scheme was established where indigenous açai producers bring their products directly to schools once a week. Cooks in these schools are trained in food safety and equipped with processing machines to prepare the açai for students. However, several issues persist:

- **Access to Land and Agrarian Reform:** Increasingly, land in Brazil is being allocated to monocrop production, which impacts small farmers. There is a need for policies that protect farmers, provide technical assistance, and support direct sales without intermediaries. Additionally, only 1% of national credit is dedicated to agroecological production.
- **Food Safety Rules:** Existing food safety regulations need adaptation to suit the realities of small and traditional farmers. Indigenous school meals should be recognized as part of self-consumption, allowing exemptions from stringent food safety rules, and schools must be equipped with the necessary tools for food preparation.
- **Support for Peasants:** There is a need to believe in and support the capacity of small farmers to contribute to food security. Addressing structural and institutional racism is crucial to achieving an equitable food system and supporting the role of peasants in food security.

Lujain Algodmani, *Director of Global Action and Project Portfolio, EAT Foundation*

To effectively influence policy, it is crucial to connect the diversity of food systems to the **personal experiences** of policymakers, allowing them to appreciate the benefits of inclusive approaches. It is also imperative to address **systemic inequalities**, rather than focusing solely on market-based approaches. **Infrastructure** development is also essential. Our approach to the food system should be evidence-based rather than subjective, considering the ample evidence available on how food systems should be structured. We should act accordingly.

Laura Michéle, *Coordinator Sustainable Food Systems Programme, FIAN International*

To achieve meaningful food system transformation, we must first establish a clear, unified vision,

as current discussions often lack consensus on what "transformation" truly entails. Reflecting on past negotiations within the CFS, it's evident that while there's agreement on the failures of the current food system, consensus on the path forward remains elusive.

Key areas for attention include:

1. **People-Centered and Human Rights-Based Transition:** Addressing power imbalances is crucial for a transition that prioritizes human rights.
2. **Environmental Protection and Regeneration:** Ensuring a healthy food system requires a healthy planet, emphasizing the importance of preserving nature.
3. **Support for Small-Scale Producers:** Recognizing the role of small-scale producers in maintaining biodiversity and sustainability and protecting their rights.
4. **Health, Nutrition, and Wellbeing:** Moving away from artificial solutions to malnutrition and focusing on holistic health.
5. **Transforming Production Modes:** This includes phasing out agrottoxics, guaranteeing workers' rights, and valuing cultural knowledge and care work, particularly the contributions of women within food systems.

Nika Larian, Senior Nutrition Advisor for Food Safety, USAID

There is a vicious cycle between food systems, climate change, and food waste. Addressing these interconnected issues presents a "**triple win**": improving nutrition and food security, enhancing climate resilience, and reducing food waste.

Kristie Daniel, Livable Cities Program Director, HealthBridge Foundation

To drive meaningful change, national governments must be required to **measure** and **report** on the diversity of markets, as "what gets measured is what gets done." It's crucial to recognize the determinants of health and **strengthen the capacity of civil society** to ensure that governments hear diverse perspectives, not just those from corporations. It is also important to preserve the **diversity of markets**. National governments need to collaborate and report on this diversity. There is a concern that governments tend to standardize rather than preserve diversity.

Plenary discussion

The key messages from the discussions are described below.

- **Profiling Producers and Consumers:** It's essential to understand how different types of producers and consumers interact at various levels to address market challenges effectively.
- **Governance and Market Planning:** There is a need to address market governance by involving ministries as entry points and ensuring that local authorities are engaged and

responsible for market management. The absence of planning leads to negative outcomes, and there's a need to focus discussions on local market dynamics.

