

4w6: Pathways to resilient food economies of cities around the world

April 13th 9.00

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The urgency: Resilient food economies worldwide

Our cities need robust and sustainable food systems which can secure enough healthy food for everyone. To develop and sustain healthy and resilient urban food systems, improved understanding is needed; not only about the value chains, but also about the interaction with the environmental and socio-economic dimensions. Circular, bio-based and climate smart solutions to urgent challenges will depend on local co-creation strategies and appropriate governing locally, to move forward in transition towards a highly resilient society.

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We are convinced a food system approach, based on systems thinking can be the driver towards circular food economies in cities. A food system approach that considers the different dimensions and the complex context specific interaction, appealing shared narratives and a strong governance and participatory approach, is the basis for pathways towards systemic changes and targeted interventions at different scales and across sectors. Pathways to a food secure, sustainable and -last but not least- circular food future.

Aims of the workshop: In this workshop we would like to explore the way forward in different projects: Washington DC (USA) -a food system vision departing from Urban Food Hubs, Amsterdam (Netherlands) -building an agri-food system based circularity by design and Kampala (Uganda), Dhaka (Bangladesh) and Nairobi (Kenya). The projects will present stories about unravelling and strategizing urban-rural food systems considering rural urban linkages and migration.

The stories will concentrate on different subjects:

1. Rural and regional transformation, by means of urban-rural economies, regional circular systems, regional value chains, etc.

2. Informal settlements and migrant cities and their need for sustainable food systems.
3. Governance in rural-urban food system settings, involving the public and private actors, and community networks and other informal players.
4. Availability of nutritious food in urban contexts, based on urban-rural linkages with circularity in food waste, food fortification, and with social embedding of technological solutions.

After the presentations we will work in groups and discuss pathways to a food secure, sustainable and circular food future. We focus on insights and learnings from these projects and implications for designing Future Food System projects. This will increase participants' understanding of what defines the food system approach and why & how it works (or: can work) within different contexts.