

The logo for FEAST, featuring the word "FEAST" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. To the right of the text are three horizontal white bars of varying lengths, stacked vertically, resembling a stylized fork or a graphic element.

FEAST

Policy Chat 02
Webinar



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A blurred background image showing people in a market setting, with green leafy vegetables in the foreground. The image is out of focus, emphasizing the text overlaid on it.

Beyond competitiveness:
rethinking the ideologies
shaping our food systems

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Policy Chat

Beyond competitiveness:
rethinking the ideologies shaping
our food systems

Part 01



In time of shock: why resilience,
defence & democracy help
redesign food systems

In time of shock: why resilience, defence & democracy help redesign food systems

Tim Lang

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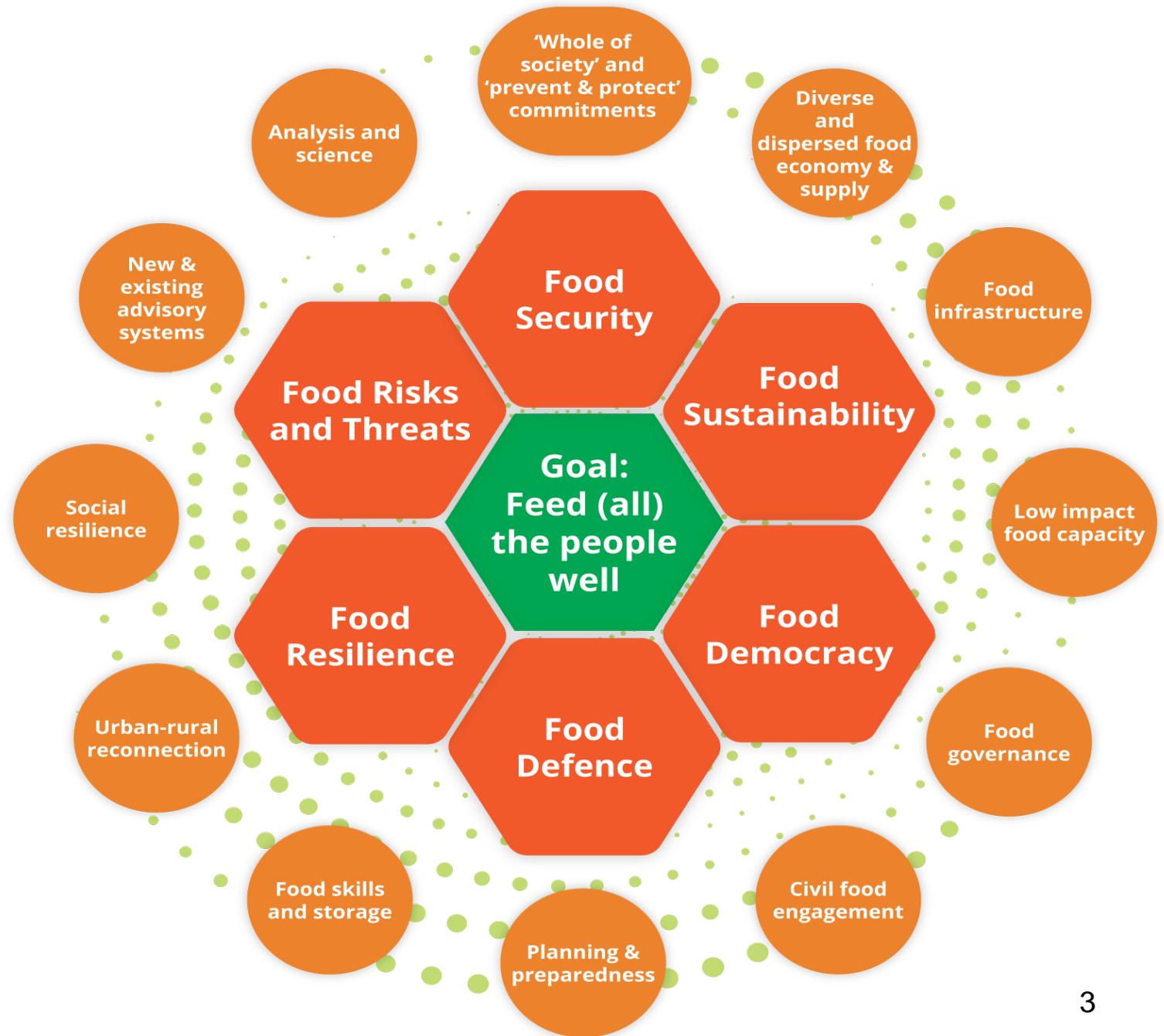
Seminar: *'Beyond Competitiveness: rethinking ideologies shaping food systems'*, Brussels / Copenhagen. January 28 2025



Overview of this lecture

- Draws on research into public preparedness for shocks *
- New scale and types of potential shocks (plus old ones, too)
- Tensions between individual and collective notions of security
- Distinction between food security and food resilience
- Importance of social resilience (not just material or ecological)
- Where is the public in all this? Is it being considered?
- food systems planning is both an opportunity & threat
- will 'normality' continue or a new order emerge? If so, which?

A new framework: RSSDDR centred on feeding all people well



1. The clock is ticking....
... the evidence is mounting ...

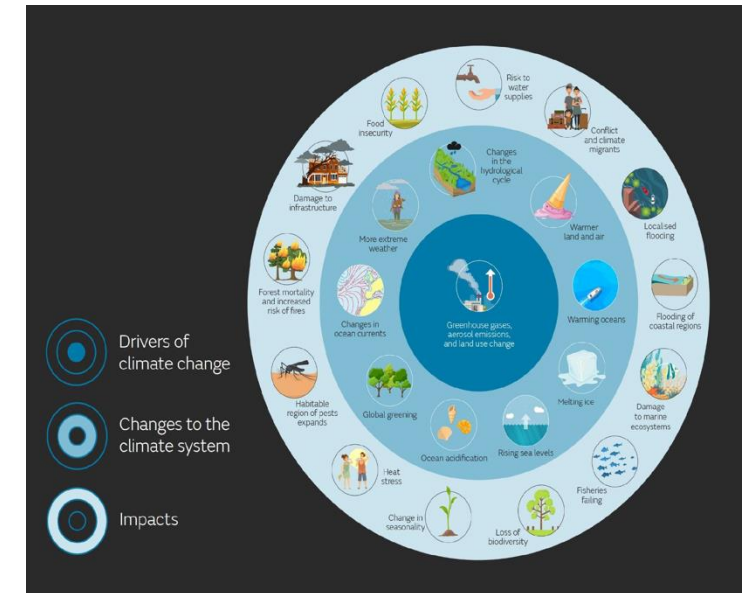
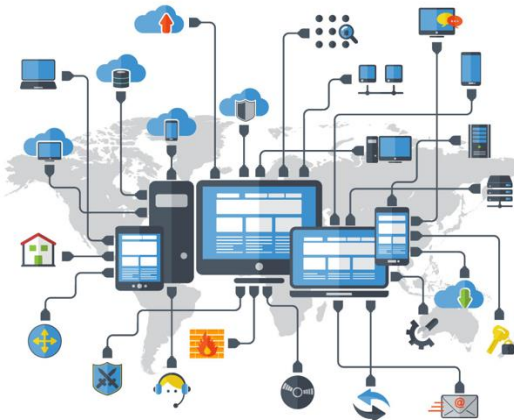
But are actions addressing that evidence?

The food system is heading for trouble

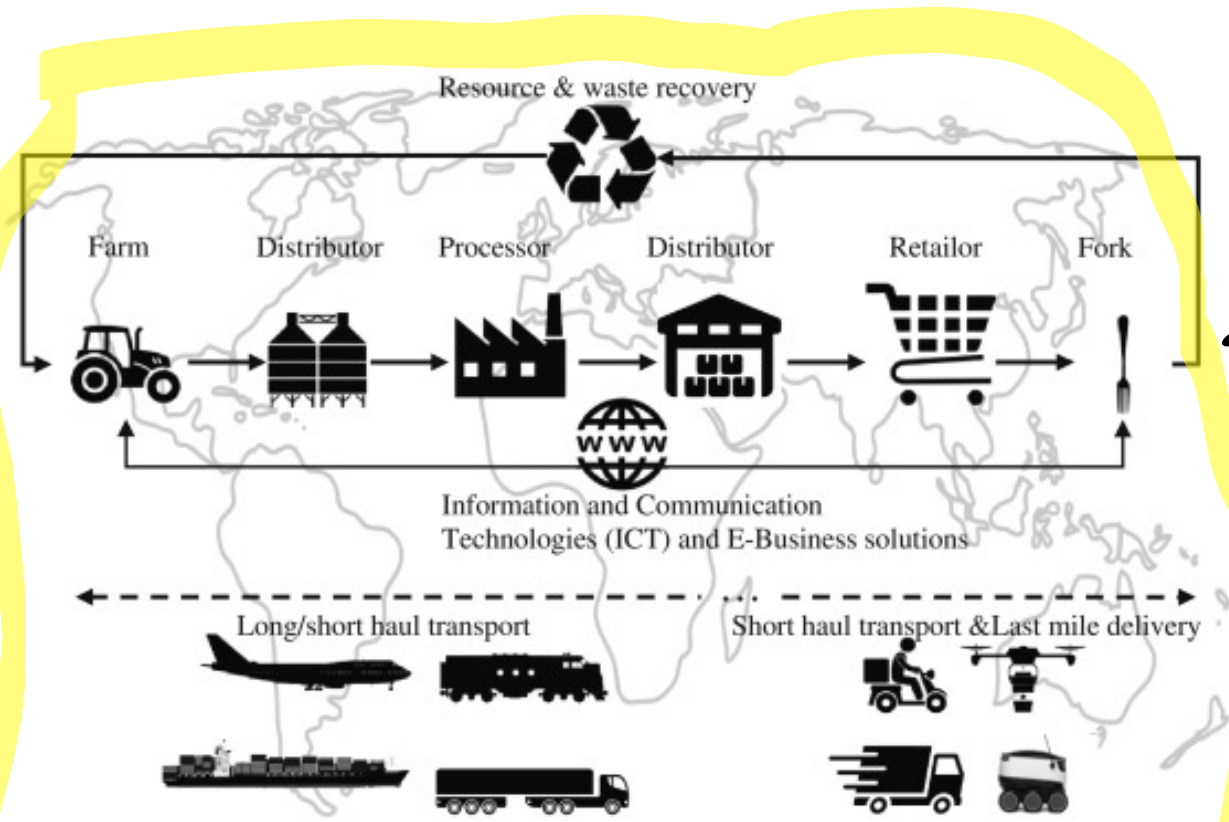
- No longer just scientists think this
- Market thinking is running out of ideas
- *Food Security* concept is about optimal status
- *Food Resilience* preparation is top-down
- *Sustainability* is seen as 'bolt-on' not intrinsic
- *Democracy* is not the same as market economics

Reality = C21st food polycrisis

- Climate & ecosystems
- Huge **inequalities** between & in societies
- Geo-politics → conflict
- Consumerism lock-ins
- Public health crisis
- **Distorted economics**

