

Food Consumption, Urbanisation and Rural Transformations

Workshop Report

London, 3-5 December 2014

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Due to data protection laws we are unable to publish participant names

Agenda

Day 1 (December 3rd 2015 – 09:30 - 18:00)

AM

Welcome; Overview of topics for discussion; Introduction to workshop, objectives and project outcomes

Introductions

Exploring the 'bigger picture' and theory of change

Panel 1: **Emerging Priorities** - Transformations and Consumption linkages in the **urban context**

PM

Panel 2: **Emerging Priorities** - Transformations and Consumption linkages in the **rural context**

Panel 3: **Emerging Priorities** – Informal Markets in the context of Transformation and Consumption

Group Work: Introduction to 'Ketso', group work, presentations and discussions

Day 2 (December 4th 2015 – 9:30 - 18:00)

AM

Panel 4: **Emerging Priorities – Policy**: Spaces, venues and actors involved in shaping the dialogue

Plenary Discussion: Linking the **global** to the **local**

Presentation and Plenary Discussion: Social Innovation within local processes

PM

Group Work: Ketso 'maps' revisited, identifying gaps, forming a structure and **prioritising themes**

Group Presentations: Key themes identified

Day 3 (December 5th 2015 – 9:30 - 13:00)

Plenary Discussion: Key themes revisited

Group Work: Workshop planning

Introduction

On 3-5 December 2014 IIED, with support from and in collaboration with DFID, IFAD and Hivos, organised an international workshop bringing together practitioners, researchers and staff from international and donor agencies to launch a new initiative on '**Food consumption, urbanisation and rural transformations**'. The initiative will address two interrelated levels:

- **Support change in the global narrative**, by developing insights and creating spaces for debate, innovation and practical engagement to challenge assumptions, based on evidence and explicitly addressing issues of power and inequality. We will contribute to current policy debates at national, regional and global levels – on the further evolution of the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs, sustainable urbanisation, preparations for Habitat III, and wider discussions on eradication of poverty, hunger and food insecurity in rural and urban areas.
- **Support change on the ground**, by working with a number of partner organisations that are in the thick of these urban and rural transformations through action research, capacity building and advocacy, to help build food systems that provide access to safe, nutritious affordable and sustainable food to low-income and vulnerable groups.

The specific objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review our current understanding of food consumption for urban and rural low-income groups, and identify how this can contribute to a narrative on food security that is more inclusive of these groups' needs and priorities
- Review current understandings of the links between changes in food demand / consumption patterns associated with urbanisation (both cities and small towns) and rural transformations
- Identify priority issues for knowledge integration, consolidation and advocacy
- Map out the key audiences with which we need to engage (including identifying key events)
- Determine next steps for the next 18 months, and refine the agenda of work in the longer term, including identifying priorities for supporting regional and local processes
- Define the role of the global network/community of practice convened at this meeting for future activities in the next 18 months and beyond

Anticipated outcomes of the meeting were to:

- identify priority themes for knowledge integration and advocacy
- Define the themes for six working papers (background/literature reviews) and identify authors and timeframes (drafts in early 2015)
- Identify locations, key themes and participants, and lead organisers for 3-4 regional co-learning workshops (to be held in the first half of 2015)
- Explore ways in which innovation labs on food can build on the regional co-learning workshops and feed back in both regional and global narratives and initiatives

A. Summary of emerging priorities

The workshop participants identified five interrelated priority issues for knowledge integration, consolidation and advocacy. These are now described, along with evidence and insights contributed by participants.

1. Who is consuming what, and why?

When looking at the food system in urban and rural contexts through the lens of consumption, it's important to build a picture of *what* is being consumed, and *why*.

Consumption as a response to constraints of income, space and time in urban areas

Low-income urban consumers make trade-offs between **quantity and quality** (nutrition and safety) related to **price** and **access**, as well as **convenience**, which **drives shifts in consumption**. Another driver is shortage of money for cooking fuel. There have been several initiatives aiming to make traditional/local staples more convenient but there is not a large uptake. This is because there has been a change in consumers' preferences. For example rice is faster cooking and easier to store than traditional cereals including maize. The younger generation are predictors of household consumption changes. In West Africa, women say they prefer to cook yam but their children want rice.