- **Criteria for Market Resilience:** Profiling farmers based on resilience and vulnerability reveals that those with diverse market channels are more resilient, whereas those with fewer channels are more vulnerable. Policymakers often lack training in developing comprehensive market policies, which limits their effectiveness.
- **Practical Support for Secondary Cities:** Secondary cities present significant opportunities for market planning and transformation. But we need more than toolkits and recommendations: practical support is needed on the ground to help local governments interpret and implement recommendations effectively.
- **Integration Across Sectors:** Food often lacks a dedicated mandate, leading to fragmented market planning. Bringing together various ministries and public society to create spaces for exchange and learning is crucial.
- **National Supply Policies:** The debate on national supply policies highlights the need for coherent market planning. Examples from Brazil show that national supply plans can aid in creating a more systematic approach to markets. There's also discussion about protecting markets under international law as essential for the right to nutritious food.
- **Codex and Standardization:** While Codex guidelines push for standardization, they may not be suitable for traditional markets. There is a need to balance standardization with the realities of local markets.
- **Local Solutions and Engagement:** Simplifying hygiene standards for local contexts and using inexpensive solutions can improve market safety and food security. Engaging with local communities and adapting international standards to local needs is crucial.
- **Market Influence on Food Systems:** Small markets play a significant role in the food system. Effective governance and transformation of these markets are essential for broader food system change.

Closing session: Key messages and recommendations from the 3 days

Objectives of the session

This session will summarize the key messages of the previous 3 days, including:

1. The evidence presented on the role of LTFMs and PFP in ensuring the availability of nutritious foods.
2. Specific pathways and concrete actions that can strengthen the role of LTFMs and PFP for nutrition while creating co-benefits with environmental sustainability and livelihoods for food chain actors.
3. Gaps and challenges that would require further research, investment, and discussion.

Key messages and recommendations

Pilar Santacoloma, Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO

- **Markets as public goods requiring a holistic approach**
 - Markets in the public domain are considered **public goods** and provide values beyond just economic ones. Improving access to nutritious food should **align with other sustainability goals**. While this is recognized for Public Food Programs (PFPs), it is less so for Local Food and Traditional Markets (LTFMs). Both LTFMs and PFP programs are part of the food environment, and public policies and interventions need to address all dimensions of the food environment, not just the availability of nutritious food. A **holistic approach** that considers marketing and advertising, information and labelling, convenience, food safety and quality is needed to establish a sustainable relationship with food.

- **Moving beyond LTFMs**
 - We should consider replacing the term “Local Food & Traditional Market” with broader terms like “Territorial Markets” or “Food Markets” with subcategories such as wholesale/retail, public/private, formal/informal.

- **Strengthening evidence and data sharing**
 - Here are some actions to be considered:
 1. Develop **partnerships for data sharing** across the sector to understand successful and unsuccessful models and identify areas for improvement.
 2. Standardize methodologies and develop a **data management strategy** to address data ownership, participant roles, and sharing findings.
 3. Conduct more **longitudinal and comparative studies** for robust evidence-based decision-making.
 4. Facilitate **science-to-policy translation** for policymakers to access the latest evidence for effective food system policies.
 5. Utilize various qualitative and quantitative methods tailored to specific contexts.
 6. Promote **open data practices** and advocate for marketers to own and share their data.
 7. Collaborate with stakeholders to **synthesize data** and identify potential solutions.

- **Enhancing Awareness and Engagement:**
 - Map out different market types between wholesale, retail, wet markets, and street markets.
 - Organize quarterly or biannual reports with virtual workshops for knowledge sharing.
 - Foster **strategic collaboration** focused on specific thematic areas within food systems.

- Create concise, easy-to-understand **reports** for policymakers.
- Showcase local and **culturally relevant examples** for policymakers.
- Provide dedicated workshops, conferences, policy briefs, and **guidelines** on best practices in food systems.

Plenary discussion and agreement

The plenary discussion emphasized the **need for clear definitions** and effective **protection of food markets**, especially during conflicts, akin to how hospitals are protected. The focus was on markets under public domain, such as wholesale markets, where public authorities have direct responsibility and involvement. Despite the various terms used, the goal is to understand and categorize these markets clearly, ensuring they are recognized for their public good and community benefits.

A key point was aligning market initiatives with broader public and sustainability goals, contrasting with corporate retail's profit motive. The aim is to leverage public investment for public benefits, serving the community and upholding public trust. The discussion highlighted the importance of not being bogged down by definitions but rather **focusing on shared principles and goals**.

