

# NEW IPES-FOOD REPORT 2024

## FOOD FROM SOMEWHERE: BUILDING FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENCE THROUGH TERRITORIAL MARKETS

In July 2024 [iPES-FOOD - International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems](#) published the new Report [FOOD from SOMEWHERE: Building food security and resilience through territorial markets](#).

The Report underlines that [Progress on global hunger is in reverse](#). Nearly 30% of the world is food insecure and 42% are unable to afford a healthy diet. With around 600 million people projected to be facing hunger in 2030, the world's 'zero hunger' goal is further away than ever. The past three years have seen big cracks emerge in global commodity markets and corporate-controlled supply chains. These supply chains also drive environmental degradation, threaten the livelihoods of small-scale producers, and undermine dietary diversity and health.

The Report underlines that feeding a hungry world requires resilient and robust food systems and it finds that a fundamental shift towards close-to-home food supply chains (*'territorial markets'*) offers a more resilient, robust, and equitable approach to food security.

A wide variety of food provisioning systems exist beyond corporate-controlled supply chains: from public markets and street vendors to cooperatives, urban agriculture to online direct sales, food hubs to community kitchens. Territorial market channels are contributing to feeding as much as 70% of the world's population every day. They are based around small-scale producers, processors and vendors, rooted in territories and communities, and play multiple roles within them. Yet they are continuously overlooked.

Territorial markets are the backbone of food systems in many countries and regions. Evidence shows they build resilience on multiple fronts, including:

- *Ensuring access to seasonal, diverse, more nutritious foods and diets.* Evidence from low-income neighborhoods in Asia, Latin America, and Africa shows that fruit and vegetables are more affordable in public markets than at supermarkets. Huge volumes of fresh foods are supplied outside of corporate chains, often direct-to-consumer: half of fruits and vegetables are sold

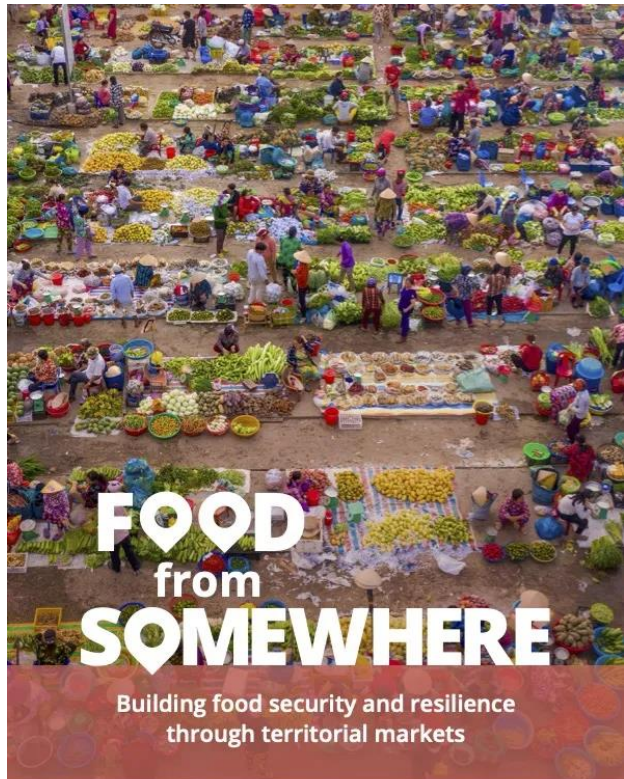


FIGURA 1. CRITERIOS CLAVE PARA LA RESILIENCIA DE LOS SISTEMAS ALIMENTARIOS





in open air markets in Mexico; community-supported agriculture feeds 1 million Europeans, and farmers' markets have quadrupled in the US over recent decades.