Poor consumers do not have the spending power or space to buy and store quantities of food, which means purchasing on a day-to-day basis. Therefore they buy from **vendors**, often informal traders, who sell small quantities for a price they can afford – but which is usually higher per unit than larger quantities. In Dakar (Senegal), informal markets charge prices similar to supermarkets but have the advantage of (physical) access for consumers. Day to day purchases mean high levels of vulnerability, such as lack of daily income, and disruptions caused by power black-outs (which mean that street vendors are not around in the evening), infrastructure failures (such as floods after heavy rains in settlements with inadequate surface drainage) as well as political violence. In Kenya 80% of the urban low-income population are food insecure, a proportion similar to other Southern African cities. There are also high levels of consumption of street food. The burden of malnutrition is moving from rural to urban areas, with the emergence of the double burden of stunting and obesity.

Consumption is changing in rural areas too

Changes in consumption are also visible in **rural** areas. The proportion of rural **net food buyers** is increasing as the importance of agriculture as the primary income source declines, especially among low-income groups, land-poor smallholders and the landless. In Vietnam 55% of rural households are net rice buyers, and 22% do not have access to productive land. This is due to changes in agricultural production systems, with increased mechanisation and land concentration, and growing exposure to environmental hazards such as droughts or floods, to which smallholder producers and poor rural residents are especially vulnerable. Income diversification is an important means to improve access to food through non-farm income-generating activities. However, reliance on food purchases exposes poor groups to food price volatility.

Migration and remittances of money and food

Urbanisation in China increases demand for food but only moderately so for grains; it is more dramatic in meat, milk, eggs. Migration is unlikely to put pressure on national food production in the

short-term.¹ Nevertheless, its longer-term impacts need to be understood and discussed. Migrants are a diverse population, and their circumstances affect their consumption patterns, especially with regard to consumption of high cost and resource intensive food stuffs such as meat, dairy and fresh fruit and vegetables.

While rural-urban migration is the main component of urbanisation in China, most of the urban population growth in sub-Saharan Africa is not due to migration but to natural growth (the net excess births over deaths). Urban citizens who are born there often do not have links to rural areas and do not rely on traditional staples such as sorghum, but are more likely to consume non-traditional and often imported staples such as rice and maize.

In relation to migration, the literature suggests that **remittances** are typically spent on basic necessities and foodstuffs. Reduced disposable incomes because of the obligation to send remittances will directly affect consumption/dietary choices of migrants in cities *and* those of relatives in rural areas who receive them – often in the form of cash, but sometimes also as food, especially imported foodstuffs which are often cheaper in urban centres.

The connection between food security and **flows of people/labour** (rather than flows of food) requires a substantial change in the way we talk about food security. Rather than a linear relation rural/production > urban/consumption, the links are now more blurred, and complex, including loops and indirect impacts – for example, when rural-rural migrants compensate labour shortages on family farms due to rural-urban migration.

2. Where does food come from, and why?

In order to understand trends in consumption in terms of consequences for production, processing and trade, we need to map where that food comes from, including impacts of changes in demand vs. changes in supply.

The tension between different production systems, crudely categorised as smallholder production versus large-scale, mechanised commercial farms, becomes more acute when viewed through a consumption lens. Using consumption as the entry point, the picture in some regions is increasingly one of food originating from large-scale production and processing, including imports. This is the case not only in urban centres but also in rural areas, and not only in rapidly urbanising countries but also in regions where the majority of the population is rural-based and engaged primarily in agriculture.

The role of imports

Changes in consumption can draw in food from further afield, including **imports**; and vice versa: the **supply** of cheap imports can change consumption patterns. But that doesn't necessarily mean a decline in resilience of food systems, as resilience is not always related to proximity; global supply chains may be more resilient than local one, for example in regions more heavily affected by climate change.

But there are also important aspects related to the political economy of trade systems, whereby some interest groups benefit from liberalisation and access to finance at the expense of others. Importers may have significant economic advantages over domestic traders. In West Africa, international rice traders can sell on credit whereas local traders will take cash only. The same applies for the large supermarkets -- financing for retailers is easier, large import companies can

¹ Based on a survey sample size of ~3000 in six Chinese provinces: three with net outmigration and three with net immigration. The survey considered household food consumption per dish/meal, asking about meal composition to estimate calories per food group. See Annex D for more detail.

supply a truck of rice in days and don't charge for it whereas local producers cannot afford to do that.

