Resources for Food Systems Practioners

An Annotated Bibliography

CRAFT
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Food Systems Resources

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INTRODUCTION:

The primary goal of this bibliography is to make information more readily available to anyone interested in current literature centering around mechanisms for sustainable food systems. Often, information regarding food systems can be scattered across multiple sources (journals, websites, toolkits) and this can make it difficult to ensure that all individuals have access to information in multiple realms in their field spanning from academic research to community work and others. This bibliography provides an organized and categorized list of sources that may be of interest to those involved anywhere in the food value chain or related work.

This resource was developed by Gill Revenis, a member of the Food Systems Research team at the Center for Regional Agriculture, Food, and Transformation (CRAFT) at Chatham University. A part of CRAFT's mission is to make information more accessible to all food practitioners at all levels of the food system. Thus, we wanted to compile a list of resources that we think could be helpful to individuals involved in food systems research. This bibliography consists of a list of various sources that contain previous research and findings, pre-existing toolkits full of resources, literature reviews, information from federal agencies, and more.

In the findings resources, we asked questions like:
- What is helpful to individuals conducting food systems research?
- What resources exist for food system practitioners?
- What are the challenges being addressed in current literature?
- What solutions are being proposed?

AREAS OF FOCUS:

1. General food system-related research and resources at local and regional levels
2. Business support resources
   a. Consists of resources and literature for training and education for improving sustainable business practices. Also lists a few grant and training programs for food businesses.
3. Community-centered work
   a. Consists of general literature for better-representing community needs in research and projects. Broken down into further categories centered around rural and urban area needs.
4. Educational-related resources
   a. This section lists a few publications that explore successfully implemented educational projects to enhance knowledge of food systems
5. Resources for Promoting anti-racist food Systems
   a. Consists of toolkits and articles calling for transformative change in food systems to improve access.
6. General Recommendations and objectives for researchers
   a. This section lists many recommendations and gaps in the current food systems literature
7. Resources on policy recommendations
   a. Consists of articles and studies exploring the need for food systems research in policy at multiple levels.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GENERAL REFERENCES: CONTEXT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS:

- Boys, K. A. (2016, September/October). Local food systems: Exploring economic impacts and limits to market expansion. NC State Economist. https://cals.ncsu.edu/agricultural-and-resource-economics/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2017/11/september2016_local_food_systems.pdf
  - Covers limitations of market expansions for local businesses and speculates on the economic and general benefits of local food systems on the agricultural economy.

- Dunning, R. Research-Based Support and Extension Outreach for Local Food Systems. (August 2013.) Center for Environmental Farming Systems.https://cefs.ncsu.edu/resources/research-based-support-and-extension-outreach-for-local-food-systems-2013
  - An article that focuses on information to help individuals better understand the benefits of local food systems.

- Enthoven, L., & Van den Broeck, G. (2021). Local food systems: Reviewing two decades of research. Agricultural Systems, 193, 103226.
  - This paper puts eight common beliefs about local food to the test and provides a community-based perspective rather than a scientific one.

- Gereffi, G., Lee, J., & Christian, M. (2009). US-based food and agricultural value chains and their relevance to healthy diets. Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition, 4(3-4), 357-374. https://doi.org/10.1080/19320240903321276
  - This paper provides insight into the role of two particular industries (chicken and tomatoes) that play major roles in US food economies.

- International Food Policy Research Institute. A Guide to Food Systems. https://ifpri.libguides.com/food-systems/resources
  - Contains a list of journals conducting food systems research, datasets, and lists resources of information to learn more about food systems

- IU Food Institute: Food Systems Resources. https://guides.libraries.indiana.edu/food
  - A guide including various databases, journals, books, and other sources to guide researchers involved in various areas of food studies.

- Low, S. A., Adalja, A., Beaulieu, E., Key, N., Martinez, S., Melton, A., Perez, A., Ralston, K., Stewart, H., Suttles, S., Vogel, S., and Jablonski, B. B. R. (2015). Trends in U.S. Local and Regional Food Systems: A Report to Congress. Administrative Publication No. (AP-068). U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/42805/51173_ap068.pdf?v=7860.8

- Mariola, M. J. (2008). The local industrial complex? Questioning the link between local foods and energy use. Agriculture and Human Values, 25(2), 193-96. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-008-9115-3
  - Energy use perspectives on local and regional agricultural industries. Provides an alternative perspective to the four major critiques preventing local food systems from achieving sustainability goals.