The conversation stressed the need for integrating the right to food and nutrition into local governance and market systems. This involves identifying strategic local actors and fostering collective actions to address market challenges. The importance of including diverse experts, including nutritionists, was noted to enhance the discourse and policy impact.

Agroecology emerged as a critical topic with three main suggestions: creating an international fund for agroecological solutions, establishing mechanisms for program continuity beyond government changes, and building regional partnerships to raise funds. These steps are seen as essential for supporting sustainable and ecologically friendly market practices.

Research was discussed, with a call for **non-presumptive, exploratory studies** and cautious presentation of evidence. Strong, well-supported studies linking nutritious food with outcomes like school feeding are needed to inform policy effectively. Balancing immediate actions with research and communicating effectively with policymakers were highlighted as crucial.

The discussion also touched on the need to address **different global and local contexts**, particularly how to frame transitions between regions with diverse histories and development stages. The importance of cataloging various market types and exploring differences between the Global North and South was emphasized.

Finally, the role of public procurement was highlighted as a tool for addressing market issues and promoting nutrition goals. Effective use of procurement to direct markets towards better practices and logistics was seen as a promising approach to solving food system challenges.

Closing remarks

By Nancy Aburto, Deputy Director of the Food and Nutrition Division, FAO

Nancy Aburto's closing remarks emphasized the importance of markets within the broader goals of FAO, highlighting their crucial role in achieving better nutrition, better production, better environment, better life, and leaving no one behind. FAO's commitment to raising nutrition levels remains central, and markets are increasingly recognized as a core element of agrifood system transformation. The workshop reinforced the significance of SMEs, smallholders, and the "hidden middle" of agrifood systems in driving sustainable change. Protecting markets, even in conflict zones, was underscored as critical. Participants were praised for their energy, commitment, and open-mindedness in addressing diverse perspectives, including research needs, relevant investments, and fostering public-private partnerships. The collaborative spirit was appreciated, with special recognition of partnerships with GAIN and Rikolto, as well as the innovative thinking that emerged regarding local governance and market systems. The remarks concluded by stressing that discussions around Agenda 2030, transforming agrifood systems, and improving nutrition cannot happen without a focus on markets. FAO encouraged participants to continue this dialogue, reinforcing markets as integral to achieving global food system goals.

By Chris Claes, Executive Director, Rikolto

Chris Claes' remarks highlighted the importance of keeping the broader food systems perspective in mind, even when focusing on Local Food and Traditional Markets (LTFMs). While a lot of evidence and research has been presented, it was acknowledged that this knowledge is often fragmented. A key takeaway is the need to better structure and consolidate evidence to make it more actionable. The workshop was appreciated for its organization, with thanks extended to FAO and GAIN. There was an expressed hope that the collaborations initiated during this event will continue and grow stronger. The discussions and insights shared have provided valuable perspectives that can help refine future approaches to supporting food systems and LTFMs. Participants were encouraged to maintain the momentum and keep collaborating to make future interventions more impactful.

By Ann Trevenen-Jones, Programme Lead, Food Systems Governance Programme, GAIN

Ann Trevenen-Jones' final remarks emphasized the strong foundation that has been established through this workshop. The willingness to engage with controversies and address them openly was seen as crucial for moving forward. A key message was the importance of putting markets on the global agenda, and to do so, a strong and diverse coalition is essential. Diversity was celebrated as a source of resilience, with every participant and perspective contributing value to the discussion. The remarks also highlighted the interconnectedness of various factors within marketplaces, such as food waste, climate change, and the role of smallholders. The integration of discussions on both PFp and markets was seen as a valuable addition, enriching the overall dialogue. There was an optimistic outlook towards the future outcomes of this conversation, with anticipation for the ideas and initiatives that will emerge from this collaborative effort.

Leveraging local and traditional food markets and public food procurement to improve availability of nutritious food – Summary Notes

Link to presentations

- [DAY 1 PPT_Technical Workshop.pdf](#)
- [Day 2 PPT_Technical workshop.pdf](#)
- [DAY 3_Technical Workshop.pdf](#)

ANNEX 1 – CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

Background

Having access to nutritious, adequate, culturally appropriate and safe food is a fundamental human right. Nevertheless, nearly 2.4 billion people in the world are affected by moderate or severe food insecurity, while the high costs of healthy diets put them out of reach for around 3.1 billion people. To enable access to healthy diets, nutritious and diversified food has to be available, accessible, affordable and desirable to consumers.