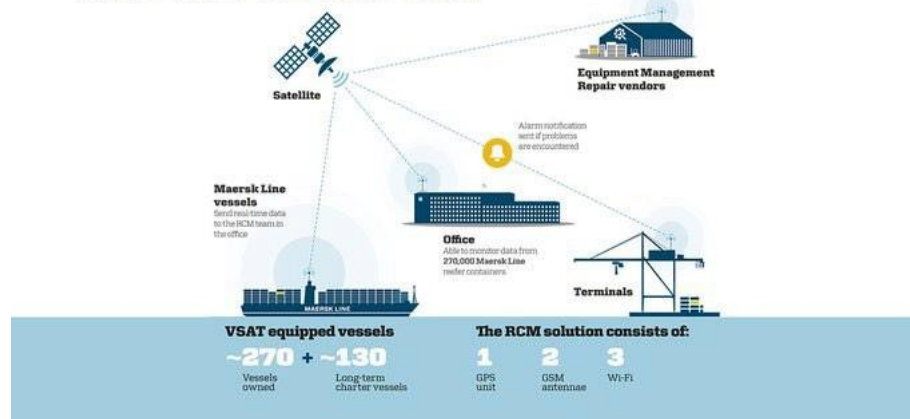


e.g. Just-in-Time Logistics brings new vulnerability



Source: Gharehgazli, Iakovou, et al (2017)
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2210539517300901>

The IoT of the sea

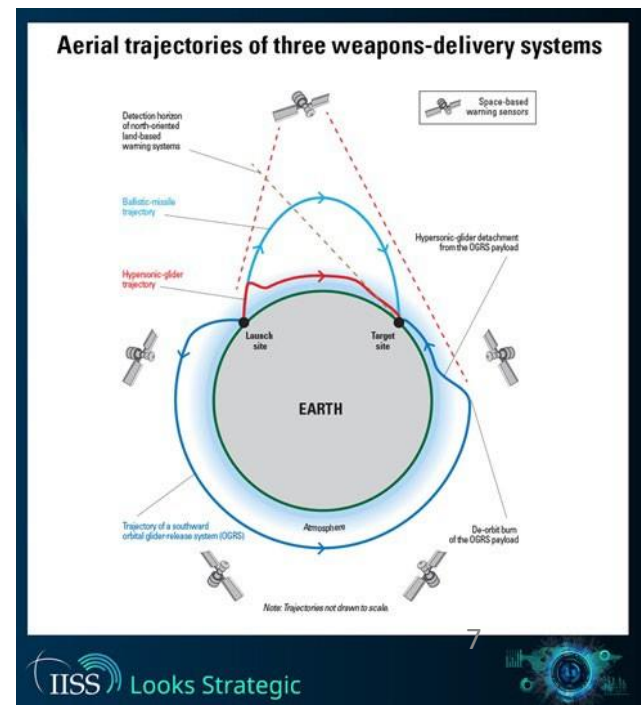


Use of satellites in modern logistics

<http://maersk.com/en/the-maersk-group/about-us/publications/group-annual-magazine/2015/smart-containers-listen-and-talk/>
<https://pic.twitter.com/Y7RB6ovqFd>

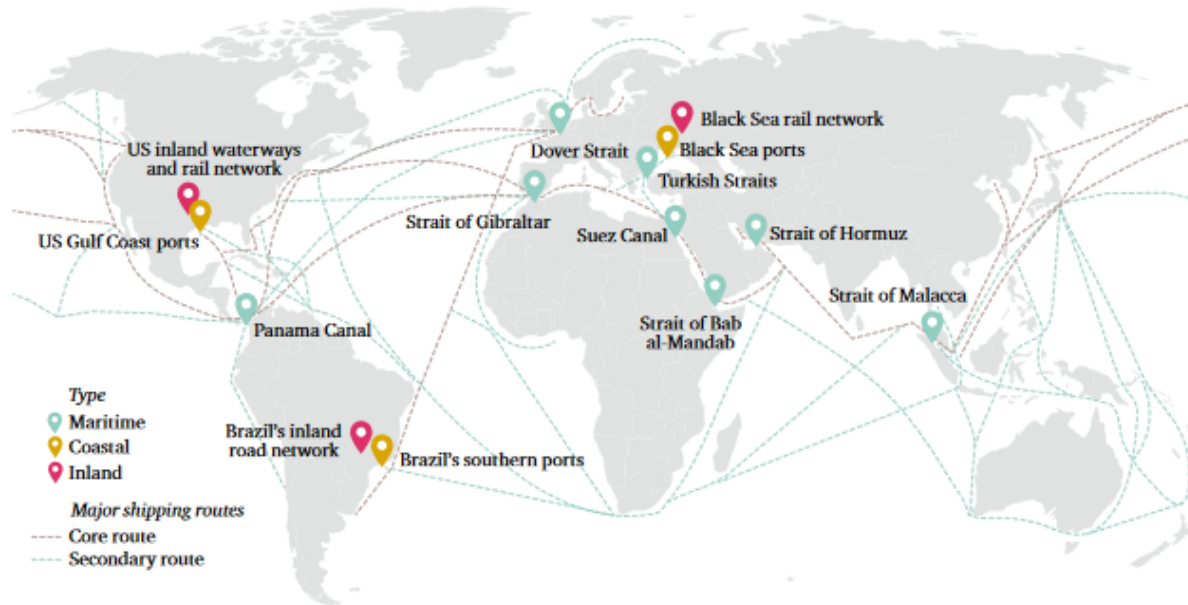


Use of satellites and space in modern war & defence

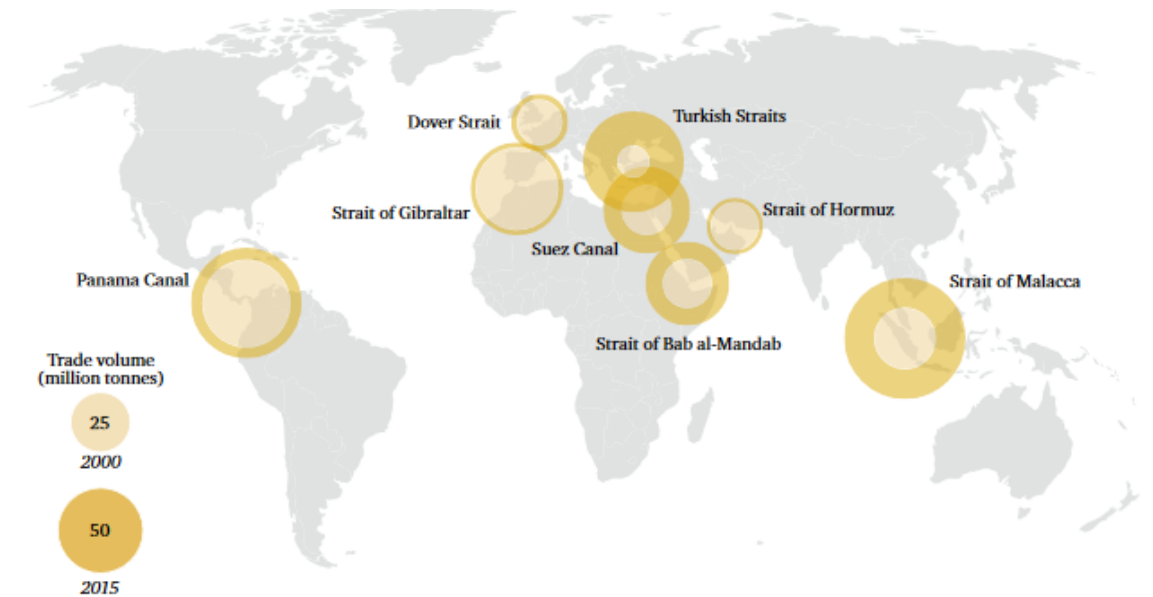


Globalisation has brought new food 'chokepoints'

(a) shipping chokepoints (left) ... (b) chokepoints for maize, wheat, rice & soybean (right)



Source: Shipping routes adapted from Rodrigue, J.-P., Comtois, C. and Slack, B. (2017), *The Geography of Transport Systems*, New York: Routledge, <https://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/>.



Sources: Chatham House Maritime Analysis Tool; Chatham House (2017), resourcetrade.earth, <http://resourcetrade.earth> (2015 data).

- Figs 1 & 2 in: Bailey & Wellesley (2017) *Chokepoints and Vulnerabilities in Global Food Trade*. Chatham House. <https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/publications/research/2017-06-27-chokepoints-vulnerabilities-global-food-trade-bailey-wellesley-final.pdf>

Overproduction contributes dietary change: e.g. rise of UPFs



Tufts nutrition newsletter



YouTube



Shutterstock



BBC Good Food

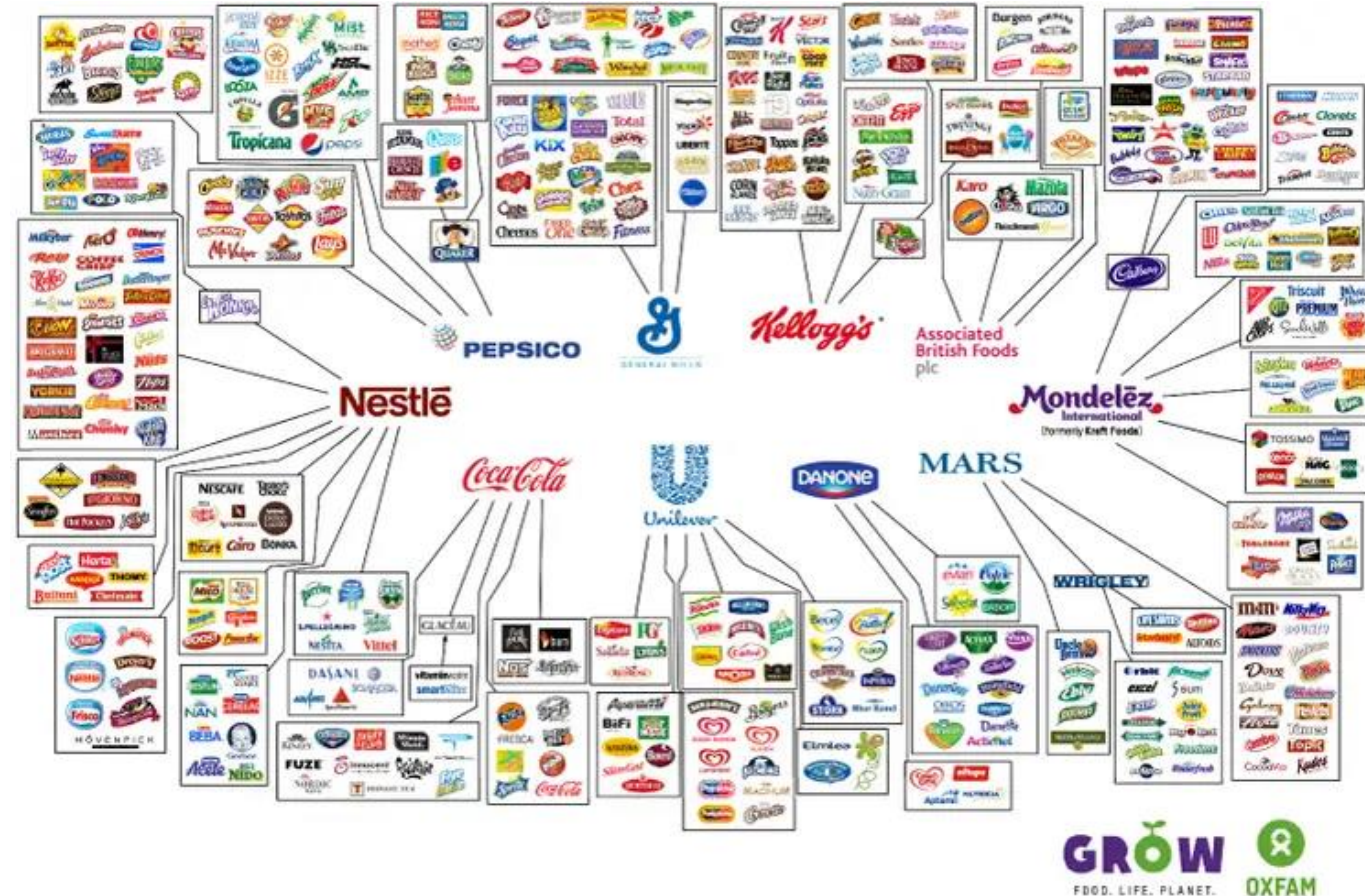


The Economist

Competition policy has not stopped big growth of corporate food power

Competition policy

- Brands are also economic power
- What is a good market economy?
- Are they out of control?
- Rise of transnational corporations
- There's more social auditing ...
- ...but concentration continues....



