

CITIES on the FRONTLINE

Coronavirus Speaker Series:

Sharing Knowledge to Respond with Resilience



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#15: Resilient Food Systems

Thursday, June 18, 2020

08.30 AM EST (New York, GMT - 04:00)



“Resilient Food Systems”

Roy Steiner – Senior Vice President for the Food Initiative at the Rockefeller Foundation

Roy Steiner

PhD, Senior Vice President for the Food Initiative at The Rockefeller Foundation

He is the Senior Vice President for the Food Initiative at The Rockefeller Foundation, where he leads a team focused on creating access to nourishing food for millions of people in the U.S. and around the world, supporting scientific advances in human nutrition and sustainable food production, and carrying forward the Foundation's enduring commitment to a sustainable Green Revolution in Africa.

Roy Steiner Remarks

1

We need to think more in terms of systems, interconnection and interdependence and understand the implications of that.

2

We are promoting food that we know is unhealthy and we created structures, subsidies and entire systems that we know are not benefiting human beings. We got to redo this, it doesn't make sense on any level, moral, economic, and socially.

3

We need to work specially around shortening and improving the connection between rural and urban areas. We have way too much concentration, we designed food systems for hyper efficiency and there is a trade off with resilience there, we need to go back and redesign with different objective functions.

African Case During this Crises

- Immediate reaction of many governments was to shut down fresh markets.
- Small and medium farmers had not place to put their product generating tragic economic impacts
- We think there is a way to redesign smart markets that really leverage technology, that leverage energy, etc. and we know this type of things can be done resulting in infrastructure that is going to be more resilient.

“We have really crappy diets and we are promoting food that we know is unhealthy and we created structures, subsidies and entire systems that we know are not benefiting human beings. We got to redo this, it doesn’t make sense on any level, moral , economic, and socially ”

– Roy Steiner