In many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), more than 50% of the food consumed is acquired through purchases even among rural households, of which considerable amounts through local and traditional food markets (LTFMs). LTFMs include open-air fresh food markets and wholesale markets with a direct retail component and play a crucial role in shaping local food environments. In LMICs, LTFMs are at the core of agrifood systems, functioning as physical places where supply and demand meet via socio-economic exchanges.

Despite their pivotal role in agrifood systems, LTFMs are presently failing to incentivize the supply of more nutritious food to consumers (CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, Committee on World Food Security, 2021). In fact, the poor business environment within markets (e.g. inadequate infrastructure) in LTFMs impacts the profitability of both food suppliers and retailers. Moreover, it can affect food quality, desirability and convenience. This not only limits the scaling-up opportunities for suppliers of nutritious food, but also disincentivizes other businesses, such as small-scale supply chain actors and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from transitioning towards offering more nutritious food.

In addition to LTFMs, Public Food Procurement (PFP) programmes, such as school meal programmes, can also represent a channel through which a significant percentage of food is consumed. Traditionally, PFP programmes have not been designed with explicit nutrition-related objectives, nor has the nutritional value of foods provided been central to PFP planning. However, new initiatives are leveraging the potential of school feeding to contribute to healthy diets and PFP is increasingly being recognized as an instrument for enhancing the sustainability of agrifood systems. By increasingly relying on small scale supply chain actors and SMEs for the supply of nutritious food, PFP programmes can provide opportunities for them to innovate and scale-up their businesses while serving as a market space that can trigger the supply of more nutritious food also in other market channels.

Despite their role for consumers and market actors, LTFMs and PFP programmes still have an unexplored potential in contributing to enabling access to healthy diets.

Leveraging local and traditional food markets and public food procurement to improve availability of nutritious food – Summary Notes

Supporting initiatives that foster enabling market environments in LTFMs, as well as PFP programmes giving preference to local, diverse and sustainably produced food, can provide scaling-up opportunities to small-scale supply chain actors and SMEs supplying nutritious food. These initiatives can also incentivize transition towards the production of more nutritious food for others. Furthermore, both LTFMs and PFP programmes operate within the mandate of governments, therefore local, national or public institutions play a key role in unleashing their potential to incentivize the supply of nutritious food.

This technical workshop aims at providing a platform for technical experts, development practitioners and market and PFP actors to:

- explore how LFTMs and PFP programmes can provide scale-up opportunities to small-scale supply actors and SMEs to supply nutritious food; and
- discuss whether and how LFTMs and PFP programmes can influence other dimensions of food environments, such as the accessibility, desirability and convenience of nutritious food.

Objectives

1. To discuss existing evidence on the role of LTFMs and PFP programmes in contributing to the availability and accessibility of nutritious food to consumers, and to identify the gaps and constraints hindering their ability to operate at maximum efficiency.
2. To explore challenges and opportunities for unleashing the potential of LTFMs and PFP programmes to provide scaling-up opportunities for small-scale supply chain actors and SMEs to supply nutritious food.
3. To reflect on how LTFMs and PFP programmes can influence other dimensions of food environments that can affect consumers' demand for more nutritious foods, including accessibility, desirability and convenience within the framework of the three pillars of sustainable development.

The focus of the technical workshop will extend beyond theoretical considerations, emphasizing practical experiences that have successfully translated this potential into actionable points.

Target audience

- Researchers/academics.
- Representatives of UN agencies, development agencies, IFI and international NGOs.
- Representatives from farmers' associations, SMEs' associations and market associations.
- Public food procurement personnel and other actors involved in PFP initiatives.