Gaps widen across an unequal food world

- **Health gap:** affluent eat better
- **Consumption gap:** food follows money not need
- **Evidence-policy gap:** politics slow to respond
- **Environmental gap:** food is major destroyer
- **Value gap:** primary production gets little
- **Decision gap:** consumers not in control
- **Supply gap:** food production distorted by markets

2. What is the vision for the future?

- No clear vision dominates
 - Multipolar world surrounds Europe
- The norm is muddle:
 - markets swing between control and democracy
- Democracy in crisis:
 - authoritarianism on the rise
 - Young people loose trust in democracy
- Meanwhile food stress and threats grow

Will food shocks shape the future?

- Energy outage
- Ransomware
- AI / bot attack
- Internet failure
- Chokepoint / trade disruption
- Geopolitical downturn
- War / overt conflicts spread
- Oil / gas crisis
- Pandemic
- Disinformation panics
- Social unrest
- Climate disruption
- Crop failure
- etc

Categories of food Threats and Risks today

- **Environmental:**
 - Climate, ecosystems breakdown, water (drought/floods), fire
- **Resource shortage:**
 - Oil, phosphate, labour, capital
 - Food ingredients or particular commodities
- **Aggression:**
 - Logistics disruption via software, satellite, shipping, road, rail, air
 - Food is 'weaponised' by blockade, attack on logistics hubs
 - *in extremis*, invasion, infrastructure destruction → war
- **Economic:**
 - Poverty / inequality, wage +price spiral
 - Trade intervention or friction → JiT breakdown
 - Ransomware, malware → a factory or multi-sectors
- **Societal:**
 - social divisions, poverty
 - Stockpiling → riot, looting
- **Political:**
 - Loss of trust ...rumours ...deliberate falsehoods (internet)
 - Weak / incompetent government; weak local structures
- **Health:**
 - Pandemic → Workforce loss , insufficient labour etc
 - Poor general health of public → unskilled, unentitled



Port of Mariupol, Ukraine after bombing, 2022



UN food lorry looted, Gaza, 2024

3. Food business is waking up to the enormity and scale (but only about supply)

But democratic grip is weak

Lock-in to the same message: consume!

Food Risks: some business sees risks





source: Lloyd's and Willis, Towers, Watson, 2022



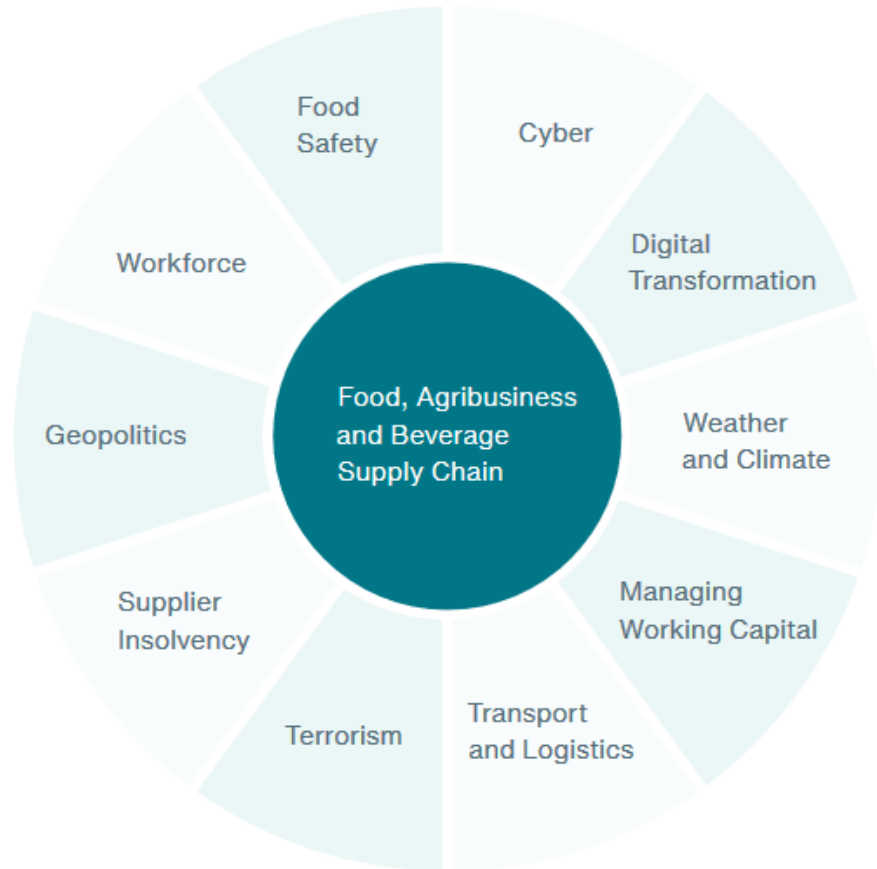
Risks



Factors

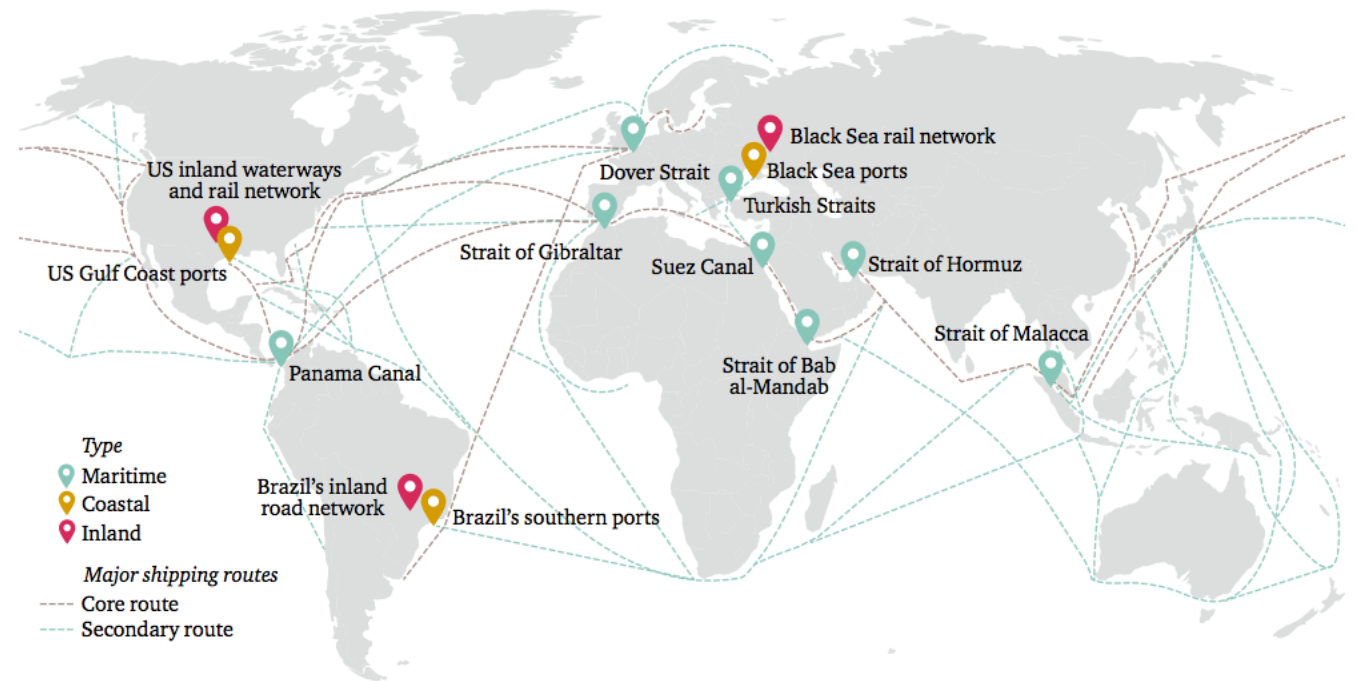
 Environmental	 Geopolitical	 Economic	 Technological
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Natural disasters- Extreme weather- Pandemics and epidemics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Political instability- Trade restrictions- Terrorism- Theft and illicit trade- Piracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Demand shocks- Price volatility- Border delays- Currency fluctuations- Energy shortages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- ICT disruptions- Infrastructure failures

Food risks (business 2):



Source: Aon plc 2023

Figure 1: Maritime, coastal and inland chokepoints and major shipping routes



Source: Shipping routes adapted from Rodrigue, J.-P., Comtois, C. and Slack, B. (2017), *The Geography of Transport Systems*, New York: Routledge, <https://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/>.

Source: WEF / Chatham House 2017

Food risks (business 3)

IGD 10 threats (21.iii.2024)

1. Climate change (will worsen + raise prices by 20% by 2050)
2. Water stress (pollution, extremes)
3. Agricultural challenges (subsidies ignore food)
4. Biodiversity loss (eg pollinators)
5. Disease (livestock + plant)
6. Geopolitics (food power use)
7. Labour (shortages)
8. Economics (stalling profits, low investment)
9. Opacity (low transparency)
10. Cybercrime (worsen + AI)



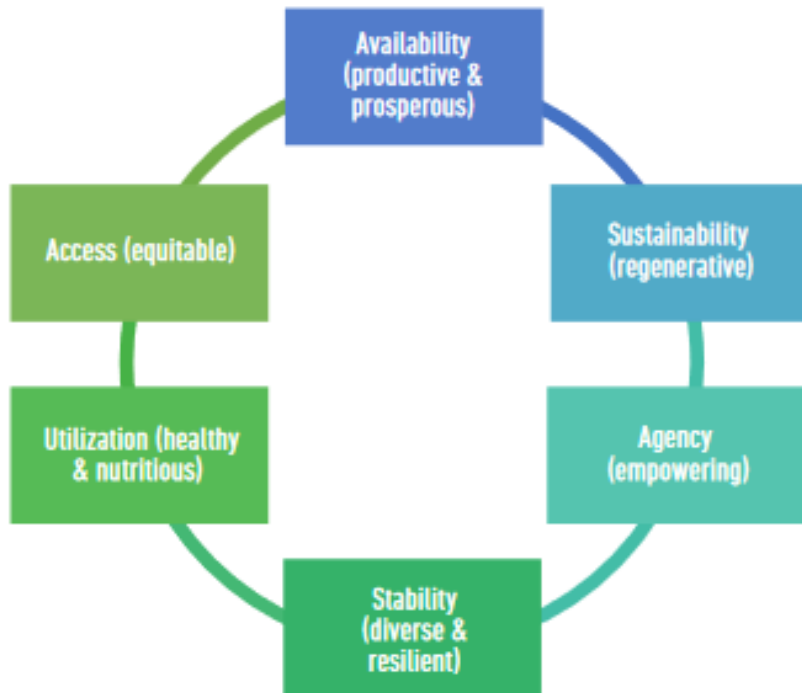
4. What exactly is meant by the goals of Food Security & Food Resilience?

