Building Effective Food Systems for Cities

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Urban food system performance matters

1. For city priorities
2. For national food policy objectives
Food systems have been missing in urban policy

Smart Cities frameworks cover “everything” except food

Civic and social
Built infrastructure
Industry and innovation
Quality environment

Health and well-being
Safety and security

Source: ASEAN

Food: the missing ingredient
While in national agricultural policy, cities are often seen as passive (consuming) players.

BUT, food systems are not linear, urban-to-rural systems.

The food system imagined as a linear, rural-to-urban system.

Cities as “food courts”.

Source: Foodspan
Agriculture is being enfolded into urban space

Land-use changes

in Bangalore

Built-up areas
1999-2014

Vegetative cover
1992-2009

in Shanghai

Settlement gain
1987-2005

Cropland loss
1987-2005
The health and resilience of many Asian cities is threatened as these cities are growing hotspots for:

- Food and nutritional insecurity
- Diet-related non-communicable diseases
- Unsafe food and biosecurity risks
- Food and food packaging waste
Informal employment is very significant and food is often the backbone of the informal economy.
Cities need **RICH** food systems to thrive

- **R**eliable
- **I**nclusive
- **C**ompetitive
- **H**ealthy

**RICH FOOD SMART CITY**
What the book covers

Methods
- Data analysis
- Literature reviews
- SURVEY of Asian cities’ food policies

Content
- WHY urban food policy
- STATUS: survey results
- TOOLKIT: the “how-to”
- AGENDA for ACTION

Audience
- City leaders & planners
- National policy makers
- Private sector & civil society
- Development partners
- Researchers

From business case to action
SURVEY of cities’ engagement in food systems

170 cities, 21 countries
S, SE, E Asia

Cities by Size of Population
- <200k, 69 cities
- 200k-499k, 31 cities
- 500k-999k, 23 cities
- 1-3 million, 26 cities
- 3-5 million, 3 cities

Cities by GDP (National Level)
- Upper-middle-income, 40 cities
- Low-income, 35 cities
- Lower-middle-income, 85 cities
- High-income, 9 cities

10.5% Smallest to largest
50.6% Most to least wealthy
5.3%
City initiatives

More engagement at the production than consumer end

Inclusive programs are rare in smaller cities
Conceptual Framework: Towards a Food Smart Approach

City rating criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>LEVEL of engagement</th>
<th>QUALITY of engagement</th>
<th>OVERALL food smartness rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Proactive</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>HIGH across these two pillars</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Inclusive</td>
<td>MEDIUM</td>
<td>At least one HIGH No LOW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Integrative</td>
<td>MEDIUM</td>
<td>Either no HIGH Or at least one LOW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Any rating</td>
<td>Any rating</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Proactive | Integrative | Inclusive | Food-Smart
City ratings

73% of surveyed cities are at an early stage of food policy engagement

8% appear to be applying a food-smart approach

Location ✓
Leeway ✓
Leadership ✓
Resources ✓

Note: Maximum scores are 50 (proactiveness) and 25 each for integration and inclusiveness for a total of 100.

Note: Income groups are based on World Bank categorization.
Entry points and approaches

What’s on the Menu?

- Periurban cropland
- Ag tech
- Horticulture parks
- Urban agriculture
- Composting

- Nutritional health
- Social protection
- Procurement

Agriculture

Food Marketing

- Fresh food markets
- Food safety
- Informal food economy
- Planning, logistics
- E-commerce
- Branding

Governance

- City food policy institutions and processes
- Roles of national government
- Networks of cities

Consumers

Examples from Asia and beyond
Cities will need to adapt, experiment and **innovate**, and act **strategically** based on their starting point.

Rapidly developing cities face more options, but often have less capacity.

More mature cities face path dependencies, but often have greater capacities.
You don’t always need a masterplan to be strategic
Actions for different stakeholders (examples)
Thank you

How Building Reliable, Inclusive, Competitive, and Healthy Food Systems in Smart Policy for Urban Asia

https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35137