- NC State Extension. 2022. Research, Data, and Annotated Bibliographies. https://localfood.ces.ncsu.edu/research-data-bibliographies/
  - Pre-existing annotated bibliography of research and data regarding local food systems.

- Poore, J., & Nemecek, T. (2018). Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers. Science (American Association for the Advancement of Science), 360(6392), 987-992. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aaq0216
  - An article that explores the best strategies to reduce waste at the producer and consumer level of the food value chain. The findings of this paper suggest adapting an approach in which producers are responsible for monitoring the impacts of products.

- USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. Local and Regional Food System Resources. https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/research-publications/resources
  - List of publications and resources from the USDA ranging from previous studies to grant programs.

BUSINESS SUPPORT RESOURCES:

- Environmental Protection Agency. Composting Food Scraps in Your Community: A Social Marketing Toolkit. https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/forms/composting-food-scraps-your-community-social-marketing-toolkit#who
  - Lists resources for organizations wishing to create or enhance composting campaigns. Provide effective recommendations for using social marketing and gauging community needs.

- National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Sustainable Agricultural Systems. https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/agriculture-food-research-initiative-sustainable-agricultural-systems
  - USDA-backed research initiative to provide grant assistance to those promoting transformational change in the US food system.

- Salerno, L. (2016). New Toolks Bring Lenders to the Table for Local, Regional Food Enterprises. Food and Nutrition, Farming, Rural, USDA Results. https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2016/05/11/new-tools-bring-lenders-table-local-regional-food-enterprises
  - Additional USDA resources and training programs for local and regional food enterprises.

- USDA. USDA AMS Grant Programs Evaluation and Applicant Technical Assistance with Underserved Community Focus. https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/research-publications/evaluating-grants

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Co-operative Research Programme: Sustainable Agricultural and Food Systems. https://www.oecd.org/agriculture/crp/
  - The Cooperative research program seeks to strengthen connections between researchers and policymakers to promote sustainable use of natural resources in food, agriculture, forestry, and fishery industries.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT RESEARCH AND RESOURCES:

- Allen, J.E., Rossi, J., Woods, T.A., & Davis, A.F. (2017). Do community supported agriculture programmes encourage change to food lifestyle behaviours and health outcomes? New evidence from shareholders. International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability 15, 70–82. https://doi.org/10.1080/14735903.2016.1177866
  - An article that centers around community-supported agriculture programs. A study that explores the participation patterns in such programs and predicts outcomes on food lifestyle behaviors, shareholders, and health outcomes.

- Avetisyan, M., Hertel, T. & Sampson, G. (2014). Is local food more environmentally friendly? The GHG emissions impacts of consuming imported versus domestically produced food. Environmental and Resource Economics, 58(3), 415–462. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10640-013-9706-3
  - An article exploring emissions at the level of locally produced food. Highlights the need for locally transported food to decrease transport emissions in the agricultural industry.

- Center for Environmental Farming Systems. Community-Based Food Systems. https://cefs.ncsu.edu/extension-and-outreach/archive/sare-pdp/community-based-food-systems-resources/
  - This provides resources to connect with communities to initiate transparency in food systems, lists collaboration techniques, and general resources on promoting local food systems.

- Center for Community Health and Development at the University of Kansas. Community Tool Box. https://ctb.ku.edu/en/toolkits
  - List of pre-existing toolkits designed to guide activities in community work. Ranges from resources on how to assess community needs to applying for grants.
- Environmental Protection Agency, Smart Growth. (2012). Local Foods, Local Places Toolkit: A Guide to Help Communities Revitalize Using Local Food Systems. https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places-toolkit
  - This Pre-existing toolkit provides recommendations for the growth and development of strengthening local food systems.

- Environmental Protection Agency, Smart Growth. (2012). Local Foods, Local Places Toolkit: A Guide to Help Communities Revitalize Using Local Food Systems. https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places-toolkit
  - This Pre-existing toolkit provides recommendations for the growth and development of strengthening local food systems.

- McFadden, D., T. et al. (2017). The Economies of Local Food Systems: A Toolkit to Guide Community https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/record/316238/
  - This toolkit consists of modules that guide food practitioners through food systems planning, assessment, and evaluation. It is designed to enhance the capacity of local food systems and measure economic productivity.

- Valentine, L. (2018). Basic Food Systems Report Toolkit. https://sites.google.com/view/basicfoodsystemsreporttoolkit
  - This pre-existing toolkit provides free tools designed to help food policy councils, community groups, and individual food practitioners.