Circular vs linear interactions
different versions for different people

Same food system but different focus

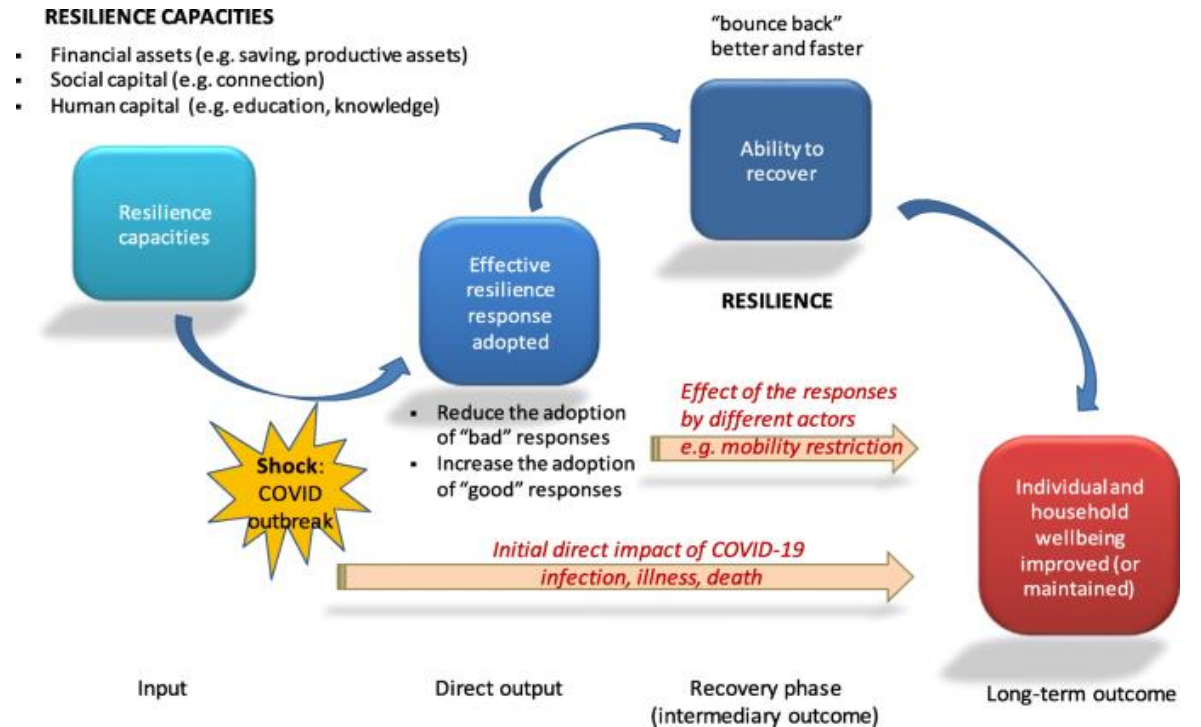
Food Security

- Supply stability
- Availability
- Affordability
- Accessibility
- Household / National



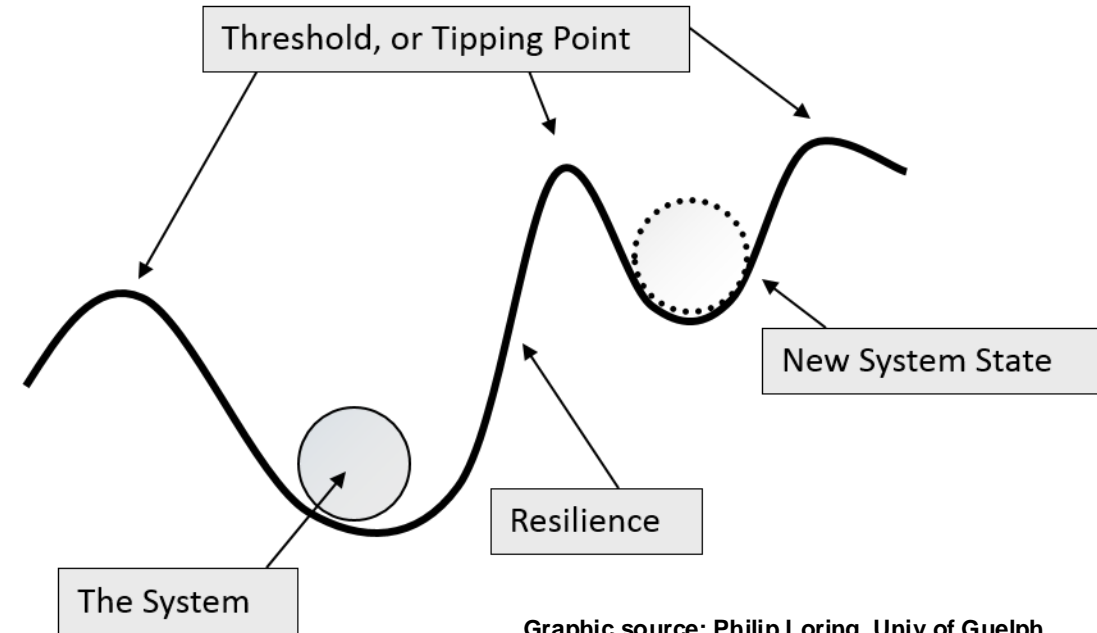
Food Resilience

- Risks
- Impact
- Vulnerability
- Bounce back from shock
- Preparedness
- Individual / community / society

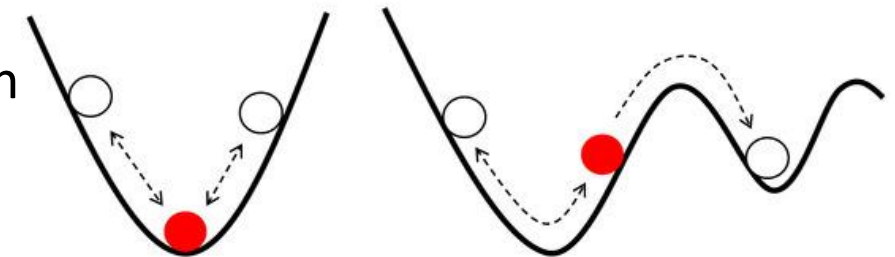


What does the term 'resilience' mean?

- 'bounce back from shock'
 - Perhaps to new state
- Adopted by some disciplines:
 - Physics: material dynamics*
 - Engineering: roads, bridges, skyscrapers
 - Psychology: children in adversity (war etc, Bowlby, Rutter)**
 - Botany / ecology: plant life eg after fire, flood
 - Public health & Disaster relief: recovery after catastrophe



Graphic source: Philip Loring, Univ of Guelph
<http://www.conservationofchange.org/resilience>



Graphic source: Kinchin (2022)
<https://www.mdpi.com/2227-7102/12/8/528>

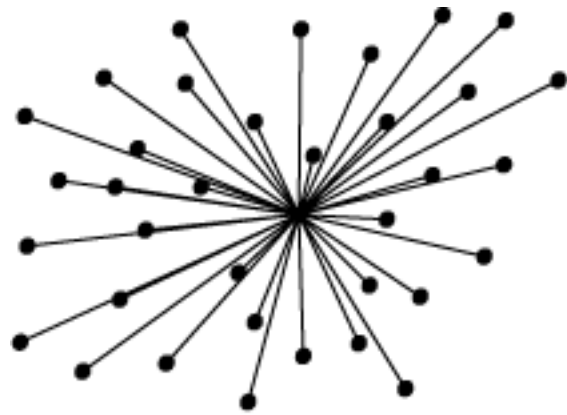
Sources:

* DE Alexander (2013) Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci., 13, 2707–2716 www.nat-hazards-earth-syst-sci.net/13/2707/2013/

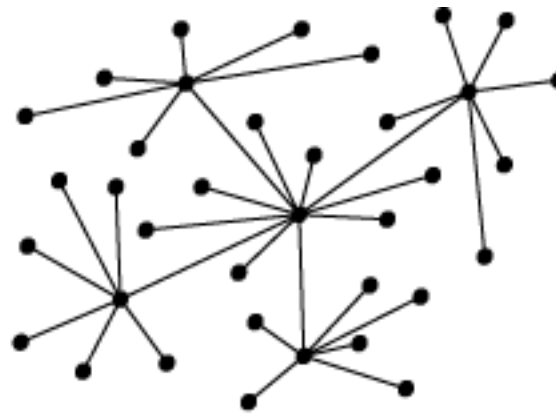
** Fox Vernon https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-0-306-48544-2_2

Resilience as a comment on centralisation

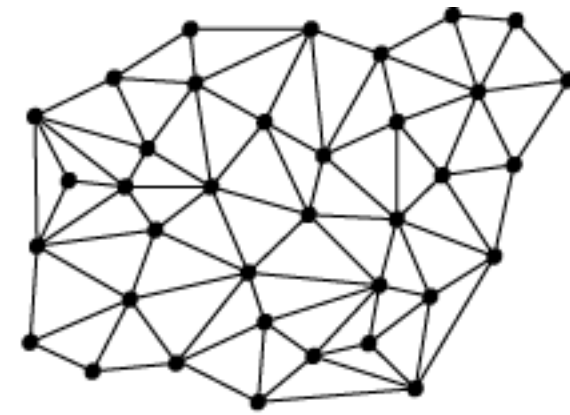
(after Baran, RAND Corporation, 1964)



centralised



decentralised



distributed

NB part of the idea of the internet was that it would be distributed... in fact it has been more centralized by power of gatekeepers

Different types / approaches to resilience (a huge literature!)

Disciplinary perspectives

- Organizational resilience
- Individual resilience
- Ecological resilience
- Institutional resilience
- Urban / rural resilience
- Cyber resilience
- Societal resilience

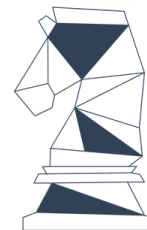
Some common features...what happens is a function of:

- **Infrastructure**: investment legacy
- **Resources**: material & social
- **Shock**: multiple, single, continual?
- **Dynamics**: reactions, actions
- **Outcomes**: short- / long-term
- **Feedback**: where, how long?

