



Episode 5:

“Change worth striving for”: International agreements as levers for food systems change

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Glossary of Terms

City-region food system

“A City Region Food Systems (CRFS) approach aims to foster the development of resilient and sustainable food systems within urban centres, peri-urban and rural areas surrounding cities by strengthening rural-urban linkages”

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/food-for-cities-programme/approach-old/crfs/en/>

Climate change

“Climate change is widely recognized as the most urgent problem facing humanity. We know that human activity is warming the Earth. And we know we have the knowledge, technologies, and resources to solve the problem, in ways that support the most vulnerable nations and communities.”

<https://climateactionnetwork.ca/what-is-climate-change/>

Food Policy

Food policies are developed by governments at different scales to guide food-related decisions and actions. They inform and govern public, private, and non-profit sector actions related to improving food-related outcomes and can create opportunities for stakeholders to work together across sectors.

Food Policy Council

“A food policy council (FPC) is a voluntary body made up of stakeholders from across the food system. Typically, the mandate of a FPC is to examine how a food system operates and provide ideas, actions, and policy recommendations on how to improve it.”

https://www.ncchpp.ca/docs/FoodPolicyCouncils-ConseilsPolitiqueAlimentaire_EN.pdf

Food Metrics

Metrics are the way we count or measure things—they are the data we collect to help us better understand and change our communities at different scales. They are important because they draw attention to specific issues and frame the food system in a particular way. They can be used instrumentally to help decision makers develop policies and interventions, help to accelerate programs and policies by drawing attention to a problem, or they can slow things down by suggesting that the system is okay as is.

[Nevin Cohen, quoted in *Handpicked: Stories From the Field, Episode 2: “What Gets Measured Gets Managed”*: Hidden Food Metrics as Tools for Democracy](#)

Localized

Focused on the needs of local people and environments. For example, localized food systems may



Handpicked: Stories from the Field

A production of the Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

include farmers, fishers, producers, and consumers that rely on innovative ways to engage in markets that are close to home.

Place-based solutions

Policy, programming or other types of solutions that are grounded in the unique geographical, social, cultural, and economic context of a place. Place-based solutions can be created to address a place-specific issue, or they can adapt solutions that have been developed elsewhere for implementation in a new context.

Rural

Geographical areas that are characterized by low population density and large amounts of farm or undeveloped land. In Canada, the term rural describes all areas outside of population centres, which have populations of at least 1000 and population density of 400 person or more per square kilometre. Much of Canada's food production takes place in rural areas.

<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/subjects/standard/pcrac/2016/introduction>

Storytelling

The cultural and social activity of sharing stories and narrating an experience. In the context of this episode, the act of telling stories of food systems change or advocacy is imperative for an individual's ability to imagine how their daily life is connected to food policies and agreements at multiple scales.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5987our-common-future.pdf>

Sustainable Food System

Food systems that are "socially just, support local economies; are ecologically regenerative, and foster citizen engagement."

<https://fledgerresearch.ca/>

Urban

A town or city and surrounding areas where more than 1000 live and population density is more than 400 people per square kilometre. The urban is often described in contrast to the rural (see above definition) and includes highly developed landscape and infrastructure, like public transit.

<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/subjects/standard/pcrac/2016/introduction>

Urban-rural linkages

"Rural-urban interactions include: linkages across space (such as flows of people, goods, money, information and wastes), and linkages between sectors (for example, between agriculture and services and manufacturing)."

<https://www.iiid.org/rural-urban-linkages>