Some countries are less open than others to imports. Nigeria has a very proactive trade policy to limit imports in defence of national self-sufficiency, and Ghana is similar. Tariffs can have an impact but are often not the key issue. Gaining market access can be difficult for local smallholder producers and there are issues of quality of local produce. Therefore a tariff may not have expected/intended effect in stimulating domestic production. Nigeria has been very proactive in producing rice locally but they will reduce their tariffs in this election year to make sure that cheap rice is readily available.

In West Africa, imported rice is not only going to urban areas. In Nigeria, one can find imported rice in most **rural markets**. It is cheaper for farmers to buy imported rice to feed their workers rather than farm-produce. Estimates based on Food and Expenditure surveys compiled by AFRISTAT and CIRAD show that in ECOWAS countries, rice purchases by **rural** households represent more than 55% of the total rice purchase in the region. Data from the Living Standard Survey show that rice consumption in rural areas relies on different sources: own consumption, local rice marketed and imported rice.²

Provenance of food sold by informal vendors

The provenance of food sold by food vendors is a big knowledge gap, and little is known about whether the rise in the consumption of street food is loosening linkages with the region's agriculture. In Fort Portal, an intermediate urban centre in Uganda, low-income groups, for example students and 'boda boda' riders (motorcycle taxis), depend on informal vendors for cheap high-energy food such as chapatti. That food does not necessarily come from the region's smallholders or even Uganda: chapatti flour is imported from Tanzania. Markets in rural areas supply informal food vendors in the town.

In the Johannesburg fresh produce wholesale market in South Africa, small trucks come in the mornings to purchase and load up food which then goes to informal vendors in the townships/informal settlements. The food in the fresh produce market comes from large commercial farms (i.e. chain from large commercial agriculture → formal produce market → informal distributors). Also in the Mafalala Market in Maputo, fresh produce sold by informal vendors is imported from South African commercial farms, and frozen chicken comes from Brazil. In West Africa, some small traders purchase 'wholesale' from supermarkets.

Urban and peri-urban agriculture

Consumption is partly driving the growth of urban agriculture in Vietnam, which is emerging because of a combination of concerns about food safety and high prices. But in Nairobi, urban agriculture is limited in informal settlements, although livestock keeping is relatively common. Peri-urban agricultural areas are being converted to residential development, pushing production further out, making the connection between the conditions of roads and urban food security even more important.

3. Rural-urban linkages: virtuous vs vicious circles

Changing consumption patterns are affecting the way food is produced and the links between rural and urban areas, which in turn requires a reconstruction of the food security narrative. There were case studies and anecdotal examples from participants of both vicious and virtuous connections between urban and rural development. What are the

² See Annex B for more detail.

common dynamics we can see from examples of both? What lessons can we draw from policy innovations that have shaped virtuous connections between urban and rural development?

A weakening dichotomy between urban and rural?

Participants stressed that there is not a dichotomy in the definition of urban and rural, where one can pick a geographic location and classify it. It is more like a continuum, but this is rarely recognised in policy. For example, although China's household registration policy continues to classify households according to their rural or urban status, and this does affect their access to opportunities for employment and to public goods and services, in many ways this distinction is no longer very effective in capturing important distinctions in people's production and consumption activities or in the risks they face. It was also noted that there are three fundamental characteristics of urbanisation: density, mobility and connectivity.

Definitions of rural do not disaggregate rural production and **consumption**, despite the growing complexity of the rural economy (see 2. above). Many rural residents in China no longer work in agriculture and many are net purchasers of food, while a significant number of *de facto* urban residents continue to be involved in agricultural production to some degree (such as returning to rural homes for planting and harvesting). We need to think more about how to disaggregate data in ways that more accurately reflect important differences in livelihoods and lifestyles. This is already happening to some extent in studies of urbanisation and dietary change, but not enough. Yet the notion has persisted that an increased population will be fed by supplying more food *from* rural areas as sources of production, rather than through improved **access** to food in both rural and urban locations.