Clearer societal thinking for defence? eg RAND Europe for UK military



Source: RAND Europe (2021)
<https://www.rand.org/randeurope/research/projects/2021/supporting-uk-societal-resilience.html>



GLOBAL
STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP

Psychological characteristics & skills for resilience

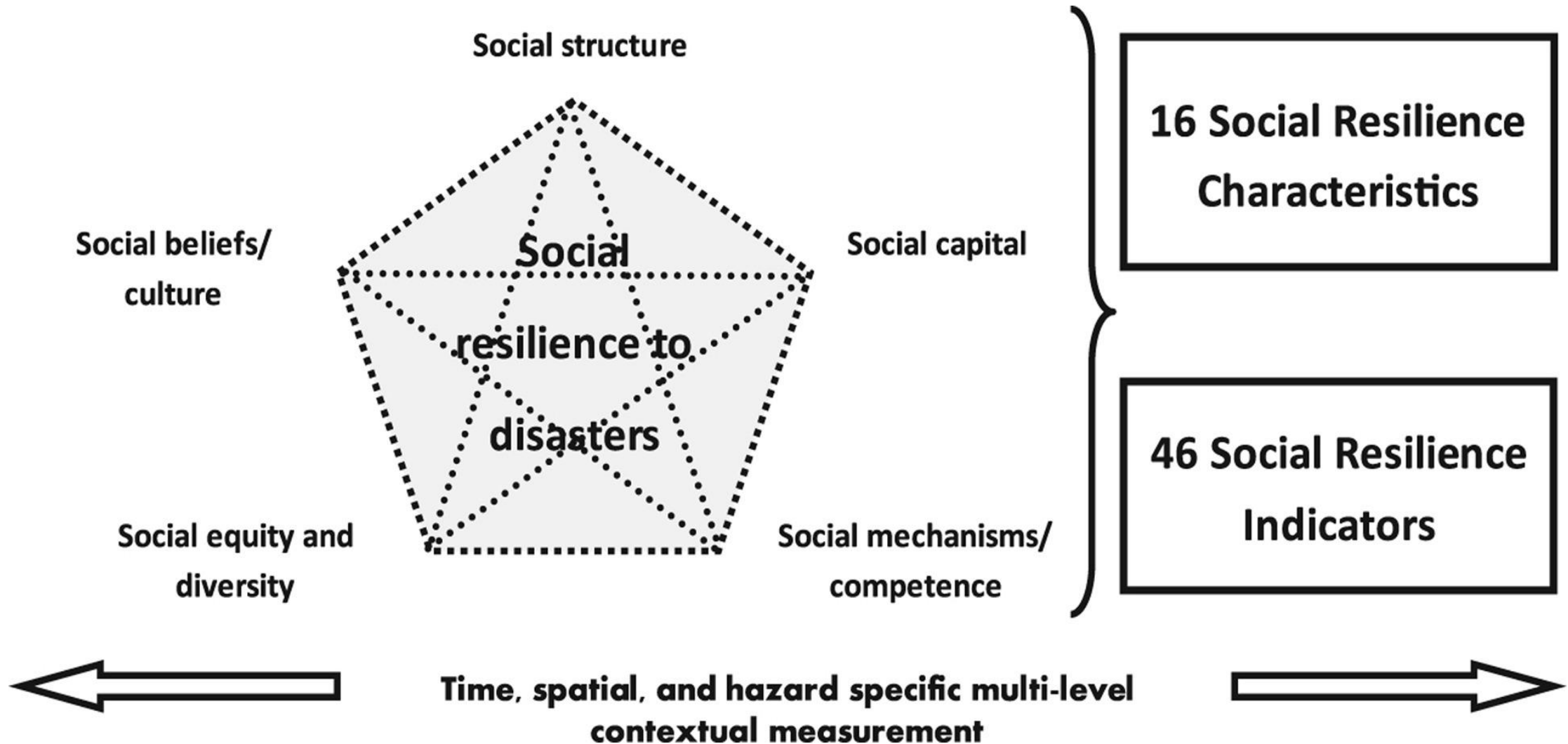
source: Baker et al 2021 <https://doi.org/10.1111/joop.12340>



The 5S (Social) model

Saja, Teo, et al 2018 *Int J Disaster Risk Reduction*

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2018.02.004>



A Typology of Civil Food Vulnerability: how shocks manifest

source: T Lang, forthcoming National Preparedness Commission

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Range of civil manifestation</i>	
	<i>Short-term</i>	<i>Long-term</i>
Intensity	Acute 'severe and sudden' shock eg. rapid spread of a disease; power outage	Chronic 'long developed' eg. a population that has been unhealthy for a long time
Scale	Micro: a household or one food product is affected	Macro: a whole city or region is affected
Duration	a rapid unexpected invasion; immediate food shortage	Long-term unhealthy popul'n; long food blockade
Exposure	A major water pollution environmental incident means dramatic water shortage	Persistent food price inflation creates food unaffordability and alters diets
Sensitivity	immediate physiological effect e.g. poisoning	Slow or long-term physiological effect
Capacity	Material resource dependency affects output	Long-term morale and drop in social cohesion
Impact	Immediate 'hit' to key food	infrastructure damage ultimately affects food
Socio-economic determinant	Poor quality food / diet consumed by people on low incomes can mean higher vulnerability	High income reduces vulnerability and thus enhances resilience
Expectation & preparedness	Low / no anticipation of likelihood of shock discombobulates when it happens	High degree of anticipation gives some room for preparation for shock response
Maldistribution	Food exists but is not readily available (it is in the wrong place, wrong price, etc)	Systematic maldistribution of food as 'normal' socio-economic inequalities determine access
Resource waste	Food is wasted before the public gets it	Food is wasted at or after the point of consumption

5. The limits of individualism

Limits of Individualised preparedness

Lack of infrastructure for real preparedness

Weak governance

Individual or civil food responsibility

e.g. UK Gov't *Prepare* website (22 May 2024)

GOV.UK | Prepare

Get prepared for emergencies Be informed about hazards Get involved in your community

Home

Get prepared for emergencies

In this section

- [Get prepared for emergencies](#)
- [Advice for disabled persons and carers](#)
- [Alerts and warnings](#)
- [Transport disruption and delays](#)

Emergencies happen every day in the UK and across the world. They can be caused by severe weather or other natural hazards, by deliberate actions, or as a result of accidents or infrastructure failure. They can be events that happen quickly and are over in a few hours, or they can develop and continue over the course of several days, months, or sometimes even longer.

Below are a few **simple and effective steps** that you should consider taking to prepare for emergencies and the disruption they cause.

Many of these activities can be helpful across a range of different types of emergency. You might not be able to undertake all of these. There are lots of suggestions here that won't cost anything and just take a few minutes to do.

Call **999** if you or someone else is in immediate danger

- Be Informed
- Make a plan
- Prepare your home
- Talk to others
- Get emergency supplies

Kit 'could include':

- Battery or wind-up torch.
- Mobile portable power bank
- Battery or wind-up radio
- Spare batteries
- A first aid
- Hand sanitisers and wet wipes
- Bottled water
- Non-perishable food that doesn't need cooking
- Baby supplies

Practicalities: what can citizens do?

- ***Stockpile***: domestic or communal? What does this require?
- ***Household food protection***: enough to eat for 3-7days or 3 months?
- ***Grow food***: allotments or community gardens?
- ***Community actions***: social networks that kick in at crisis?
- ***Mass catering***: field kitchens, community eating, but run by whom?
- ***Land access***: stronger demand on or controls on land use?
- ***Rationing***: by markets or by nutritional need?
- ***Warning & communication***: household → activating ‘Total Food Defence’?
- ***Capacity and skills***: what skills make a difference today?
- ***Social change***: what are our priorities for food resilience?
- ***Food-belts***: Liège/Leuven/Detroit → urban or peri-urban horticulture?
- ***Specialist advice***: nutrition, culture, demographic groups?

'Total Food Defence': reset the framework

'Old' eg 1943 Hot Springs Conference

Produce more → lower costs → health

- i. raise “nutrition and standards of living” of the people
- ii. improve efficiency of “the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products
- iii. Deliver “better condition of rural populations”
- iv. Contribute to “expanding world economy and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger”

'New' eg Sweden's 2024 'Food Preparedness in New Era'

People + Infrastructure → preparedness

- New era of insecurity
- Food as part of **Total Defence**
- Public involvement in shock preparedness
- New Food Security legislation
- Storage spread across the country
- Obligations on authorities to ensure all are fed in crises (therefore in normality)

A better notion of defence for 'food security'

- Sweden: public warnings
 - Pamphlets: 2017 'If crisis or war comes'... → 2024 In case of war
- Total Defence
 - Public must be involved in national defence
 - Total society preparedness
- **2024 Cabinet Report** Livsmedelsberedskap för en ny tid (Food preparedness for a new era)
 - New Food Security Act
 - Duties on government (nat + local) to ensure all are fed
 - Emergency storage
 - Land protection

This preparation needs civil support (not just to and from the land)

- Food as task for community, citizens, local organisations
- Use existing organisations (eg SFPs, Food Banks, vol org's)
- Food as part of local infrastructure: Mayors, councils, LRFs, LAs
- Conduct audits of community food assets: facilities, skills
- Better coordination and engagement
- **Legislation** to support and accelerate: Sweden 2024 Fd Sec Act

But will consumerist societies do this? (US FEMA annual survey)

<https://www.fema.gov/about/openfema/data-sets/national-household-survey>

Build on emerging social infrastructure

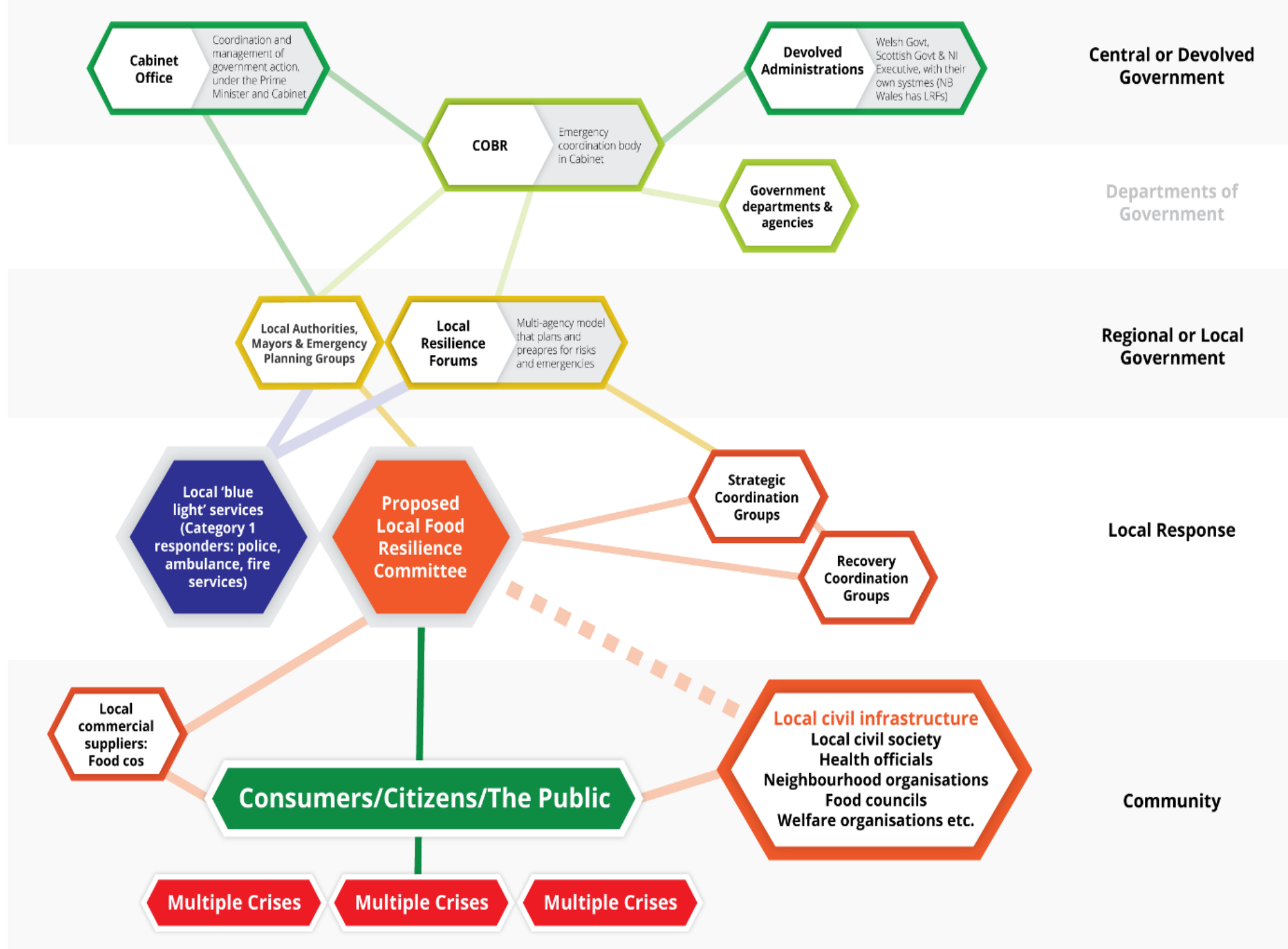
- Resilience requires social resilience
- Building a multi-level approach = building what **you** do
- Don't wait for central government
 - You are building food as Critical National Infrastructure
- But we do need central government to:
 - Legislate for food security (1 of 5 commitments by Labour)
 - Add a 4th resilience principle: **'engage with the people'**
 - 'prevention better than cure'
 - 'whole of society approach'
 - 'build a shared understanding of the risks'