URBAN CONTEXT:

- Ackerman, K., Conard, M., Culligan, P., Plunz, R., Sutto, M. P., Whittinghill, L. (2014). Sustainable Food Systems for Future Cities: The Potential of Urban Agriculture. The Economic and Social Review: 45 (2).
  - A paper reevaluating how urban spaces can improve food access. Presents metrics on the use of rooftop farming in New York City and provides insight on the potential role of urban agriculture in the future to build a more sustainable food system.

- Brown, K. H., & Carter, A. (2003). Urban agriculture and community food security in the United States: Farming from the city center to the urban fringe. Retrieved from North American Urban Agriculture Committee, Community Food Security Coalition: http://foodsecurity.org/PrimerCFSCUAC.pdf
  - Provides information on promoting urban agriculture and combating food insecurity in United States urban centers.

- Agricultural Marketing Resource Center. Practitioner and Education Resource Database. https://www.agmrc.org/food/practitioner-and-education-resource-database
    - A pre-existing toolkit that compiles educational resources and includes supplementary directories and networks for professional development.

- Koch, P., Wolf, R., Contento, I.R., Tipton, B., Gray, H.L ,Trent, R., Graziose, M. & Uno C. (2017). FoodCorps: Creating healthy school environments. Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Program in Nutrition, Teachers College, Columbia University. https://www.tc.columbia.edu/media/centers-amp-labs/tisch/FoodCorps-Report-FINAL-08-30-17-v5.pdf
    - The Tisch Report covers various Healthy School Progress initiatives in FoodCorps schools. Suggests instruments and areas of need in order to find resilience in food programs.

- Kropp, J. D., Abarca-Orozco, S. J., Israel, G. D., Diehl, D. C., Galindo-Gonzalez, S., Headrick, L. B., & Shelnutt, K. P. (2018). A plate waste evaluation of the farm to school program. Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior, 50(4), 332-339. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneb.2017.10.005
    - This article explores the disadvantages of the Farm to School program which is designed to enhance fruit and vegetable consumption in public school lunches.

- Rojas, A., Valley, W., Mansfield, B., Orrego, E., Chapman, G. E., Harlap, Y. (2011). Toward food system sustainability through school food system change: Think&EatGreen@School and the making of a community-university research alliance. Sustainability: 3(5), 763-788. https://doi.org/10.3390/su3050763
    - This article focuses on the framework and research behind a healthy eating community-based research initative in public schools. Presents an interesting and successful example of a program meant to transform the local food systems of public schools.

- Wegener, J., Fong, D., & Rocha, C. (2018). Education, practical training and professional development for public health practitioners: A scoping review of the literature and insights for sustainable food system capacity-building. Public Health Nutrition, 21(9), 1771-1780. doi:10.1017/S1368980017004207
    - This literature review investigates various positions on sustainable food systems and suggests educational and training programs to enhance sustainability at local levels.

- Dubbeling, M., Santini, G., Bucatariu, C., Vogt, C., Eisenbeib, K. (2016). City Region Food Systems and Food Waste Management. Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit.
  - This paper pushes for developmental strategies that can benefit both urban and rural populations, and inherently link them together. They document cases related to the prevention, reduction, and management of food waste.

- USDA: Natural Resources Conservation Service. Urban Agriculture in Pennsylvania. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/pennsylvania/urban-agriculture-in-pennsylvania-0
  - Provides resources for technical and financial assistance for urban individuals interested in farming and methods to conserve natural resources. Specifically to Pennslyvania residents.

- Hecht, A. A., Biehl, E., Barnett, D. J., Neff, R. A. (2019). Urban Food Supply Chain Resilience for Crises Threatening Food Security: A Qualitative Study. Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: 119 (2), 211-224. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jand.2018.09.001
  - An article that explores the policies being developed in Baltimore, Maryland which are aimed at enhancing food system resilience. Provides suggestions to food businesses for strengthening operations to prevent threats to achieving goals.

RURAL CONTEXT:

- Beingessner, N., Fletcher, A. J. (2019). "Going local": farmers's perspectives on local food systems in rural Canada. Agriculture and Human Values: 37, 129-145. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-019-09975-6
  - An article that conducts qualitative research, interviewing farmers in rural areas to uncover motivations for the localization of food.

- Grief, F. et al. (2014). Framework for participatory food security research in rural food value chains. Global Food Security: 3(1), 8-15. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gfs.2014.01.001
  - This article provides a new framework for researchers conducting projects regarding food access in rural areas.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES:

- Agricultural Marketing Resource Center. Practitioner and Education Resource Database. https://www.agmrc.org/food/practitioner-and-education-resource-database
    - A pre-existing toolkit that compiles educational resources and includes supplementary directories and networks for professional development.