ISU introduced the concept of '**city region food systems**', which spans territory and also city governance. The emphasis is on short value chains, not in terms of geography but number of actors, to retain value in the chain to be shared among actors.

Catalytic role of small and intermediate urban centres

Small and intermediate urban centres, including market towns and large villages, play an important role in transforming food systems. This has two sides: expanding market linkages for local producers and expanding access to information, as well as providing local non-farm employment opportunities, often related to agricultural processing and distribution but also more 'urban' provision of services and goods. These small towns also provide routes for imports and processed foods to enter rural areas, increasing competition with local production. Value chain transformation in terms of processing is happening in informal settings for example in rural India (with fewer than 10 people in a processing plant) – but what does this mean for 'rural' employment and labour is unclear. These **emerging urbanising spaces in rural areas** can play an important role in rural development and in reducing rural poverty, but they are typically neglected by national policies which tend to under-estimate their needs in terms of infrastructure and the technical and revenue capacities of local governments. Tanzania has recently created a new category of 'small towns', which includes almost one hundred such centres, but there is no specific policy for them.

4. Governance and inclusion

Power relations and concentration of power have profound consequences for (a) the meta-narratives that shape policy; (b) how and where food policy is made – who is included and who is excluded; and (c) the distribution of added value from the food system.

Vision – do we have a common intent?

Effective policy requires a **shared and coherent vision for the food system that is based on evidence, including the relative merits and weaknesses of local and global value chains.**

Within the initiative, this vision would set out a preferred expectation for policy dialogues: who they would include and how they would be conducted, and clarify terms like (in)formal and urban/rural.

Inclusion in policymaking

Policy dialogues often reflect imbalances of power. They also frequently lack resources. So how do you empower the poor to have a voice, for example to help trader associations to decide and express their views, also to support with evidence? In Uganda, that process is fraught with difficulty, because people immediately question the political objectivity of a person or group when they are formalised.

The most apparent common dynamic in inclusive vs exclusionary policy has been a **lack of regard for less powerful actors** (smallholder farmers, traders – often informal – and low-income consumers) **from powerful actors** (government, large/international trade/retail). Conversely, in examples of inclusive policy, this respect was maintained. Informal sectors are where policymakers don't reach, so linking informal actors to policy is difficult; for example in Senegal there is no association of informal retailers to bring to a meeting and the relationship between government and informal actors is adversarial.

Compare experiences of urban informal trader relocation. Operation Clean Sweep in Johannesburg to remove informal vendors which was quick and brutal. By contrast, the long and drawn out dialogue in Solo, Indonesia eventually arrived at an agreement between government and traders, under a culture of reciprocal respect. The Indonesian economy was almost bankrupt after the last regime change and the Asian economic crisis of 1998. People had no jobs and many became street vendors. The context changed after the 2004 elections but street vendors (selling food and non-food) stayed in high numbers, despite attempts by the government to remove them, often resulting in violence. The new mayor of Solo (Joko Widodo AKA Jokowi) had a policy objective to clear the streets. Instead of using force, he invited vendors to talk. After 54 meetings, an agreement was reached, whereby the city built designated spaces for vendors and gave six months' rent-free. Jokowi turned this relocation process into a celebration. This relocation policy was also taken up by his successor as mayor of Solo City. By 2014, 77% of the 5817 street vendors had been relocated. The vendors are registered and issued permits which can be inherited by their family. There is also government administered training for vendors on sanitation, food safety, business development, financial management, etc. They have essentially become formalised (semi-formal). This rebuilt citizen confidence in the government which had been eroded by the previous regime. It also helped propel Jokowi to the presidency via governorship of Jakarta.

East Africa is an interesting area for looking at urbanisation and governance. The debate is focused on modernisation without a discussion of **inclusion**. Looking at urban planning, the focus is always on infrastructure, with nothing about food which is seen as rural. There is a need to have a debate in those spaces. There is an initiative by UN Habitat to bring African governments around planning frameworks but it's around infrastructure and not food. There are opportunities to take elements of urban food strategies from Brazil and apply them in Africa.

