

Key actors and what they can do



What Governments can do

1. Eliminate distorting subsidies (e.g. fossil fuel subsidies);
2. Create adequate legal frameworks to secure property rights, land tenure and access to natural resources and services;
3. Regulate environmental impacts from food systems (e.g. nutrient losses, especially from livestock);
4. Invest in technology and research for locally suitable seeds and breeds
5. Attract investments in rural infrastructure, small enterprise development (e.g. inputs, local storage and processing facilities, logistic and transport);
6. Invest in practices and research to enable effective use of biodiversity and ecosystem services
7. Facilitate collaboration between food system actors (e.g. agreements among retailers to establish marketing codes of conduct);
8. Stimulate local or regional sourcing and investment in sustainable local supply chains;
9. Create incentives for cities to become innovation incubators of sustainable food systems (e.g. urban farming, etc.);
10. Adopt consumption-oriented policies (e.g. stricter rules for unhealthy food, stimuli for healthy and sustainable diets);
11. Create adequate monitoring systems of natural resources and environmental impacts;
12. Create education programmes on the links between natural resources, consumption patterns and health.

What Private actors can do

1. Pay farmers and fishermen for better management of natural resources
2. Help smallholder farms and small agri-food businesses in developing countries invest in more sustainable activities
3. Make healthy and sustainable food choices easier for consumers.
4. Retailers and food companies in developing countries: invest in local supply chains; assist farmers to increase production sustainably.
5. Food companies: reduce the impact on environmental costs and obesity-related diseases.

What Civil society can do

Challenge and stimulate government, private actors and consumers to move towards Resource-Smart Food Systems.

SOURCES & CONTACT

This document highlights findings from the report on "Food Systems and Natural Resources" and should be read in conjunction with the full report.

- ▶ References to research on which this infographic is based are listed in the full report: UNEP (2016): [Food Systems and Natural Resources](#).

The International Resource Panel was established in 2007 to provide independent, scientific assessment on the sustainable use of natural resources and the impacts of resource use over the full life cycle.

www.unep.org/resourcepanel



Critical shifts



Reconnect rural and urban, invest in regional supply chains and improve the position of smallholders.



Reform policies on land and water rights.



Reconnect urban consumers with how their food is produced and how it reaches their plates.



Research and innovate, to decouple food system activities from resource use and environmental impacts.



Revalue the pricing of environmental externalities, reinforce legislation to prevent pollution.



Reinvigorate investment in rural infrastructure, education, training, technology, knowledge transfer.



Research the current functioning of the local, national or regional food systems and their impact on national resources.



Rebuild feedback loops by creating monitoring and reporting systems for countries and companies.