



Sustainable food systems multi-stakeholder mechanisms

Contributions to the
environmental agenda

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Introduction

Food systems are major contributors, but also critically vulnerable, to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The food sector uses more natural resources than any other sector, which means that the way in which food systems are governed has direct consequences for how natural resources are managed — and for environmental sustainability. Governance therefore plays a critical role in transforming food systems towards increased sustainability. This issue paper aims to show how food systems governance can contribute to advancing environmental agendas. It builds on the findings of the One Planet network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme's research on Sustainable Food System Multi-Stakeholder Mechanisms (SFS MSMs). Drawing on a literature review and a survey with members of 7 SFS MSMs, the paper aims to inform and inspire the use of food systems governance as an entry point to address environmental challenges.

Sustainable Food Systems Multi-Stakeholder Mechanisms: individual policy contributions to the environmental agenda

Antananarivo Food Policy Council (Madagascar)

Between 2020 and 2022, the Antananarivo Food Policy Council (AFPC) contributed to the development of a strategy and action plan to strengthen the resilience of Antananarivo's city-region food system (Stratégie de renforcement de la résilience du système alimentaire de la région urbaine d'Antananarivo, SARU). The strategy development took place in the context of the City-Region Food System (CRFS) project led by FAO and RUAFA since 2019, and built on a participatory assessment of the city-region's food system (Alliance of Bioversity & CIAT, 2021). The strategy development process was led by a core team composed of the Urban Municipality of Antananarivo (Commune Urbaine Antananarivo, CUA), the Analamanga Region, and the Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock from the Ministry in Analamanga (Direction régionale de l'agriculture et de l'élevage Analamanga, DRAE-Analamanga). The multi-level nature of this team contributed to its success, and their proximity to decision makers aided with getting political buy-in for the strategy and ensuring its success. The strategy was

recently validated¹ by stakeholders during a workshop, the final stage of the strategy development.²

The strategy development process identified vulnerability to climate change as a key issue, and its intersection with chronic poverty, urbanisation, food insecurity and malnutrition as compounding risks for the city-region. As a result, sustainable agriculture and the sustainable use of resources in food production was a key focus, including agroecology and reducing carbon emissions. In addition, the strategy has been considered in scenario discussions for the development of the Regional Land-use Plan (Schéma Régional d'Aménagement du Territoire, SRAT) for the Analamanga region, led by the Ministry of Land Management, Housing and Public Works. Although not an environmental policy, the SRAT sets out a shared vision for land use in the region, which is relevant for sustainable food systems. Stakeholders involved in the development of the SARU therefore saw an opportunity to work with the technical committee in charge of formulating the SRAT. Although the scope of the SRAT does not allow for the explicit prioritisation of food issues, recommendations were incorporated into the scenario-building aspect of the plan's development, in order to ensure that the strategy contributed to preserving productive and green areas from urbanisation (interview, 2022). Discussions about food systems within the context of regional development planning may have also contributed to the integration of sustainability within the vision for the SRAT (interview, 2022).

French National Food Council (CNA)

The French National Food Council (Conseil National de l'Alimentation, CNA) is linked to four ministries responsible for the environment, the economy, health and agriculture, and has helped to develop and implement the National Food Programme (Programme National pour l'Alimentation, PNA), which was recently linked to the country's health and nutrition policy under the National Food and Nutrition Programme (Programme National de l'Alimentation et de la Nutrition, PNAN) (Alliance of Bioversity & CIAT, UNEP and WWF, 2021). The PNA incorporates environmental challenges such as biodiversity loss, waste and the circular economy; since 2014, it has focused in particular on reducing food waste in line with several other national laws and ordinances.

Institutional catering, which accounts for 3.7 billion meals annually in France, is one of the key levers of change within the PNA, with several measurable targets aimed at the sector — for example, since 1 January 2022, 50% of the food served in public canteens should be sustainable, and 20% should be organic.³ Two stakeholders who responded to the survey observed

¹ <https://actu.orange.mg/renforcement-de-la-resilience-des-saru-dantananarivo-aux-chocs-climatiques/>

² At the time of writing the strategy had not been officially published yet.