Agenda

Monday 24 June 2024

Master of ceremony – **Sara Hoogerwerf**, Nutrition and Rural Development Specialist, FAO

8:30 - 9:00 Arrival and registration – *FAO Headquarters Viale delle Terme di Caracalla- Visitors entrance*

Session 1:

Introduction to the Technical Workshop – Ethiopia room C285

9:00 - 9:05 Welcoming speech
Florence Tartanac, Senior Officer, FAO

9:05 - 9:15 Opening remarks
Lynnette Marie Neufeld, Director of the Food and Nutrition Division, FAO
Chris Claes, Executive Director, Rikolto
Ann Trevenen-Jones, Programme Lead, Food Systems Governance Programme, GAIN

9:15 - 9:30 Setting the ground for the consultation: framework, key research questions and organization of the consultation
Pilar Santacoloma, Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO
Charlotte Flechet, Global Programme Director – Good Food for Cities, Rikolto

9:30 - 9:45 Setting the ground for the LTFMs component
Ana Puhac, Urban Food Systems Specialist, FAO

Session 2:

Reviewing evidence on the role of LTFMs in ensuring the availability of nutritious foods to consumers – Ethiopia room C285

This session aims to:

1. *Reflect on the current evidence on the role that LTFMs play in enhancing the availability of nutritious food.*
2. *Discuss measurement tools to support decision making and their implementation.*

*Chair: **Charlotte Flechet**, Global Programme Director, Rikolto*

9:45 -10:00 *Keynote presentation: **Kelly Verel**, Co-Executive Director of Project for Public Spaces and the Market Cities programme*

10:00 -10:30 *Coffee Break*

- 10:30 - 11:15** Presentations:
- Methods, Tools, and Metrics for Evaluating Market Food Environments in Low- and Middle-Income Countries – **Nika Larian**, Senior Nutrition Advisor for Food Safety, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
 - Understanding purchasing patterns and drivers of consumers to improve markets – **Gareth Haysom**, Senior Researcher African Centre for Cities, Cape Town
 - Methodology to map territorial markets – **Marcello Vicovaro**, Sustainable Markets Expert, FAO
 - Data on local and traditional food markets in Kenya – **Hannington Odido Ochieng**, Researcher and Data scientist, Kenya Agriculture & Livestock Research Organization
 - Data on local and traditional food markets and diet quality indicators – **Kathrin Demmler**, Lead Technical Specialist, GAIN

11:15 - 12:00 Plenary discussion and Q&A

12:00 - 13:30 *Lunch Break*

Session 3:

Market management modalities and their influence on the inclusion of small-scale producers and SMEs – Ethiopia room C285

This session aims to understand how market management modalities in LTFMs influence market inclusivity for small-scale producers and SMEs and the offer of diverse and nutritious food

Chair: **Ann Trevenen-Jones**, Programme Lead, Food Systems Governance Programme, GAIN

13:30 - 13:45 *Keynote presentation:* **Mamadou Goïta**, Executive Director, Institute for Research and Promotion of Alternatives in Development (IRPAD)

- 13:45 - 14:15** Presentations:
- Farmers market – **Richard McCarthy**, President of the World Farmers Markets Coalition
 - Wholesale market – **Joao Carapau**, General Manager, Sociedade Instaladora de Mercados Abastecedores (SIMAB)
 - Agroferias campesinas – **Patricia Flores**, Global Academy Manager, International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
 - Municipal food retailing markets – **Xavier Tezzo**, Agrifood System Unit, Enabel (the Belgian Development Agency)

14:15 - 15:00 Group work

15:00 - 15:30 *Coffee break*

15:30 - 16:10 Group work restitution

16:10 - 17:00 Plenary discussion and agreement

17:00 - 17:15 Wrap-up and closure of Day 1
Pilar Santacoloma, Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO

Tuesday 25 June 2024

Master of ceremony – **Sara Hoogerwerf**, Nutrition and Rural Development Specialist, FAO

8:45 - 9:00 Recap Day 1 and introduction to Day 2
Pilar Santacoloma, Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO

9:00 - 9:15 Setting the ground for the Public Food Procurement (PFP) component
Luana Swensson, Policy Specialist for Sustainable Public Procurement, FAO

Session 4:

Exploring evidence on the role of PFP programmes in contributing to healthier diets and increasing the availability of nutritious, diverse and sustainably produced food – Ethiopia room C285

This session aims to:

1. Provide evidence on the potential of PFP to contribute to healthy diets (e.g. through increased access and availability of, among others, local, diversified, seasonal, traditional, culturally appropriate, and sustainably produced food).
2. Discuss how the strategic use of PFP can trigger the production and supply of more nutritious, diversified and sustainably produced food and provide opportunities for small-scale farmers and SMEs to innovate and scale-up their businesses.
3. Explore the linkages between nutrition and other social, economic and environmental objectives pursued through the strategic use of PFP.

Chair: **Luana Swensson**, Policy Specialist for Sustainable Public Procurement, FAO

9:15 - 9:30 Keynote presentation: **Roberta Sonnino**, Professor and researcher, University of Surrey

9:30 - 10:30 Presentations:

- Integrating seasonality and diversity – **Betina Madsen**, Chief Advisor in the City of Copenhagen
- Promoting production diversification and driving the transition towards organic/agro-ecological practices – **Vivian Valencia**, Researcher Chair in Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Action, Bishop's University
- Linking nutrition and environmental outcomes through minimum environmental criteria – **Claudia Paltrinieri**, Director of Food Insider
- Promoting nutrition-sensitive agriculture through the localized engagement of small-scale producers – **Samrat Singh**, Head of Programmes School of Public Health, Imperial College London

10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee Break*

11:00 - 11:45 Group work

11:45 - 12:15	Group work restitution
12:15 - 12:45	Plenary discussion and agreement
12:45 - 13:45	Lunch break
Session 5: Leveraging PFP programme to scale up opportunities for small-scale producers and SMEs to increase the availability of nutritious, diverse and sustainably produced food – Ethiopia room C285	
<i>This session aims to:</i>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify key enablers and constraints for unlocking the potential of PFP to provide scaling up opportunities for small-scale producers and SMEs and to increase the availability of nutritious, diverse and sustainably produced food to consumers.2. Discuss how specific enablers can contribute to enhancing synergies and tackling the trade-offs between nutritional and other social, economic and environmental outcomes of PFP programmes.	
<i>Chair:</i> Ann Trevenen-Jones , Programme Lead, Food Systems Governance Programme, GAIN	
13:45 - 14:00	Keynote presentation: Karine Santos , General Coordinator of the National School Feeding Program, National Education Development Fund (FNDE)
14:00 - 14:45	Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The role of policy and legal frameworks – Najla Veloso, Executive Secretary of the Sustainable School Feeding Network - RAES• The role of procurement officers – Tamara Bruning, Head of the Division Cleaning and Catering Services, City of Ghent• The role of participatory processes in policy/project formulation – Tia Schwab, Policy Advisor, NYC Mayor’s Office of Food Policy and Becca Jablonski, Co-Director of the Food Systems Institute at Colorado State University• The role of implementation models – Aulo Gelli, Senior Research Fellow, Poverty, Gender, and Inclusion Unit, IFPRI/CGIAR
14:45 - 15:30	Group work
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 - 16:20	Group work restitution
16:20 - 16:40	Plenary discussion and agreement
16:40 - 17:10	Consensus Highlights: Recap of Day 1 and Day 2 Agreements and Discussion Marcello Vicovaro , Sustainable Markets Expert, FAO Luana Swensson , Policy Specialist for Sustainable Public Procurement, FAO
17:10 - 17:15	Closure of Day 2

17:30 - 18:30 Cocktail and networking - FAO terrace 8th floor

Wednesday 26 June 2024

Master of ceremony – **Sara Hoogerwerf**, Nutrition and Rural Development Specialist, FAO

8:45 - 9:00 Introduction day 3
Pilar Santacoloma, Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO

Session 6:

Challenges for small-scale producers and SMEs to supply nutritious food to LTFMs and PFP programmes – Ethiopia room C285

This session aims to:

1. Identify the main challenges faced by small-scale producers and SMEs in supplying nutritious food to LTFMs and PFP programmes.
2. Identify possible solutions to overcome these challenges.