Multiple roles of local government

Although local government may have no direct mandate to address food security, the work of many of its departments acting within their existing mandates has profound, but unacknowledged, impacts on the food system and therefore on food security. Research in South Africa examined the mandates, policies and programmes of each local, provincial and national department and

identified their existing food impact.³ These findings were employed to argue for a far broader and more integrated set of policy and programmatic interventions that acknowledges the systemic nature of food insecurity. This approach has the potential to reframe how food insecurity is addressed at multiple scales. All drivers of food security are in constant flux, and governments can waste resources on fixed infrastructure. Local government needs tools to assess priorities.

For food security, it's important to consider various dimensions: quantity and quality (nutrition and safety). Consumers make trade-offs between those dimensions and how they relate to affordability and physical access. Each of these dimensions is handled by different policy stream in ways that can be complementary or contradictory; for example, food safety legislation pushes up food prices out of reach of the poor. What emerges is a two-tier consumer system, where the poor buy bad quality/unsafe food and the rich buy good quality. Also, this creates an incentive for companies to commit fraud or use lower quality inputs.

Links between global and local governance

The big story of urbanisation over the next generation is in Africa, where an estimated extra 3 billion people will be living in cities. The scale of this increase demands a global response but there must also be a carefully differentiated local response from city to city, linking to the national, regional and global levels. It is at the city level that there can be a strong understanding of the issues at play – what really is happening. At the global level, the narrative remains strongly productivist and is just starting to change.

There is a need to look in more depth at the role of local and regional policy in shaping consumption patterns, and how international trade and agriculture agreements shape that context.

We should beware proposing a new **global** meta-narrative and global 'fix', when so much rural-urban transformation is determined at the national and regional levels.

Governance of natural resources

The issue of natural resource management and the impact of climate change were present in the discussions without being a primary focus. Participants repeatedly acknowledged that any governance of food value chains had to ensure environmental sustainability although there was not a discussion on how this might happen or why it is currently not happening in many places.

5. Informality

Most informal settlements are reliant on street vendors due to physical and economic constraints. These vendors are often penalised by city administrators (see 4. above). Vendors have to deal with bad sanitation beyond their control while trying to ensure the safety of their food. There are issues for and against trying to formalise the food system and grow the presence of large businesses versus trying to find a way to include small and informal actors in that system.

Informality as permanent feature of the food system

Most informal settlements are increasingly reliant on street vendors due to physical and economic constraints. These vendors are often criminalised by city authorities. Many governments in the Global South believe that informality is **a transition phase** and the antithesis of what modern cities should be: chaotic, unsafe, lacking in tax revenue. Therefore many governments try to hasten the transition by getting rid of informal markets. The persistent policy bias to formalise the food sector has killed off many local food cultures. Southern Africa has seen military-style interventions that

³ See Annex G.

intimidate vendors and confiscate their produce, as in Harare where 75,000 vendors lost their stalls, or in Operation Clean Sweep in Johannesburg. Actually informality is **a permanent state**; 60% of poor urban households across 11 southern African cities regularly purchase from informal traders; this figure is as high as 90% in some cities. In Maseru, Lesotho, the Shoprite supermarket bans informal traders from its grounds but they set up just outside of the parking lot instead.⁴

The term 'informal' often implies a disorganised and undifferentiated group of economic actors. But this label doesn't capture the dynamism and creativity of the informal sector, which can logistically be highly efficient. Earlier predictions that informality would be swept aside by the supermarket revolution are misplaced in SSA – for example, the market share of modern supermarkets in Nairobi has stagnated. But wholesale markets can be controlled by mafias in cahoots with local government where farmers have little power; there is a role of local authorities in controlling informality.

Informality and health

It is a myth that obesity and diet related ill-health are consequences only of western diets promulgated by formal fast food chains and supermarkets, though advertising from global food companies does penetrate into low-income communities. Actually street vendors are selling both healthy and junk food; junk food is often non-perishable and can be sold in small quantities. Informal vendors e.g. in Maputo outside schools are selling junk food to children.

Vendors have to deal with local environmental hazards such as open air sewage, no solid waste collection and inadequate water provision which are beyond their control, while trying to keep the safety of their food. This is the intersection of food and environment, where danger and dining meet. Balloon mapping in informal settlements in Nairobi has helped citizens visualise this, leading to greater engagement of the food vendor association with residents' grassroots organisations in understanding and developing local initiatives, including negotiating with municipal authorities to improve basic infrastructure.

