Ensuring Resilient Food Systems for Cities

Regional Project proposal

- draft -

Urbanization challenges for food and nutrition security

Urbanization is one of the major trends of the 21st century. While more than 50 % of the population is already living in urban areas, this number will raise to 70 % by 2050 with sharp increase of urbanization in Asia and Africa. Food is, with shelter, a basic and crucial need of all human beings, recognized as universal human right. Food issues are often overlooked in urban areas even if food and nutrition security for urban dwellers is however far from being fulfilled. Challenges related to malnutrition (under and/or over nutrition) exist in low, medium and high income countries. Crisis often make them more intense and visible, because of natural disasters, wars and conflicts or economic crisis. Nevertheless, they can stay hidden because of the diversity and complexity of urban settings, the migration patterns between urban and rural areas and, most of all, the lack of tool for assessing today food and nutrition security in urban areas. Food need to be back in the local agenda.

A food system's approach

In order to promote and insure sustainable diets[1] for urban dwellers, more resilient food systems are needed. They are based on food and agriculture, natural resources management as well as socio-economic and health development as described in the recently published "Food, Agriculture and Cities: Challenges of food and nutrition security, agriculture and ecosystem management in an urbanizing world" (FAO, 2011)[2]. As proposed in the above mentioned paper, these different components have to be articulated within a coherent policy framework and implemented along 4 dimensions:

- A people centered approach, in the framework of the right to food
- A multi-level governance, with a key role of local authorities articulated with the National government, other public actor, private sector and the civil society,
- A urban and territorial planning, linking urban and rural areas,
- An ecosystem and disaster risk reduction management.

[1] "Sustainable diets" as "those diets with low environmental impacts which contribute to food and nutrition security and to healthy life for present and future generations. Sustainable diets are protective and respectful of biodiversity and ecosystems, culturally acceptable, accessible, economically fair and affordable; nutritionally adequate, safe and healthy; while optimizing natural and human resources." (http://www.fao.org/ag/humannutrition/24994-064a7cf9328fbe211363424ba7796919a.pdf)

[2] "Food, Agriculture and Cities - Challenges of food and nutrition security, agriculture and ecosystem management in an urbanizing world", FAO 2011 - http://www.fao.org/index.php?id=28645

Since more than 10 year, some development and/or humanitarian projects have being developed in urban areas. We now have many successful case studies with a lot of expertise developed and shared in the different technical related to urban issues regarding food and agriculture dimensions such as nutrition, food supply, urban and peri-urban agriculture and forestry, marketing, street vendors and food safety, emergency. Building on these achievements, the challenge is now to get the food system approach within project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This project proposal aims at giving a framework for developing such a policy approach.

The framework for food system's based projects

The projects need to be developed at the appropriate geographical level. It should include a city and the surrounding peri-urban and rural areas. Urban-rural linkages are embedded in this approach, it is the so-called city-region approach.

All the different stakeholders contributing to the food system need to be associated. Local authorities will have a leading role to play. While, the political level need to be associated at all the key steps of the project.

Each territory has its own specificities but can also learn from others experiences. It is therefore important to develop projects in different cities from various countries in order to strengthen exchanges and make benchmarking.

Methodology

The following methodology would be developed for each city-region study.

Phase	Steps	Comments
Team building (2 months)	Choice of a consultant	To be coordinated at regional (or sub-regional) level
	Finalize a common methodology	idem
	Identify a focal point at municipal council level Identify partners (at local, national and global level) from public sector, private sector, civil society	For each city-regiona
Networking with other cities (1 month)		Coordination at regional (or sub-regional) level
Phase 1 Assessment of the food system (4 months)	Review of the food policy (regulations, by-laws, including urban and peri-urban agriculture, livestock and forestry (UPALF), food safety, public procurement and school feeding…)	
	Mapping the food system: • Infrastructures and flows: o Infrastructures: roads, wholesale markets, utilities… o Main food flows (staple food, fresh products, water); underlining main urban-rural linkages • Elements of the "dietary status" (undernutrition, obesity…) • Environment and natural resources	Use of a Geographic Information System (GIS)
	Participatory and consultative restitution process with the community to finalize the food system analysis	Meeting with all stakeholders to have a shared diagnostic of the food system through a participatory process
Networking with other cities (1 month)		Coordination at regional (or sub-regional) level
Phase 2 Scenarios of development (4 months)	Identify scenarios of spatial, demographic and economic development of the city-region at 5 – 10 – 25 years	
	Link the evolution of the food system	Multi-disciplinary work with

	with the urban development scenario, with a focus on resilience and adaptation	decision makers, urban planners, sociologist, private sector, etc. led by local authorities
	Choice of a "preferred scenario" for "greening the economy"	Through an economic/social/environmental evaluation Concertation between the different stakeholders Option: make a public consultation (public meetings, internet consultation…)
Networking with other cities (1 month)		
Phase 3 Priorities and implementation / Elaboration of a city region food system policy (4 months)	Proposal of policy, including a list of investments, regulations, setting up of a food council Prioritized economic and financial plan for the city-region Development of a disaster risk management framework / contingency plan if applicable	
Networking with other cities (1 month)		Coordination at regional (or sub-regional) level
Conclusion Final workshop(s)	Public presentation of the study, lessons learnt and ways forward	At national and regional level
Publication of the regional study		
Presentation at global level	e.g. side event during the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)	

Team and networking

Project coordinator

A project coordinator is designated for each city-region. S/He is hosted by the local authority.

S/He manages the different steps of the project. S/He makes sure all the stakeholders have all the information needed.

Stakeholders'group

In each city-region, a stakeholders' group is set up. This group built on the participation of voluntary experts and members, brings together actors from the public sector, the private sector and the civil society. It is aimed at:

- brainstorm and share ideas,
- advise and guide each step of the process,
- approve the different documents.

Studies

For each of the 3 phases (assessment, scenarios, elaboration of a city-region food system policy), a study is conducted by an independent multi-disciplinary team.

Global coordination of the Project has to be led at regional (or sub-regional) level in collaboration with the FAO Food for the Cities multi-disciplinary initiative in FAO HQs

Budget

For each city-region:

- project coordinator for 2 years : 2 x 150,000 USD
- 3 studies : 3 x 40,000 USD
- TSS (including travels and DSAs): 30,000 USD

Total: 450,000 USD

Global networking and information sharing

Global networking for 2 years: 2 x 2 x 20,000 USD

Final workshop: 50,000 USD

Publication: 30,000 USD

Total: 140,000 USD