The civic and socio-economic *food infrastructure* that underpins and affects citizens in communities



Source: T Lang / Graphic: Gavin Wren

My proposed civil food resilience structure (expecting multiple crises at scale)



Local Food Resilience Committees as liaison between official resilience structures and existing local / civil bodies



Source: T Lang / graphics: G Wren

A new framework: RSSDDR centred on feeding all people well



Thanks

t.lang@city.ac.uk



Policy Chat

Beyond
competitiveness:
rethinking the
ideologies shaping
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Part 02



Outcomes and Externalities of a Competitive Food System



Outcomes & Externalities of a Competitive Food System

Anant Jani
Jan 28, 2025

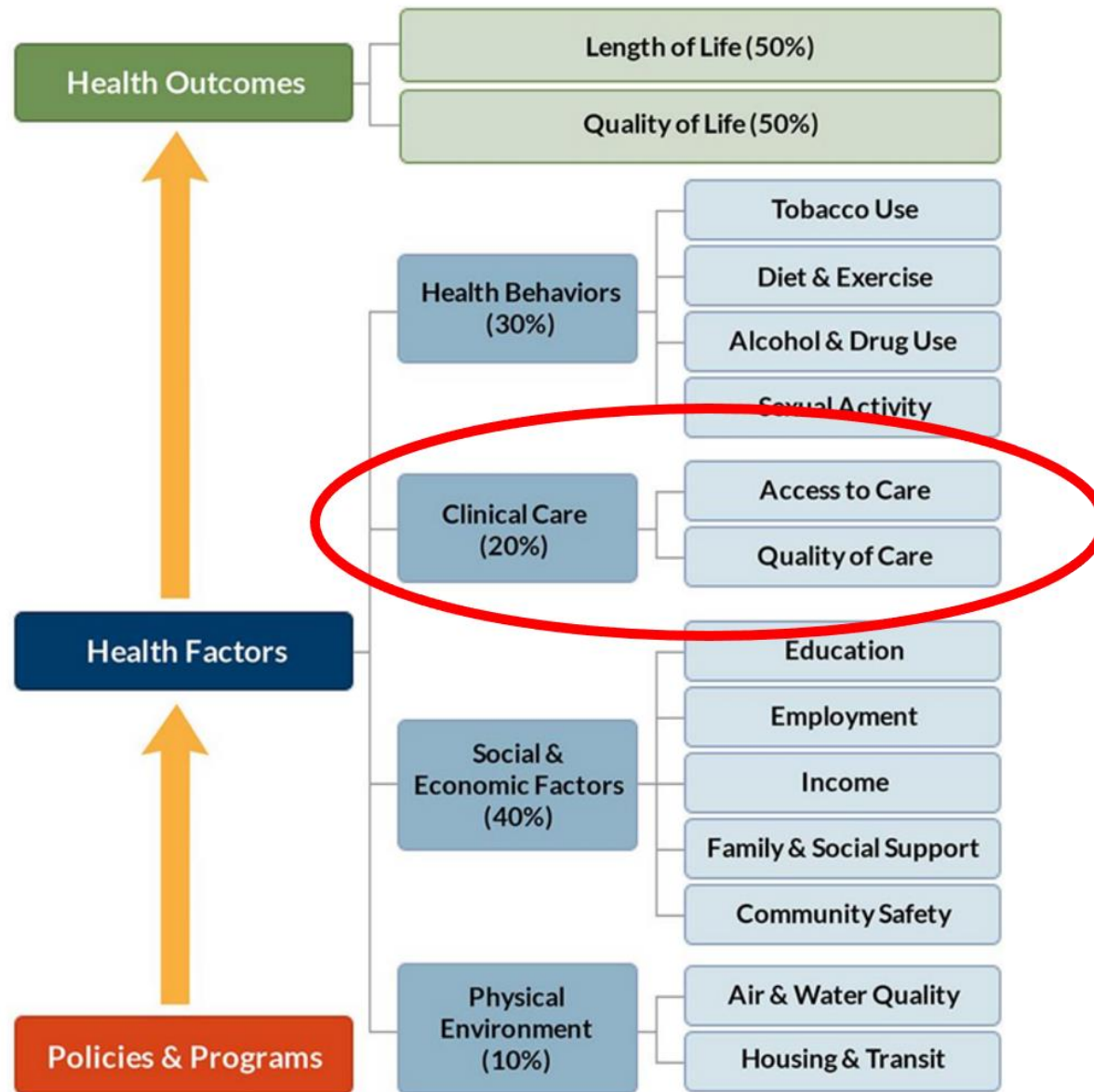


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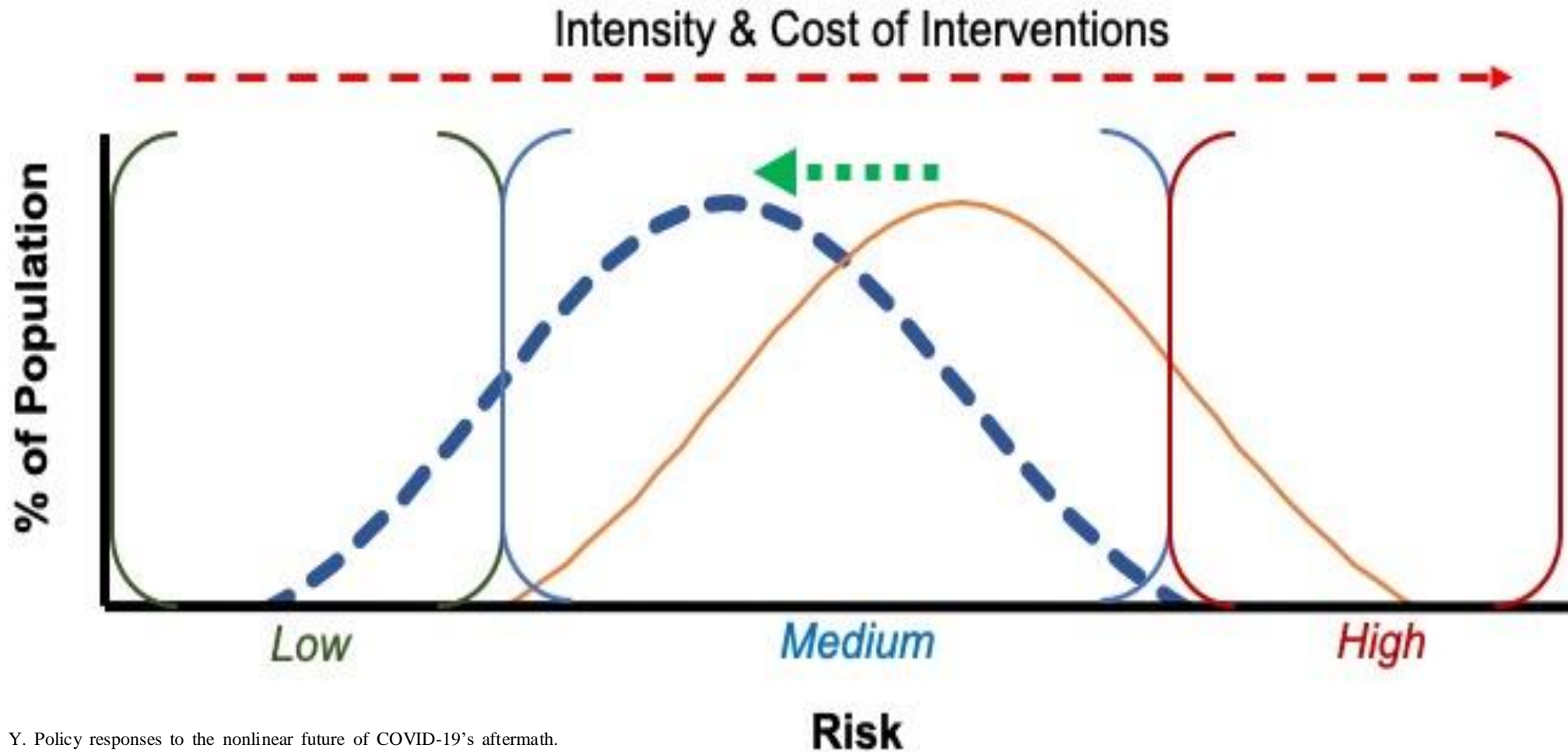
My positionality



County Health Rankings model © 2014 UWPHI

<https://www.communitycatalyst.org/blog/text/Social-Determinants-Blog-graphic-1.png>

Population Health: *Left-shift*



Jani A and Kawazura Y. Policy responses to the nonlinear future of COVID-19's aftermath. COVID: A complex systems approach. In: Morales A.J. ed. *COVID-19 A Complex Systems Approach Papers and Commentaries*. New York: STEM Academic Press, pp. 209-221.

Make it **easy** for **all people in Europe** to eat
delicious, healthier and more sustainable food

What outcomes do we **need** food systems to achieve?

Humans

- Increased food security
- Better health

Environment

- Improve soil health
- Improve biodiversity
- Reduced GHG
- Optimised H2O use
- Improved land use

Economy

- Increased employment
- More just distribution of revenue
 - Farmers
 - Small businesses

One Health¹

an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems.

1. https://www.who.int/health-topics/one-health#tab=tab_1

Future of Agricultural & Food Systems in Europe

European Commission's 2024-29 Objectives

Build a competitive and resilient agriculture and food system and safeguard biodiversity to support our farmers and safeguard our healthy food

Competitiveness

(business as usual definition)

Economic Competitiveness (WEF): Outcomes

Economic Competitiveness:

“the set of institutions, policies and factors that determine the level of productivity of a country”.