- Koch, P., Wolf, R., Contento, I.R., Tipton, B., Gray, H.L ,Trent, R., Graziose, M. & Uno C. (2017). FoodCorps: Creating healthy school environments. Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Program in Nutrition, Teachers College, Columbia University. https://www.tc.columbia.edu/media/centers-amp-labs/tisch/FoodCorps-Report-FINAL-08-30-17-v5.pdf
    - The Tisch Report covers various Healthy School Progress initiatives in FoodCorps schools. Suggests instruments and areas of need in order to find resilience in food programs.

- Kropp, J. D., Abarca-Orozco, S. J., Israel, G. D., Diehl, D. C., Galindo-Gonzalez, S., Headrick, L. B., & Shelnutt, K. P. (2018). A plate waste evaluation of the farm-to-school program. Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior, 50(4), 332-339. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneb.2017.10.005
    - This article explores the disadvantages of the Farm to School program which is designed to enhance fruit and vegetable consumption in public school lunches.

- Rojas, A., Valley, W., Mansfield, B., Orrego, E., Chapman, G. E., Harlap, Y. (2011). Toward food system sustainability through school food system change: Think&EatGreen@School and the making of a community-university research alliance. Sustainability: 3(5), 763-788. https://doi.org/10.3390/su3050763
    - This article focuses on the framework and research behind a healthy eating community-based research initiative in public schools. Presents an interesting and successful example of a program meant to transform the local food systems of public schools.

- Wegener, J., Fong, D., & Rocha, C. (2018). Education, practical training and professional development for public health practitioners: A scoping review of the literature and insights for sustainable food system capacity-building. Public Health Nutrition, 21(9), 1771-1780. doi:10.1017/S1368980017004207
    - This literature review investigates various positions on sustainable food systems and suggests educational and training programs to enhance sustainability at local levels.

FOOD JUSTICE AND ANTI-RACIST INTERVENTIONS:

- Alkon, A. H. (2014). Food Justice and the Challenge to Neoliberalism. Gastronomica: 14 (2), 27–40.https://doi.org/10.1525/gfc.2014.14.2.27
  - A research article that provides an overview of the current outlook of social movements to better the way we grow, raise, sell, and consume food. The paper lays out three major strategies by which food activists can address food justice.

- Broad, G. (2016). More than just food.
  - The novel explores the way in which the industrial food system has created "food desserts" that threaten the health of historically marginalized low-income communities of color.

- Conrad, A. (2020). Identifying and Countering White Supremacy Culture in Food Systems. World Food Policy Food Center. https://wfpc.sanford.duke.edu/reports/identifying-and-countering-white-supremacy-culture-in-food-systems/
  - This paper covers the systematic inequity across the food system in the US and identifies eight themes that center on how whiteness influences food insecurity policies.

- Deawuo, L. A., & Classens, M. (2023). Confronting Anti-Black, Anti-Indigenous, and Anti-Asian Racisms in Food Systems in Canada. Canadian Food Studies La Revue Canadienne Des études Sur l'alimentation, 10(1), 1–4. https://canadianfoodstudies.uwaterloo.ca/index.php/cfs/article/view/631
  - Explores approaches to overcome themes of inequity present in how food systems are constructed and in society at large. Calls for structural change in the face of broader impacts from white supremacy, colonialism, and capitalism.

- Driscoll, L. (2021). The Food System of Tomorrow: A Call to Action. Sentient Media. https://sentientmedia.org/the-food-system-of-tomorrow-a-call-to-action/
  - This article calls for changes at various levels of the food system, from recommending a pivot in more ecologically friendly farming techniques to dismantling systematic racism and inequality in the US food system.

- Farmers Market Coalition. The Anti-Racist Farmers Market Toolkit. https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/the-anti-racist-farmers-market-toolkit/.
  - The Anti-Racist Farmers Market Toolkit exists to help farmers market managers make progress toward becoming anti-racist managers of anti-racist markets. This work is developed by a group of Black food system professionals and centers on ways to improve experiences for Black communities.

- Kuhnlein H. L., Chotiboriboon S. (2022). Why and How to Strengthen Indigenous People's Food Systems With Examples From Two Unique Indigenous Communities. Fron. Sustain. Food Syst: 6. https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2022.808670
  - This paper provides an array of evidence for methods that can be used to promote Indigenous People's knowledge of food systems to improve nutrition and food biodiversity.

