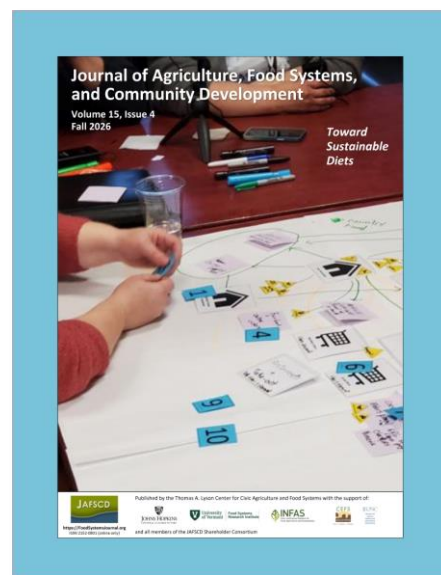


IN THIS ISSUE DUNCAN HILCHEY

Toward sustainable diets



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In this issue, we explore the emerging food systems subfield of sustainable diets, with a focus on community needs and aspirations, especially among vulnerable populations. First coined by Gussow and Clancy (1986), the JAFSCD Sustainable Diets Editorial Circle (SDEC) defines the term *sustainable diets* as dietary patterns that promote individual and population health and well-being while having low environmental impacts; are culturally affirming, affordable, safe, nutritionally robust, and attainable for all; and contribute to resilient, equitable, and sustainable food systems for present and future generations. This definition is adapted from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization (FAO & WHO, 2019).

Reflecting the **sustainable diets** theme, our cover features community members in Nunavik, Northern Québec, Canada, mapping food sources and pathways and exploring household food-access decisions under

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AI Use Declaration

I produced this editorial with assistance from ChatGPT (ver. GPT-5.5) to analyze themes and improve syntax and grammar.

On Our Cover

Community members from Nunavik, in Northern Québec, Canada, participate in a workshop focused on mapping the community food system. Each group was asked the question, “Where does a typical Inuk household get food?” Then members drew arrows showing the flow of food resources into the household. Next, these food pathways were explored through scenarios to understand household decision-making. Members were given blue “order” cards with numbers and asked to label where in the food system a household would seek food based on the situation; for example, “What is the first place, second place, third place, etc., a typical Inuk household would seek food if the household had low income and the community freezer was broken?” Read more in the article in this issue, [Challenges and complexities in Northern food systems: Mapping food access and decision-making in Nunavik](#). Photo by Samantha Farquhar, corresponding author

different scenarios. Read more in *Challenges and complexities in Northern food systems: Mapping food access and decision-making in Nunavik* by Samantha Farquhar and colleagues.

We begin this issue with a several substantive preliminaries. In his Economic Pamphleteer column, *Breaking the cycles of co-optation*, **John Ikerd** considers how taxpayer-supported industrialization continues to shape food systems and calls for place-based restoration and regeneration facilitated by trust between local farmers and consumers. This is followed by JAFSCD Associate Editor of Value Chain Coordination **Anaya Hall's** column, *Bridging margin and mission*, in which she cogently argues that a “mission without a viable value chain” will not survive. Next, we offer our inaugural Sustainable Diets brief, entitled *Produce prescription programs: An innovative strategy for improving healthy food access*, in which **Sara Shostak, Jolie Black, and Stacey Daley** examine how produce prescription programs can improve access to healthy food. See the standalone brief at the JAFSCD website.¹ I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to JAFSCD Associate Editors **Kathleen Kevany** and **Allison Lansman** for their leadership in publishing this first sustainable diets brief.

Topping off our preliminaries, we have two viewpoints: in *Emancipatory scaling: Strengthening locally led AR4D innovation processes*, **Hanna Ewell, Inez Dekker, Jon Hellin, Dagmawi Abegaz Melaku, Esther Milberg Muñiz, Samuel Mugambi, Philipp Neudert, Ebenezer Ngissah, and Daphne Schoop** introduce us to the concept of “emancipatory scaling,” which privileges full participation and co-control over simply having bigger and broader impact. And in a second viewpoint, *Sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing a food-related health risk problem in informal food environments: An urgent need for science and policy actions*, **Richard Nyiauwung, Joachim Matondo, Anastazia Bikuba, Victoria Ndinelago Erasmus, Evodius Rutta, Rosemary Tegekanya, Shirley Kansabe, Gery Wamba, Neville Suh, Norbert Ngwang, Samuel Abalansa, Md. Ruyel Miah, and Abdul-Rahim Abdulai** examine food safety risks in local food environments and the dire need for more research and policy interventions.

