Sustainable food and security

- A framework for analysis

STEP 1: Conceptualising and defining food security [1]

What is to be secured? Competing definitions provide different focus points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Negative definition</th>
<th>Positive definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freedom from...</td>
<td>Freedom to...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emphasis (absence of) threats</td>
<td>Emphasis capabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example: Low price volatility</td>
<td>Example: Self sufficiency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Security for whom? - Scales

- Global
- National
- Local

Is the food system a security subject, object or both?

- Security Object: Something that should be secured, e.g. “affordable notorious food at all times”
- Security Subject: Something that enhances insecurity, e.g. “control of food supplies as a foreign policy tool”

STEP 2: Review sustainability practices impacts on food systems [2]

Sustainable intensification
Agro ecological farming
Reduce waste
Dietary change

Impacts on

Inputs (e.g. land, raw materials, labour)
Production (e.g. yields)
Distribution networks
Consumption
Dependencies within the supply chain

STEP 3: Analyse how impacts can affect different aspects of security [3]

The choice of definition and conceptualisation will affect if a ‘sustainability practice’ is perceived as preferable or not for food security. How do preferences differ within and among societies? How can they evolve?

Intensification → low production cost but reinforce existing dependencies (e.g. geographical bottlenecks and market concentration)
Agro ecological farming → higher food production cost
Waste reduction and dietary change → reduce food expenses

How is security valued in the future?
What can happen along the way?
How can actors respond?

Now

Current situation

Multiple futures

Notes and references


[2] This step was conducted as a literature survey.


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