



Building resilient city region food systems

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Organization of the
United Nations



Why focus on the climate resilience of food systems?

Cities are hotspots for climate change

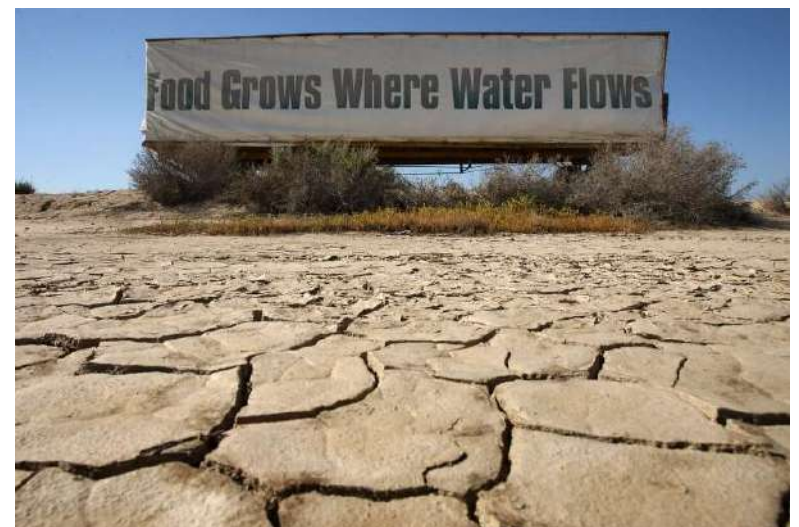
- accounting for more than 70% GHG emissions
- **Food sector is the 3rd largest contributor**

60% of the area expected to be urban by 2030 remains to be built

- Opportunity to build resilience

Floodings will affect 275 million people worldwide should temperatures increase

However, **no clear understanding of climate impacts on food system in urban and city region contexts**