Competitive Economy = Higher Productivity

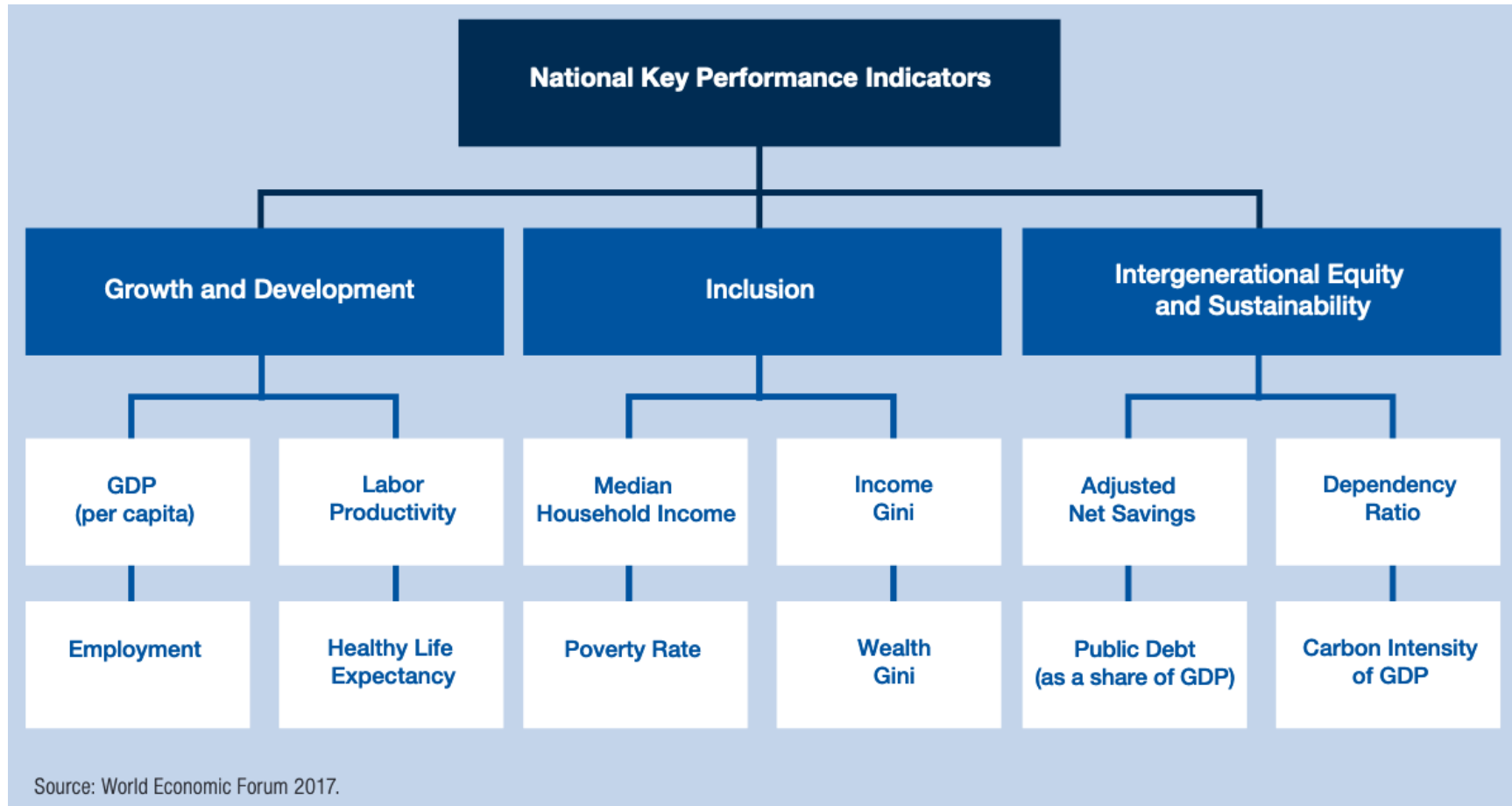
Productivity → Growth

Growth → Higher income levels

Higher income levels → Improved well-being

Economic Competitiveness (WEF): Outcomes

Inclusive Development Index



Economic Competitiveness (WEF): Externalities

*There are so many other factors so important to life and well-being that are not included in our competitiveness work. **The inclusiveness of economies for one thing** [...] And we still haven't found a good way to include environmental stewardship into our calculations.*

Economic Competitiveness (WEF): Externalities

In 2021, 95.4 million people in the EU (21.7% of the population) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion...¹

8.6% of people in the EU unable to afford proper meal²

...food billionaires have seen their collective wealth grow by an estimated 45 per cent over the past two years - for a total of £328 billion added to their profits.³

In the same years, 62 new billionaires were created as companies inflated their profits by capitalising on the COVID pandemic and now the growing cost-of-living crisis³

1. <https://www.eurofoodbank.org/our-mission-impact-values/poverty-in-europe/>
2. <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20220225-1>
3. <https://oi-files-d8-prod.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2022-05/Oxfam%20Media%20Brief%20-%20EN%20-%20Profiting%20From%20Pain%2C%20Davos%202022%20Part%202.pdf>

S&P Food & Beverage Select Industry Index

Overview

Data

News & Research



7,675.46 USD | -0.64% 1 Day

PERFORMANCE USD PRICE RETURN

GRAPH VIEW TABLE VIEW

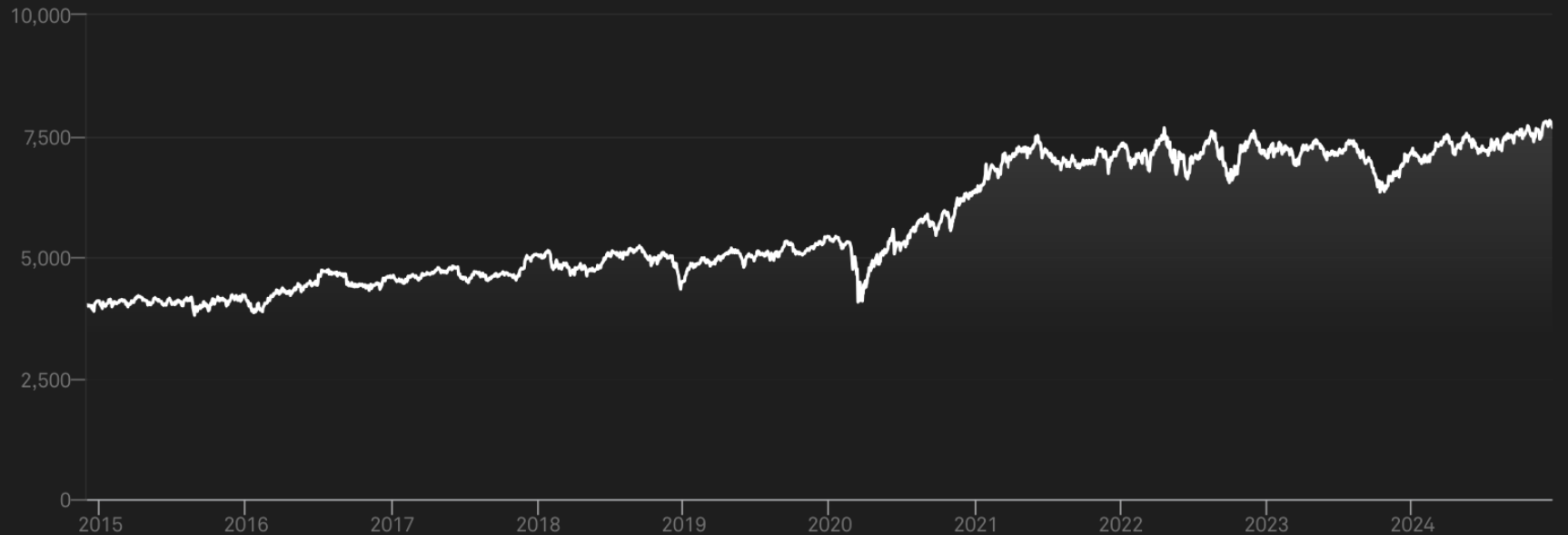
As of Dec 17, 2024

7,675.46

6.82%

10 YR RETURN
Annualized

MTD QTD YTD 1 YEAR 3 YEAR 5 YEAR 10 YEAR EXPORT COMPARE SPICE



<https://www.spglobal.com/spdji/en/indices/equity/sp-food-beverage-select-industry-index/#overview>



Current Food Systems: Lose-Lose-Lose-Win

People: LOSE

- Poor-quality diets - leading cause of death and a top contributor to Non-Communicable Disease (NCD – high BP, diabetes, obesity/overweight)
 - NCDs: ~75% of all diseases in Europe
 - NCDs: ~ 85% of all deaths in Europe
- Entrench health inequalities

Environment: LOSE

- 26% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- 50% of global habitable land use
- 70% of freshwater use
- 78% of eutrophication
- 60% of biodiversity loss

Public Sector/Society: LOSE

- EU governments spend about €700 billion/year to treat NCD
 - ~70% of the ~€1 trillion (7-10% of GDP) EU governments spend annually on healthcare
- Cost of overweight/obesity to increase from \$2 trillion to \$4 trillion by 2035

Large Multinationals: WIN

- Processed foods sales: ~\$350 billion, ~7% profit margin
- Soft drinks – sales: ~\$100 billion, ~14% profit margin
- Fast food – sales: ~\$75 billion, ~13% profit margin

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/sustainable-food-systems/articles/10.3389/fsufs.2022.1039127/full>

A Sustainable Food Systems Law – Important for People & Planet, Stalled by the Commission¹

Ursula von der Leyen scraps pesticide reduction bill²

The New Merchants of Doubt: How Big Meat and Dairy Avoid Climate Action³

In the EU, about 1,200 times more public funding and three times more lobbying money goes to animal-source food products.

1. <https://www.arc2020.eu/a-sustainable-food-systems-law-important-for-people-and-planet-stalled-by-the-commission/>
2. <https://www.politico.eu/article/ursula-von-der-leyen-pesticide-reduction-bill-farmers/>
3. https://changingmarkets.org/report/the-new-merchants-of-doubt-how-big-meat-and-dairy-avoid-climate-action/?mc_cid=5cb92de9a0&mc_eid=07a75ecb56

*Hidden costs of global agrifood systems worth at least **\$10 trillion***

<https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/hidden-costs-of-global-agrifood-systems-worth-at-least-10-trillion/en>



Competitiveness

The Draghi view

The future of European competitiveness

Mario Draghi
Sept 2024

Three action areas to reignite growth

First – and most importantly – Europe must profoundly refocus its collective efforts on closing the innovation gap with the US and China, especially in advanced technologies[...] In fact, there is no EU company with a market capitalisation over EUR 100 billion that has been set up from scratch in the last fifty years, while all six US companies with a valuation above EUR 1 trillion have been created in this period.