Our first few open call papers are focused on vulnerable demographic groups. In *Challenges and complexities in Northern food systems: Mapping food access and decision-making in Nunavik*, **Samantha Farquhar, Sonagnon Olivier Tokpanou, Frédéric Maps, Tiff-Annie Kenny, Marianne Falardeau, Duncan Warltier, Eric Wade, Rebbecca Asch, Martin Cenek, Jon Kirchoff, and Nadine Heck** share a participatory method of mapping food access and decision-making in Nunavik, Quebec, Canada. And in *Sociodemographic correlates of food security status among older adults in central Ohio: Toward a typology of risk*, **Lauren Roberson, Katie Simpson, Michelle Kaiser, Smitha Rao, Holly Dabelko-Schoeny, Marisa Sheldon, and Allison Heemer** identify key demographic characteristics associated with food insecurity among seniors in central Ohio. **Curtis Antrum, Violeta Chacón, Kim Gans, Molly Waring, Ran Xu, Maria Gombi Vaca, and Caitlin Caspi** then develop a profile of the characteristics associated with first-time users of charitable community food resources during the COVID-19 pandemic in their paper, *Identifying characteristics of first-time use of charitable community food resources during the COVID-19 pandemic*. And in “*I don’t say food desert, I say food apartheid*”: *Community-engaged research to understand food insecurity*, **Ange Asanzi, Miranda Martin, Alicia Papanek, Damilola Ajayi, Acquel Allen-Mitchell, Tristesse Burton, Brittney Dixon, and Paul Monaghan** use community-engaged research to understand the lived reality of people experiencing food insecurity in a predominantly African American community. Broadening the sustainable diets lens beyond these North American cases, **Agus Fitriangga, Alex, Agustina Arundina Triharja Tejoyuwono, Efriani, Dedy Ari Asfar, and Yusriadi** explore how local provisioning in a rural Indonesian community serves as a crucial buffer against nutritional and economic shortages in their paper *Indigenous vegetables and household food security in a borderland community: Evidence from the Dayak Bidayuh of Entikong, Indonesia*.

Shifting to a focus on universities, **Lana Petrie, Rick Rudd, Sarah Misyak, Karen Eley Sanders, Van**

¹ <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.briefs.sdb01>

Crowder, and **Logan Layne** explore how food access has a major impact on students' quality of life in *Student voices: A mixed-method approach to understanding the quality of life of students living with food access barriers*. In a complementary study of college food insecurity entitled *Understanding college food insecurity through the lens of the theory of planned behavior and social stigma*, **Brianna Mallozzi**, **Manan Roy**, **Alisha Farris**, **Alisa Duong**, and **Ayron Walker** explore why students may not use campus-based food pantries. Next, at the institutional level, **Victor Olayemi**, **Chanita Holmes**, **Ralph Hall**, **Elena Serrano**, **Samantha Harden**, and **Sarah Misyak** explore the troubling irony of food insecurity among a subset of college-level professionals in *Estimates of food insecurity among Cooperative Extension employees at a southeastern land-grant university*.

Continuing with our sustainable diets theme, we offer several papers addressing food waste. In *Association between nutrition assistance programs and household produce waste during the COVID-19 pandemic*, **Akiko Hosler**, **Heather Duncan**, **Beth Feingold**, **Xiaobo Romeiko**, **Christine Bozlak**, **Jiacheng Chen**, **Mariana Torres Koutsopoulos**, and **Tianghon Mu** explore the potential to reduce food waste while improving access to fresh produce. Next, in their research brief *Make every bite count: Can reduced food waste sustain free school meals in South Carolina?*, **Qi Jiang**, **Alba Collart**, **Felipe de Figueiredo Silva**, and **Yefan Nian** find that potential savings from food waste reduction could help offset costs and sustain crucial school meal programs. Finally, **Kaitlyn Harper**, **Steffanie Espat**, **Lee Davis**, **Nicole Labruto**, and **Roni Neff** share the views of frontline grocery store workers on reducing waste while increasing donations to charitable organizations in *Formative research on strategies to improve food donation in grocery retail*.