³ <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/la-restauration-collective-en-mutation>

that the CNA has contributed to tackling environmental challenges by bringing together actors from public procurement and catering to take action within their sector, and that players from the institutional catering sector themselves have also helped drive the inclusion of environmental issues within the MSM's work.

The CNA has also contributed to the 3R Strategy (reduce, reuse, recycle) for single-use plastic packaging ('Stratégie 3R'), published in April 2022.⁴ In 2020, the ministries to which the CNA is attached asked it to develop an Opinion on food packaging, within the framework of the Law against waste and for a circular economy (loi Anti-Gaspillage pour une Économie Circulaire, AGECE), which stipulates that single-use plastics in packaging should be phased out by 2040.⁵ This request led to the formulation of Opinion 86,⁶ on the exemption of fruit and vegetables from the plastic packaging ban, Opinion 87⁷ on the use of plastics in institutional catering, and Opinion 88,⁸ on frugality in plastic food packaging use. Evidence on the sale of loose food items ('en vrac') in Opinion 88 is cited in the strategy, and the three Opinions were used more generally by the Ministry of Ecological Transition in its development. The latter was the first Opinion to include the direct views of citizens, gathered through their participation in large-scale consultation, which reinforced the position of the CNA as a 'food parliament'. The citizen consultation (composed of workshops and panels) helped identify recommendations which were then discussed by CNA member stakeholders, and integrated into the Opinion. Over 70% of the recommendations in the Opinions on food packaging can be traced to the citizen debates.⁹

Finally, the 'EGAlim' Law aims to create more balanced relationships between the agricultural sector and the food industry (in particular, by increasing food producers' share of profit in the food and beverage sector) and ensure healthy, sustainable food for all.¹⁰ Several stakeholders who participated in the survey thought that the CNA had contributed to the inclusion of environmental issues in the more recent 'EGAlim 2' law, adopted in October 2021, through collaboration and collective work on issues such as school vegetarian meals and the recovery of food destined for the waste stream. The CNA's recommendations on the use of plastic containers in institutional catering (Opinion 87) were also adopted in the Law.¹¹

Several targets in the EGAlim Law were later consolidated and/or extended in the national Climate and Resilience Law, which emerged from a Citizens' Convention on the Climate — for example the stipulation that all school canteens must offer a vegetarian menu at least once a week. All four CNA stakeholders who responded to the survey thought that the MSM had contributed to positive environmental impacts. In particular, respondents thought that there had been positive impacts on reducing food waste, increasing the consumption of organic food, increasing the consumption of vegetarian meals, and reducing the use of plastic food packaging. Two respondents thought that these positive impacts had come about as a result of the EGAlim Law, to which the CNA has contributed.

Eat Right India

Participants in the 2021 study thought that one of Eat Right India's main achievements was in bringing stakeholders together and providing opportunities for knowledge exchange, networking and cross-sector action. It drew on this convening power to organise multi-stakeholder dialogues with the hospitality industry and other stakeholders, with the aim of reducing the use of single-use plastics for food and drink. Eat Right India sits within the Food Safety and Standards Authority (FSSAI), and in 2019 it led to the publication of a national Order by the FSSAI, allowing hotels to re-use paper-sealed glass bottles to serve drinking water to guests.¹² The initiative was part of a broader consumer awareness campaign aiming to reduce the food and drink industry's plastic waste footprint. Other initiatives include the proposal to substitute plastic straws, plates and cutlery with bamboo alternatives, and to remove restrictions on the use of reusable bottles for beverages other than water.¹³

Eat Right India also aims to tackle food waste through a food donation and redistribution programme, Save Food Share Food. As of 2020 there were 84 active food distribution agencies in 200 cities.¹⁴ Other ongoing initiatives include work on repurposing cooking oil for use as a biodiesel, working with the energy industry, particularly biodiesel manufacturers.

