INTRODUCTION

While several studies have investigated the "production side" of food security and sustainability, here we assess the current food sourcing and resource intensity profile of consumption choices in Portugal and six cities. We also do a critical assessment of local food policy gaps to trigger a major transformation in the Portuguese food system based on a newly proposed analytical framework.

METHODS

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT ACCOUNTING

PROPOSED FOOD POLICY FRAMEWORK

RESULTS

FOOD POLICY ANALYSIS

Information and Awareness
- Awareness of food consumption and production patterns
- Robust data and indicators frameworks
- Education campaigns and participatory food governance

Administrative and government capacity
- Adequate human resources, equipped with the proper skills
- Trans-departmental structure/mechanisms (system thinking)
- Organizational autonomy
- Articulation with other levels of government
- Government regulations and incentives

Local government functions
- Integration of food in territorial planning
- Promotion of urban and rural linkages
- Promotion of learning with trans-local collaboration
- Enforcement of coordination among stakeholders

Strategic policies
- Strong political commitment towards healthy and sustainable diets
- Strategies to re-orient agricultural production priorities, foster agri-food innovation as well as to promote the sustainable intensification of food production
- Plan towards food waste reduction
- Incentives for a farmers-citizen reconnection

CONCLUSION

Food consumption in Portugal is the single largest reason (~30%) for transgressing the carrying capacity of Earth ecosystems. Despite the urgent need for changes in Portuguese food systems, major deficiencies in local policy implementation exist with weak policy commitment, coordination, and lacking institutional capacity as food policies are still not prioritized.

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