Impact to COVID 19 on Food Systems in Cities

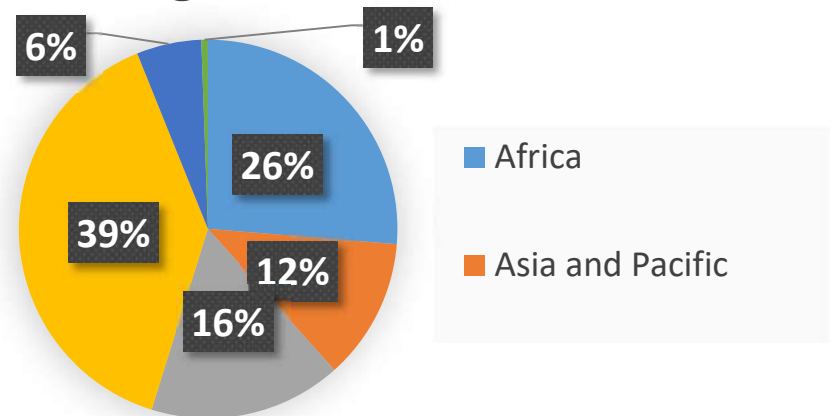
FAO survey 2020



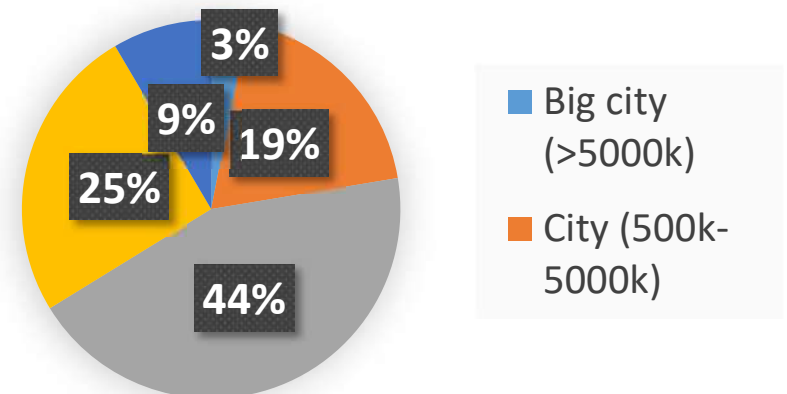
861 responses
77 countries

57% of the respondents are
from local and subnational
governments

Regional distribution



City size distribution



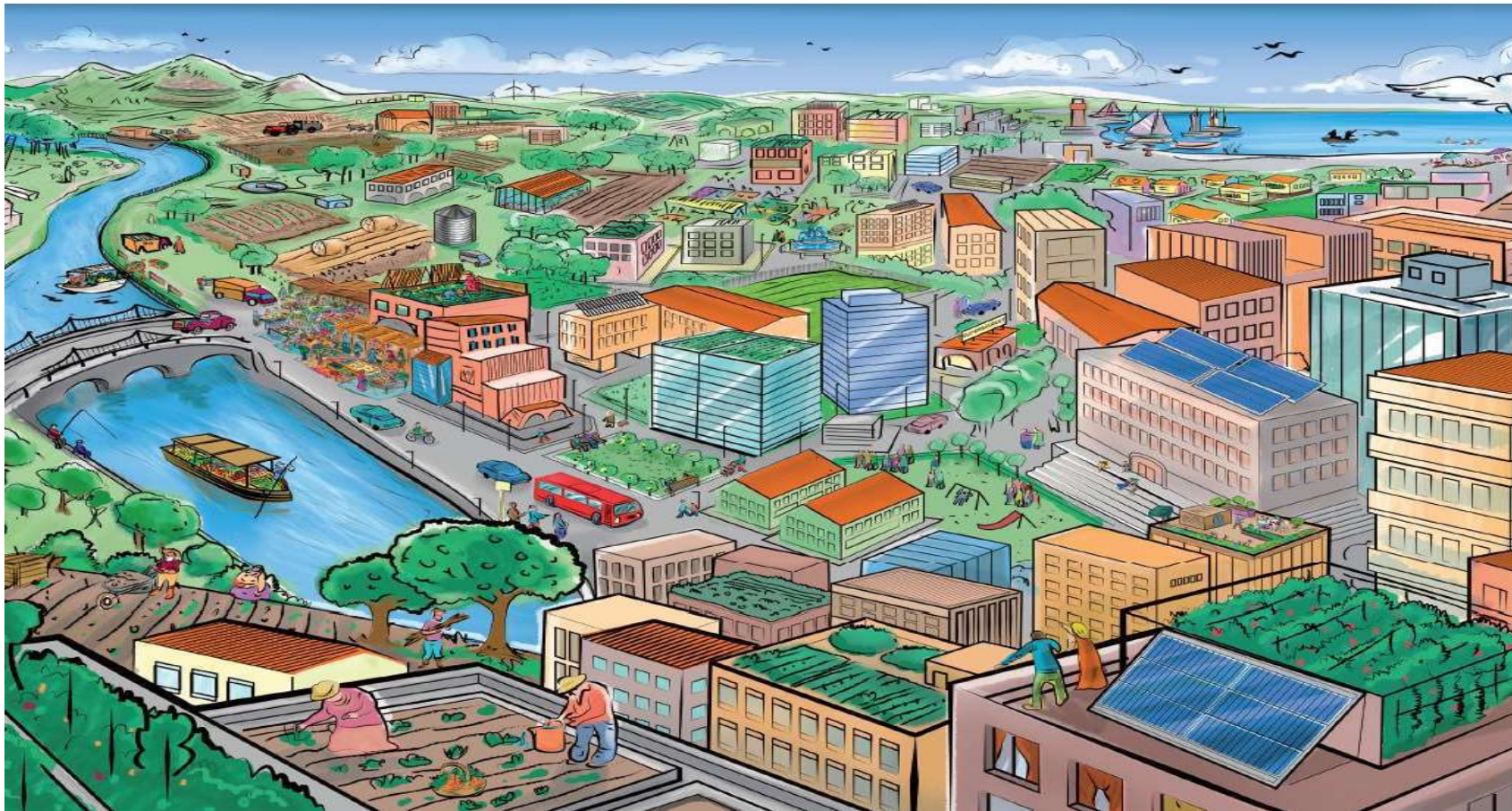
Key messages from FAO survey

- ***Local governments** are key actors to face COVID-19 impacts on food systems, food security and nutrition and their empowerment can make a big difference*
- ***The resilient component of the food systems should go hand in hand with inclusiveness.** Understanding the root causes of vulnerability in urban areas, mapping the most vulnerable and ensuring innovative mechanisms to facilitate their access to nutritious food.*
- ***Multi-level Food Governance is a crucial area for innovation.** Municipal governments had an enormous potential in identifying and connecting the food systems actors at all levels, facilitating their collaboration*
- *The **programmes and contingency plans** need to be put in place ensuring that the food-related **urban-rural linkages** remain uninterrupted in time of crises.*



City Region Food systems Programme

Building resilient city region food systems



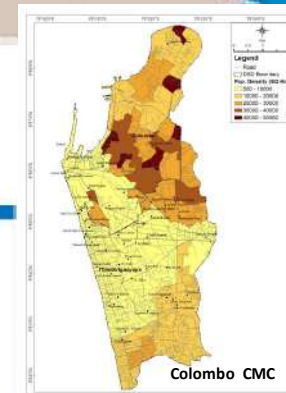
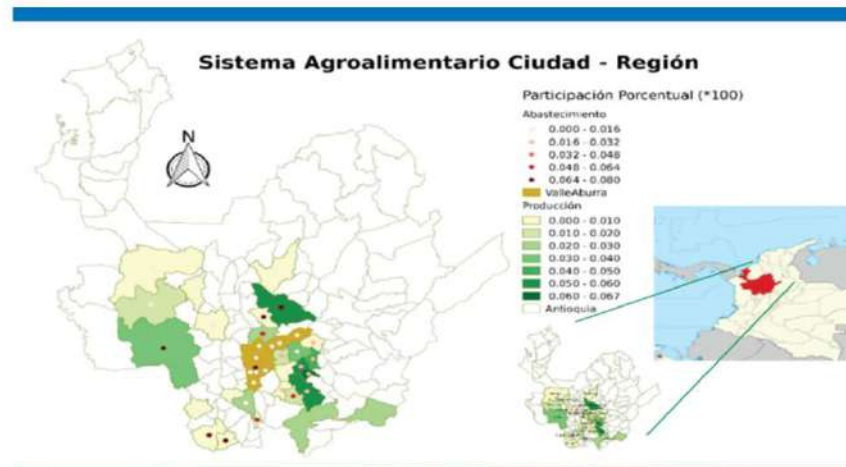
