

9. URBAL

Urban-driven Innovations for Sustainable Food Systems

The dominant food systems and diets in affluent areas of the planet have numerous negative consequences from environmental, health, social, and political perspectives. These problems give rise to questions about sustainability in a context of worldwide population growth. Urban food systems, which concentrate production needs but not production capacity, engender particularly critical questions. In an effort to confront these questions, large cities from all across the world signed the 2015 Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP). Indeed, there has been a growing sense that solutions for more sustainable food systems will be found at a local scale. These cities are bristling with initiatives and experiments. But how to accompany them in an effort to expand the scale and transition toward improved sustainability? How contribute to the assessment of these social innovations' impact on food systems' sustainability?

OBJECTIFS

The main objective of the URBAL project is to develop and test a participatory methodology to identify and map the impact pathways of innovations on all dimensions of food system sustainability. By testing this methodology through various international case studies, including in the South and the North, this project aims to provide decision-makers with information on how urban innovations can contribute to building more sustainable food systems, thus helping them determine what actions to take or not to take.

RESULTATS

A new methodology, based on participation, tested through the case studies to be easily appropriated by public authorities and innovation actors; 16 case studies of urban innovations where impact pathway mapping has been completed; 16 teams in 8 cities that are able to provide a map of the impact pathways of innovations or policies on the different dimensions of sustainability.

PERSPECTIVES