

4. Sustainable food

Good quality food for all

GRAND CHALLENGES :

C1. Health, demographic change and wellbeing

C2. Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research, and the Bioeconomy

C5. Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials



CHALLENGE

Accessibility to good and healthy food is not equally available to all. Socio-economic factors, pricing, education, culture, location are critical factors that may limit access to healthy quality food and related dietary habits. Unequal access to food has a strong local and global impact in both urban and rural areas. This is expected to become even worse in a changing climate. This inequality is challenging public health as well as social and economic cohesion. Food poverty and food wastage are also pressing challenges in the EU. Consumers are, at times, receiving conflicting and contradictory information about healthy diets and nutritional value and this causes confusion.

SCOPE

Both basic and applied research should be developed with an interdisciplinary approach to understand and assess the processes generating food inequalities and examine how this affects social and economic cohesion locally and globally.

Research should focus on the following aspects:

- Map the food access in rural and urban areas
- Calculate and assess food poverty in the EU
- Look at supply regulation and issues connected to distribution and prices (transnational level)
- Investigate the socio-economic inequalities existing inside a country with regard to food and nutrition (national level)
- Analyse all questions surrounding sustainable nutrition: quality, health (use of pesticides), access to healthy food (local level)

In addition, concrete approaches to addressing the issues could be explored such as:

- Design and assess educational programmes to encourage healthy sustainable food habits in particular in primary education
- The universal basic income as a way to provide equal access to quality food

Transnational, national and local level

EXPECTED IMPACT

- Reduced inequalities of access to sustainable healthy food
- Reduced food poverty in the EU
- More sustainable urban and rural food systems
- Effective strategies to neutralize actors /institutions contributing to food injustice/ inequalities and food waste around the world
- Effective strategies to fix the flaws/instances of injustice of the transnational food commerce
- Fostering better quality nutrition to prevent long-term health problems, diseases and infections, food disorders (obesity and malnutrition) and antibiotic resistance

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Research topic:

Good quality food for all

#5b.

Grand Challenges :

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EXPECTED IMPACT

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Reduced food poverty in the EU

More sustainable urban and rural food systems
Effective strategies to neutralize actors /institutions contributing to food unjust inequalities and food waste around the world.
Effective strategies to fix the flaws/instances of injustice of the transnational food commerce.
Fostering better quality nutrition to prevent long-term health problems, diseases infections, food disorders (obesity and malnutrition) and antibiotic resistance
Online consultation rating: average importance: 4,03/5
Nations prioritizing this research area: Cyprus, France, Greece

CITIZENS' VISIONS

[CHE] Vision 4. Less is more.

"Less food will be produced and it will be handled more responsibly.

There will be a decision-making system permitting to extract or use natural resources in a sustainable and economical manner and, at the same time, give a bigger share to the global south."

[EST] Vision 6: Life in your age

"healthy fast food and different snacks are easy to find and consume"

[IRE] Vision 3: Relationships with one another and the environment

"Food production done ethically. Work with nature."

[HRV] Vision 3: The preservation of human health and nature for the generation XYZ

"People will grow healthy food for themselves, with minimal or no ecological footprint."

[ITA] Vision 4: A school beyond times - a new education model

"Nutrition is governed by laws that make it organic, sustainable and accessible to all."

[PL] Vision 1: Healthy Family, Healthy Society (Flower of Life)

"We all eat healthy because we have easy access to organic food produced locally"