⁴ <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/Consulteur%20a%20Strat%C3%A9gie%20R%20pour%20les%20emballages%20en%20plastique%20%C3%A0%20usage%20unique.pdf>

⁵ <https://buildingcircularity.org/the-french-approach-to-circular-economy-and-coherent-product-policies/>

⁶ https://cna-alimentation.fr/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CNA_Avis86_intermediaire_Emballages-FL.pdf

⁷ https://cna-alimentation.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CNA_Avis87_contenants_plastiques_restaurations_collectives.pdf

⁸ https://cna-alimentation.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/CNA_Avis88_Sobriete_emballages.pdf

⁹ <https://cna-alimentation.fr/debats-citoyens/>

¹⁰ <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/egalim-1-ce-que-contient-la-loi-agriculture-et-alimentation>

¹¹ <https://cna-alimentation.fr/download/rapport-annuel-2021/>

¹² https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_SLYI8a5kK6IGRmUQ0jxm7YorKEBoyzZ/view

¹³ https://fssai.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/Press_Release_EatRightIndia_12_09_2019.pdf

¹⁴ <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/949431599153256236/pdf/Eat-Right-India-A-Case-Study.pdf>

Gent en Garde Food Policy Council

The Gent en Garde Food Policy Council provided input and feedback on the food systems aspects of the Ghent Climate Plan, a sub-national policy led by the city's Environmental and Climate Service.¹⁵ The food-related objectives of the plan are to reduce indirect GHG emissions; the plan outlines 12 actions to achieve these objectives, including continued support to the Food Council. The Gent en Garde FPC is housed within the Climate and Environment Department of the City Council, and several food system-related actions within the plan are shared with other departments. For example, Action 61: 'Land policy that stimulates local, sustainable food production', is shared with the deputy mayors of Urban Development and of Social Policy and Poverty reduction. Promoting short food chains, increasing the consumption of plant-based foods, and decreasing food waste are highlighted as priorities for a more sustainable food system.

Gent en Garde and the city of Ghent more generally have been successful in promoting environmental messaging through their work on sustainable food systems (Alliance of Bioversity & CIAT, 2021). The city's 'Thursday Veggie Day' (Donderdag Veggiedag) initiative, a world-first which has since been replicated in other cities in Belgium and internationally, came about through cooperation between the Ethical Vegetarian Alternative, one of 30 members of the Food Policy Council, and the city of Ghent.¹⁶ The fact that the initiative contributed to both climate and health goals appears to have been a motivating factor for its approval, according to an official memo.¹⁷ Meat-free days are also thought to benefit from the support of left-leaning governments, and the initiative may have benefited from the party-political context — a Labour-Liberal coalition was in power at the time — as well as broad social demand.¹⁸ A third of the city's population was thought to participate in 'Veggie Day' in 2013,¹⁹ and a 2022 study found that 50% of Belgians who had taken part in a 'Thursday Veggie Day' claim to eat less meat now.²⁰



Every year, the Ghent Food Council supports sustainable and innovative food projects. This picture was taken during the 2020 project proposals. © City of Ghent

¹⁵ <https://www.calameo.com/read/0063954479db097ad1e64>

¹⁶ https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?204421/Ghent-meat-free-Thursdays

¹⁷ https://carbonn.org/uploads/tx_carbonndata/detailed%20information%20veggieday.pdf

¹⁸ <https://eprints.glos.ac.uk/3794/1/Less%20Meat.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/veggie-thursday-ghent-urban-food-policy-snapshot/>

²⁰ <https://www.evavzw.be/nieuws/vleesconsumptie-belgi%C3%AB-blijft-verder-dalen>

Municipal Food Security Committee of La Paz

The Municipal Food Security Committee of La Paz (Comité Municipal de Seguridad Alimentaria de La Paz, CMSA-La Paz) has developed several policy proposals which integrate both food systems and environmental concerns, including those on Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture for the Cities of Tomorrow (2018), Strengthening and Integration of the Food Systems of the Metropolitan Region of La Paz (2019), and An Integrated Food System for the Metropolitan Region of La Paz (2020) (Alliance of Bioversity & CIAT, UNEP and WWF, 2021: 144). In particular, the latter integrated environmental sustainability concerns such as the sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable food consumption.