*The second area for action is a joint plan for **decarbonisation and competitiveness**.*

*The third area for action is increasing **security and reducing dependencies** [...] Security is a precondition for sustainable growth. Rising geopolitical risks can increase uncertainty and dampen investment, while major geopolitical shocks or sudden stops in trade can be extremely disruptive. **Peace is the first and foremost objective of Europe**. But physical security threats are rising and we must prepare. The EU is collectively the world's second largest military spender, but it is not reflected in the **strength of our defence industrial capacity**.*

Keyword searches

Equity/equality

	Report	
	Brief	Full
equality	0	1
inequality(ies)	10	3
equity	6	49
justice	3	11
social inclusion	7	10
social	20	68
cohesion	7	16

Health/conditions

	Report	
	Brief	Full
health	12	101
diabetes	0	1
anxiety	1	1
stress	1	10

Determinants

	Report	
	Brief	Full
determinant	0	3
sustainability	4	43
climate change	1	7
housing	2	4
education	20	96
employment	6	42
transportation	1	14
food	1	7
water	0	26

No mention :/

	Report	
	Brief	Full
inequities	0	0
wellbeing	0	0
sick	0	0
obesity	0	0
overweight	0	0
hypertension	0	0
depression	0	0
suicide	0	0
mental	0	0
alcohol	0	0
tobacco	0	0

20th Century Fox

Titania

un film di
SERGIO LEONE



IL BUONO **IL BRUTTO** **IL CATTIVO**

con SERGIO LEONE
 CLINT EASTWOOD • LEE VAN CLEEF • JEE WALLACH
 IL BUONO IL BRUTTO IL CATTIVO

ALDO GIUFFRÈ
 A CURA DI ALDO GIUFFRÈ
 DISTRIBUZIONE: ALDO GIUFFRÈ

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Good,_the_Bad_and_the_Ugly



IL Buono

*While the EU should aim to move closer to the US example in terms of productivity growth and innovation, it **should do so without the drawbacks of the US social model**. As outlined above, the US has pulled ahead of the EU owing to its stronger position in breakthrough technologies, **yet it displays higher rates of inequality**. **A European approach must ensure that productivity growth and social inclusion go hand-in-hand**.*

*Europe will have to ensure the best use of its available skills while **keeping the social fabric intact**.*

***The European welfare state will therefore be critical to provide strong public services, social protection, housing, transport and childcare during this transition**. At the same time, Europe will need a fundamentally new approach to skills. The EU must **ensure that all workers have a right to education and retraining**, allowing them to move into new roles as their companies adopt technology, or into good jobs in new sectors.*

*Specifically, **cohesion policies will need to be re-focused on areas such as education, transport, housing, digital connectivity and planning** which can increase the attractiveness of a range of different cities and regions.*

IL Buono

*A key part of this process will be **empowering people**. Leaders and policymakers should **engage with all actors within their respective societies to define objectives and actions** for the transformation of Europe's economy. More **effective and proactive citizens' involvement and social dialogue**, combining trade unions, employers and civil society actors, will be central in building the consensus needed to drive the changes. Transformation can best lead to prosperity for all when accompanied by a **strong social contract**.*

***Europe's fundamental values are prosperity, equity, freedom, peace and democracy in a sustainable environment. The EU exists to ensure that Europeans can always benefit from these fundamental rights.** If Europe can no longer provide them to its people – or has to trade off one against the other – it will have lost its reason for being. The only way to meet this challenge is to grow and become more productive, **preserving our values of equity and social inclusion**. And the only way to become more productive is for Europe to radically change.*

Importantly, **digitalisation can help to make Europe's social model more robust and fairer, especially in the key areas of education and public health.**

IL Brutto

If Europe cannot become more productive, we will be forced to choose. We will not be able to become, at once, a leader in new technologies, a beacon of climate responsibility and an independent player on the world stage. We will not be able to finance our social model. We will have to scale back some, if not all, of our ambitions.

IL Cattivo

*Given Europe's strong position in clean tech innovation, it could also lose the possibility to benefit from the future productivity gains this sector will bring. Without some foothold in EII's (Energy Intensive Industries), Europe's economic security could be undermined, for example via **lower food security (lack of fertilisers and pesticides) and less autonomy for the defence sector.***

(One) Health

?

A means to an end

An end in itself

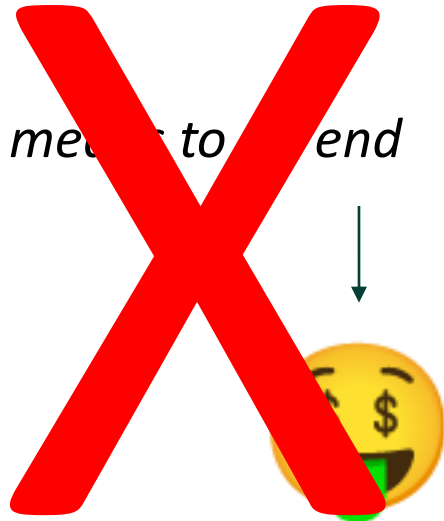


Competitiveness

An alternative (FEASTified) view ;)

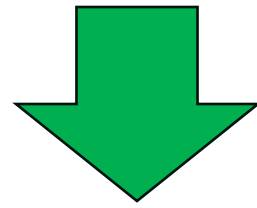
(One) Health

A means to an end



An end in itself

*Hidden costs of global agrifood systems worth at least **\$10 trillion***



Change food systems so \$10 trillion delivers One Health!!!

Win-Win-Win-Win

Food System Competitiveness: **Being the most Regenerative**

Regenerative Food Systems

“...food systems must not only sustain some status quo but also create and restore ecological integrity, social justice, community viability, equity and public health in order to achieve well-being for all.

“We conceptualize regeneration as a holistic approach that moves past neutral environmental impact towards the creation of effects of a mutually supportive symbiosis across the food system.”

Regenerative Food System: Outcomes

Competitive Food System = Higher **Regenerative** Productivity

Regenerative Productivity → **Regenerative** Growth

Regenerative Growth → Higher **Regenerative** Capital (social, human, moral, financial)

Higher **Regenerative** Capital → **Increased One Health**

Regenerative Food System: Outcomes

- Provide food for human use
 - diverse diets to combat malnutrition
- Minimise/eliminate dependence on external inputs & external knowledge
- Sequester carbon
- Preserve (& increase) biodiversity
- Build community well-being
 - maintaining farming livelihoods
 - social reproduction of cultural & farming communities
 - support dignity & autonomy of people

Regenerative Food Systems: Externalities

“...enhancing the ability of living beings to co-evolve in ways that allow for **diversity, complexity and creativity.**”

Not extractive (in Europe or beyond)

Abundance of Positive Externalities

Minimal Negative Externalities

Regenerative Food Systems: Alignment w/EC & Draghi

*Europe will have to ensure the best use of its available skills while **keeping the social fabric intact**.*

*A key part of this process will be **empowering people**. Leaders and policymakers should **engage with all actors within their respective societies to define objectives and actions** for the transformation of Europe's economy. More **effective and proactive citizens' involvement and social dialogue**, combining trade unions, employers and civil society actors, will be central in building the consensus needed to drive the changes. Transformation can best lead to prosperity for all when accompanied by a **strong social contract**.*

Europe's fundamental values are prosperity, equity, freedom, peace and democracy in a sustainable environment. The EU exists to ensure that Europeans can always benefit from these fundamental rights.

FEAST

Thank you!

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Policy Chat

Beyond competitiveness:
rethinking the ideologies shaping
our food systems

Part 03



What are the alternatives before us?

What are the alternatives before us?

FEAST Policy Chat

January 28, 2025

Molly D. Anderson

Middlebury College

*Source: Great Transitions Initiative
Scenarios: Eco-communalism vs.
Fortress World*



Two meta-narratives in food systems:

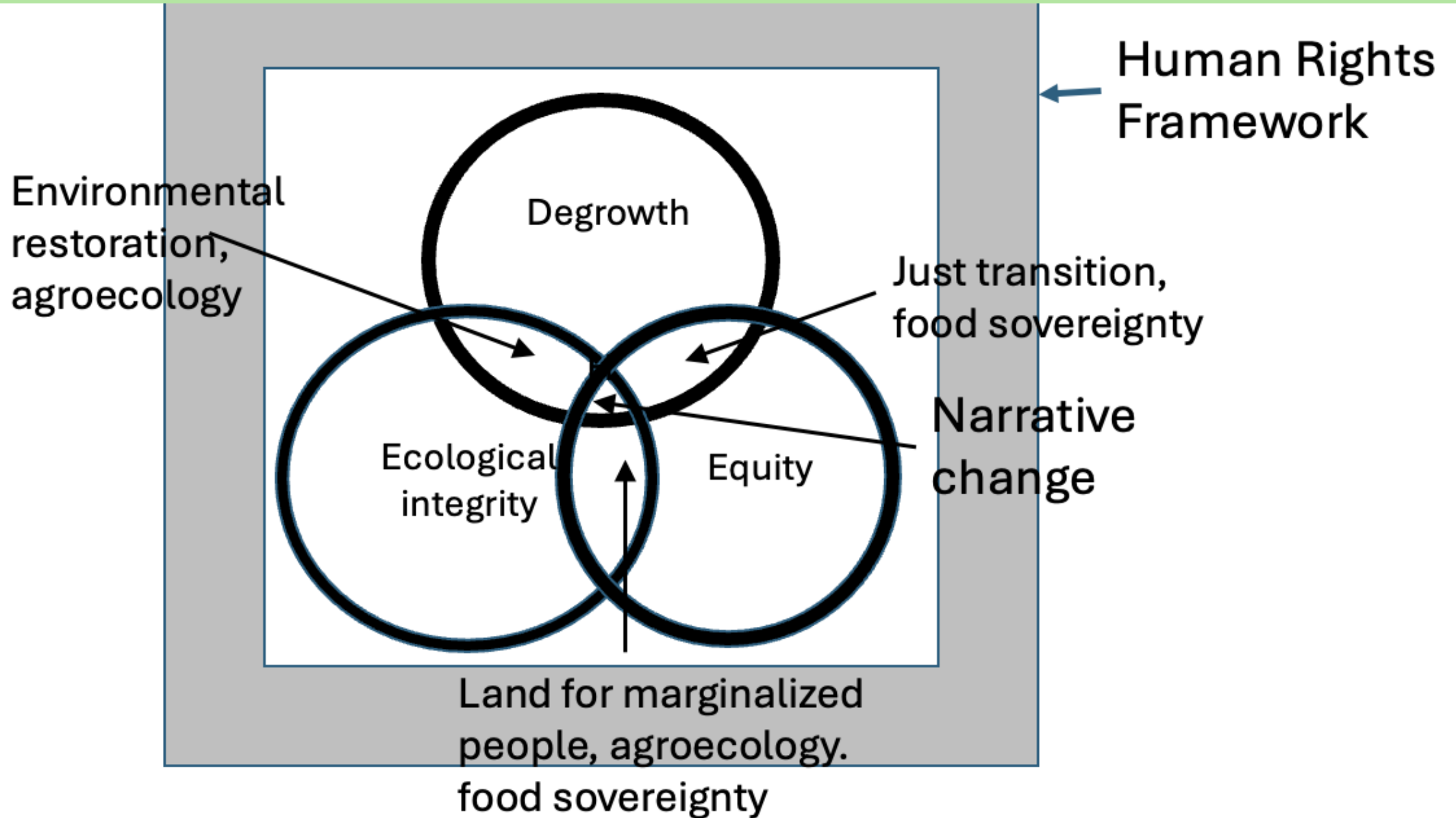
- Extractive, industrialized food systems
 - Food is a commodity to be produced and exchanged for profit
- Regenerative food systems
 - Food is a public good with multiple values; its production, distribution and consumption are subject to human rights



Regenerative vs. extractive systems

Regenerative	Extractive
Food holds multiple values	Food is primarily a means of gaining profits
Food security and resources needed to produce food are public goods, belonging in the commons to benefit all	Food is a commodity like any other commodity
Food is everyone's right	Food should go to people who can afford to pay for it
Nature exists in its own right and must be respected and restored	Nature is for human exploitation
Care and reciprocity are essential elements of food systems	

What is needed:





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