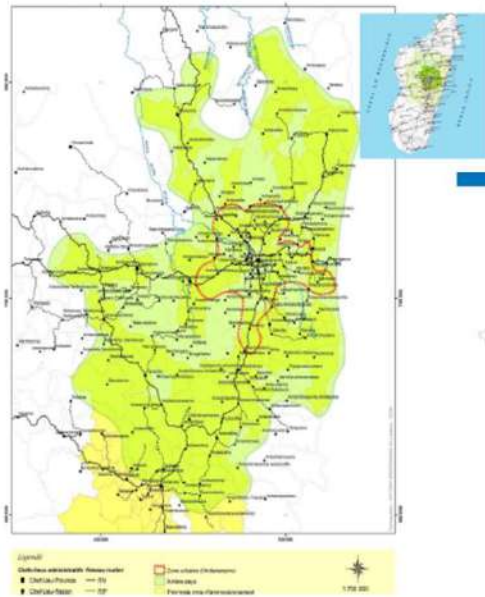
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RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
Water, Land and
Ecosystems



Colombo city region

Colombo district

Support cities to build resilient (climate and COVID19) CRFS

- Support in assessing **risk and vulnerabilities** to multiple shocks and formulate strategies and policies to increase resilience
- Identify short-term **contingency measures** and long-term structural intervention to increase the CRFS resilience;
- Promote multi stakeholder **coordination** and **governance** to manage crises and plan concerted actions
- Promote sustainable and resilient urban and periurban **agriculture and short supply chains** as measures to adapt to multiple shocks
- Promote mechanism **City-to-City knowledge exchange** on good practices

CITY REGION FOOD SYSTEMS PROGRAMME

REINFORCING RURAL-URBAN LINKAGES FOR RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

- Home
- Overview
- Toolkit
- Pilot cities
- News
- Resources
- Partners

- COVID-19
- Events
- News archive

COVID-19 updates

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting daily lives around the world in unprecedented ways. It presents new challenges to food security and, social and economic systems including the globalised and industrialised food system.