The Municipal Food Security Law of La Paz (No. 105), developed through a participatory process led by the CMSA-La Paz and other stakeholders and citizens, included an ambition to increase the supply of food grown in the city through urban agriculture. Fundación

Alternativas, which leads the CMSA-La Paz, has spearheaded these initiatives, by gaining permission from local authorities to create an urban garden in an abandoned park.²¹ The Committee built on these efforts by formulating the Municipal Law for the Promotion of Urban Gardens (No. 321), working with the Municipal Secretariat of Environment. The law aimed to provide a legal framework for citizens to access underutilised public land to grow food, as well as provide environmental services through increasing vegetation in the city.²² It was adopted in 2018, and the number of documented vegetable gardens has since increased from one to ten, with many more requests for land being processed (interview, 2022). However, urban agriculture projects are threatened by the spectre of land-grabbing by developers, in light of the city's ongoing urbanisation (interview, 2022).

In 2022 the CMSA-La Paz put forward a policy proposal, Hampaturi Vivo ('Hampaturi Alive'), which provides a way of thinking about urban-rural linkages in the context of improving food security and ways of life ('Sistemas de vida').²³ Hampaturi is one of two rural



In 2018, Fundación Alternativas, together with the La Paz Municipal Food Security Committee and Fundación Comunidad y Acción, organized a meeting between municipal authorities and urban and peri-urban producers from the municipalities of La Paz and El Alto, to facilitate a space for participatory dialogue on food systems and short supply chains. © Fundación Alternativas

²¹ <https://katoikos.world/analysis/the-challenge-of-growing-food-in-the-heart-of-the-bolivian-altiplano.html>

²² <https://foodactioncities.org/case-studies/urban-gardens-promotion-law/>

²³ <https://alternativascc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Propuesta-Hampaturi-Vivo.pdf>

districts within the municipality of La Paz; together these rural districts cover over 90% of the municipality. But 96% of the population lives in the urbanised areas that account for just 9% of the territory.²⁴ Small-scale agriculture and livestock rearing is common among the communities in Hampaturi, but policy neglect and a lack of road infrastructure has left communities disconnected from urban areas, and constrained local opportunities for development. Many families have abandoned farming, in some cases leaving the area in search of work elsewhere; at the same time, Hampaturi has seen increasing urbanisation, posing a threat to its ecosystems, which are rich in biodiversity and natural resources. Hampaturi Vivo therefore proposes a process of participatory planning to create a shared vision for the district's development, which safeguards, strengthens and valorises the agricultural and environmental potential of Hampaturi. The policy proposal recommends several actions related to sustainable agriculture, which target both environmental, food security and health objectives, e.g. promoting organic food production techniques, fostering greater diversity in production, and encouraging the sustainable use of water. The proposal also promotes the idea of improving the city's food security by increasing the quantity of food entering markets through short supply chains.

The Hampaturi Vivo policy proposal builds on the 'Comprehensive management plan for the conservation of biodiversity and water resources in the macro-district of Hampaturi', published in 2013, which recognised the need to adapt to climate change, conserve biodiversity and sustainably manage water resources.²⁵ In formulating the policy proposal, the CMSA-La Paz worked closely with the Hampaturi district office, as well as with the municipal authorities, who already had a small number of initiatives under way in the area, and the La Paz state government. The Committee worked closely with citizens in Hampaturi, ensuring that their voices were included in the discussions; in particular, female food producers representing the communities of Lorocota, Chicani, Queñuma and Palcoma participated in the process with members of the CMSA-La Paz. This was important given that even within the CMSA-La Paz, there was some ignorance about the extent of the contribution of Hampaturi to the socio-economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the municipality.

The policy development process therefore contributed to increased awareness of the value and importance of the macro-district for the municipality's socio-economic

and environmental resilience, among members of the CMSA-La Paz as well as other NGOs and even academics. The proposal development process also enabled representatives of Hampaturi communities to contact government officials, who have pledged to meet with them to discuss future actions in the area.

Los Angeles Food Policy Council

Sustainability is one of four key principles in the Los Angeles Food Policy Council's (LAFPC) official policy document, the Good Food Agenda, which was created in 2010 and updated in 2018.²⁶ Its definition of a 'good food system' is one that 'Protects and strengthens our biodiversity and regenerates natural resources' in addition to providing for health, wellbeing and a thriving economy. Among its six areas of action, 'Growing Good Food in LA neighbourhoods' is the one that speaks most explicitly to environmental issues, although others — such as 'Promoting a Good Food economy' — have environmental co-benefits, as noted above.