It is not wise to make generalisations but rather to look at a variety of factors to assess the importance of elements of food safety e.g. the prevalence of open sewage in urban informal markets suggests an increased likelihood of certain bacteria in food.

Informality and urban planning

How the urban landscape is planned affects how and where people consume. Certain infrastructure can help food security e.g. energy, water and transport. Urban zoning affects where food is sold.

We need to look at what are the actual constraints for urban consumers, e.g. home storage capacity and the need for day-to-day purchases. There is a lot to think about urban planning and location/relocation of markets, and the role of local authorities in organising the informal. As cities grow, markets at city centres suffer. One key challenge is to keep space for public goods.

Informal-formal links in the chain

There are important informal-formal links in the food system, and we cannot think of formal and informal as separate. All smallholder farmers are in the informal sector and it is dominant in many countries. And the distribution of 'formal' powdered milk relies on the informal sector. We need to know more: what is the role of the formal private sector in shaping informal markets?

⁴ See slide 1 of Annex L for a picture of the police behaviour during Operation Clean Sweep and slide 3 for a picture of Shoprite in Maseru.

B. Spaces, venues and actors involved in shaping dialogue

A 'fishbowl' discussion with participants from international agencies identified **spaces, venues and actors** involved in shaping the dialogue in the year(s) ahead, and the **terms** in which they engage. It also identified some of the **users** of knowledge and their needs, as potential **entry points**.

There is a perception by those involved in **global** policy dialogue that policy influence follows a global>regional>national>local pattern. This is not always the case. But the global narrative creates the framework for winners and losers, and also creates the framework for donor assistance, though ODA is now a small proportion of investment in terms of global capital flows and policy formation.

There are important evolutions of global policy dialogue:

- Around **global public goods** and the **SDGs**. The urbanisation aspect and its implementation will be considered in more detail at Habitat III.
- Emergence of **urbanisation** as driver of transformation, partly grounded in the failure of the development model based on agriculture. Urbanisation is now presented as a **non-problematic** way of achieving development goals – an answer to poverty reduction, productivity, and improved access to services – although this view neglects the rapid emergence of urban poverty, and often results in the marginalisation if not the eviction of the urban poor and policies to curb rural-urban migration. Urban development is seen as an **alternative to rural development**, rather than something linked to rural spaces. The 'new urban agenda' is being pitched against the 'old rural agenda'.

No credible alternative discourse to this polarisation is being offered to leaders. This means that we need to engage with the global policy dialogue even though it isn't the most important for local action and change on the ground. IFAD has turned to researchers for help to internalise these debates. A key element of rural-urban linkage is food systems but there are also linkages in labour, services, infrastructure, natural resource management and ecosystems. We know that food is the most obvious and attractive connector but it might obscure a diverse set of relations. What would be a new discourse? And how can we bring it to the attention of world leaders?

UN Habitat

- The current narrative at UN Habitat focuses on the speed of urbanisation, leading to a profound social, cultural, and consumption transformation. Economically, urbanisation is seen as positive due to economies of scale and agglomeration. But the environmental costs of building cities in an unsustainable way can undermine that urban advantage. For example, the land around cities is often prime agricultural land. This is where UN Habitat sees its role -- in helping to develop cities that maximise the urban advantage.
- In constructing a narrative, we must go beyond an urban-rural divide. Food is not UN Habitat's natural entry point. But there are areas that UNH can identify: (a) **markets**, that bring urban and rural together, and bring an urban dimension to rural life. There is also a rural dimension to urban life, especially via food and environmental services; and (b) **planning**, where the narrative needs to focus on urban and rural **functions**, including how to keep space for public goods in the planned expansion of cities.

FAO

- FAO and UN Habitat are converging from opposite directions. FAO's mandate is to ensure food security, and the Organisation is realising that this cannot be achieved by promoting rural development alone.

- Interest in **foodsheds** for urban areas – city regions embedded at the country and regional level. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has opened up to **city region food systems** this year.