Chair: **Pilar Santacoloma**, Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO

9:00 - 9:15 Keynote presentation: **Thomas Reardon**, Distinguished Professor, Michigan State University

9:15 - 9:45 Presentations:

- Policy approaches to informal and small-scale actors – **Alejandro Guarin**, Principal researcher, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
- Small-scale producers and SMEs' access to finance – **Roberta Bove**, Programme Lead, Nutritious Food Financing, GAIN
- Small-scale producers and SMEs' access to capacity development and technology – **Xolile Mkhize**, Senior Lecturer, Mangosuthu University of Technology, Durban, South Africa
- How trade dynamics affect the ability of small-scale producers and SMEs to deliver nutritious food to LTFMs and PFPs – **Jason Clay**, Senior Vice President, Markets and Foods World Wildlife Fund

9:45 - 10:30 Plenary discussion Q&A

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

Session 7:

Influencing food environments: Leveraging LTFMs and PFP programmes to enhance the accessibility, desirability, and convenience of nutritious foods – Ethiopia room C285

This session aims to discuss the potential of LTFMs and PFP programmes to contribute to all dimensions of food environments.

Chair: **Chris Claes**, Executive Director, Rikolto

11:00 - 11:15	Keynote presentation: Anna Herforth – Senior Research Associate, Harvard University
11:15 - 11:45	Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food affordability and how to navigate the trade-off between the need for sustainable livelihoods for small-scale producers and SMEs and the need for affordable food for low-income consumers – Mark Lundy, Research Director, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT• Increasing the availability and desirability of nutritious food through investments in cold chain infrastructure – Amy Murgatroyd, Professional Office Urban Food Systems, ICLEI Africa• Increasing the desirability of neglected/indigenous foods – Danny Hunter, Principal Scientist, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT / University of Sydney• Participatory food safety system to bring locally produced safe food to traditional markets – Charlotte Flechet, Global Programme Director, Rikolto
11:45 - 12:30	Plenary discussion Q&A
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch break
Session 8: Creating an enabling environment for LFTMs and PFP to drive the transition to sustainable food systems – Ethiopia room C285	
<i>This session aims to understand how LFTMs and PFP programmes can be used by governments as entry points for policies and programmes aimed at transitioning toward sustainable food systems.</i>	
<i>Chair: Marcello Vicovaro, Sustainable Markets Expert, FAO</i>	
13:30 - 13:45	Keynote presentation: Sergio Schneider – Full Professor of Food and Rural Development Studies, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)
13:45 - 14:45	Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mariana Santarelli, CONSEA member• Lujain Alqodmani, Director of Global Action and Project Portfolio, EAT Foundation• Laura Michéle, Coordinator Sustainable Food Systems Programme, FIAN International• Nika Larian, Senior Nutrition Advisor for Food Safety, USAID• Kristie Daniel, Livable Cities Program Director, HealthBridge Foundation• Edward Boydell, Food Systems Strategic Advisor, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)
14:45 - 15:30	Plenary discussion Q&A
15:30 -16:00	Coffee break
Closing session:	

Key messages and recommendations from the 3 days – Ethiopia room C285

This session will summarize the key messages of the previous 3 days, including:

- 1. The evidence presented on the role of LTFMs and PFP in ensuring the availability of nutritious foods.*
- 2. Specific pathways and concrete actions that can strengthen the role of LTFMs and PFP for nutrition while creating co-benefits with environmental sustainability and livelihoods for food chain actors.*
- 3. Gaps and challenges that would require further research, investment, and discussion.*

16:00 - 16:30	Key messages and recommendations from the three days Pilar Santacoloma , Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO
16:30 - 17:00	Plenary discussion and agreement
17:00 - 17:20	Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nancy Aburto, Deputy Director of the Food and Nutrition Division, FAO• Chris Claes, Executive Director, Rikolto• Ann Trevenen-Jones, Programme Lead, Food Systems Governance Programme, GAIN

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Leveraging local and traditional food markets and public food procurement to improve availability of nutritious food – Summary Notes

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Leveraging local and traditional food markets and public food procurement to improve availability of nutritious food – Summary Notes

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