

Key messages
Resilient Food and Land Use Systems: From concept to practice
Food and Land Use Coalition Policy Brief
February 15th, 2023

Context and overview:

- Food and land use systems have been largely successful in providing affordable food for a rapidly growing population over the last century. However, the world has witnessed a rapid reversal of these trends in recent years, with an **alarming growth in the number of people facing food insecurity, driven by factors including climate change, COVID-19 and conflict:**
 - **2.3 billion people** (29 percent of the global population) were moderately or severely food insecure in 2021 – 350 million more than before the outbreak of COVID-19.
 - Food prices reached an all-time high in April 2022, and, despite declines in the third quarter of 2022, remain almost **20 percent** higher than in 2021.
- As we recover from and address these crises, it is critical to transform food and land use systems to ensure they deliver sustainability, security, health and wellbeing for people and nature.
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A framework for action:

- **Resilient Food and Land Use Systems: From concept to practice** suggests a framework for embedding resilience building measures into the transformation of food and land use systems which can be adapted to global, national and local contexts.
- The framework aims to support decision-makers to **clarify the purpose of resilience thinking, ensure a holistic focus, consider the interplay between efficiency, redundancy and diversity, check for enabling conditions, and take action.**
- It offers a way of categorizing and assessing measures to build resilience in food and land use systems, suggesting six broad groups decision makers must consider:
 - **Stopping maladaptive practices** which exacerbate existing food systems shocks and stressors, such as climate change, conflict and land degradation.
 - **Reinforcing buffers and core resilience functions** for example through diversifying food sourcing.
 - **Reducing risk**, including through diversifying food production portfolios to reduce vulnerability to stresses such as pest and disease outbreaks.
 - **Enhancing anticipatory action** ahead of a crisis, for example through use of early warning information in advance of weather shocks such as floods and droughts.
 - **Transforming food and land use systems** to better respond to chronic or persistent risks such as climate change or ecological collapse, through systemic interventions including dietary shifts or wholesale changes to production.
 - **Scaling preparedness and response** to limit the impact of crises, for example through humanitarian assistance, social safety nets and insurance.
- The paper shows how the framework can be applied in practice, outlining four steps for decision-makers to follow:
 - **Identify the shocks and stressors** impacting food and land use systems at different scales to understand the main sources of risk.

- **Review existing policies** to identify which of the six types of measures are being implemented and where gaps lie.
- **Identify priority actions and consider potential trade-offs.**
- **Monitor and evaluate the outcomes** of measures across sectors and at different scales

Further considerations for building resilience in food and land use systems:

- To further embed resilience thinking into policymaking, there is also a need for stronger institutional mandates at both a national and international level. A multilateral Food Systems Stability Board is one way to create an international mandate and coordination mechanism for strengthening food systems resilience by addressing issues such as food price volatility, inefficiencies in trade, protectionism, and the effects of climate change on production.
- Policymakers also need clearer definitions and metrics to monitor the impact of measures on food systems resilience when evaluating global to local level policy.
 - It is critical that these metrics are integrated into long-term development planning and analysis and designed in collaboration with farmers to support the evaluation and continuous improvement of practices.