IFAD

- IFAD focuses on smallholder-led agricultural development and, more broadly, on fostering a sustainable and inclusive rural transformation. In the post-2015 context, IFAD is examining what urbanisation and the rural-urban nexus means for smallholder agriculture and rural transformation, while maintaining its rural entry point in this debate. It seeks to bring to the analysis and policy discussion more evidence on the dynamics of rural change and rural dimensions of urbanisation, linked to food systems and beyond (seeing the importance of markets, services, employment, migration, transport, communications, environment/ecosystem services and food linking rural and urban areas).
- A systems approach to understanding urban – rural linkages is useful, one that links production in both remote and proximate areas to consumption, in urban centres and rural communities. In this context, since 2013, IFAD has been building its engagement in international fora on sustainable urbanisation and city-region food systems.
- IFAD seeks to establish the evidence on ways in which urbanisation affects the structure of the agricultural sector and rural development. But we know there are different trends and scales of urbanisation affecting agricultural value chains, markets and rural development varying according to context. This needs to be better understood. For example, SSA is currently estimated to be 39% urban; this is projected to rise to only 45% in 2030 and 56% by 2050, so there will still a large section of the population in rural areas. But policymakers everywhere will face the challenge of ensuring a mutually beneficial rural-urban development process, where policies are designed to address urban and rural development in a balanced way.
- Key is improving our evidence base, to identify the myths and move on from generalisations. This will enable it to be better placed to engage with and better inform policies that take into account both the nature and drivers of urban development and the way in which these interact with opportunities and challenges for rural development and a more sustainable urbanisation.

Hivos

The Dutch humanist development agency Hivos is divided into two thematic groups: *open* society (rights and freedoms of marginalised groups, with a strong urban bias and emphasis on rights-based development); and *green* society (rural bias; emphasis on market based development). It is the green society programme that is focused on energy and food, traditionally looking at sustainable production, sustainable trade, standards, producer organisations and smallholder agency.

- Hivos is now moving towards a food systems framing, looking at ‘productive landscapes’ and influencing policy in favour of citizens. It maintains an emphasis on the environment agenda which is not progressing e.g. soil erosion and climate change, without ignoring the social. Another focus is the role of finance, in driving the whole food system.

International Sustainability Unit, Prince’s Charities (ISU)

- ISU is an advisory unit to Prince of Wales, which can harness considerable convening power
- Agriculture’s sub-optimal returns to society (see [‘What Price Resilience?’](#) report) demonstrate that public goods arguments do not have the same weight in national policy

compared to GDP. The prevailing productivist narrative at the international level obscures the real challenges of the food system, and prevents the development of a more coherent narrative beyond the farming agenda.

- In view of the post 2015 agenda, ISU looked at what can be done to make a coherent dialogue on food systems that was integrated into a broader socio-economic dialogue of the SDGs.
- We should seek to bring the analysis to
 - Habitat III
 - Expo Milan 2015 – the theme is ‘Feeding the Planet – Energy for Life’. The cities of London, Milan and Rio are looking to develop an assessment framework for resilience and sustainability of food systems. At the Expo the C40 group of cities will launch an International Pact on actions to enhance sustainable, just and healthy urban food systems. They will be dependent on the metrics that sit behind them. They are also trying to integrate assessment frameworks – there could be an opportunity to use food to bring these together e.g. resilience; planning.
 - CFS -- theme of markets, through so far this has been short of urban focus within sustainable food systems
 - SDGs -- 2 relevant goals in food security and urbanisation
 - Climate change discussions – the adaptation focus could benefit from the discussion about linked food systems.
 - WTO ministerial Dec 2015? – an opportunity to talk about benefits of more integrated and linked food systems -- and make a positive case for localised inclusive system without setting off the free trade alarms.

Others

- A productive approach is South-South learning, getting officials together from different cities for mutual learning, e.g. around the experiences of the food system policy of Belo Horizonte.

C. Working Papers associated with the Change Initiative (provisional)

1. Introductory paper: setting the scene
2. Mapping food systems from consumption to production: methodological considerations
3. Urbanisation, small towns and changing rural livelihoods: revisiting three Mekong Delta fruit-growing settlements a decade later
4. Shifts in food consumption under urbanisation and their rural consequences: the role of trade and trade policy
5. Food consumption, urbanisation and rural transformations: the view from China
6. Food consumption, urbanisation and rural transformations: the view from India

D. Regional Workshops

Within the IFAD project, there is a commitment to convene a number of exchange/learning workshops together with researchers and practitioners, including urban civil society organizations and farmers’ organizations, around case studies in selected countries. All workshops need to take place before mid- 2015. Through partnerships (e.g. with Hivos Learning Labs and DFID urban food

security funding) there are opportunities to pool resources for convening, case studies, learning and influence. The workshop agreed on region/countries, lead responsibility, and local institutions. Each will need a timeline and means to link and learn across the regional processes.

