

- Tackling global research challenges
- Connecting researchers and stakeholders
- Pioneering new ways of teaching

# A FORCE FOR CHANGE IN THE FOOD SYSTEM

The Food Systems Group at  
The Environmental Change Institute,  
University of Oxford



FOOD  
SYSTEMS  
GROUP





# COLLABORATING FOR CHANGE

We aim to positively impact the food system in the UK and worldwide through a range of collaborative initiatives. These range from understanding the linkages between food security and global environmental change to creating new communities of food systems thinkers.

## SEEING THE BIGGER PICTURE

The food system is a broad arena. It encompasses a range of activities and their outcomes, from producing and transporting food, to storing, packaging, retailing and consuming food, and their outcomes for food security, other socioeconomic goals and the environment.

It's a 'complex adaptive system' constantly influenced by factors such as public health policy, corporate interests, climate change, emerging technologies and consumer trends.

We recognise that no area of single expertise can address food system challenges. Our interdisciplinary approach lets us view the bigger picture so we can help bring about positive, more balanced change across the entire system.



## Shaping the future of food

Through **interdisciplinary research** we aim to improve food security while minimising environmental and livelihood impacts. With a varied portfolio of completed and ongoing projects both in the UK and overseas, we always seek out new areas in which we can help create positive change.

Our projects range from developing and implementing a novel method for analysing trade-offs between a range of European policy goals, to an approach for estimating impacts of localising the city of Oxford's food system on food availability.

## Creating food systems thinkers

As leaders of the ground-breaking teaching and learning initiative **Interdisciplinary Food Systems Teaching and Learning (IFSTAL)**, we are building a community of changemakers in the food system. This unique collaboration between seven higher education institutions was launched in 2015. Through the programme, we are delivering the skills and knowledge to bring about true integrated 'systems' thinking.

[www.ifstal.ac.uk](http://www.ifstal.ac.uk)

## Building food systems resilience

Resilience of the **UK Food System in a Global Context** is a major five-year research programme co-ordinated by the Food Systems Group. Working with 13 UK-based research projects, our goal is to help policymakers and practitioners optimise the resilience of the UK's food system by identifying policy and practice interventions.

[www.foodsecurity.ac.uk/research](http://www.foodsecurity.ac.uk/research)



# THE FOOD SYSTEMS GROUP

We use a food systems lens for research and training on food security issues and its two-way links with environmental change. Our activities are underpinned by the valuable partnerships we build with national and international organisations, including businesses, policymakers, development agencies, NGOs and academia at large.

## Mission

Our aim is to help a wide range of stakeholders develop and implement enhanced food system policy and practice that improve food security and health outcomes with less environmental impact. We also recognise the need to maintain vibrant commercial and livelihood opportunities. We use innovative methods and tools based on an integrated food systems approach.

## Strategy

- To undertake high quality, impactful food systems research that helps influence and shape policy and practice
- To offer and develop new participatory methods and foresight tools so that food system actors can plan and analyse changes to the system
- To deliver innovative teaching and learning approaches that prepare those working in the food system to meet future challenges
- To promote new modes of knowledge exchange to support those working in the food system.

## Get in touch

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