



Achieving Sustainable Food Systems in the EU

SUSFANS Final workshop,
7 March 2019, Brussels

Background note

Why participate in this workshop?

There is increasing recognition that eating patterns should come more into focus of food systems transformation, as a key entry point for advancing public health, equity & social justice, the natural environment and viable enterprise. European diets thus need to become more environmentally and economically sustainable, and more healthy and nutritious.

The research project SUSFANS (Metrics, models and foresight for sustainable food and nutrition security in the EU) has assessed the sustainability performance of the EU food system in terms of four objectives: balanced and sufficient diets, competitive agribusiness, reduced environmental pressure, equity & social justice.

Results show the urgency of a transformation of food consumption, distribution, trade and production in the EU. A set of recommendations seeks to provide guidance on how to move towards sustainable diets and a sustainable food supply system in the EU.

You are invited to help shape these final recommendations into a joint call for action.

OBJECTIVES of the workshop

- Report main results to decision-makers and researchers in the public and private sector, and testing the ability of the SUSFANS metrics framework and foresight to inform different perspectives on sustainable food systems and healthy diets in the EU.
- Provide examples and suggestions for private and public policy action on sustainable food systems and healthy diets in the EU at the level of the European institution.
- Make a contribution to an evidence-based policy discussion on food systems transformation at EU level. Discuss how and by whom the SUSFANS framework of analysis and core results of the project could be taken up.

GUIDING Questions

Morning sessions: Metrics, drivers and models on sustainable food supply and sustainable diets

- How can the SUSFANS framework be a helpful guide for non-scientific users in monitoring, assessment and identifying priority areas for policy action?
- What is the assessment of the performance of the food systems in the EU and its member states, in terms of the environmental, social and economic sustainability of consumer diets and food supply systems?
- What opportunities and challenges for food systems transformation under the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change are suggested by the SUSFANS foresight study?

Afternoon session: Integrated perspective on the EU's food systems under the 2030 agenda

- What are key, positive entry points for a transformation in the EU food system towards a more sustainable food supply and sustainable diets?
- How can the SUSFANS framework and intervention ladder inspire policy action and coordination at the European level, between public and private actors?
- How can EU-level food standards, agriculture, trade and environmental policies be aligned with national nutrition and health policies? On what time-line?

See next pages for more information on SUSFANS or visit www.susfans.eu.

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Metrics, models and foresight for European sustainable food and nutrition security

WHY SUSFANS?

There is increasing recognition that the frameworks for nutritional quality, food safety control (the General Food Law) and primary production (the common agriculture and fisheries policies, CAP & CFP) provide insufficient direction for the European food system: in order to support food and nutrition security (FNS), eating patterns should come more into focus, along with their impact on public health, equity & social justice, the natural environment and viable enterprise. European diets need to become more environmentally and economically sustainable and healthier.

This has led to the development of a new, transdisciplinary research project, SUSFANS, which develops metrics, identifies and analyses drivers, integrates data and modelling and formulates foresight for EU sustainable FNS, building on a common scientific evidence-base on the various actors and factors that play a role in the food system.