The LAFPC has contributed to several policies, plans and programmes related to waste, urban agriculture and sustainability, including the OurCounty sustainability plan, the Edible Parkways ordinance, and the Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones Program, which is being implemented at both county and city levels (Alliance of Bioversity & CIAT, UNEP and WWF, 2021). The latter aims to incentivise landowners who do not currently use their land to allow it to be used to grow food, for an initial five-year period, in exchange for a tax break. However, the programme has been unsuccessful so far, with urban agriculture being practised on only a small proportion of the thousands of eligible lots in the city of LA.²⁷ Weaknesses in the policy design, some of which have only become clear through its implementation, have contributed to the scheme's under-utilisation; for example, the incentives for both landowners and prospective growers have been criticised for being misplaced and not appealing enough.²⁸

The LAFPC has contributed to the development and implementation of food waste policies, which aim to tackle climate change by reducing GHG emissions associated with organic waste going to landfill. The LAFPC's Food Waste Prevention & Rescue Working Group was instrumental in the development of the RecycLA, a city-wide food recovery and waste collection programme adopted by the City in 2014. For example, the group's efforts to collaborate with officials from the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN)

²⁴ <https://www.undp.org/blog/la-paz-and-el-alto-their-way-integrated-urban-development>

²⁵ <http://sitservicios.lapaz.bo/biodiversidad/pig-hampaturi/>

²⁶ <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bc50618ab1a624d324ecd81/t/5be5fda240ec9a789e87e811/1541799360838/GoodFoodforAllAgenda2018.pdf>

²⁷ https://www.oxy.edu/sites/default/files/assets/UEP/Comps/2021/jenkins_kaye_we_grow_food_and_community_uepseniorcomps2021.pdf

²⁸ https://www.oxy.edu/sites/default/files/assets/UEP/Comps/2021/jenkins_kaye_we_grow_food_and_community_uepseniorcomps2021.pdf

led to being invited to develop the programme's food donation component (Alliance of Bioversity & CIAT, UNEP and WWF, 2021). Although data is only available until 2017, there was a significant increase in the amount of residential and restaurant food waste being recycled after the programme was initiated.²⁹ The LAFPC is also contributing to California's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy (SB 1383). More commonly known as the organic waste reduction strategy, it sets targets for reducing organic waste disposal and recovering surplus edible food. LAFPC is supporting practitioners in identifying best practices as well as barriers to implementing the strategy and achieving its objectives, particularly regarding the diversion of edible surplus food back into the food chain. In 2023, LAFPC partnered with LASAN and Community Health Councils to provide funding opportunities to food rescue NGOs, with the goal of addressing food insecurity and climate change at the same time. The grants aim to increase the capacity and help meet the infrastructural needs (e.g. storage facilities) of actors in the food recovery space.

Finally, LAFPC has contributed to the inclusion of food system issues in the LA Green New Deal (GND), the city's 2019 update of the Sustainable City pLAN. Key food-related objectives within the policy include:

- Eliminate organic waste going to landfill by 2028
- Ensure all low-income Angelenos live within ½ mile of fresh food by 2035
- Increase the number of urban agriculture sites in LA by at least 25% by 2025; and 50% by 2035
- Prepare for natural disasters by increasing the resiliency of [the city's] food systems infrastructure.

There was strong, unquestioned support for including food systems issues in the GND, according to one respondent. The LAFPC will support the City with the GND implementation through its Healthy Neighbourhood Market Network (HNMN), which supports neighbourhood corner store owners in underserved communities to increase their healthy food offer.³⁰

Quito Agri-Food Pact

The Quito Agri-Food Pact (Pacto Agroalimentario de Quito, PAQ) has contributed to a number of policies, strategies and ordinances relevant to the triple planetary crisis, such as the Territorial Development Plan and Quito Vision 2040.³¹ Notably, PAQ has successfully

lobbied for the inclusion of food issues in the Quito Climate Change Action Plan.³² Urban agriculture was included in both the 2015–2025 plan, and in the most recent plan for 2020–2050, reflecting a long and established history of successful urban agriculture initiatives in Quito (Rodríguez *et al.*, 2022). Although policy implementation challenges have prevented the programme from having a greater environmental impact, PAQ has also lobbied for actions related to sustainable food production, food diversity, waste management (in the context of a circularity framework) and water management. Actions on sustainable agriculture, adaptive water management, circular waste management and organic waste recovery were ultimately included, although there was disappointment among some MSM stakeholders that food waste issues are not included more explicitly.