Following sustainable diets, we turn to food system planning. In *Future-proofing the regional foodshed: Evaluating the supply of off-season produce to feed a city*, **Sara Elton**, **Kelly Gregory**, and **Marina Queirolo** explore the capability of the City of Toronto to protect its food security and sovereignty during an era of political turbulence. Next, in their paper *Regional food system resilience and rural realities*, **Lia Kelinsky-Jones** and **Jessica Spence** find that while individual local efforts can be effective in food system development, in the case of Appalachia, more cross-jurisdictional planning is needed to achieve broader, longer-term impact. **Julianna Nieuwsma**, **Leslie Cofie**, **Elisabeth Reed**, **Jamie Bloss**, **Emery Harwell**, **Roger Russell**, **Joseph Lee**, and **Catherine LePrevost** then share the frustration of farmers in North Carolina regarding the lack of broadband and its likelihood to hamper agricultural development in their paper "We use it ... and we need it now": *An assessment of internet and technology use among farm owners and managers*. In *Building protective data infrastructure for urban community gardens: Lessons from the Philadelphia Garden Data Collaborative*, **Peleg Kremer**, **Craig Borowiak**, and **Madeline Scolio** explore the value and limitations of gathering garden data, as well as the need for more proactive protections for these precarious spaces. Next, in *Criteria for selecting assessment tools for local food systems in the context of socio-ecological transitions*, **Antsatiana J  suelle Rabialahy**, **Laurence Guillaumie**, **Marie-  ve Gaboury-Bonhomme**, and **Laure Saulais** examine indicator criteria and the pros and cons of various impact measures. And in *Audited engagement: Making agri-food community development "count" in higher education and beyond*, **Michael Carolan** shares his vision for more emphasis on formally measuring community engagement beyond the scale and scope of involvement, and more toward the actual impact of that involvement.

We continue with several food system planning papers from Europe. In *Municipal food systems planning in Sweden Barriers, enablers, and the role of regional collaboration*, **Malin Andersson**, **Madeleine Granvik**, and **Rebecka Milestad** identify the valuable role of "food champions" in promoting internal and external collaboration. Taking a broader land-use perspective, *Navigating the nexus of food, energy, and ecology: Foodshed approaches for integrated land use policies*, **Tanja Strobel-Unbehaun** and **Peter Breunig** use a modified version of Metropolitan Foodshed and Self-sufficiency Scenario (MFSS) to find, among other things, that biofuel production (as opposed to wind and photovoltaic systems) competes with local food self-sufficiency by taking land for human consumption out of production. And in *Connecting local food system actors for climate-friendly public catering in Germany Lessons learned from a transformative and transdisciplinary research project*, **Annika Fricke**,

Franziska Bürker, Pia Laborgne, Sarah Meyer-Soylu, and Eva Wendeberg share lessons from their study of institutional cafeterias, identifying key barriers such as the cost of obtaining organic certification to the producer and the acceptance of vegan or vegetarian options by consumers.

Next, we turn to food value or supply chains. In *Scaling local food: A literature review on the organization, benefits, and challenges of food hubs*, **Simone Ubertino** and **Patrick Mundler** study the literature to identify the persistent issues associated with food hub viability, specifically farmer coordination, institutional market stability, and financial resilience. Next, in their paper *Challenges and barriers in food supply chains: A scoping review of needs assessments in the southern border counties of Texas and New Mexico*, **Juan Aguilera, Perla Alarcon, Ogochukwu Abasilim, Cristina Dominguez, Leah Whigham, Gabriela Gallegos, and Elizabeth Racine** find climate issues, infrastructure, and market access, among other factors, making it difficult for small and midscale farmers in the southern U.S. borderlands. This is followed by **Gaudy Solorzano-Morera, Elizabeth Durango-Cohen, and Weslynn Ashton**, who identify the tension between the intentions of values-based supply chains and the engagement of their intended beneficiaries in *Minding the implementation gap: A mixed-method study of producer capabilities and institutional pressures in U.S. Midwest values-based food procurement*. And in *From fields to markets: Diversification case studies in the U.S. Corn Belt via a social-ecological systems lens*, **Katherine Pivaral Toledo, Brennan Radulski, Ariana Torres, Laura Esman, and Linda Prokopy** use the SES framework to explore the drivers and barriers to diversification in the Midwest.

