TERRITORIAL APPROACHES for SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

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Sustainable food systems: towards a bioregional approach?

- Kwantien Polytechnic’s University – Institute For Sustainable Food Systems
- Southwest British Columbia Bioregion Food System Design
- Bioregion:
  - Topography
  - Fauna and flora
  - Human culture
- Combines
  - Eco-regions
  - Habitat (cities and other human settlements)
  - Activities
  - Political & administrative circumscriptions
- Hypothesis: 60% population increase by 2050

http://www.kpu.ca/isfs/swbcproject
Food self-sufficiency by 2050

- “Business as usual”, will decrease from 40% to 28%
- If production systems are revisited to respond to food needs of local population, it can increase to
  - 56% for the same cultivated area
  - 49% if environmental improvements
  - 57% if the cultivated area is increased (with environmental interventions)
Economic Impact by 2050

• “Business as usual”
  – no economic impact
  – food imports increase by 82%

• Economic impact increases ...
  – by 50% if cultivated area remains the same
  – by 30% if environmental measures are introduced
  – by almost 100% if cultivated area increased +
    environmental measures.

Processing becoming the engine of local economic progress
Reorient Food Systems for Sustainable Diets

- Nutritionally adequate, safe and healthy
- Culturally acceptable, accessible, economically fair and affordable
- Low environmental impact (respectful of biodiversity and ecosystems)

… from supply-driven to demand-driven
New Nordic Food

• 2004, ten-point Manifesto (12 Scandinavian chefs)
  – Local and seasonal food
  – Combine tradition, scientific knowledge & external influences
  – Sustainable production and animal welfare
  – Promote local producers and livelihoods
  – Combine local production with regional exchanges of quality products
  – Involve all actors

• 2005, Programme Nordic Council of Ministers
Ecuador - Mobilizing Responsible Consumption for Sustainability, Health & Equity

• 2008 Constitution: policy transition from food security to food sovereignty
• But industrialized food had become too influential in national politics
• 2012: responsibility for the transition put in people’s hands: Que Rico Es! Campaign
• Participants invest at least 50 percent of food expenses in “responsible consumption” (i.e. agro-ecological production, direct purchase and Andean crops)
• So far 10,000 Families have enlisted: 24 million USD/year
Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP)

• Political initiative
• Launched by the Mayor of Milan, in parallel to Milan Expo in October 2015
• Signed by 167 cities (almost half of which European)
• Collection of good practices and awards programme
• Yearly Summit of Mayors
• Not only big cities

http://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/
Committee on World Food Security

• 2016: Forum on *Urbanisation, Rural Transformation and implications for food security and nutrition*

• Compiled experiences and effective policy approaches (governance, sustainability, food systems and social and economic equity)

• 2017: *Addressing food security and nutrition in the context of changing rural-urban dynamics: experiences and effective policy approaches*

Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages to Advance Integrated Territorial Development

Leaving no one and no place behind

• Led by UN-Habitat (follow-up to Habitat III New Urban Agenda)
• World Urban Forum IX, Kuala Lumpur (02/18)
• Expert Group meeting, La Paz (06/18)
• Collection of case studies

https://urbanrurallinkages.wordpress.com
Opportunities and Challenges

• Converging towards a common agenda but institutional attitudes and funding mechanisms need to change:
  – Foodies talk about cities and not only rural areas
  – A food systems approach can help urban planners address urban-rural linkages transversally

• Link food, green and health agendas and initiatives

• Alliance of networks? Movement?
Why join/sign into other networks?

• Exchange of information:
  – Thematic networks (e.g. FoodWIN)
  – Develop common material/training
  – Promote own work
• Brings food on the political agenda
• Identify commonalities and bring cities to the negotiating table (influence policy)
• Promotes regional collaboration
• Helps to cope with political instability
• National OK, but also bioregional, European, thematic...
• Birmingham, Edinburgh, London: international connectors (Eurocities working group Food, C40...)
Where are we at?

• Agenda 2030: Cities have a key role to play in promoting sustainable development
• Revitalization of rural areas urgent and feasible
• Legal and regulatory framework must be revisited with a territorial lens
• Knowledge management
  – Document and review good practices (towards a new research approach?)
Conclusions

• OK, you are an island 😊
• Let’s build more bridges?
• We need you
• WIN-WIN?