



Season 2, Episode 2:

“Disadvantaged by Digitization”: Technology, Big Data, and Food Systems

Featuring Harrison Runtz in conversation with Kelly Bronson, Irena Knezevic, and Carly Livingstone

Glossary of Terms

Big Data

Large quantities of data gathered by digital platforms, such as Amazon or Facebook, and other technologies, such as remote sensing, etc. Big data can be sorted and analyzed in different ways to uncover important insights for decision making. For instance, big data can be used to understand consumer purchasing practices to inform marketing spending and business practices to increase profit margins.

Data Mining

Extracting patterns and key insights from big data sets, often using statistics and machine-learning technologies.

Data Sovereignty

The right of people to have access to and power over the data and information associated with their lives, work, or communities.

Digitization

The increasing use of digital technologies across sectors to make decisions and enable practices. Digital technologies include (but are not limited to), local and remote sensing technologies, digital platforms, big data, cloud-based solutions, etc.

Farming 4.0

Also referred to as digital farming, smart farming, or precision agriculture, this type of farming makes use of sensing technology and sophisticated computing technologies to make decisions about all aspects of the farm including crop choice, inputs, irrigation, and harvesting.

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 Security

Food security is the ability to access safe, nutritious, culturally appropriate, and sufficient food all year round. A person or community is food insecure when people cannot afford or have limited or no access



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to the food they need to nourish their bodies. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization state that “food insecurity can affect diet quality in different ways, potentially leading to undernutrition as well as . . . obesity.”

<http://www.fao.org/publications/sofi/2020/en/>

Food sovereignty

"Food Sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems."

<https://viacampesina.org/en/>

Open Source Data

A legal protection that ensures that data that is owned and available for use to everyone in a particular community. In the case of Open Food Network, all users have access to all code associated with the platform but must make any alterations or new code available to all other users.

Platform

Digital infrastructure or framework for different kinds of exchange. For example, [Open Food Network](#) is a platform that enables digital food hubs, shops, or farmers markets.

Producer

A food enterprise which makes, grows, bakes, cooks, or produces food which it can supply to other businesses for sale.

<https://guide.openfoodnetwork.org/glossary-of-ofn-terms>

Robotics

The use of machines to perform tasks previously completed by waged workers. In agriculture, robotics may include picking and milking machines, tractors and other farming machines, and packing machines, among other technologies.

Supply Chain

All of the components of a system—including organizations, producers, suppliers, people, resources, activities, information, and infrastructures—that get a product to a consumer.

Sustainable Food System

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

<https://fledgeresearch.ca/>