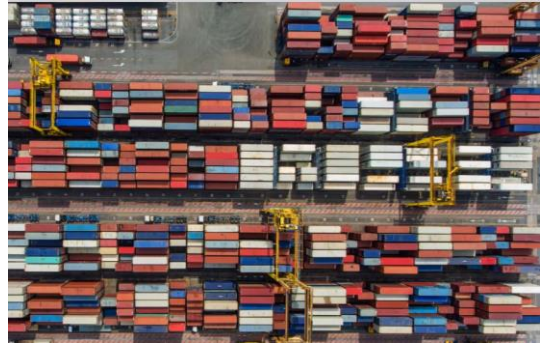
- *Demonstrating high degrees of resilience and adaptability to shocks.* Despite market closures, territorial marketing channels rapidly adapted to continue supplying food to communities through the COVID-19 pandemic – with new governance models and marketing systems. Some 45% of emergency food supply initiatives in Brazil were based on local supply chains, and over 85% were at least partly agroecological.
- *Providing decent prices and steady incomes* for small-scale producers, including women and youth. In Thailand, “green farmers’ markets” offer producers higher margins than big retailers and account for some 60-80% of their income.
- *Enhancing environmental sustainability* by promoting low-input, biodiverse farming, and reducing food miles and waste. Urban agriculture has documented benefits in terms of maintaining agro-biodiversity: urban gardeners in Quito, Ecuador, grow on average 43 different horticultural species, including heirloom varieties. Territorial markets are also the main source for diverse Indigenous seeds, particularly essential in the face of droughts.
- *Sustaining traditional food cultures* and fostering community connections, solidarity, and social capital. In the US, some \$80 million of sales have been facilitated, and 175,000 acres of Black-owned land secured, over decades of cooperative-led organizing among Southern Black farmers.

Territorial markets are delivering these benefits despite unfavorable policies and economic conditions. Government

policies are propping up fragile, disaster-prone global supply chains through agricultural subsidies, trade and investment agreements, tax breaks, and food supply infrastructure skewed towards large-scale, industrial export agriculture. At the same time, corporate power continues to grow, eroding traditional practices and food cultures, co-opting local and territorial chains, and reshaping diets around staple commodities and ultra-processed foods.

The Report highlights that a change of direction is needed to address growing food insecurity and to have a chance to reach the 2030 zero hunger goal – towards close-to-home food systems that deliver resilient food security and benefit people, planet, and communities.

To unlock the full potential of territorial markets and build a more resilient food future, the IPES-Food panel identifies a series of joined-up actions for governments, including:



- Redirecting public procurement and state purchasing schemes to support sustainable small-scale producers.
- Shifting subsidies to invest in the infrastructure, networks, and people that underpin territorial markets – including public marketplaces, collectives and cooperatives, rural development, training and scale-appropriate ICT.
- Protecting local markets from corporate co-optation, including breaking up supply chain monopolies and supporting inclusive governance models.
- Encouraging sustainable, biodiverse farming practices, and diverse healthy diets.

[The International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems \(IPES-Food\)](#) is a think tank of experts from around the world, guiding action for sustainable food systems globally. The panel brings together 25 leading scientists and practitioners from diverse fields and regions of the world to conduct research, develop policy recommendations and call for sustainable, equitable and healthy food systems worldwide. IPES-Food is rooted in science and the realities of those on the frontlines of the twin crises of climate and hunger, and has been, since 2015, one of the leading voices in promoting policy solutions and building alliances to address the most pressing issues in food and agriculture. The panel of experts is co-chaired by Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and Lim Li Ching, Senior Researcher at the Third World Network.

### To know more

[FOOD from SOMEWHERE: Building food security and resilience through territorial markets - pdf](#)

[iPES-FOOD website](#)

[iPES FOOD Activity Report 2023](#)

[Summary Report Food from Somewhere](#)

[Article in foodtank.com](#)

[Article in arc2020.eu](#)

[iPES FOOD Reports](#)

[Local Markets Report Press Release](#)

[iPES FOOD Approach](#)



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