

Handpicked: Stories from the Field

A production of the Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

Episode 1 – Because Everybody Eats: Exploring Sustainable Food Systems for a Better World

Glossary:

Agroecology

“Agroecology is the science and know-how behind sustainable agriculture which takes into account environmental impacts, animal welfare, and human social aspects. It combines scientific inquiry with the place-based knowledge and innovation of indigenous and peasant farming communities.”

<https://www.usc-canada.org/the-issues/agroecology>

Biotic communities

“A biotic community, also known as a biota or ‘biocoenosis’, is the group of organisms that live together and interact with each other within an environment or habitat. Together, the biotic community and the physical landscape or **abiotic factors** make up an **ecosystem**.”

<https://biologydictionary.net/community/>

City-region food system

“A City Region Food Systems (CRFS) approach aims to foster the development of resilient and sustainable food systems within urban centres, peri-urban and rural areas surrounding cities by strengthening rural-urban linkages”

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/food-for-cities-programme/approach-old/crfs/en/>

Climate change

“Climate change is widely recognized as the most urgent problem facing humanity. We know that human activity is warming the Earth. And we know we have the knowledge, technologies, and resources to solve the problem, in ways that support the most vulnerable nations and communities.”

<https://climateactionnetwork.ca/what-is-climate-change/>

Ecologically regenerative

“Ecological Regeneration is a process-oriented living systems approach to bringing back balance to our inner and outer landscape. The term "regenerative" depicts practices that re-establish, replenish or invigorate one’s own landscape of sources of energy and materials. It is about crafting ecological systems that integrate the needs within one’s internal landscape and the integrity of the landscape of nature.

Creating a regenerative approach compared to a sustainable approach is essentially one key point: in a sustainable system, lost ecological systems are not returned to existence. In a regenerative system, those lost systems can ultimately begin "regenerating" back into

existence. Put more simply, regenerative systems create a better world than we (humans) found it, now and into the future.”

<https://www.thelivingcentre.com/articles/ecological-regeneration>

Ecosystem services

“Ecosystem services (also referred to as “ES”) are the benefits that humans receive from nature including provisioning (e.g. food, fuel, fibre, fresh water), regulating (e.g. air quality, climate regulation, erosion control, water quality), cultural (e.g. spiritual enrichment, recreation, aesthetic experiences) and supporting services (e.g. production of oxygen, soil formation).”

<http://www.landstewardship.org/ecosystem-services-biodiversity/>

Fair trade

Fair trade describes a set of standards that include protection of workers’ rights and the environment, payment of the Fairtrade Minimum Price and an additional Fairtrade Premium to invest in business or community projects. The FAIRTRADE Mark indicates that a product has been certified by the non-profit of the same name.

<http://www.fairtrade.ca/en-CA>

Food sovereignty

"Food Sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems."

<https://viacampesina.org/en/>

Global supply chain

“A global supply chain is a dynamic worldwide network when a company purchases or uses goods or services from overseas. It involves people, information, processes and resources involved in the production, handling and distribution of materials and finished products or providing a service to the customer.”

<https://www.cips.org/en/knowledge/procurement-topics-and-skills/srm-and-sc-management/global-supply-chains/>

Industrialized food system

“Industrial and mixed food systems are characterized by complex supply and value-chains and often high levels of food processing. Powerful large-scale retailers and processors can have considerable influence over the nutritional value in the foods produced (Gereffi et al., 2009). Complex supply chains may enhance the availability and affordability of food products through improvements in productivity and efficiency of supply. However, these gains may be offset by reductions in variety and increased access to processed foods (e.g. Gereffi et al., 2009).”

http://www.unscn.org/files/ICN2_TPM/EN_final_Investments_for_Healthy_Food_Systems_UN_SCN.pdf

Localized

Focused on the needs of local people and environments. For example, localized food systems may include farmers, fishers, producers, and consumers that rely on innovative ways to engage in markets that are close to home.

Monoculture

Is the growth or production of a single crop, type of livestock, or other organisms. Monocultures are low in genetic diversity and are often less resilient to ecosystem change, poor weather, or the introduction of new pests. Large scale industrial agriculture typically grows or produces monocultures.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5987our-common-future.pdf>

Urban-rural linkages

“Rural-urban interactions include: linkages across space (such as flows of people, goods, money, information and wastes), and linkages between sectors (for example, between agriculture and services and manufacturing).”

(<https://www.iied.org/rural-urban-linkages>)