Through AGRUPAR, one of the members of the PAQ technical secretariat, PAQ has taken part in the development of the Green-Blue Infrastructure Ordinance (Ordenanza de Infraestructura Verde Azul), which is coordinated by the Metropolitan Secretary of the Environment and was drafted jointly with a large number of stakeholders, including ConQuito, the MSM's host organisation. The ordinance seeks to coordinate action to conserve and manage the city's green and blue spaces, in order to increase social and economic resilience in the Metropolitan District of Quito. In particular, the ordinance aims to conserve biodiversity and mitigate environmental risks. AGRUPAR lobbied for the inclusion of issues related to sustainable diets, local food systems and climate justice.

More recently, PAQ is contributing to the development of an Agrifood System Resilience Strategy, for which it has proposed the creation of food hubs and healthy food neighbourhoods to further scale-up urban agriculture in the city, increase the city's resilience and reduce food insecurity (Rodríguez *et al.*, 2022).³³ It has also contributed to conversations and initiatives related to urban planning and land use in the city. Recently, it was successful in raising awareness among local government actors of the need to create designated food donation drop-off points in the municipality's markets, to prevent traders from wasting edible food that could be diverted back into the food chain. PAQ helped to initiate a collaboration between the Quito Food Bank and the Markets and Municipal Fairs, leading to the design of a pilot initiative to use rescued food from markets in collective kitchens; however, at the time of writing, the pilot had not yet launched (survey response, 2022).

²⁹ <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bc50618ab1a624d324ecd81/t/5e45c5915750af6b4e5e5c4b/1581630905550/2020FoodSystemDashboard.pdf>

³⁰ https://plan.lamayor.org/partners/partners_plan.html

³¹ <https://www.quito.gob.ec/documents/PMDOT.pdf>; <https://gobiernoabierto.quito.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/documentos/quitoparticipa/rendicion/Visi%C3%B3n%20Quito%202040.pdf>

³² http://www.quitoambiente.gob.ec/images/Secretaria_Ambiente/Cambio_Climatico/plan_accion_climatico_quito_2020/Folleto%20Resumen%20PACQ01_mar_21.pdf

³³ <https://ruaf.org/assets/2020/01/Quitos-Resilient-Agrifood-System-1.pdf>

Urban agriculture initiatives have a strong track record of success in Quito (see Box). Since May 2022, ConQuito, PAQ's host organisation, has been supporting the technical development of a proposal for a municipal ordinance on 'The Promotion of orchards for agricultural practices based on agroecology and/or organic management in the Metropolitan District of Quito'.³⁴ PAQ has been successful in clearly including environmental issues in this ordinance, which was recently shared with citizen growers, in order to get their feedback and inputs on the proposal. PAQ has also managed to get urban agriculture onto the urban planning agenda, including some urban development policies; however, implementation has so far proved a barrier to exploiting its full potential to deliver for the environment.

PAQ's links to the municipal government have likely increased its success in contributing to policy formulation related to food systems and the environment. The fact that PAQ has not yet been institutionalised as a formal legal entity is perceived as constraining its potential to have greater influence and impact within the municipal government structures, which remain siloed to some extent. However, legislative efforts are under way to create an agri-food council for Quito, building on the work of PAQ (interview, 2022).

BOX 9. IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND LIVELIHOODS THROUGH URBAN AGRICULTURE

Agricultura Urbana Participativa (AGRUPAR), an urban agriculture programme in Quito, Ecuador, evolved from a social assistance pilot project into an established programme delivering interconnected social, economic and environmental benefits. Created by the municipality in 2002, AGRUPAR aimed to improve food security among the city's poorest residents, by providing them with training in organic agricultural techniques, and locating empty or underutilised pieces of land where they could establish vegetable gardens.