East Africa

Lead Partner/Location: Kabarole Research and Resource Centre (KRC), Fort Portal, Uganda, under auspices of Hivos-IIED Food Lab, working with the Hivos Nairobi office.

Theme: Putting food consumption on the agenda of planned rapid urbanisation (including Uganda's Vision 2050) in the context of consumption, urban poor, informality. Looking at issues of environmental health, food poverty, nutrition, food security of the urban poor.

Participants: high-profile stakeholders in the East African Community, including MPs from municipalities, NGOs, vendor associations, farmer/rural side of food system including smallholder associations, AFSUN, ministries (agriculture, health, environment..), Kenya Institute of Planners, APHRC and researchers engaged in the Urban Zoonoses project in Nairobi (ILRI, DPU, IIED, APHRC, Universities of Nairobi and Liverpool), National Federation of the Urban Poor.

Asia

Lead Partner/Location: Choice between China and Indonesia. China can mobilise match funding from government but maybe too close to central decision-makers but China happy to work on. In Indonesia could build around the Solo city case study, or Bandung; there are good policy contacts with both. Discussion still open for comment and advice. Both Ronnie and Xiangping are happy and willing to work on it.

Objective: sharing learning to build new narrative based on real experience and lessons. To support new dialogue at national and global levels.

Countries involved: China, India, Vietnam, Indonesia (and maybe Cambodia). Other countries involved as they can learn from the core countries later.

Themes: up to the members to identify from what has been identified in global workshop which are well represented in both countries, e.g. migration, food systems, informality. Each core country has to have same set for themselves. It also has to fit into global narrative.

Participants: government ministries (linked to food consumption, urbanisation...), food industry, agriculture and food system actors, city governments, researchers, and NGOs. As this is a complex issue, ensure participation of representatives of this network, to ensure a productive learning experience.

Southern Africa

Lead Partner/Location: AFSUN and Hungry Cities partner in Maputo, designed around the Southern African Food Lab.

Theme: Construction of a new narrative through a bottom-up process, based around the reality of the rural-urban nexus (rather than rural-urban 'linkage' which suggests two discrete things).

Methodology: A dynamic experiential workshop over 2-3 days rather than a workshop to disseminate knowledge to passive stakeholders. Based around Maputo but disseminated to a broader set of stakeholders. Staged setting: a day of a learning journey at points in the nexus where there are interesting things happening. A group of participants would go to one of the points

(e.g. an informal vendor market), observe how the system is working, return and share with the group.

Participants: municipal governments in Maputo but also regional groups like Southern African Food Lab, Oxfam, Care, SADC and others.

West Africa

Lead Partner/Location: CIRAD, with local partner(s). No current Food Lab in West Africa yet.

Entry points: A consumption entry point, possibly around rice, or fruits and local veg? One city hosts and others brought in to share. Possibly Ouagadougou; Abidjan might be better as it is more diverse and interesting but CIRAD has no base there -- will work on that and report back soon. IFPRI is looking at trade corridors and regional dynamics – could look at a catchment/foodshed with deficit and surplus areas.

Thematic focus: Consumption. Unpack existing narrative and confront participants with cases showing complexity.

Participants: multi-stakeholder but keep focused -- if you have different stakeholder groups from different countries, there isn't enough common ground so either fewer countries and more stakeholders or more countries and fewer stakeholder groups.

Building on existing Initiatives: Grow Africa, New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, ECOWAS, AFRISTAT, local authorities, mayors, ministers responsible for food security, private sector.

E. Ways of working

- Network of networks – working as a group that brings together all our respective networks rather than trying to form something that competes with them.
- Collaborative approach – building on experience in our networks and sharing resources where possible.
- Commitment to narrative change – the angle of consumption rather than production, and the focus on how local processes can have big impact as opposed to always looking at the global policy first. Bringing this angle and focus into the global policy narrative is the purpose of this group.