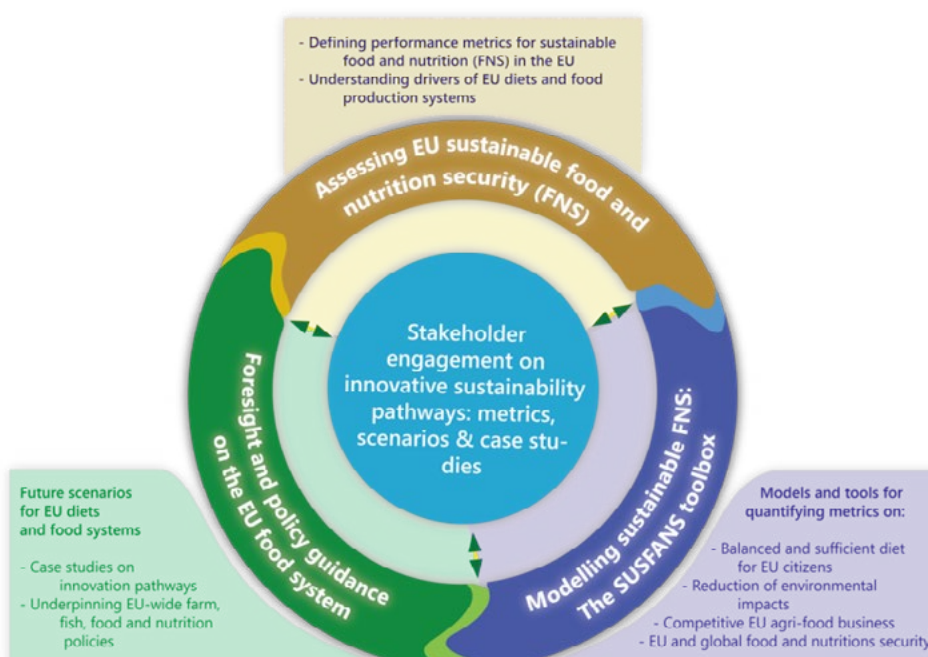
OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of SUSFANS is to work with partners towards EU food systems that contribute to health, environment, equity and viable enterprise by delivering high-quality research on metrics, models and foresight to support evidence-based policies and innovation strategies for a sustainable and food and nutrition secure EU.

HOW SUSFANS WORKS

The research work in SUSFANS is divided in three pillars, aiming at:

- 1) Assessing sustainable Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) in the EU using conceptual mapping and innovative metrics for the food system;
- 2) Modelling sustainable FNS, its outcomes and possible innovation pathways;
- 3) Foresight and policy guidance for European diets and food systems at large.



IMPACT

SUSFANS aspires to achieve the following three overall impacts:

Impact pathway 1 > Strengthening the analytical capacity for assessing the state of EU FNS at sub-regional level (including the implications of fisheries and aquaculture);

Impact pathway 2 > Improve the capacity of policy makers to monitor its development, to carry out short-term projections and evidence-based risk assessments and to implement quantitative modelling of alternative future scenarios to aid the design and formulation of longer term agro-food policies;

Impact pathway 3 > Bring about foresight and identify long-term challenges to FNS and the role of the EU agro-food sector, thus improving the capacity of related policies to provide appropriate answers.

SUSFANS TOOLBOX

SUSFANS has created a toolbox for analysing food security. The toolbox consists of five key elements: the EU food system, metrics, scenarios, case studies, and an interactive online visualiser. It can be used by policymakers and other authorities to test the effectiveness of specific food policies. Simply by setting the parameters in the visualiser, they can get a clear overview of the outcomes that their choices will lead to – both nationally, and on a European level. One of the focal points for dissemination towards the end of the project is the SUSFANS toolbox Europe tour, staged in four member states (IT,DK,CZ and FR).

FOLLOW UP SUSFANS

SUSFANS has contributed to the science policy on European and global FNS under the FOOD 2030 agenda and conference of the EU Commission. The concepts of SUSFANS are influential to the global science agenda of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), in particular the agenda on food systems and healthy diets of the research program Agriculture for Health and Nutrition (A4NH).

The contribution of EU to the SDGs has been explicitly incorporated in the agenda for dialogue of the FIT4FOOD2030 Community Support Action (CSA) project. For example, a contribution has been completed for Standing Committee on Agriculture Research (SCAR), Strategic Working Group (SWG), European Agricultural Research (ARCH) and another contribution is underway for SCAR SWG FOODSYSTEMS. Focal point for contributions to global platforms for food systems science are CGIAR and EAT. Opportunities for engagement are being explored with World Business Council for Sustainable Development, in particular the FRESH program.



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SUSFANS

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PROJECT PARTNERS

