



Introduction

This policy brief presents a comprehensive framework of 41 recommendations for advancing sustainable urban food systems, developed through the FUSILLI project. These recommendations address governance, sustainable food production and consumption, waste management, community engagement, and financial mechanisms. Together, they offer policymakers actions to drive food system transformation, from establishing cross-sectoral coordination to promoting local food networks and aligning funding structures with municipal needs.

Governance and Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

Enhancing Coordination Among Stakeholders

1. Create a food council: Establish a council to drive food system innovation, engaging public, private, and community stakeholders in strategic decision-making.
2. Organise food system transformation with cross-sectoral coordination: Position the coordinating entity to influence sectors like health, education, and commerce for a holistic approach.
3. Support local food forums to strengthen stakeholder coordination: Hold regular forums for stakeholders to discuss and address food system challenges collaboratively.
4. Establish cross-sectoral food system governance bodies: Form governance bodies involving government, private sector, and community groups to design and oversee food strategies.
5. Apply user-oriented service design and behavioural economics: Use insights from behavioural economics and service design to create effective, practical policies.
6. Increase stakeholder participation in agriculture and food policies: Engage all stakeholders, including rural communities, in structured, participatory policy development.
7. Implement integrated quantitative and qualitative monitoring: Use both quantitative and qualitative data to monitor and adjust food system transformation policies effectively.

Policy Integration at Local, Regional, and National Levels

8. Integrate policies at local, regional, and national levels: Form a task force to develop a unified approach to sustainable food systems across governance levels.
9. Sign international agreements like the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact: Encourage cities to join international frameworks to sustain long-term food policy commitments.
10. Establish clear governance structures for food system transformation: Create governance bodies to oversee food system initiatives and maintain consistent stakeholder engagement.
11. Identify and map "Food Sheds" for territorial supply chains: Develop local supply hubs to bolster resilience and reduce dependency on external food sources.
12. Harmonise food procurement policies across governance levels: Align procurement policies across different levels of government to support sustainable local food systems.
13. Empower the food system governance body with tools to influence decisions across all relevant sectors: This influence across departments and sectors ensures that decisions are strategically aligned, fostering impactful, unified actions.

Sustainable Food Production and Consumption

Promoting Local Food Production

14. Plan creative land uses for food production: Use urban spaces like rooftops and walls for small-scale food production, promoting sustainability awareness.
15. Support the creation and maintenance of school gardens: Provide resources for school gardens to educate students on sustainable food practices.
16. Support urban farming initiatives and entrepreneurship: Offer land, training, and funding to aspiring urban farmers and community-led agricultural projects.
17. Create municipal vegetable gardening positions: Hire municipal gardeners to grow produce for public institutions, enhancing local food security.
18. Support urban farming initiatives: Allocate urban spaces and financial support for urban agriculture projects managed by community groups.
19. Provide municipal support for local agro-ecological production: Reduce costs for local farmers through incentives, logistical aid, and market access.
20. Develop policies connecting smallholder farmers to markets: Foster partnerships with food processors to increase market access for smallholders.
21. Support urban farming initiatives and local markets: Allocate spaces and offer incentives to foster urban agriculture and local markets, enhancing food network resilience.

Encouraging Sustainable Consumption Patterns

22. Require public kitchens to follow sustainable dietary guidelines: Mandate low-carbon menus in public kitchens to reduce environmental impact.
23. Promote sustainable consumption models: Run educational campaigns to promote plant-based, local, and sustainable food consumption.
24. Promote sustainable food education in schools: Integrate sustainable food education into school curricula with clear implementation goals.

Distribution and Waste Management

25. Mandate food markets to donate leftover food: Require markets to donate surplus food, reducing waste and supporting food security.
26. Collect local data on food waste in public kitchens: Implement pilot projects to monitor waste in public kitchens and adjust procurement practices.
27. Implement smart distribution and waste management systems: Enhance infrastructure for food storage and distribution to minimise loss.
28. Promote digital tools for reducing food waste: Use apps and digital tools to help consumers and businesses track and reduce food waste.

Conclusion

Implementing these recommendations will equip cities to foster resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems that respond effectively to today's urban challenges. By embracing collaborative governance, supporting local production, and optimising funding mechanisms, cities can lead in reshaping urban food environments. The FUSILLI project's framework underscores the importance of unified action in achieving sustainable urban food security for future generations.

Community-Centred Approaches

29. Introduce agrifood communities: Support community-based food enterprises to provide affordable, locally-produced food.
30. Support local production and consumer cooperatives: Promote cooperatives through incentives and awareness campaigns, benefiting local farmers and consumers.
31. Compensate for inclusive participation: Provide compensation to ensure diverse groups can engage in food policy decision-making.
32. Use diverse communication strategies for inclusive participation: Employ varied communication channels to reach and involve diverse community groups.

Financial Support and Funding Mechanisms

Innovative Funding Models

33. Create interdepartmental synergies for sustainable funding: Align funding across departments to support comprehensive, long-term food system initiatives.
34. Experiment with community-driven funding: Use crowdfunding and match-funding to support community-led food projects, fostering local ownership.
35. Launch Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP): Use phased R&D procurement to stimulate innovation in food systems, sharing costs and risks.
36. Mobilise resources for coherent policy design: Form partnerships to fund sustainable food policy initiatives, aligning with EU co-funding mechanisms.
37. Prioritise data collection on food systems and nutrition: Fund research on diets and food systems to guide evidence-based policy development.
38. Establish flexible funding models to align with government bureaucracies: Create adaptable funding models that account for municipal operational timelines.

Public-Private Partnerships

39. Promote public-private partnerships (PPPs) for food sustainability: Foster public-private collaborations to finance sustainable food projects with social benefits.
40. Develop a public-private partnership policy framework: Create a regulatory framework to guide PPPs, outlining responsibilities and risk-sharing.
41. Encourage knowledge-sharing platforms for public-private partnerships: Establish platforms for public-private collaboration and knowledge exchange, aligning project goals with sustainability outcomes.