Turning to value chains in the Global South, in *Toward resilient agrifood institutions: Evaluating farmer corporations in the context of shallot value chains in Indonesia*, **Afrizal Malik, Yayat Hidayat, Anggi Sahru Romdon, Ratih Kurnia Jatuningtyas, Moh. Saeri, Yusuf, Nurmalingda, Yopi Saleh, Dedi Sugandi, Nur Qomariah Hayati, Joko Triastono, Bahtiar, Nelson Hasdy Kario, Intan Gilang Cempaka, Raden Heru Praptana, Seno Basuki, Dadan Ramdhani Nugraha, Dinar, Jaka Sulaksana, and Sri Ayu Andayani** find that these unique groups provide effective collective bargaining power for independent growers. Conversely, in *Why do producers decide not to join agricultural associations? The case of the Ataulfo mango in southern Mexico*, **Luis Sumuano-Barragán, Juan Barrera, Jorge Toledo, Obeimar Herrera-Hernández, and Pablo Liedo** examine why some producers do not engage in collective action organizations and yet still manage to succeed. And in the Ecuadorian Amazon, *Opportunity costs and agricultural transformation in the Ecuadorian Amazon: Cacao cultivation in traditional Shuar systems*, **Byron Moyano, Ronald León, Víctor Hernández-Aranda, Galo Cedeño García, Ángel Cedeño Sacón, Carlos Arias-Vega, Marcos Vera-Morales, David Catagua, Zoila Cruz-Burga, Lizardo Reyna Bowen, Sheena Sangay-Tucto, and Leonardo León-Castro** identify the needs of traditional farms to become sustainable, including agroforestry practices, credit, and ecologically appropriate planting materials.

In our last group of papers, we turn to workforce-related issues. In their study *Social, cultural, political, and human capital perceptions by young food system professionals*, **Beatrice Nyarko, David Conner, Meghan Cope, and Kate Mays** use the community capitals framework to explore the views of the next generation of food system professionals in the state of Vermont. In *Bridging cultural divides: Culture and acculturation in Latino/a service-provider interactions*, **Ervin Leiva, Corinne Valdivia, and Stephen Jeanetta** find that weak cultural connections between Latin/a farmers and agencies and institutions are barriers to small and midscale agriculture development in the state of Missouri. Next, **Karie Boone, Sonia Hall, Chad Kruger, Bernardita Sallato C., and Georgine Yorgey** identify the surprising factors limiting the effectiveness of farmworker support organizations in Eastern Washington State in *Planning for the “new normal”: Farmworker support organizations’ experiences of climate change impacts and adaptation*. The language barrier is further explored in *Assessment of needs for produce safety educational resources for non-English-speaking growers in the Midwest*, by **Angelina Adjetey, Sagar Pokhrel, Manreet Bhullar, Londa Nwadike, Melissa Cater, Shuyang Qu, and Shannon Coleman**. A further food-safety perspective comes from *Urban farms represent highly heterogeneous environments, complicating on-farm food safety efforts* by **Daniel Weller, Tanzy Love, Claire Murphy, Patrick Baur, Angela Ferelli, and**

Laura Strawn, who find a myriad of issues that may exacerbate microbial and chemical preharvest food-safety risks. Finally, in their literature review, *Women as catalysts of rural transformation A systematic review of barriers, opportunities, and policies in the Global South*, **Rika Reviza Rachmawati**, **Mia Siscawati**, **Francisia Saveria Sika Ery Seda**, and **Hariati Sinaga** find that, despite constituting the majority of the agricultural workforce in many regions, women are not treated equitably, and this is holding back the development of resilient food systems in lesser development countries.

We conclude this issue with five reviews: four books and one film. **Wendy Nevett Bazil** reviews *Food Policy Councils: Building Civic Engagement and Community Well-Being*, by Nessa J. Richman. **Sofia Francisco** reviews *Truffles and Trash: Recirculating Food in a Social Welfare State*, by Kelly Alexander. **Elisabeth Ramsey** reviews *Africulture: How the Principles, Practices, Plants, and People of African Descent have Shaped American Agriculture*, by Michael Carter Jr. **Molly DelCarmen Anderson** reviews the film *Serán las dueñas de la tierra (Stewards of the Land)* which is about the future of Puerto Rican agriculture. And finally, **Stacey Stearns** reviews *The Almond Paradox: Cracking Open the Politics of What Plants Need*, by Emily Reisman.

In wrapping up this issue—which marks a full 15 years of publishing JAFSCD—I circle back to our theme of *sustainable diets* and invite readers, scholars, professionals, and practitioners to consider teaming up to produce two-page, peer-reviewed briefs on this emerging subfield of food systems. The topic of sustainable diets covers a wide swath of the consumption and environmental domains, and our aim is to build practical snapshots of the state of the art in sustainable diets—from food as medicine to underutilized, traditional, Indigenous, and biodiverse foods. Learn more about the Sustainable Diet Briefs series at the JAFSCD Sustainable Diets Editorial Circle page.²



Yours for increasing the sustainability of our consumption,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Duncan Hilchey".

Duncan Hilchey
Publisher and editor-in-chief

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² <https://www.foodsystemsjournal.org/index.php/fsj/SDEC>