GENERAL RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS

- Born, B. and Purcell, M. (2006). Avoiding the Local Trap: Scale and Food Systems in Planning Research. Journal of Planning Education and Research: 26(2). https://doi.org/10.1177/0739456X06291389
  - An article that actively argues against the "local trap" and its harm to research and food production at larger scales.

- Duncan, J, et al. (2022). Democratic directionality for transformative food systems research. Nature Food: 3, 183-186. https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-022-00479-x
  - A paper that explores various needs for transformations towards a sustainable food system and provides democratic directions for such transformations.

- Elgar Research Agendas. (2021). A Research Agenda for Food Systems
  - This book explores various needs for research in the food and agriculture industry.

- Ericksen, P., J. (2006). Conceptualizing food systems for global environmental change research. Global Environmental Change: 18 (1), 234-245. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2007.09.002
  - Generates a research framework to effectively study the multitude of interactions within food systems. Foundational paper defining the impact that global environmental change will have on food security, ecosystem services, and social welfare.

- Feenstra, G. (2002). Creating space for sustainable food systems: Lessons from the field. Agriculture and Human Values: 19, 99-106. https://link.springer.com/article/10.1023/A:1016095421310
  - Foundational paper recommending the spaces to focus on to promote sustainable food systems: social spaces, political spaces, intellectual spaces, and economic spaces. If we develop these spaces it will therefore create a food system that leaves room for public participation, new food business partnerships, and commitment to environmental justice.

- Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program. Community food systems resources. https://sarep.ucdavis.edu/fs/assessment/community-food-system-resources
  - Bibliography consisting of literature and general resources on local and regional food systems which can help better understand the gaps and needs for future food systems research.

- Vernmeulen, S., J., Campbell, B. M., Ingram, J., S., I. (2012). Climate Change and Food Systems. Annual Review of Environment and Resources: 37, 195-222.
  - This source provides evidence that the impacts of climate change on food systems will be widespread, but heavily dependent on socioeconomic conditions. It recommends prevention interventions, such as agricultural intensification, reductions in waste, and cost management.

- Franzo, J,, Covic, N., Dobermann, A., Henson, S., Herrero, M., Pingali, P., Staal, S. (2020). A research vision for food systems in the 2020s: Defying the status quo. Global Food Security. https://doi.org/10.1016%2Fj.gfs.2020.100397
  - Overview of the food security challenges. Provides a vision for the way research and science should inform all food system managers at national, regional, and global levels.

GENERAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- APA Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning. (2007). https://www.planning.org/policy/guides/adopted/food.htm
  - Policy guide on community and regional planning. Provides recommendations for the best policy to move forward with and the role of planners who must be involved.

- Enthoven, L., Van der Broeck, G. (2021). Local food systems: Reviewing two decades of research. Agricultural Systems: 193, 103226. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agsy.2021.103226
  - A review confirms the claim that local food systems are missing in food policy. Provides suggestions for policymakers to invest in cross-country data collection on local food systems that would allow for better research from the scientific community.

- O'Brien, J., Cobb, T. D. (2012). The Food Policy Audit: A New Tool for Community Food System Planning. Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development. https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2012.023.002
  - Provides insight into policy and initiatives in place and recommendations for the priorities of communities for policy moving forward. Lists results from a study evaluating current food-based policy.

- Ringstrom, E., Born, B. (2011). Food Access Policy and Planning Guide. https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiJjMDSyoKCAxVFrokEHZGmDmsQFnoECA8QAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nyc.gov%2Fhtml%2Fddc%2Fdownloads%2Fpdf%2FActiveDesignWebinar%2FKing%2520County%2520Food%2520Access%2520Guide.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0dX0c0uD7eQLSfFKdQJFn4&opi=89978449
  - A guide to assist policy efforts to improve food environments and increase access to healthy food.

- Lajoie-O'Malley A., Bronson, K., Van der Burg, S., Klerkx, L. (2020). The future(s) of digital agriculture and sustainable food systems: An analysis of high-level policy documents. Ecosystem Services: 45, 101183. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoser.2020.101183
  - Explores the use of digital technologies in the delivery of ecosystem services from food and agricultural systems.

- Fanzo J., et al. (2021). Viewpoint: Rigorous monitoring is necessary to guide food system transformation in the countdown to the 2030 global goals. Food Policy: 104: 102163. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2021.102163
  - This article calls for a new framework in order to track inclusivity, performance, and accountability in food systems.