



European  
Commission

JRC PORTFOLIO 11

## TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN A EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL CONTEXT

Food is one of the most basic human needs. Producing it is a very prominent driver of global environmental change. The current food crisis is causing 3 billion people to have insufficient access to nutritious food, while acute hunger threatens over 200 million lives. Food systems, comprising the entire range of actors and their activities, have significant impacts on the economy, jobs, environment, climate, food safety, and the health and well-being of citizens. Science clearly shows that food systems need to adapt urgently and transform to preserve resources, including water and soil – as well as our climate and biodiversity – while guaranteeing access to affordable and healthy diets for everyone in the European Union (EU) and beyond. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and the energy crises have exacerbated this need. Many partner Directorate Generals (DGs) and the public are demanding short- and long-term policy support.



### The portfolio aims to:

Provide systemic analyses, responses and tools that anticipate and respond to food systems policy needs and integrate climatic, environmental, social, health and economic perspectives

Nurture user-communities, via the relevant Knowledge for Policy services such as on soil, food security, food quality and nutrition

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## Delivering on anticipation, integration and impact of EU policies

- ▶ directly supporting the design, implementation and monitoring of EU legislation and initiatives related to sustainable food systems, such as, among others, the Farm-to-Fork strategy and contingency plan, the Common Agricultural Policy and Common Fisheries Policy, the Framework for Sustainable Food Systems, the Novel Foods Regulation, the Food Information to Consumers Regulation, the Biodiversity Strategy, Healthy Soils Strategy, Nature Restoration Law, Animal Welfare legislation, the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive, the Water Framework Directive, and the Drinking Water Directive,
- ▶ framing, defining and monitoring the EU global response to food insecurity and food crises, advancing UN Sustainable Development Goals and supporting the UN Food Systems Summit follow-up process,
- ▶ providing reliable data, indicators, and fit-for-purpose tools (from reference materials to laboratory models and analytical methods, to socio-economic models) to support scientific research and decision-making for more coherent and resilient food systems,
- ▶ running and promoting the Knowledge for Policy (K4P) services, Knowledge Synthesis Methods, EU Soil Observatory, Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy, the Knowledge Centre for Food and Nutrition Security, the Knowledge Centre for Food Fraud and Quality, the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Knowledge Gateway.

## Main partners

### Partner DGs

AGRI, CLIMA, EAC, ECHO, EEAS, ENV, ESTAT, INTPA, JUST, MARE, NEAR, OLAF, REFORM, RTD, SANTE, SG, TRADE

### Selected stakeholders

ECHA, EFSA, ENRD

Sustainable food systems

Healthy diets

Climate change

Biodiversity

Resilience

Environmental sustainability

Agriculture

Consumption

Waste

Food security

Novel foods

Pesticides

Soil

Plant health

Food chain

Food labelling

Feed

Consumers

Reference materials

## Time frame

The projects in the portfolio work across **diverse time scales**, ranging from the **short-term** – such as rapid earth observation to detect anomaly hotspots of agricultural production that immediately threaten regional food security – to **strategic and long-term analyses and support** to enable environments for healthy and sustainable diets, or achieve healthy soils, by 2050.

## Find out more



### TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN A EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL CONTEXT

<https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/jrc-research-portfolios/sustainable-food-systems>

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