In 2005, with the re-location of AGRUPAR to the economic promotion corporation (Corporación de Promoción Económica, CONQUITO), the programme offered growers training in marketing and business planning and connecting to local markets in order to

sell their surplus. More recently, courses in organic agriculture, including composting, have been offered. The initiative has 2,300 active orchards across 63 hectares, cultivated by over 4,500 growers, most of whom are women heads of household.¹¹ AGRUPAR has been credited with increasing food security (53% of produce is for self-consumption (Rodriguez *et al.*, 2022)), improving the nutrition of growers, their neighbours and consumers, and increasing women's economic empowerment, given that over 80% of growers are women. Quito's urban gardens are increasingly recognised for their potential to increase biodiversity, resilience and the city's ability to adapt to climate change, and have been included in the Quito Climate Action Plan.³⁵

³⁴ <http://www.QUITOINFORMA.GOB.EC/2023/01/24/socializamos-propuesta-de-ordenanza-de-huertos-urbanos-con-la-sociedad-civil/>

³⁵ References for AGRUPAR: <https://www.idrc.ca/en/research-in-action/case-study-quito-ecuador-quotos-farms-produce-food-enterprise-and-hope;> https://resilientcitiesnetwork.org/downloadable_resources/Network/Quito-Resilience-Strategy-English.pdf; <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fsufs.2022.550636/>

Table A. Summary of SFS MSMs and their relevant food systems policy (adapted from Alliance Bioversity & CIAT, UNEP and WWF, 2021).

SFS MSM	CITY/ COUNTRY	ACRONYM/ NAME REFERRED TO IN TEXT	START DATE	FOOD POLICY, STRATEGY, ACTION PLAN OR SIMILAR	ENVIRONMENT-RELATED POLICIES THAT SFS MSM CONTRIBUTED TO
Antananarivo Food Policy Council	Antananarivo, Madagascar	AFPC	2016	Strategy to strengthen the resilience of the city-region food system of Antananarivo (SARU)	Regional Land-use Plan (Schéma Régional d'Aménagement du Territoire, SRAT) for the Analamanga region
Eat Right India	India	Eat Right India	2018	<i>Eat Right India is aligned to the National Health Policy 2017</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
Gent en Garde Food Policy Council	Ghent, Belgium	Gent en Garde	2013	Gent en Garde Food Policy	Ghent Climate Plan
French National Food Council (CNA)	France	CNA	1985	National Food Programme (PNA)	3R Strategy (reduce, reuse, recycle) for single-use plastic packaging ('Stratégie 3R') EGAlim laws 1 & 2
La Paz Municipal Food Security Committee	La Paz, Bolivia	CMSA-La Paz	2013	Municipal Autonomous Law No. 105 on Food Security	Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture for the Cities of Tomorrow (2018) Strengthening and Integration of the Food Systems of the Metropolitan Region of La Paz (2019) An Integrated Food System for the Metropolitan Region of La Paz (2020)
Los Angeles Food Policy Council	Los Angeles, United States	LAFPC	2010	Good Food For All Agenda	OurCounty sustainability plan Edible Parkways ordinance Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones Program RecycLA LA Green New Deal (GND)
Quito Agri-Food Pact (PAQ)	Quito, Ecuador	PAQ	2017	Quito Agri-Food Strategy	Territorial Development Plan Quito Vision 2040 Quito Climate Change Action Plan Green-Blue Infrastructure Ordinance (Ordenanza de Infraestructura Verde Azul)

References

Alliance of Bioversity & CIAT, UNEP and WWF (2021) *National and Sub-national Food Systems Multi-Stakeholder Mechanisms: An Assessment of Experiences*. Available at: https://spaces.oneplanetnetwork.org/system/files/strategy_one_planet.pdf.

IIED & UNEP (2023) *Food systems governance and the environmental agenda*. London: IIED.

Food systems are major contributors, but also critically vulnerable, to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The food sector uses more natural resources than any other sector, which means that the way in which food systems are governed has direct consequences for how natural resources are managed — and for environmental sustainability. Governance therefore plays a critical role in transforming food systems towards increased sustainability. This issue paper aims to show how food systems governance can contribute to advancing environmental agendas. It builds on the findings of the One Planet network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme's research on Sustainable Food System Multi-Stakeholder Mechanisms (SFS MSMs). Drawing on a literature review and a survey with members of 7 SFS MSMs, the paper aims to inform and inspire the use of food systems governance as an entry point to address environmental challenges.

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