The City Region Food Systems approach (CRFS), developed by FAO and RUAF partners (International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems), provides a framework to understand urban food system vulnerability, to enhance communication and coordinate action that safeguards food

Useful links on COVID-19

- FAO updates on COVID-19
- Questionnaire: Food systems and COVID-19
- Database of the Food for Cities Network discussions on COVID-19

COVID-19 and the role of local food production in building more resilient local food systems

18 September 2020

BACKGROUND

As of 17 September 2020, global confirmed cases of COVID-19 reached 29.74 million, covering 116 countries, areas or territories (WHO, 2020). The pandemic has put local food systems at risk of disruptions along the entire agri-food value chain. Cities and local governments are currently playing a major role in limiting the spread of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 and in mitigating disruptions to their local food systems.

To better understand the situation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been closely monitoring local food system status and prevailing practices during COVID-19, collecting information and insights from different cities on key challenges and specific responses through various channels. In particular, FAO conducted a global survey between April and May 2020 to map local responses to the pandemic – the survey obtained 890 responses, offering crucial information that provides a focus for strengthening relevant policies and programmes and improving the resilience of local food systems (FAO, 2020a). In addition, in recent months FAO has published a series of articles through the City Region Food System (CRFS) Programme (FAO, 2020b), launched a database on agri-food-related information through the Food for Cities Network, and launched a dedicated COVID-19 section monitoring relevant responses in the FAO Urban Food Action Platform (FAO, 2020c).

The insights, data and cases presented in this paper are primarily based on information from the above sources, which delve into the role of local food production and value chains in enhancing local food systems' resilience against COVID-19.

IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Restriction measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 have been introduced in cities and regions throughout the world. The measures have been applied based upon prevailing local circumstances. Those affecting food systems include closure of restaurants and school canteens, restrictions on selling food in public spaces, restrictions on the use of public transport, as well as restrictions on human mobility more generally (including limitations in agricultural operations). As a result, disruptions have been observed from food production and supply to food accessibility in urban and peri-urban areas.

Overall, FAO's global survey on COVID-19 demonstrated that the restrictions in the use of public transport (88 percent of respondents overall) and on the selling of food in public spaces such as public markets and streets (88.3 percent of respondents overall) have highly impacted local food **vulnerability**. Panic buying and hoarding were observed, with a positive correlation between

ASSESSING RISK IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND COVID-19

City region food system of **Antananarivo, Madagascar**

Introduction

The city of Antananarivo

- Population of 2.5 million (2018)
- Concentrates 10 percent of the national population
- Fifty percent of the country's urban population
- Urban growth rate: 3.5
- Large Atlantic plain, traversed by hills
- Surrounded by three main rivers with very narrow natural outlet which causes plain frequent flooding
- Forty-four percent of the land is forest (one is covered by urban agriculture, 30,000 ha)

The city region food system (CRFS) of Antananarivo

The CRFS of Antananarivo has been defined as a set of municipalities (two urban municipalities (Antananarivo and Antananarivo) and 62 rural communities located less than 100 km away from the city centre. This area produces an enough quantity and diversity of agriculture products which mainly supplies the urban consumption. The CRFS assumes the following criteria:

- **Inter-municipal cooperation:** 29 municipalities belonging to the CRFS (IF TAMA (Association of municipalities created in 2005) a public inter-municipal cooperation body set up with the aim

ASSESSING RISK IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND COVID-19

City region food system of **Kigali, Rwanda**

Introduction

The city of Kigali

- Population of 1 132 686 (2018)
- Hosts more than 50 percent of urban population in Rwanda
- Urban growth rate of 3 percent
- More than 60 percent of the population under-25 years

CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AT THE FOREFRONT IN BUILDING INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

Key results from the FAO survey "Urban Food Systems and COVID-19"



Thank you

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